

CCRA's Annual General Meeting

CCRA's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 September at 7.00 pm at St. Richard's Hall. (Please note the change of date – in the last issue of Grapevine we stated that the AGM would be held on 24th September). The evening will include a Question Time - where an invited guest panel will answer some of your questions about local issues. This event marks CCRA's first birthday and we would like you to join us in celebrating this community's achievements. All local residents are invited to attend but CCRA members will be able to elect a committee to take the work forward. Current committee members will report on achievements and plans for the future.

In addition to the formal meeting, required by our constitution, and the Question Time, there will be an opportunity to mingle with neighbours over a glass of wine or a soft drink. Further details of the guest panel members and how to submit your questions will be included in the formal notice of the AGM which will be issued to all residents at the beginning of September. If you're not yet a member, don't miss out – around 140 local residents have already signed up. Come and join today. If there are items or issues you would like to be discussed at the AGM please contact the chair of the association *Colin Brown on 0208 244 2405*. Don't forget to look out for formal notice of the meeting which will be coming your way in early September – it will be on yellow paper so you shouldn't miss it!

CCRA



Charlton Central Residents Association (CCRA) is committed to ensuring a safe and friendly community. Please join us!

Editors' note

We're keen to make this newsletter work for you! Let us know what you would like included or write an article, send a letter or let us know about local events. Copy for the next edition of the Grapevine should reach us by September 1st. Contributions may be sent to *Elaine Picton on 020 8858 4942 or Linda Pound on 020 8858 7377*. Both of us live in Wellington Gardens. We intend to run a feature on local services for babies, toddlers and their families. If you have something you'd like to add on this subject please let us know.

Please note that CCRA now has its own website – www.charltonresidents.org.uk. We'll be putting past editions of the Grapevine, letters, minutes of meetings and other useful information on it over the next few weeks.

Classified Ads in the Grapevine

The Grapevine currently reaches 700 houses in the local area. If you would like to advertise goods or services cheaply, effectively and locally contact *John Tidy on 0208853 0624 or Jason Palmer on 07850 775755*. A form can be found on our website. Rates are as follows:

- Ads containing up to 15 words plus contact details will cost £10 for one issue or £35 for four issues.
- Ads containing up to 20 words, contact details and an image or logo will cost £20 for one insertion or £70 for four.

Space is limited so get your ad in soon.

Charlton Central Residents Association

Following are the contact details of the elected officers, or email Charlton_residents@yahoo.co.uk
Chair: Colin Brown 0208 244 2405
Secretary: Len Weir 0208 858 4920
Treasurer: Dave Picton 0208 858 4942
Membership Secretary:
Jacqui Mitchell 0208 853 1811



CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 3 ☁ JULY 2008
the newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association



Parking Victory for the CCRA

CCRA, through the efforts of our representative, David Gayther, has persuaded the Council to waive parking fines issued to over 25 residents in Delafield Road. This is very good news. Misinformation by Thames Water about the timing of works and suspension of parking bays in the road meant that a number of residents received parking tickets. We have been informed that all those involved have now had their money refunded and we are grateful to our local Councillors for supporting us over this issue. However, David is continuing to represent residents from Sundorne, Swallowfield and Priolo Roads who have recently been fined for parking in suspended bays near works. We think these fines are unreasonable because:

- the bay suspension notices do not explicitly say that if you park in a bay you will be fined, just that the bay is suspended – perhaps anyone can park there?
- suspension notices do not make it clear which areas are covered.
- notices are not removed in a timely fashion – work has finished and suspension has continued!

We want to ensure that the residents' parking scheme is fairly policed but the Council needs to acknowledge the difficulty many people have finding somewhere to park, especially as surrounding roads also have works taking place. We are therefore pressing the Council to clarify the guidance they give to parking enforcement teams to ensure that a consistent, sensible and fair approach is taken. We are also taking up the issue of the dilemma residents have if they appeal and then face a larger penalty because they have not settled their fine in time.

Despite these ongoing problems we have had some significant successes which have included:

- Better communication from the Council about the timing of works
- CCRA representation at a regular liaison meeting between the Council and Thames Water, covering the whole of Greenwich.
- Surfaces and pavements now being repaired to a much better standard, following vigilant pressure from some of our members

For a more detailed programme of works see page 2



CCRA's Open Garden Event – see page 3 for full story

Wellington Gardens Murder

A 19 year old Bexley man has been charged with murder following the death of 61 year old man. He has been remanded in custody to appear at the Old Bailey on August 29th. Two other people, aged 19 and 17 were also arrested and bailed to return to police at the end of June. The incident took place on 20 May at 9.15pm by the bus stop at the corner of Wellington Gardens and Charlton Church Lane. The victim, Ron Dixon, was taken to the London Hospital but died from head injuries the following day.

Police are treating the death as a homophobic incident and are appealing for witnesses and information that may assist their investigation. *Please contact the Lewisham Incident Room On 070 8721 4868 or, if you wish to remain anonymous call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.*

If you are you gay/lesbian/bisexual or if you know members of the Gay community in Charlton, the Charlton Safer Neighbourhood Team is keen to talk to you about your experiences and whether you have been the subject of homophobic aggression. Any information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence. *If you can help in any way please contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team on 0208 721 2734 or 0208 284 9849 or email Charlton.snt@met.police.uk*

Thames Water Update

Thames Water's programme has meant major disruption to many of our residential streets since the start of the year, exacerbated by inadequate communication from Thames Water, an unclear timetable, and a lack of guarantees from the company and its two contractors, Morrisons and Skanska. The latest information from Thames Water is that work in our area should be complete by 1 July 2009, but sadly, as many of us know, these dates are subject to change. Dates for work in Wellington Gardens have not yet been confirmed.

CCRA supports what Thames Water is doing, but residents' concerns must be properly respected. We are still waiting to hear about our request that Thames Water fund an impartial electrical survey for each household affected by its works. Meanwhile, we are very keen to hear directly from anyone about any related issues that may have affected them, and in particular, about any problems residents may have had with unfair parking fines. Contact: *ccra_environment@yahoo.co.uk*. Thames Water's contractors can be contacted at *customer.feedback@thameswater.co.uk* or 0845 641 0011; *Kate.hughes@thameswater.co*. **Morrisons:** *morrisonVMR@morrisonus.com*; **Skanska:** Project Office on 0207 732 3664. The regulator for Thames Water is the *Consumer Council for Water*: 0845 7581 658.

Calydon Road	4 Aug 08	4 Sept 08	Morrisons
Charlton Church Lane	27 May 09	1 July 09	Skanska
Coombe Lodge	27 Apr 09	27 May 09	Skanska
Elliscombe Road	19 Mar 09	3 June 09	Skanska
Fossdene Road	12 June 08	31 July 08	Morrisons
Frank Burton Close	27 May 08	31 July 08	Morrisons
Inverine Road	6 Jun 08	11 July 09	Morrisons
Nadine Street	2 May 09	17 June 09	Skanska
Sundorne Road	8 May 08	11 July 08	Morrisons
Victoria Way	20 Aug 08	3 Mar 09	Both

LOADS OF RUBBISH!

'Green, Blue, Black' is also in full swing. In Greenwich it seems we have all been 'guinea pigs' in a short, sharp shock treatment to push up recycling rates, following strong pressure on all local authorities from the government. There have been some clear benefits, including weekly recycling of blue bin materials, and the collection of both garden and food waste. The Council says that only 23% of our rubbish is 'left over', (rubbish that goes into the black sacks). We also appreciate the Council's common sense approach to enforcement so far, recognising the big change and extra work it has meant for all of us. Sunday nights will clearly never be the same again!

We understand from Greenwich Council that there will be consultation with residents in the autumn giving people the choice of a black bin or to continue with the black sacks. Our environment action group has secured a meeting with the assistant director of neighbourhood services at Greenwich Council to introduce ourselves and set up future lines of communication. We aim to

discuss our main environmental issues with him. These include Thames Water, refuse, traffic calming and street cleaning. CCRA hopes to have regular meetings with him and would like to hear your views on any related issues, so that we can follow these up with the Council. The CCRA contact is Dave Picton, Environment Group, on 0208 858 4942. The Council can be contacted on *contact-centre@greenwich.gov.uk* or 020 8921 4661. Use the council contact if you want to arrange a free weekly nappy collection, or wish to book a guided tour of the high-tech recycling facility in Thamesmead to see what they really do with it all. Those who have been say a visit is, perhaps surprisingly, very interesting – so if anyone is interested we will try to arrange a group visit.



CCRA is Coming up Roses

CCRA's most recent social event was the Open Garden event held on Saturday 14th June. The weather forecast in the week before the event was pretty dire but the weather on the day was fine. The rain held off and CCRA members were able to tour eight local gardens. The event was labelled by some as the Garden Crawl. This was a friendly event attended by some CCRA members who had not been able to attend other events. It was also good to see many CCRA regulars! The gardens were amazingly varied, given that they are all in the same small area. Thank you to CCRA members who opened their gardens. Perhaps some of you who just visited will feel inspired to open your garden next year? Those who attended asked for two days next year so that more gardens can be viewed! What do you think?

CCRA members have also been enjoying a range of social events – with, we hope, many more to come. The London Marathon Breakfast, a Spring Social, a Nearly New Sale of babies and children's toys and clothes and the Open Garden event together raised just over £360. Members' suggestions for future events include quiz

nights; visits to local restaurants and theatres; bingo, family socials and musical nights. Could you offer to organise any such events? Would you be interested in attending events of this sort? We need your views and support to make this work for our community.



Summer Activities & Entertainment in and around Charlton

With summer allegedly with us, we have included a selection of events you may be interested in taking part in. Dates for specific events are included in our centre spread.

Sport in Greenwich
There are huge opportunities to participate in sports in local leisure centres, parks and sports pitches/centres. Visit *www.greenwich.gov.uk/sport* or *phone 020 8921 8088* to find a sport that interests you.

Charlton Athletic Summer Courses
Telephone 020 8850 2866 for details of week long courses during the summer from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

Libraries
Regular weekly events are held in local libraries. These regular weekly events are held in local libraries. Story time is held in Charlton library 2.30pm to 3.30pm on Thursdays, term times. For further details of events for families and children contact 020 8317 4466. Between June and August you can borrow 10 books instead of 8. During the school holidays you can rent out two children's DVDs for the price of one. Don't all rush!!!

Throughout the school holidays, children age 4 – 11 can sign up for 'team read'. Go to your local library to register. *www.teamread.co.uk*.

Roving Rangers
The Council's Park Ranger Service organises park tours, nature rambles and conservation workdays. On Wednesdays at 1.30pm you can help feed the animals at Maryon Wilson Animal Park. During school holidays there are extra events – *phone 020 8921 8900 for more details*.

The Tramshed Theatre
has some exciting workshops planned for young people aged 7 – 16. Workshops listed in July and August (overleaf) are run from 9am – 5.00 pm and offer opportunities to learn about acting, dancing and singing. Young people will work towards producing a short performance for an audience of family and friends at the Tramshed Performing Arts Centre, Woolwich. *Phone 020 8854 9900*.

Greenwich Heritage Centre
On Saturday mornings, children aged 5-12 can get creative at Greenwich Heritage Centre, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. Under 5's must be accompanied by an adult. Events are free. *For further information call 020 8854 2452*. See centrespread overleaf for details of summer activities.

What to do in and around Charlton - cut out and keep guide to summer events



26 June – 28 September

Old Royal Naval College 10am -10 pm daily.
Phone 020 8241 9818. Greenwich Wheel.
Further details www.greenwichwheel.com

13 July Cutty Sark Gardens 11.00 am- 5.00pm
Fairtrade Market – clothing, jewellery, accessories,
world music etc.

18 July Queens House Lawns
Greenwich Park 10.00 – 12.00. Giant Rhymathon.
Sing along to your favourite nursery rhymes.

19 July Greenwich Heritage Centre,
The Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. Phone 020 8854 2452
Leisure in the Past – a talk by Frances Ward.
£3 including light refreshments. Starts 2pm.

20 July Passey Place, Eltham 10.00am - 3.00pm
Farmers' Market.

23 – 27 July The Rainbow Shakespeare Players
Royal Observatory Gardens
Box Office Greenwich Theatre 020 8858 7755
Open Air Shakespeare – The Merchant of Venice.

24, 31 July, Thursdays in August
National Maritime Museum 020 8858 4422
Tales from North America. Find out about the Native
American Indian and Inuit. Ages 5+.

24 July – 31 August Firepower Museum
Greenwich Heritage Centre 10.30am – 5.00pm
Tickets and prices phone 020 8855 7755
Activities include treasure hunts, a paintball range, a
rockclimbing wall and fire a genuine World War 2 gun!

24 July – 2 September National Maritime Museum
020 8858 4422 11.30am – 1.30pm, 2.00 – 4.00 pm.
Postcard Home – Drop in Workshop. Make a postcard
and drop it in a special letter box. All ages.

24, 25, 28 – 31 July,
weekdays in August, 1& 2 September
National Maritime Museum 020 8858 4422
Memory book: 11.00am, 12.30, 2.00, 3.30pm
Storytelling activities: 11.30am, 1.30, 3.30pm
Memory Book – timed workshop. Make a book about
your summer holidays. Ages 5+. Storytelling activities.

25 July, Fridays in August National Maritime Museum
020 8858 4422. Tales from China.
Find out about the stories Chinese people created to
teach each other to do good things. Ages 5+.

26 and 27 July Cutty Sark Gardens
10.00am – 5.00pm. French Continental Market.

28 July, Mondays in August, 1 September
National Maritime Museum 020 8858 4422
Tales from the British Isles Ages.
Discover Britain's ancient myths. Ages 5+.

28 July – 1 August Tramshed Theatre, Woolwich.
020 8854 9900. Workshop – High School Musical 2.

29 July Greenwich Heritage Centre Summer Activities
10.30-12.30 Royal Arsenal, Woolwich 020 8854 2452
Under 5's must be accompanied by an adult. Events
are free. Children aged 5-11 can try their hand at
activities with a historical theme. Free.

29 July Tuesdays in August, 2 September
National Maritime Museum 020 8858 4422
Tales from Ghana.
Hear about the antics of Anansi the spider. Ages 5+.

30 July, Wednesdays in August
National Maritime Museum Phone 020 8858 4422
Tales for India. Explore storytelling through classical
Indian dance. Ages 5+.

30 July – 3 August The Rainbow Shakespeare Players
Royal Observatory Gardens Box Office
Greenwich Theatre 020 8858 7755
Open Air Shakespeare – The Taming of the Shrew.

1 August Royal Observatory Astronomer's Garden.
Partial Solar Eclipse. Astronomers will be on hand to
enable you to view the sun safely. Ages 5+.

2 August 2 Wellington Gardens from 3.00pm
020 8858 4942. CCRA barbecue £10 (£5 for children) –
tickets include food and drink.
(This event is open to all CCRA members).

2 & 3 August Between the Thames Barrier and the O2
Further information nearer the time from
www.greenwich.gov.uk Red Bull Air Race.

4 August Woolwich Library 4.00 – 5.00
020 8921 5750. Chatterbox reading group.
Sports theme, ages 7 – 11.

4 – 8 August Tramshed Theatre, Woolwich
020 8854 9900. Workshop – Shrek.

8 August The Ahoy Centre, Borthwick Street, Deptford.
020 8691 7606. Open from 10.00am to 4.00pm.
The Ahoy Centre Open Day. Find out about sailing
activities. You must be 8 or over to go on the river.
If you are under 18 years old a parent/carer must attend
for registration between 10.00am – 11.00am.

9 & 10 August Passey Place, Eltham.
Sat 9.00am – 5.00pm, Sun 10.00am – 4.00pm
Continental Market.

11– 15 August Tramshed Theatre, Woolwich
020 8854 9900. Workshop – Annie.

17 August Passey Place, Eltham.
10.00am – 3.00pm Farmers' Market.

18 – 22 August Tramshed Theatre, Woolwich
020 8854 9900. Workshop - Lion King.

19 & 20 August Eltham Palace 11.00am – 4.00pm.
020 8294 2548. Tudor Falconry.

22 August National Maritime Museum
11.00am – 12.30pm. or 2.00 – 4.00pm 020 8858 4422
Discover: Legacies – behind-the-scenes session
and workshop. Uncover the facts about transatlantic
slavery practice and explore ideas of identity, culture,
enslavement and resistance. Ages 10+.

24 August Please look nearer the time in
Greenwich Time or visit www.greenwich.org.uk
Beijing Olympics Handover Ceremony.

24 August Well Hall Pleasaunce. Well Hall Road, Eltham.
020 8854 8888 or 07894 711765. Family Fun Day.

1 September Woolwich Library 4.00 – 5.00pm
020 8921 5750. Chatterbooks Reading Group.
Book characters theme, ages 7 – 11.

2 September Greenwich Heritage Centre
Summer Activities 10.30 – 12.30 Royal Arsenal,
Woolwich 020 8854 2452. Children aged 5-11 can try
their hand at activities with a historical theme. Free.

13 September Greenwich Yacht Club, Peartree Wharf,
1 Peartree Way, Greenwich 020 8858 7739
Disability Sailing Regatta Centenary.

13 September (2.00pm start Richmond) approx 4.15pm
finish opposite Greenwich pier, Cutty Sark Gardens
The Great River Race. See about 300 craft take part.

17 September St. Richard's Hall 7.00pm
CCRA annual general meeting and Question Time.



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Dog Control Orders

Greenwich Council is consulting residents about the introduction of Dog Control Orders. The public consultation will last until 9 July but Councillor O'Mara is keen to hear CCRA's views even after this date. The orders will make it clear to all dog owners that they must clean up after their dogs and that a £75 fine will be levied if they don't. Only four dogs may be walked at any one time by one individual. In addition, the orders will also limit the length of lead that may be used and dogs are to be excluded from children's playgrounds.

Councillor Maureen O'Mara said, "We are introducing these orders in response to public concern about the amount of dog mess in our parks and on our streets. Our park keepers and libraries have supplies of free green dog mess bags that they can hand out to dog owners to allow them to clean up after their dogs. Most dog owners clean up after their dogs - however some do not and that is why we are targeting them".

What do you think about these proposals? Full details of the council's consultation on dog control can be found on www.greenwich.gov.uk/dogcontrol. For those who have difficulty in accessing websites, CCRA can provide a copy of the consultation document which appeared in the June 11 edition of Greenwich Time.

If you would like a copy telephone Linda Pound on 020 8858 7377.



I heard it on the grapevine...

German Baker comes to Charlton

When? Every Saturday morning from 9.00- 12.00

Where? opposite 84/86Wellington Gardens

Charlton residents can now start the weekend with fresh bread, rolls and cake. Stefan and Klaudia Hamann



(founders of GB German Baker) left their bakery in Germany to set up their 'rolling shop' here in London. Every Saturday morning from 9 until 12 they will offer 8 different types of bread; 10 kinds of rolls, prezels, as well as a wide range of cakes and Danish pastries. These will all be freshly baked daily by Stefan. Local residents sampled the rolls and Danish pastries and declared them 'truly delicious'. The mobile shop also stocks some German essentials like cold meats and cheese to complement a delicious weekend breakfast. For those who want to enjoy fresh bread on Sunday or throughout the week Stefan and Klaudia offer a 'half-baked service', so you can pop them in the freezer and bake when needed. 'Pre-baked' products need to be 'pre-booked'. They take orders for other things too so have a look at their website www.gbgermanbaker.com, give them a call on 020 8605 3987 or just visit the shop on Saturdays.

Wisteria Lane

Gardening

Experienced lady gardener for regular maintenance, one-off tidy-ups and economical designer planting re-vamps – trade prices plus labour.

Landscaping and small-scale construction service also available.

Call Diana on 0776 1151030 or dianagbrowne@hotmail.com

A Picture of Health

The last edition of Grapevine reported proposals for significant changes to the way our local hospital services are organised. Grapevine attended an event on 20 June to hear the outcome of the public consultation, conducted by a team of researchers from Imperial College, London. Almost 30% of people chose none of the three options as their preference, 57.4% of respondents were in favour of changes, with option one being preferred by most people. This option sets out the sort of hospital services that would be provided in our area, as described in our last edition:

- the separation of planned and unplanned surgery,
- concentrating more services on different sites and
- the provision of more services in the community.

Judgements about options were based on people's priorities, the highest being the reduction of hospital infections, followed by the best use of specialist doctors and nurses, access by public transport, treatment out of hospital and the best use of public buildings.

The results of the consultation will be considered by the Joint Committee of PCTs which is scheduled to meet in public in a few weeks time. Grapevine will be attending and reporting the outcome. *For more information contact Elaine and Dave Picton on 020 8858 4942.*



Grapevine Sings Out!

Do you enjoy singing? Whether you have a proven talent for singing – or whether you only sing in the shower Chris Harrison would love to hear from you. He'd like to set up a singing group – strictly no auditions – all comers welcome. If you'd be interested in helping to set up a group, *contact Chris on 020 8858 7377*. He will arrange a get-together in the autumn to brighten our winter evenings.

Forthcoming CCRA Social Events

"Wot about a non-baby table sale? I'm clearing out our attic!!!" This was the plea from one member who attended the Spring Social - and we've responded. On Saturday 4th October from 2.00 – 4.00 at St. Richard's Hall we plan to hold a Nearly New or Table Top Sale for all those things you no longer want but someone else might. Get the date in your diary – further details will be coming your way soon.

Summer Barbecue

The most popular idea for a social event was for a barbecue. Again we've responded and on Saturday 2nd August a barbecue will be held at 12 Wellington Gardens from 3.00. For just £10 (£5 for children) you can eat, drink and meet neighbours in beautiful surroundings and a relaxed environment. All this and still know that you're supporting the work of CCRA by contributing to the funds. Numbers are strictly limited

so call Dave and Elaine Picton on 020 8858 4942 to reserve your place. This event is only open to CCRA members so if you're not yet a member this could be a good time to join.

Letters to the Editor

Save our Stag Beetles. Did you know that Charlton is one of the few places in England where Stag Beetles can be found? Stag beetles spend nearly all their life underground as larvae but emerge in May and June in warm evenings and fly around looking for mates and places to lay their eggs. We haven't had many warm evenings but even these creatures have braved our weather and several sightings have been reported. However, their survival is under threat so you can help to protect them in the following way. The larva of the stag beetle thrives on a diet of rotting wood and decaying roots. A buried bucket provides an ideal breeding place so find an old, plastic bucket, make holes in the sides and bottom, fill it with one quarter soil and three quarters woodchip and then dig a hole in a quiet part of the garden and bury it with the top at ground level. So, get digging – it could be a feature for our Open Gardens event next year!

EP, Wellington Gardens



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