

## CCRA Membership – From Strength to Strength!

CCRA membership continues to grow but we need more members to strengthen our voice as a community association. We are starting to make a difference within the community, bringing people together through the Grapevine and our social activities as well as representing the views of residents with key services in the area. We have 154 members and in our membership area per household our percentage is as follows: Sundorne Road, 19%, Inverine Road, 14%, Delafield Road, 14%, Swallowfield Road, 26%, Priolo Road, 9%, Nadine Street, 9%, Elliscombe Road, 29%, Wellington Gardens, 19% and Calydon Road, 5%.

This is a fantastic response from residents but we do not have members in Gollogolly Terrace, Frank Burton Close, Fosdene Road or Coombe Lodge and would love to hear from you! We will be writing to members in December about renewal of your membership and sending an extra form to see if you can get a neighbour to sign up too. We know that times are difficult but this is a time to stand together as a community and your £5.00 membership will enable us to fulfil our key objective of making our area a safe and friendly community where we look out for each other.

Our target for the coming year is to double our membership. *If you would like a membership form – call Jacqui on 0208 853 1811*

### CCRA Celebrates Our First Year *(contd. from p1)*

Parking fines and the behaviour of Greenwich Council during the period when Thames Water was carrying out work, had incensed some residents. It was felt that the Council had simply been 'bloody-minded' over some tickets and there are still some outstanding cases which CCRA is fighting. CCRA was pleased to talk of their successes in getting many parking tickets cancelled, a clear benefit of having a local Association!

Panel Members gave their contact details which are on the back page of this edition. They gave their full support to the work of CCRA and expressed a willingness to make representations on our behalf.

*The SNT can be contacted regarding community concerns of a non-emergency nature on: 0208 721 2734 or 07766 992585, or by emailing: charlton.snt@met.police.uk.*

## Charlton Central Residents Association

The new officers and committee members of CCRA for 2008/09 are:

**Dave Picton, Chair** (Wellington Gdns, 0208 858 4942)

**Jason Palmer, Vice Chair** (Elliscombe Road)

**Len Weir, Secretary** (Elliscombe Road, 0208 858 4920)

**Jacqui Mitchell, Membership Secretary,**  
(Swallowfield Road, 020 8853 1811)

Elaine Picton, Lance Bohl, Annie Galloway,

David Gayther, Linda Pound, John Tidy, Brenda Taggart,

Diana Browne, Sarah Roseblade, Kevin Harrison

and Andrew Rippingale

## Editor's Note

We know that the Grapevine is popular with residents but we won't rest on our laurels. Can you help us to make it even better? If you have something to say or want to advertise something let us have copy (letters, articles, ads etc.) for the next edition of Grapevine by January 3rd.

Our website is [www.charltonresidents.org.uk](http://www.charltonresidents.org.uk)

*You can email us at Charlton\_residents@yahoo.co.uk*

*Editors: Elaine Picton and Linda Pound*

## Classified Ads in The Grapevine

The Grapevine currently reaches 800 houses in the local area. If you would like to advertise goods or services cheaply, effectively and locally contact John Tidy on 020 8853 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 cost £10 for one issue or £35 for four issues.
- Ads containing up to 20 words, contact details and an image or logo cost £20 for one insertion / £70 for four.

**Space is limited so get your ad in soon.**

## Useful Contact Details:

**Nick Raynsford, MP**

Tel: 020 7219 5895 or email: [raynsfordn@parliament.uk](mailto:raynsfordn@parliament.uk)

Surgery at Charlton House,

2nd Saturday of the month 11.00am

**Councillors Gary Parker, Janet Gillman & Allan MacCarthy**

Surgery every Friday at Charlton House 7.00pm

# CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 4  OCTOBER 2008  
the newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association

## CCRA Celebrates Our First Year

The first Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on 17 September and attended by over 60 residents, a great turnout. We welcomed residents from two new roads, Fossdene Road and Frank Burton Close and hope they will join our committees and social activities.

A presentation about the work we have been doing over the year, our successes and social activities, was followed by Question Time. This provoked a lively discussion and residents put their questions to Nick Raynsford, our MP, Councillor Gary Parker, Commander Christopher Jarrett from the police, and Colin Brown, CCRA Chair. People asked about several issues of local importance: crime, road surfacing, parking fines during Thames Water works and resources for the local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

In response to questions about making ours a safer and friendlier community, panel members emphasised the importance of getting to know and support one another. Commander Jarrett strongly supported the Association and the work of our Law and Order Action Group and emphasised that, although our area is bordered by serious crime, CCRA's area is not itself such an area. He acknowledged that the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Team had been limited by lack of personnel but the team has now been brought up to full strength. He gave a personal commitment to investigate examples of poor response from the team and also offered to allow a member of CCRA to shadow the Safer Neighbourhood Team officer - watch this space!

A question was raised about the best way to get information to the police anonymously. The Borough Commander advised that it would depend on the nature of the situation. In an emergency, then 999 was still the best way to contact the police. A new telephone number will shortly be made available by the Metropolitan Police Authority for general enquiries which will be supplied to CCRA along with his contact details. The Borough Commander was then asked what he considered were the most significant crime issues in the Charlton area. Sadly, knife crime does figure along with youth crime and burglary. However the Borough

Commander advised that this area does not suffer as much as other parts of the Borough.

Nick Raynsford said that there needed to be a swift response to anti-social behaviour and Commander Chris Jarrett and Councillor Gary Parker suggested that CCRA look at setting up or collaborating with a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. If you would be interested in helping to establish one then please contact our law and order committee on: [Charlton\\_residents@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Charlton_residents@yahoo.co.uk)

Other questions concerned road resurfacing and neighbourhood services. Apparent lack of coordination between Thames Water, parking and highways services led a questioner to ask 'who is in control?' Elliscombe

Road has recently been resurfaced, badly according to residents, but will soon be dug up again for Thames Water work. Nick Raynsford acknowledged people's concern about a lack of "joined up thinking". He also commented on the need for better communication between transport services, for example when both the main line and the Jubilee line were closed at the same time for maintenance.

A number of further questions that were raised about street cleaning and rubbish collection are being actively taken up by our environment committee. *(continued on back page)*



*Above: Our intrepid reporters investigate wheelie bins. See page 3 for full story*

*Dave Picton, our new chair, tells us what his priority will be for the coming year and how he thinks it can be achieved.*

# Time For a Big Clean-up!

It's been very messy in our streets so far this year, with Thames Water working everywhere, new housing being built in Victoria Way and some lousy summer weather. Our representations to councillors helped a bit, but replacing the water mains was always going to cause major disruption. However by next summer Thames Water should be finished in our neighbourhood, the housing will be completed and a big priority for CCRA will be to get the place cleaned up.

We have a right to expect good surfaces on the roads, safe pavements, clean gutters and drains, lights that work and tidy street signs. This doesn't just mean going back to where we were before all the work started; in some roads it needs to be a lot better than for many years. So, as Thames Water finishes its work, CCRA will be pressing for good quality resurfacing of roads, tighter Cleansweep operations which have been affected, and at least a start to a programme of improvements.

An ongoing partnership with local council departments is the key to making this happen but that means us, the Association and everyone in the area, also playing a part. We know what needs doing outside our own homes or elsewhere in our own road and if lots of people work with the association to produce an overall survey of what's needed, we can use it as the basis of a programme to be negotiated with the

council. And with your help we can also monitor what's done and keep them on their toes as well. Most local councillors would welcome this as would the majority of their staff, but firm action against staff or contractors who don't do their job, and enforcement action against residents, individual property owners or landlords who are failing to look after their bit of the environment, needs to be part of the package.

There should be a big push in February or March when new black bins are introduced for those that want them; CCRA will want to look at other measures at that time to get the streets cleaner; another campaign and some enforcement action against dogs mess, some good quality litter bins or whatever you tell us is needed in your road.

In some parts of the country an intensive deep clean up of a group of streets is organised over a summer weekend, with the council and local community working together. On Saturday cars in one half are moved and the streets are closed so that gutters, gullies and drains are weeded, emptied, steam cleaned, whatever is needed. On Sunday the other half is done. At the same time skips and other specialist containers are put in the area allowing you to get rid of wood, metal, mattresses, waste oil, broken furniture etc which doesn't fit into the standard bins. Providing it's planned and publicised, local people of all ages can work alongside council staff and give a hand to neighbours who have difficulty moving such items themselves.

It all sounds very fine but can it be done. Well, not everything will get sorted that way but with some local energy and enthusiasm, and some fine weather, a lot could be achieved in a weekend. I think we should say we're up for it. We could also organise a street party each night before the vehicles come back. Both a clean and friendly neighbourhood at the same time! Let me know what you think.



## EAST LONDON CHORUS

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**Did you sing in a choir at school or university, or have you just moved to South East London and are looking for a good quality choral society?**

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We perform in St Martin-in-the-Fields and St Alfege Greenwich and other London venues and rehearse on Tuesdays in Docklands Campus, University of East London, just across the Woolwich ferry (or Cyprus on the DLR). Lifts available.

For further details please call CCRA member Rosemary on 07974 450138 or Membership Secretary Hilary on 020 8989 8131 – or come along to any rehearsal



# Bin It!

## Wheelie Bin Update

Since the last edition of Grapevine, we have met with the Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services for the Council, Ray Collingham, who is ultimately the person responsible for issues to do with the cleanliness and up keep of our neighbourhood. We had a genuinely positive meeting with Ray and we explained in detail many of our concerns. These included the problem of black sack storage, issues posed by properties with multiple households, worries about enforcement, and more clarity about what goes in which bin/black sack. We are aware that if we hadn't had one of the gloomiest summers on record, things might have been a lot worse.

We are pleased that many of the reassurances Ray gave us at our meeting are now translating into some real improvements. These include, a further leaflet about what to put where and notices being issued for wrongly filled bins offering the chance to have these collected again without any further consequence or penalty. Most particularly, the Council has now addressed people's long standing



concerns about black sacks. By now, residents should have received a letter from Peter Dalley, Head of Waste Services, offering every household a free, new, black wheelie bin in addition to the green and blue bins they already have. We will also have the chance to order a small green bin if we want one, though the blue bin will remain a single (large) size for all. Unfortunately we will have to wait until next March for this to happen. This

is because there is apparently a Europe-wide shortage of wheelie bins with so many local Councils everywhere aiming to recycle far more of their domestic waste!

The Council has promised us that it will continue to respond individually to any specific concerns we raise with them, such as storage of food waste, collection cycles and further clarity about what to put where. So, if you have any problems or issues to do with the service we do, really still want to hear from you. CCRA's contact is Dave Picton on 020 8858 4942. Residents can also contact the Council at [contact-centre@greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:contact-centre@greenwich.gov.uk)

or by calling 0208 8921 4661. In the meantime we would urge everyone to return their "Wheelie bin requirements" form to the Council as soon as possible, even if no changes are required. If you haven't received a form through the post by now please contact the Council so you can take up their offer next year.

## Eltham Community Hospital

The CCRA attended the recent public consultation launched by Greenwich PCT to hear about the sort of services that might be provided at a new community hospital in Passey Place. The hospital will provide up to 40 intermediate care beds (for short term care to enable people to return home and to make plans for their long term care). This is good news for people who do not need to stay in hospital but need more time and assistance before going home. (Remember Eltham Cottage Hospital?).

Proposed services also include: a GP surgery open every day from 8am to 8pm, an urgent care centre for treating minor injuries and illnesses, blood test

## Consultation on new services at a new community hospital in Eltham

and x-rays, antenatal and post-natal care and some treatments and therapies such as sports injuries, pain management and foot health care.

The proposal will primarily affect people using GP services in Eltham but you may be interested in following this development – is this the first polyclinic in the Borough and will it bring improvements for us? We were unclear how the service would be managed, who would be in control and whether some services could be contracted out. *The consultation ends on 20 October so if you would like to receive further information you can email [info.eltham@greenwichpct.nhs.uk](mailto:info.eltham@greenwichpct.nhs.uk) or telephone, free, 0800 6783179.*

# SERVICES FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

## **"What is a children's centre?"**

Our neighbourhood is well served by Sure Start Children's Centres. They are great places to go and meet other mums and have fun with your baby. They run sessions such as Bouncing Babies and Baby Bag Play Sessions with the Speech and Language Therapists; Dental Health and Weaning Workshops (where a resident reports that her baby was given a drinking cup and toothbrush) and Baby Massage and Post Natal Group where discussion includes such things as first aid and safety.

Sure Start is the government department which aims to make childcare more available for all children whose parents wish it. It also seeks to improve children's health and emotional well-being and to support parents both in their role as parents and in seeking opportunities for work or training.

Children's Centres have been set up around the country to provide or signpost good quality year-round early care and education. To support this there is teacher input into all the centres and access to a wide range of child and family health services, including ante-natal services. The aim is that over time these centres should become a one-stop shop for families with young children. Services available may include family support services; support for children and parents with special needs, a childminder network, and effective links with Jobcentre Plus to support parents/carers wishing to get back into training or employment.

Every local authority is required to provide a Children's Information Service. You can contact Greenwich's service on 020 8921 6921 or by email at [cis@greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:cis@greenwich.gov.uk). The underfives website for Greenwich ([www.greenwich.gov.uk/Greenwich/learning/Under5s](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/Greenwich/learning/Under5s)) has full information about all children's services within the borough.



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To contact a local children's centre you can phone the following numbers:

Sherington (Wyndcliff Road) – 020 8853 0900  
Pound Park (Pound Park Road) – 020 8858 1791,  
Invicta (Invicta Road) – 020 8858 3831,  
Shooters Hill – 020 8856 9388

## **Bouncing Boppin Babies!**

Sarah Roseblade said, "As a new Mum in Charlton my 11 month old daughter, Megan and I have been out and about enjoying a wide range of activities for the under 5's. Here is a selection of things we or our friends have tried but there is much more going on!"

### **Monday**

#### **Breast Feeding Drop In**

at Sherington Children's Centre 10 – 12pm  
Health Visitors are available for a friendly chat about breastfeeding and any other subjects

#### **Teenie Weenies**

at Sherington Children's Centre 10 – 12pm

#### **Baby and Toddler Rhyme Time**

at Charlton House Library 10 – 10.30am and 11 – 11.30am

#### **Post Natal Pilates**

at Invicta Children's Centre 1 – 2pm (phone to confirm)

#### **Stay and Play and Toy Library**

at Pound Park Nursery and Early Years Centre  
9.30 – 11.30am and 1 – 3pm

### **Tuesday**

#### **Boppin Bunnies** at Alexandra Hall, Bramshot Road

These lively music sessions run all morning check out [www.boppinbunnies.co.uk](http://www.boppinbunnies.co.uk) for details

#### **Post Natal Pilates**

at Sherington Children's Centre 10 – 11am

#### **Baby Clinic**

at Fairfield Grove Health Centre 09.30 – 11.30  
Chance to have baby weighed, see the health visitor and meet other mums. Get there early to avoid the rush!

#### **Baby and Toddler Rhyme Time**

at Blackheath Standard Library 2 – 2.30pm

#### **Toy Library**

at Sherington Children's Centre 9.30 – 11am

### **Wednesday**

#### **Big Scream**

at Greenwich Picturehouse 11.30am  
Great way of keeping up your cinema going for Parents and babies under 1. All the latest releases with a background sound track of baby babble!

### Latino Bambino

at Mycenae House 1.30 – 2.15pm

Salsa Dancing for Mum and Baby, great way to keep fit and meet other mums!

**Sing and Sign** at Mycenae House 11am

Fun way to start communication with your baby through singing and sign language see [www.singandsign.co.uk](http://www.singandsign.co.uk) for details

**Postnatal group alternating with Baby Massage**

at Sherington Children's Centre 10 – 12pm

Run by the Health Visitors – another great place to meet other mums! Contact the Children's Centre for details.

**Stay and Play**

at Pound Park Nursery and Early Years Centre 1 – 3pm

### Thursday

**Sing and Sign** at Mycenae House 11am

**Play and Stay**

at Shooters Hill Children's Centre 1 – 3pm

**Baby and Toddler Rhyme Time**

at Blackheath Standard Library 2 – 2.30pm

**Baby Clinic**

at Fairfield Grove Health Centre 1.30 – 3.30pm

### Friday

**Storytelling and Rhyme time** at Sherington Children's Centre 10 – 11am

**Teeny Weenies** (babies under 15 months) at Pound Park Nursery and Early Years Centre 9.30 – 11.30am

**Young Parents Group** (under 25's) at Pound Park Nursery and Early Years Centre 1 – 3pm

**Songs and Stories in Spanish**

at Blackheath Standard Library 10.30 – 11am

**Big Scream** at Greenwich Picturehouse 11.30am

### Saturday

**Sing a Song Dads** at Woolwich Library 10.30 – 11am

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### General

**Charlton House Toy Library** is open everyday except Wednesday 9.30 – 12.30 with **Rhyme Time** on Thursdays at 10.45am (0 – 2's only). There is a joining fee of £17 (£6 concession for families on income support or working tax credit) and then toys, equipment, books, CD's etc are available to hire from 30p. **The National Childbirth Trust** runs events in our area too, contact Vicky [ykciv1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ykciv1@yahoo.co.uk) for details.

Do you have any good ideas for holiday events in our area? Would you be willing to help out? Email any suggestions to [ccra\\_social@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ccra_social@yahoo.co.uk)

## A Picture of Health – Final Decision Made?

On 21 July the Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts agreed to proceed with plans to reorganise the National Health hospital services in Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham. For our local hospital, Queen Elizabeth, this will mean that the accident and emergency department will expand and the hospital will continue to receive medical, surgical and paediatric emergencies. There will be no planned, routine inpatient surgery. This will be undertaken at Queen Mary's Hospital and at specialist units in other London hospitals.

On 10 September, the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee voted to refer the proposed programme to the Secretary of State for Health. Bexley Council has made particular representations about the changes proposed at Queen Mary's. This means that there will be a delay in implementing the preferred plans whilst the Secretary of State takes further advice on how safe and sustainable the proposed services would be and whether these will be in the long term best interests of the local population.

For further information visit [www.apictureofhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.apictureofhealth.nhs.uk)

# *I heard it on the grapevine...*

## **New Rector at St Lukes**

CCRA welcomes Erica Woolf, the new rector of St. Lukes. Erica will be rector of one of the oldest churches in this part of London. St Luke's was built in 1630 but there has been a church on the site since the 11th century. It has an illustrious history: – Spencer Percival, the only British Prime Minister to have been assassinated whilst in office is buried there. Percival was Prime Minister from 1809 to 1812. He had instituted Orders in Council in 1807 against trade with France and became unpopular in the winter of 1811 with Luddite riots breaking out. He was forced to concede an inquiry by the House of Commons and was on his way to attend it when he was shot through the heart by John Bellingham. The latter was said to have been mentally unstable and had blamed his financial instability on Percival. He was hanged a week later. Perceval's body lay in 10 Downing Street for five days before his burial at St Luke's Church.

## **Voice of The Valley**

We were treated to a cracking match against Reading which ended 4—2 to Charlton. It had everything, drama, some very poor refereeing, as well as outstanding performances by players, and the crowd went away happy. The next home match was against Wolves in which the display by players, whilst good at times, could not stop a ravaging pack and the final score was a disappointing 1—3. There followed a result that is best forgot as we lost to Crystal Palace for the first time in 12 years. This league is very difficult to climb out of and referees leave a little to be desired. Something extra is needed from the team or... we need a sugar person to bring in some good strikers. Careful what you wish for! Talk is of a take-over at the Valley that would make Chelsea's Abramovich look poor. The sound of 'we're in the money' is already being honed by the Valley Choir. Heady days at a Happy Valley.

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## **Letters to The Editor**

St Luke's Players has been going from strength to strength over the past 60 years. We meet at St Richards on the third Wednesday in the month. Over the past year we have performed a Cabaret evening "A Blast from the Past" and "A Diamond Trio", three plays to celebrate our 60th anniversary. We recently raised £1000 and paid for the pruning of the trees and a new outside door for kitchen at St. Richards. The remainder will go towards the cost of heating.

I have just written a short play for children which will be performed in December as part of our next Cabaret evening. We hope to do a pantomime in the New Year, but we need some technical support for lighting, scenery etc. I know quite a few of the local residents of St Richard's do support us, but we need more of you. If you're interested please ring me on 0208 856 7373.

*Gwen Zammit Producer of St Luke's Players*



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[dianagbrowne@hotmail.com](mailto:dianagbrowne@hotmail.com)





# CCRA Social Events

The summer barbeque was held in September, the rain held off and we had a really enjoyable afternoon and evening.

The table top sale, our second with more people attending, was a success and we aim to have another in the spring as these have been very popular.



*Future events for your diary are:*

## **Bonfire night firework display on Blackheath**

Anyone wanting to join the CCRA group can meet us at 7.15pm, Saturday 8 November, at the top (Victoria Way) end of Wellington Gardens.

## **CCRA Singing group**

Fourteen residents attended the first get-together at the end of September. We agreed that people attending in future should be resident in one of our roads and do not necessarily need to be a CCRA member although we hope you will join. Singers may bring a guest who lives locally. The group will meet on alternate Mondays and Thursdays at 26 Wellington Gardens and dates to the end of the year are: 16 October, 27 October, 13 November, 24 November 11 December, 22 December. We will start at 7.30pm and finish at about 9.30pm. People are asked to make a small contribution towards the cost of refreshments, needed to keep our vocal chords well oiled!!

## **Pre-Christmas open house**

*Sat. 6th December from 10.00am — 12.00pm  
at 84 Wellington Gardens*

Start the Christmas season with Glühwein and Lebkuchen, tea and cake and a friendly chat with your neighbours and support CCRA at the same time. Katrin, one of our members has offered to host a festive open house where she will serve some lovely German treats and even better cake than the German Baker. Entrance fee £1.00 for all residents in the CCRA area with proceeds to CCRA. Children are welcome but there is limited space so please leave pushchairs at home if possible.

## **Festive Social Wednesday**

*10 December from 7.00pm — 10.00pm  
St Richard's Hall*

Mulled wine, mince pies, music, raffle. Put this date in your diary and join us for festive cheer.

## **Carol singing 17 December**

We are planning to organise a group singing traditional Christmas carols in the Charlton neighbourhood. Singers will be raising money for a local charity and CCRA. Please be generous! Why not come along and help us try to capture the spirit of Christmas – a good voice is not a pre-requisite. If you are interested, please contact Chris Harrison on 0208 858 7377.

## **Can you help...?**

St. Richard's people have been very supportive of CCRA and we'd like to help them if we can.

The cubs and scouts who meet at St Richard's collect old mobile phones and used inkjet cartridges in order to raise funds. If you have any, or you can persuade your work place to save them for us, they can be dropped into St Richard's on Tuesday or Thursday evenings.

Greenwich District Scouts are having a hard time at the moment trying to find people to become scout leaders. The scout leader at St. Richards, Gwen Zammit, asks you to consider this worthwhile voluntary service. She writes that she has got a lot out of it for the past 40 years, and you could too! For more details contact Gwen on 0208 856 7373 or by email on [gwenzammit@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gwenzammit@yahoo.co.uk).

## **Can we help you to celebrate...?**

Have you got a significant birthday, event or anniversary coming up? If so, please let us know so that we can mark the event. As a start, many happy 50th birthday returns to John Galloway of Delafield Road and to Beverley Weir of Elliscombe Road, who is a very young 60!!



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