

## Forthcoming social events

### Green chain walk

*Sunday 9th August 2.00 – 4.30pm.*

Meet at Totty's Pharmacy. Full details on page 7.

### Annual General Meeting

*Wednesday 23 Sept. 7.30pm, St Richard's Hall.*

Details coming through your door in the familiar yellow bulletin.

### Christmas Fayre

*Saturday 28 November 2.00 – 4.00pm*

*St Richard's Hall.* Details to follow. We have booked Father Christmas!

### Christmas Social

*Wednesday 16 Dec. 7.30pm, St Richards Hall.*

## Editor's note

The October issue of Grapevine is to feature reminiscences. If you have some interesting photographs of the Charlton of the past, or if you were a member of the residents' association which was formed in the 1970s, we'd love to hear from you. You might like to write something – a letter or even an article. You might like to send a photo that could be scanned to be included or you might like someone to come and talk to you about Charlton in the old days. Phone us or drop a note to Elaine or Linda – our contact details are shown below.

## Have a safer summer!

Good news from Charlton Safer Neighbourhood Team. There has been an 84% drop in burglaries across Charlton Ward, following a targeted campaign of door leafleting and area patrols. However, we mustn't be complacent. Summer is here, hot weather and holidays, and there is often a seasonal upward trend in burglaries.

So, to lessen your chance of becoming a victim of an opportunist burglar, keep the following in mind:

- Be alert to any suspicious activity in your area
- Secure external windows and doors
- Secure ladders and tools that could be useful to a burglar
- When out, consider the use of coordinate time switches
- As a quick option, leave the loo light on!
- Remember to cancel milk and papers when going away and consider using the Post Office's Keepsake Service
- Be a good neighbour and look out for their home as well as your own – take their bins in if you know they are away.

## Classified Ads

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 & an image / logo cost £20 for one insertion or £70 for four.

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

## Charlton Central Residents Association



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

***Please join us!***



**Dave Picton, Chair** Wellington Gdns, 0208 858 4942  
**Jason Palmer, Vice Chair** Elliscombe Road  
**Len Weir, Secretary** Elliscombe Road, 0208 858 4920  
**Kevin Harrison, Treasurer** Sundorne Road  
**Jacqui Mitchell, Membership Secretary,**  
Swallowfield Road, 020 8853 1811

If you would like to have Grapevine, the regular bulletin or updates on CCRA events emailed to you please email [info@charltonresidents.org.uk](mailto:info@charltonresidents.org.uk)  
Grapevine's Editorial Team are:

**Elaine Picton** 12 Wellington Gardens, 0208 858 4942  
**Linda Pound** 26 Wellington Gardens, 0208 858 7377

# CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 7 ☁ JULY 2009

the newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association



## the BIG CLEAN-UP

### *Let's keep it that way*

On 4 July over 50 local residents assisted in the big clean up of our streets. Twenty lorry loads of rubbish and unwanted items went to the tip, clearing front gardens and all the things you meant to get rid of but didn't quite get round to throwing out. Small teams of people, including the local scouts, worked hard on a really hot day to clear rubbish from "hot spots" such as Warren Walk, the alley at the back of the Valley Café and the alleyway between Inverine Road and Frank Burton Close. Many people brought good quality items to the Freecycle at St Richard's Hall and we think that this is worth repeating next year, so hang on to your unwanted Christmas gifts.

#### **More on the Residents' Survey...**

89% of you said that your road was a friendly place to live in. You think that CCRA can make a difference and have made some suggestions for more activities and groups.

*For more information about the survey see p.3*

We were pleased to see the Mayor, our Councillors, the local Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Fire Brigade who all gave their support and advice on the day. We also appreciated the generous support of London and Quadrant Housing Association. We were pleased to be able to use St. Richards Hall free of charge for the day time activities. Those of us still standing went on to enjoy the celebration barn dance in the evening!

We are particularly grateful to the Council for making the event possible and the staff from Neighbourhood Services for their hard work, not only on the day itself but also in the following days – sweeping and generally sprucing up our streets. It is now up to us to keep it that way so please do not leave rubbish in your garden or put it in the street. More litter accumulates and this then attracts rats and flies, making the neighbourhood unpleasant and causing a potential health hazard. We know that people who cause a nuisance mostly don't live in our roads, but we also know that people are less likely to dump rubbish in an area that is well maintained and clean.

***So, thank you for your help and cooperation in making this CCRA event such a success.***

# Your property and the Credit Crunch

***With the recession and credit crunch, we asked Conran to comment on how our homes' values been affected?***

In the UK, values have fallen from the peak in mid 2007 by around 20%. Mortgage lenders have tightened their lending criteria and demanded higher deposits from buyers, preventing many first time buyers from getting onto the property ladder. The recession itself has led to insecurity in the job market and lack of confidence has reduced demand and so both values and numbers of sales have drastically reduced. The central Charlton area has fared better than average. Values have only dropped around 15% since the 2007 peak.

***When will this improve for us?***

In the past few months prices have stabilised as sellers' expectations have adjusted and many buyers have returned. In fact, some properties at the correct market price and in good locations have actually been receiving multiple offers and have been selling fast. All the roads covered by the CCRA are really well located for the station, shops and bus routes and so are highly desirable for families and commuters looking for homes with character in established, pleasant roads. The good news is that the property market is already improving greatly in Charlton!

***If we wanted to let our home would there be much demand ?***

Yes. Because of the excellent transport links and comparative value for money (in relation to neighbouring Blackheath and Greenwich), letting demand remains very stable. There is higher availability due to the increase in buy to let properties and owners who have let rather than sell and then moved on. This has reduced letting values locally by 5-10% in the past year or so, however the better presented homes in the local roads still let quickly!

***What kind of people are moving into and the local area ?***

Much of the movement is understandably from people who rent for 1-2 years on average, often young commuters, international students who study locally (Greenwich University, Trinity College of Music, Holburne College of Business and Law), and workers from Eastern Europe. Many go on to buy in the area, although also notable are buyers who begin their search in Blackheath and Greenwich but actually buy the more affordable Victorian properties we have here. Charlton has a fantastic mix of ethnic and social groups and in recent years the greatest increases in population have been from Eastern Europe, China, and Nepal.

***Can the Resident's Association make an impact on the desirability of the area?***

Absolutely yes. The work of CCRA can create a real sense of community and promote the friendliness, appearance, and inclusivity of the area to all newcomers. This can increase the desire for people to settle here as well as being very appealing to those moving from other parts of London. CCRA increases the appeal of the area and the value of our homes in the long term!

*CCRA wish to thank Conran for its continuing support in producing the Members' Bulletin and notice of the AGM.*



**EAST LONDON CHORUS**  
UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

***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?***

**East London Chorus is recruiting members in all voice parts for our new season.**

**[www.eastlondonchorus.org.uk](http://www.eastlondonchorus.org.uk)**

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*





## CCRA Residents' Survey – Your comments about CCRA

### 97% of you said that CCRA can make a difference!

We have now received over 100 survey forms, telling us what you think CCRA should promote in the area. The main issues, with some surprises, are summarised below. Liaison with the police, the Council and street cleaning/refuse services were high on most people's list of priorities. People were also interested in mother and toddler groups, local schools and youth clubs. About 50% of you would like CCRA to liaise with and promote local pensioners' groups so we hope to hold some events during the day. Again, half of you see links with housing associations and landlords as important for improving communication so as to ensure that properties are well maintained and tenants properly supported. A surprising 60% wanted CCRA to liaise with local shopkeepers, as they are such an important part of our community.

You are also keen for CCRA to promote local groups/activities and the table below shows the percentage of you that think these activities would be an asset to our community:

Group	%
1 Local History	43
2 Table Top Sales	41
3 = Gardening	38
3 = Coffee mornings	38
4 Wine Appreciation	34
5 = Singing	32
5 = Book	32
6 Baby sitting circle	29
7 Computer skills	28
8 Photography	27
9 Card games	22
10 Knitting/sewing	19

So, your top groups/activities are local history, followed by table top sales, gardening and coffee mornings. Those of you who wanted to drink wine, sing songs and read books are already catered for. We intend to establish more groups at the AGM on 23 September so please come along and sign up. We particularly want to hear from those of you who said you would be willing to lead an activity/group.

The next edition of Grapevine will report on your responses to local crime, law and order and community safety issues.

## A Picture of Health – update on SE London Hospital Services

Last year, Grapevine reported a number of major changes to local hospital and community health services in South East London. The Secretary of State has now given the green light for these to go ahead. The intention of the main changes means a separation of planned surgery and emergency care, the concentration of resources in fewer locations to provide better consultant cover and up to date specialist care, and a shift from hospital care to more care provided by GP surgeries so that people can stay at home.

The four main hospitals, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mary's, Princess Royal University Hospital and University Hospital Lewisham will all have urgent care centres, outpatients' services, assessment services for children and older people and day case surgery.

Queen Mary's in Sidcup will specialise in planned surgery and will become the base for many community healthcare services. It will have a stand-alone midwife-led birthing unit. It will not have an A&E department, an obstetrics unit or children's inpatients. The QEH, UHL and the PRUH will become specialist emergency centres with 24 hour A&E, maternity units and children's inpatients.

On a separate issue, on 1 April Queen Mary's, Queen Elizabeth and the Princess Royal University hospitals merged to form the South London Healthcare NHS Trust under one Chief Executive.

For more information and dates of upcoming meetings visit [www.apictureofhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.apictureofhealth.nhs.uk).



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# What to do in and around Charlton -

**Sat 18 July**

## **Learn the basics of smocking**

Craft workshop for adults

Greenwich Heritage Centre, Artillery Square,  
The Royal Arsenal, Woolwich 020 8854 2452

**24 – 26 July**

**Cultural Olympiad Open Weekend** [www.greenwich.gov.uk](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk)

**24-26 July**

## **Greenwich Film Festival**

A celebration of film highlighting Greenwich,  
including a **Family Film Day** on **July 25**

020 8317 4466 [www.greenwich.gov.uk/filmfestival](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/filmfestival)

**Sat 25 July**

## **Greenwich Heritage Centre Special Event**

Screening of the film "The Prince and the Pauper"  
followed by lunch at Firepower and a "Hunt the Henry"  
activity in the exhibition galleries. The event is free but  
you are advised to book in advance.

020 8854 2452 [www.greenwichheritage.org.uk](http://www.greenwichheritage.org.uk)

**Sat 25 July**

## **Blow Up**

Outdoor screening of this classic 60s film in the park  
where many of its scenes were filmed.

10.00 pm Maryon Park, Charlton

**Sun 26 & Mon 27 July**

## **The Visit**

Someone special is visiting Charlton House to present  
a fairytale spectacle for the whole family.

11.00 am, 2.00 pm, 5.00 pm each day

Charlton House, Charlton Road, Charlton

020 8858 7755

[www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk](http://www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk)

**Sun 26 July**

## **Greenwich World Cultural Festival**

Celebrating the creativity of Greenwich's diverse  
communities

020 8921 6109 [www.greenwich.gov.uk](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk)

**27 July – 4 September**

## **On the Ball with Charlton Athletic Football Club**

School holiday football courses, open to boys and girls  
aged 5 – 15 years. Players can attend for single days or  
for a week. Various venues, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

**29 July – 2 August**

## **Open Air Shakespeare – Henry V**

Performed by the Rainbow Shakespeare Players in the  
grounds of the Old Royal Naval College

7.30 pm, with matinees at 2.30 on Sat & Sun

020 8269 4799 020 8858 7755

[www.oldroyalnavalcollege.org](http://www.oldroyalnavalcollege.org)

[www.rainbow-theatre.com](http://www.rainbow-theatre.com)

**30 July – 27 August, Thursdays and Saturdays**

## **Tudor craft workshops for ages 5 – 12 years**

10.30 am – 12 noon Greenwich Heritage Centre,  
Artillery Square, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich

020 8854 2452 [www.greenwichheritage.org.uk](http://www.greenwichheritage.org.uk)

**5 – 9 August**

## **Open Air Shakespeare – Love's Labours Lost**

Performed by the Rainbow Shakespeare Players in the  
grounds of the Old Royal Naval College

7.30 pm, with matinees at 2.30 on Sat & Sun

020 8269 4799 020 8858 7755

[www.oldroyalnavalcollege.org](http://www.oldroyalnavalcollege.org)

[www.rainbow-theatre.com](http://www.rainbow-theatre.com)

**Sunday 9 August**

## **Green Chain Walk with fellow residents**

2.00pm – 4.30pm

See p.7 of this edition of Grapevine for further details.

## Having Problems **RENTING?**

We urgently require all types of  
properties in & around Charlton



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# cut out & keep guide to summer events

**Fri 7 August**

**Animaltastic – drop-in workshop**

Finger puppet workshop for ages 3 – 11, accompanied by an adult.

*The Painted Hall, Royal Naval College*

020 8269 4747 [www.oldroyalnavalcollege.org](http://www.oldroyalnavalcollege.org)

**Fri 14 August**

**Treasure Chest – drop-in workshop**

for ages 3 – 11, accompanied by an adult.

*The Painted Hall, Royal Naval College*

020 8269 4747 [www.oldroyalnavalcollege.org](http://www.oldroyalnavalcollege.org)

**Wed 19 August**

**Guided Walk – Edible Wild Plants and Herbs**

10.30 am – 12 noon, Greenwich Park

020 8858 2608 [www.royalpark.org.uk](http://www.royalpark.org.uk)

**Fri 21 August**

**Flower Power – drop-in workshop**

for ages 3 – 11, accompanied by an adult.

*The Painted Hall, Royal Naval College*

020 8269 4747 [www.oldroyalnavalcollege.org](http://www.oldroyalnavalcollege.org)

**Summer Playscheme St Richards**

A playscheme for 5-11 year olds is to be held at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road from **24 – 28 August**.

There will be fun games, cooking, arts and crafts, bible stories and outings. Interested? *Phone 020 8858 8175 and leave your name and contact details.*

**Fri 28 August**

**Impossible Creatures – drop-in workshop**

for ages 3 – 11, accompanied by an adult.

*The Painted Hall, Royal Naval College*

020 8269 4747 [www.oldroyalnavalcollege.org](http://www.oldroyalnavalcollege.org)

**Sun 30 August**

**Family Fun Day**

10.00 am – 4.00 pm, Well Hall Pleasaunce,

Well Hall Road, Eltham 020 8856 0100

**September 7 – 13**

**Greenwich Comedy Festival**

Various venues & timings [www.greenwichcomedyfestival.co.uk](http://www.greenwichcomedyfestival.co.uk)

**September 23**

**CCRA's 2nd Annual General Meeting**

7.30 pm, St Richard's Hall

**Mondays, term times only**

**Baby and Toddler Rhyme Time**

10.00 – 10.30 am and 11.00 – 11.30 am

*Charlton Library*

**Swim for Free**

Scheme for under 16s and over 60s.

Under 16s need to get a membership card (£1) from GLL. Over 60s simply need their Freedom Pass.

Free sessions are available every day in every GLL swimming pool.

020 8317 5000 [www.gll.org](http://www.gll.org)

**Saturday stories**

For children of all ages

*Alternate Saturdays, 11.00 – 11.30 am*

*Blackheath Library*

**International Year of Astronomy**

**at the Royal Observatory**

Activities based around a different theme each month.

**July – 40 years on the moon**

**August – families in space**

**September – sci-fi and astronomy**

**Greenwich Summer Uni.**

Over 80 free courses for anyone aged 8-19 years (25 years for those with special needs) – including film & media, arts & music, IT, study skills and sports.

020 8921 8438/8282 [www.summerunilondon.org](http://www.summerunilondon.org)



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# I heard it on the grapevine...



Above: Kevin, from Kevin's Pharmacy – serving the community for over 25 years

Below: St Richard's Church Hall



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## 'My Charlton' photographic competition

Earlier this year we set up a photographic competition with a closing date of 31 March. We thought you'd like an opportunity to take some summery (as well as beautiful snowy pictures) so we postponed the competition. Photos will now be judged at our AGM in September so the new closing date is 31 August. The rules are the same and those of you who have already submitted photos will of course be entered – but may also like to submit more entries. A lot of people said that they'd just not got round to entering – so come on, seize this second chance!

As before, the theme is 'My Charlton', with three entry categories:

- Under 12 for Children,
- 13–19 for Teenagers and
- 20+ for Adults

Photographs must be submitted as a print – 13x18 centimetres or 5x7 inches. They can be black and white or colour. You may enter more than one photograph. In addition they may be emailed as an attachment to Charlton\_residents@yahoo.co.uk. Each entry must include your name, the category you are entering, your address, contact details and the title of the entry. If you are also submitting online you must include the same information in your email.

Entries can only be accepted from residents within CCRA's designated area. All entries will be displayed and judged at the AGM on 23 September in St Richards Hall. The winner in each category will receive a £20 Jessops' voucher.

If you'd like to take part in this competition, please send your photograph(s) to Linda Pound at 26 Wellington Gardens (0208 858 7377) by 31 August.

# CCRA social events

## Ongoing events

### Recent CCRA Events

The summer has been busy with a number of varied activities. On 20 June a total of 11 gardens were opened to CCRA members in our very popular **Open Gardens** event and raised a total of £67.18. This year we were able to join with Highcombe allotment holders. Allotment holders raised a total of £105 – which is to be donated to Charlton Toy Library. In the evening a fundraising barbecue was held in Wellington Gardens and this raised £195.42.

CCRA was represented at the **Hornfair at Charlton House** on Sunday 28 June. Thanks to all who came and supported CCRA at Hornfair. We had a great day and even managed to pack up before it started to rain. Congratulations to Jane Hinne from Elliscombe Road who won the 'Where in Charlton' photo competition and thanks to Peter Somerville for his efforts in making the stall interesting to all. The event raised a little money but more importantly raised the profile of CCRA.

**The Big Clean Up** held on 4 July ended with a barn dance as reported on page 1. Members of Muscadin supported local musicians John Stevens, Robert Clay, Ros Sewell and Chris Harrison. Despite the heat, the evening was lively, raffle prizes were exciting and the company was scintillating. If you haven't yet attended a CCRA event, you've missed out. Check the dates on the back page to see what a wide variety of events are planned – we look forward to seeing you soon.

### Forthcoming CCRA Events

On Sunday 9 August join Sarah, Colin and Megan (aged nearly 2) for a **Circular Walk** along our local section of the green chain walk. Meet outside Totty's – the walk will begin at 2.00 and is expected to finish around 4.30. Everyone is welcome and it's free! The walk will take in Charlton Park, Maryon Wilson Park, Maryon Park, the Thames Barrier Visitor's Centre, finishing at the Anchor and Hope pub – approximately 4 miles. Opportunities to go on the swings, visit animal enclosures and enjoy the river included. All ages welcome. Bring your own refreshments for stops en route and wear suitable footwear. Suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs although there are hills!

**CCRA's 2nd Annual General Meeting** will be held on 23 September at St Richards Hall and will begin at 7.30. You'll be getting one of our distinctive yellow bulletins nearer the time giving full details.

### 'Grapewine' Appreciation Group

The CCRA wine tasting group has now held 3 events, covering Iberian, Argentinean and New Zealand wines. With much laughter and great fun we have sampled many bottles. At each event we had a range of wines selected by the host, which we tasted and discussed then scored and estimated prices. For New Zealand we even had sample scent pots of fresh ingredients to match the wine tasting notes, including combinations of passion fruit, gooseberry, lime and nettle against 4 different Sauvignon Blancs. It really helped bring out the differences in the wines.

Our favourites wines have not been the most expensive and we have found some great wines at great prices such as the Zuazo Gaston Rioja at £5.99 – details of our favourites will soon be on the website. This is a popular social event and numbers are limited so a second group is planned. *If anyone wishes to join or host an event please contact Elizabeth or Dawn on 020 8305 0872.*

### Book club

The most recent read is Frank O'Connor's *My Oedipus Complex and Other Stories*. *For further details contact Diana on 0208 293 6431.*

### Singing Group

If you're interested in joining our thriving, friendly and informal singing group, *contact Chris Harrison on 0208 858 7377 for full details.*



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real Spanish tapas together in an informal,  
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