



## Dates for your diary

**CHRISTMAS SOCIAL, Sat 3 December**  
4-7pm at St. Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

**CAROL SINGING, 19 and 20 Dec**  
All welcome, gather at 26 Wellington Gardens at 7pm on either or both nights. No training or expertise required, song sheets provided. We have previously raised large sums for Charlton Toy Library and this year's money will go to local charities, so please give generously if you're not singing! Singers invited for warming refreshments afterwards. Chris Harrison, 0208 858 7377.

**QUIZ NIGHT 11 Feb 2012**  
7.30 pm at St. Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

**NEW MEMBERS' GET-TOGETHER, 25 Mar 2012**  
Full details will be sent to new members

**SPRING SOCIAL 23 April 2012**  
7.30 pm at St. Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

## Christmas Crackers!

CCRA's Cracking Christmas social is coming... to St Richard's Community Hall in Swallowfield Road on 3 December from 4- 7pm. This year we are planning an even bigger and better event for the whole family, with live music including community carol singing at 6.30pm, stalls selling decorations and presents, plus a cake stall and tombola. Children will be able to make Christmas cards and edible tree decorations, and refreshments will include mince pies, mulled wine, soft drinks and cakes. Don't miss the grand raffle, and for all you Charlton FC fans the exciting result of the eBay auction of the Valley Pub sign (see p6 for details). See you there!

## Classified Ads

Grapevine currently reaches 1000 homes and other outlets in the local area. If you would like to advertise goods or services cheaply, effectively and locally contact Sarah Roseblade on 0208 244 2405 or sarah.roseblade@ntlworld.com. A form can be found on our website, rates for individuals and small businesses:

- Ads 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 of £70 for four.

## Unveiled - revised plans for the Squirrel site

The latest plans for the Squirrel site development off Victoria Way were under scrutiny recently at Charlton House.

Residents had the opportunity to see Fairview New Homes Limited's version of the site following Galliard Homes' withdrawal from the scheme.

While the building is peripheral to CCRA, especially as access will be from Gurdon Road, there will inevitably be some disruption as we understand lorry egress is to be via Victoria Way.

Developers say the original plan to provide 209 homes remains unchanged. But the new scheme will introduce 20 family houses, to be built on the northern boundary, whose back gardens would adjoin the existing gardens of houses in Gurdon Road, thus matching the existing street pattern of the area. The original plan to provide parking spaces for 160 vehicles also remains unchanged.

The proposal is expected to go before the council next month, after which LBG will consult local residents again and it will be put to the vote in spring 2012. If agreed, work would begin next August and would take between 12 and 18 months.

### Mind you keep well

Be active. Be curious. Give. Learn. Connect. On World Mental Health Day volunteers handed out Five a Day for Mental Well-being and Greenwich Time to Talk information at Charlton station. Just like taking care of our bodies, it's important to notice how we feel. You can contact Time to Talk on 0203 260 1100.

### Therapy can help

Cognitive-behavioural therapy can help with a range of problems. Contact psychologist Jon Gowlland at jon@southlondontherapist.co.uk or 07980 639090. Friendly, confidential, Charlton-based service.

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of Grapevine should be emailed to:

**grapevine@charltonresidents.org** by 9th January. Alternatively, phone Joy Ogden on **0208 293 3034** or Bob Smith on **0208 853 2697**.

# CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 16  DECEMBER 2011  
the newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association

## Retail therapy ...or traffic hell?

The big supermarkets are playing musical chairs in Charlton, leaving those of us in need of retail therapy perplexed. Within the past few weeks Sainsbury's, Asda, Tesco, Marks and Spencer and Lidl have all expressed interest in sites around Bugsby's Way.

And, as the stores jostle for their new positions, we hear that Matalan are bidding for Sainsbury's old site. What or who will take over Matalan's old site is unknown. While good for shopping, however, the new proposals could add to traffic problems at the bottom of Charlton Church Lane and across the main Woolwich Road.

It seems likely that Sainsbury's plan for an express branch on the site beneath the new flats opposite Charlton station must be compromised and rumours suggest this will revert to plan A to become three small shops.

LXB Retail Properties plc are seeking to develop swathes of land on the other side of Woolwich Road. And the company has confirmed the story reported in the last edition of Grapevine, that Sainsbury's plan to relocate to the Wickes site, though the existing Greenwich peninsula store will continue to trade until the new one is built. Marks and Spencer fans will be delighted to hear that they



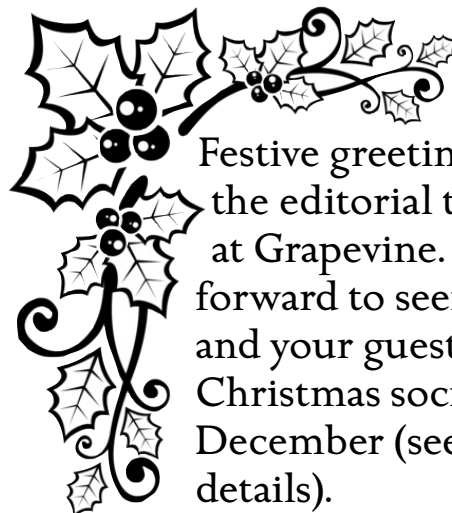
PICTURE COURTESY OF NICHOLAS VOSE, FOUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

are also interested in opening a store on the same site. Between Asda and the Fire Station, LXB is set to build a Travelodge with 120 bedrooms, though it looks unlikely to be ready in time for the Olympics – which must have been a target date. Currently LXB hopes to present a planning application early in 2012.

But traffic is already a big problem on Woolwich Road and from central Charlton, drivers are likely to be held up at the junction of Victoria Way and Woolwich Road. The presence of a hotel and possible construction traffic using that junction for new homes currently planned at the Squirrel Storage site (see p8) can only make that worse.

### STOP PRESS Wellington Gardens

Work may soon begin at 42-44 Wellington Gardens after planning permission was granted at a council meeting on 16 November. CCRA has made a significant contribution to conditions imposed on the developer – more details in forthcoming CCRA publications. Thanks to members who attended the meeting. The dreadful drains in Wellington Gardens remain a concern – as things stand the developer just has to be in contact with Thames Water. But CCRA is not giving up. In our favour is the suggestion that the developer should have regular site meetings with CCRA representatives – so watch this space!



Festive greetings from the editorial team at Grapevine. Look forward to seeing you - and your guests - at the Christmas social on 3 December (see p8 for details).

# Arsène about?

On page 2 of July's Grapevine we ran a short tongue-in-cheek piece on the death of Sir Spencer Perceval, the only British Prime Minister to have been assassinated, who is buried at Charlton Parish Church. The aim of the article was to gauge interest in a darts team or get a game going. We've had a number of enquiries but not enough to organise a match yet. However one resident, with suspiciously pro-Millwall sympathies, has replied to our article with equally disputable facts. Read on...

I'm surprised you fell for that old chestnut blaming Millwall supporters for Spencer Percival's death. Millwall played north of the river then and their supporters came in horse drawn charabancs across the Woolwich Ferry, where they were heavily searched, and discovery of weapons of any kind meant transportation to Tasmania. They were marshalled in and out of the ground and not allowed anywhere near a Charlton pub. But some of the story is correct. Pozzer was a Charlton fan and was planning a coup against the club's management, trying to impose a French manager Arsene Bonaparte. MI6 uncovered the plot and persuaded Mad King George he was the next target, so he sanctioned the use of a poisoned dart. The danger was averted and we triumphed at Waterloo a few years later. It was all hushed up of course by making scapegoats of the Millwall fans – and that is how it has remained to the present day. They don't care!

**DP, Wellington Gardens**

# The road to ruin

Potholes can, quite literally, be a pain in the backside. But if you are unlucky enough to come across them as you drive around streets of Charlton there is something you can do about it.

If you spot a bad pothole on a road or pavement, note its exact location – the street name and nearest house number or the number of the nearest lamp standard - and tell the local authority. Greenwich council has a form for this on its website. A council must deal with it and Greenwich has pledged to inspect the problem within two days of receiving your report. It aims to repair roads and pavements within 15 working days and to deal with emergencies within 24 hours.

If possible take a photograph of both the pothole and any damage to your car. If the cost is more than £500 you might need council permission before a repair goes ahead. Check wheels and tyres after any incident. Keep any relevant paperwork relating to either repairs or personal injury.

Useful websites: [potholes.co.uk](http://potholes.co.uk) [fixmystreet.com](http://fixmystreet.com) [fillthathole.org.uk](http://fillthathole.org.uk) [theaa.com](http://theaa.com) [lepsons.com](http://lepsons.com) [greenwich.gov.uk](http://greenwich.gov.uk) . By telephone or email:

If the problem is in a Council estate, phone 020 8921 4661 or email [cleansweep@greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:cleansweep@greenwich.gov.uk). If the problem is on a public street, road or highway, phone 020 8921 5419/6265 or email [contact-centre@greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:contact-centre@greenwich.gov.uk).

But it's not only motorists who run the gauntlet of dodgy surfaces: pedestrians in Charlton suffer too and CCRA is monitoring pavement conditions. There is concern about Greenwich Council's failure to resolve these dangerous underfoot issues, which continue to reoccur.



*Staying in is the new going out!*

As Christmas approaches, why not hold a Pampered Chef cooking show? Invite your friends round for some festive cheer and I will do the rest.

The Pampered Chef cooking shows are a fun and relaxing way to learn new recipes, try out great kitchen products and have a laugh with your friends. As a bonus, hosts could receive free and discounted products.

Fundraising is important for me, so if you have a cause close to your heart give me a call and we can chat about how we can make some money for it.

Contact: Tamara Davey  
07941 281963  
[Tamara@davey.uk.net](mailto:Tamara@davey.uk.net)

Available for: Daytime Events, Evening Events, Stalls, Home Parties



Visit Stefan the German Baker  
in his sales van outside 84 Wellington Gardens  
Every Saturday 8.45 – 9.10am

Note the new earlier times & treat yourself  
to his delicious bread and cakes

*SPECIAL:*  
1 long single  
white flour roll only 30p



# Olympics home rentals and how to avoid the high jump

Simon Hughes, of Conran Estates in Charlton, offers some sound advice for those thinking of renting their homes out during the Olympics

If only I had a pound for every time someone discussed with me about renting their property during the Olympics and making lots of cash! While this could be a great idea, I would seriously recommend you know the pitfalls before taking the plunge.

We have an Olympic offering, for those who are interested, but it is a transparent service where clients are fully aware of the risks. Here's a summary:

- ✦ Is your buildings insurance still valid if you rent on a short term basis? If not then look into obtaining other cover for the period or making a change with your existing insurer.
- ✦ Does your mortgage lender allow the property to be rented on this type of tenancy (even as a Buy-to-Let mortgage, many lenders will not permit this type of activity)?
- ✦ Holiday tenants are treated very differently from normal long term tenants and therefore the due diligence process is very basic, if at all. You will have to trust a total stranger to look after your home!
- ✦ Deposits are small in comparison to a longer let and therefore if a holiday-maker broke a big-ticket item, your 'profit-vs-hassle' could make it a bad investment.
- ✦ Criminal damage: if tenants deliberately broke or stole belongings then what recourse would you have? Litigation is an option but how would you take an overseas visitor to court? If you did, how much of your time

and further cash would this process take?

- ✦ If you already have a buy-to-let property you wish to rent during the Olympics then please be very careful, as you will need vacant possession. For this to be certain you may need the existing tenants out many months before your visitors arrive. If your tenants have not moved out then where does this leave you in legal terms with the new arrivals not being able to move into your property? Please note, removing an unwilling tenant can take many months through the County Court.
- ✦ Furthermore, what if there is a saturated lettings market following the Olympics? Your property may have a further void period that could make this process unprofitable. As a landlord, assuming you have good tenants, then my recommendation is to keep them in your property.
- ✦ Fraud (this is one for the tourists). Undoubtedly there will be properties on the market that are not really available. Anyone can take a photo of a house and place it on a holiday website for short term, fraudulent gain. You pay your entire rental money along with the deposit directly to this fraudster and when you get to London, the property is not there or not available and you have been done. Please be cautious and rent a property through a reputable agent or source. We ensure that we prove both ownership and identity from our landlords to ensure peace of mind for incoming tenants.

## CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE FOSTER WITH GREENWICH

### Do you:

- like caring for children
- have a sense of humour
- have a spare room
- want to make a difference

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Freephone 0800 052 1499  
[www.greenwich.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/fostering)



 Greenwich Council

Promoting equality and quality of life for all



## Buggy Blockade

The fight to save Maryon Wilson Animal Park continued last month when mothers took up the baton and formed a 70-strong buggy wall of protest. Coupled with a 7,500-strong petition, supporters of the animal park are determined to dissuade the council from shutting it down. Unless there is a change of mind, the park is due to close in April next year.



# It's a load of old rubbish

Have you walked down Wellington Mews recently? If so, you will probably think you have strayed into Greenwich's municipal tip. Fly tip-pers have been illegally dumping waste there for some time and it is littered with abandoned cars and huge piles of assorted rubbish and sawn up trees.

The Mews is a private, unmade-up road, and as such, in the first instance, it is the responsibility of the



occupier or owner of the land to remove the waste.

But the Council can step in and serve enforcement orders to have the land cleared if it is deemed to be detrimental to the area. Greenwich Council has recently called time on the culprits and started proceedings to prosecute one fly tipper.

You might wonder how to get rid of bulky items such as a sofa or a fridge. The answer is to call the Council's Waste Services team on 020 8921 4661 for details of

its special collection services.

And did you know that you can be prosecuted if your waste is dumped illegally, even if someone else dumped it for you?

If you decide to ask someone else to dispose of your waste you should:

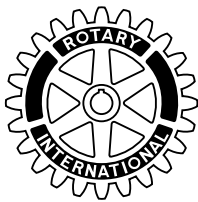
1. Ask if the person collecting your rubbish is registered as a waste carrier with the Environment Agency.
2. Ask where your waste is being taken: the site should be licensed by the Environment Agency.
3. Ask for a signed receipt with their carrier registration number on it and if possible get the vehicle registration number.
4. If you have any concerns, don't hand over your waste. If it is dumped illegally you could be prosecuted.

CCRA's local refuse and re-cycling tip is at: Nathan Way, Plumstead, SE28 0AB

To check whether a person or a site is licensed or for advice on disposal of waste you can use the new online public register at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/publicregisters](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/publicregisters), or call the Environment Agency on 08708 506 506.

Anyone who witnesses fly-tipping or has evidence about the origin of fly-tipped waste should call the Contact Centre on 020 8921 4661. Fly tips on public highway or council owned land will usually be cleared within 24 hours.

• Website: [greenwich.gov.uk/YourEnvironment/RubbishRecycling](http://greenwich.gov.uk/YourEnvironment/RubbishRecycling)



## Rotary Club of Greenwich

Meet every Thursday  
at Charlton Football Club, Floyd Road, SE7 8BL  
12.30 for 1pm Luncheon

Where likeminded business people meet  
for fellowship and help for others.

For more information  
please ring Fred Nunn 0208 8586 410

### Watch out, neighbourhood!

If you don't want the festive time to turn into festive crime, there are a few commonsense rules it is worth repeating: store gifts out of sight, whether in the home or in the car.

And hide the boxes expensive goods come in – make sure they are well buried in the (correct) bin. Lock all doors and windows, even when you are in. And if you go away ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye out.

Our local SNT inform us that where burglars can see right through a property unrestricted by curtains or doors, they are more likely to spot attractive items and know they are clear to break in.

And have you checked your household insurance recently to make sure your cover is adequate?

# Did you know?

✦ CCRA is in a local parks deficiency area, and counts as deprived of access to green space?

✦ Charlton is in ONS area Greenwich 014A. Land use in 2005 was as follows, so it depends on gardens for green space and trees.



	Your neighbourhood	Greenwich	England
Domestic buildings	<b>23%</b>	8.5%	1.1%
Non-domestic buildings	<b>1.2%</b>	5.1%	0.7%
Road	<b>19%</b>	14.6%	2.2%
Domestic gardens	<b>42.7%</b>	23.2%	4.3%
Green space	<b>5.2%</b>	34.4%	87.5%
Water	<b>0</b>	1.7%	2.6%

✦ Over 31, 000 buses a year to Belmarsh pass along Wellington Gardens, while part of Sundorne Road and all Priolo Road have similar bus traffic towards Lewisham?

✦ Stag beetles (protected species) HATE chalk, Therefore, they LOVE the SE7 area and there are several populations living quietly next door to us.

✦ Your often unseen noisy neighbours may include the woodpeckers, who drum away each spring. The habitat and geography suggest these could well be the RSPB "Red List" Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, so we are lucky indeed to have them



## An Oasis in Charlton?

The Greening Group has been discussing an exciting new idea - a community garden in the empty land opposite the allotment site on Highcombe. An urban oasis, tucked in among the houses, would be of particular benefit to people living in flats. And the land would allow us to work with local schools to support young children to learn about growing and enjoying fresh produce. There are issues to resolve: first, who owns the land and would they be willing to sign a peppercorn-rent lease? Second, how would we keep the patch secure? And finally, how do we manage a community garden?

We are working towards a wider public meeting in the new year and will keep you posted. All ideas gratefully received.

## Cookery corner

With Christmas on the horizon, we'll soon be raiding the larder for gifts. Instead of boring old chocolates how about warming up a winter evening by making this delicious fruit paste from one of the most neglected of autumn's fruits?

*Quince cheese or (membrillo in Spain)\**

**1kg preserving sugar**

**750ml water**

**1.2kg quince, peeled, cored and grated or cut into small pieces**

Dissolve the sugar in the water and bring to the boil. Continue to boil for about 5 minutes to make a light syrup. Stir the quince into the syrup, bring back to the boil and simmer very gently, stirring every so often for anything from 45 minutes to 1.5 hours until the mixture turns to a thick grainy paste. This certainly demands



patience, but I find an occasional whisk helps the process along. It is ready when the spoon, dragged across the bottom of the pan, separates the paste, showing the clean bottom of the pan.

Spread the paste into lightly greased shallow dishes or trays and place in the oven at its lowest possible temperature for 3-4 hours to harden further. Remove from the oven and leave to cool.

Once cool, wrap in greaseproof paper in useable slabs that you can give away as gifts or keep for your own

use. Store these in the fridge in sealed containers. It will keep for up to a year.

You can also cut it into little sweets and wrap them individually.

\*(With thanks to food writer Lyndon Gee)

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

## How happy is my valley?

Peering down imperiously from our lofty perch at the top of Division One I think we Addicks can afford a brief moment to bask in glory. For surely there can be few better starts to a season. Apart from one stutter – a curious 0 – 1 defeat away to Stevenage – we remain unbeaten. And the way we came back from defeat with two 4 – 0 thrashings followed by a 5 – 2 drubbing of Preston, surely bespeaks the mettle of this team. That sends exactly the right message to the opposition. We are a side which brooks no trifling.

BWP is now highest scorer in the division having notched five in the last three games and given his current form I can only see him increasing that lead as the season progresses. His pairing with recent signing Yann Kermorgant from Leicester has paid dividends and with Hayes ready as back up, the front line looks to be one of the best in the division.

I hold my hand up, I was one of the doubters when I checked the You-Tube footage of Kermorgant's penalty exploits for Leicester. What do I know? Powell, rapidly approaching nomination for deification alongside the already beatified Curbs, knew him from his Leicester days and recognised his potential.

His muscular build and ability in the air has added a new dimension to our fortunes in front of goal. Witness our performance against Preston on November 5. No need to trog off to Blackheath, the fireworks were at the Valley on Saturday afternoon when The Boys overwhelmed Preston and left them in disarray. From the moment the exciting Danny Green weaved his way through a pack of defenders and blasted a shot at the keeper who parried only for skipper Johnny Jackson to drive home the rebound, we knew we were in for an interesting match.

With BWP and Kermorgant climbing all over the visitor's defence and total commitment by every player, it was just a matter of how many. By half time we'd slotted four and it could have been more. But the best goal was left to the second half, a fabulous header by Hollands slotted into the right-hand corner of the net giving the keeper no chance. They ran themselves into the ground and few of the 17,500 fans at the Valley will worry to much about Preston's two late consolation goals.

A great result, but the big one is at home against Huddersfield on Monday, November 28. At the time of

writing Huddersfield have just equalled Notts Forest's impressive record of 42 leagues games unbeaten. By the time you read this we will know whether Charlton have ended that run. I believe we will. Given those stats it may seem odd that we are top of the division and five points clear. But the answer is simple – they draw a lot of their games. We win most of ours. Oh, and by the way, this time last season Brighton, who went on to win the first division, had scored three points less than our current 40. It's looking good.

## What am I bid?

Come on you Charlton fans! Here's a chance to own a rare bit of Addick's memorabilia. Possibly the only good thing to emerge from the saga of the Valley pub and its demise, is that the pub sign was saved from demolition and is now coming up for eBay auction. And CCRA will benefit. You can bid for the sign right up to 6.30pm on Saturday, 3 December, when the result will be announced at the CCRA Christmas social in St Richard's Hall. But please note - you can only bid online and will not be able to do that at the Hall. Anyone who does not have access to the internet can talk to Martina on 8858 7323, or any committee member. Proceeds from the auction will go to CCRA's greening project.



# Local community interest groups

## Local history group

Members have recently trained to undertake oral history interviews. We're developing some ideas around The Peopling of Charlton - looking at where people living in our houses have come from over the past century or more. For further details ring Jill on 020 8854 2452.

## Book group

In our October book group meeting we all agreed with the Man Booker prize-winner selection - Julian Barnes's masterful *A Sense of an Ending* - having split the short list between us to read and report on. Our criteria included: 'Would you go on to read another by this author?' which led us to put *Sisters Brothers* in second place, with *Snowdrops* trailing, thoroughly disliked, in the rear. On that basis, we will read *Talking It Over*, another Julian Barnes, for our December slot.

November's read is *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid. For more information contact Diana on 020 8893 6431.

## CCRA Singing Group

New members have joined since the summer, and we continue to enjoy singing all sorts of different songs. We have some performances coming up - at Woodlands Farm on Sunday 27 November (around lunchtime), and at the CCRA Christmas Social on 3



*Dear sir ...*

I live in Priolo Road and am investigating the possibility of campaigning to lower the speed limits on the roads in our area to 20mph. My reasons are:

- There are often cars parked on both sides of the streets, so crossing the roads means stepping out some way to see if there is any traffic. Children play in the streets. It is good to see this, but they need protection against speeding

motorists. Buses sometimes speed up our road and down Wellington Gardens, and at more than 20mph this becomes dangerous. Some of the roads are used as cut-throughs during morning and evening rush hour, increasing the traffic flow.

If you would like to join a campaign please contact me.

**Tamara Davey, 53 Priolo Road tamara@davey.uk.net**

December. You may also see us in General Gordon Square, Woolwich, from about 6pm on Monday, 12 December. Lastly, we will be organising our usual carol singing around the neighbourhood, on 19 and 20 December - anyone is welcome to join in. Contact Chris on 020 8858 7377 for more information.

## CArt group

To all budding artists - time to dust off that paintbox! if you are interested in forming a drawing/painting group to meet in the evening on a monthly basis, please contact Julia on juliamundy@hotmail.com.

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