



## CCRA Scrubs Up on Saturday 4th July **BIG CLEAN-UP DAY**

CCRA has the support of the Council to undertake a spring clean of our streets and to remove rubbish from front gardens. We will give you more information about what will happen on July 4th and the following week nearer the time, but we have reached agreement with the Council about what they will do for us and how we can help.

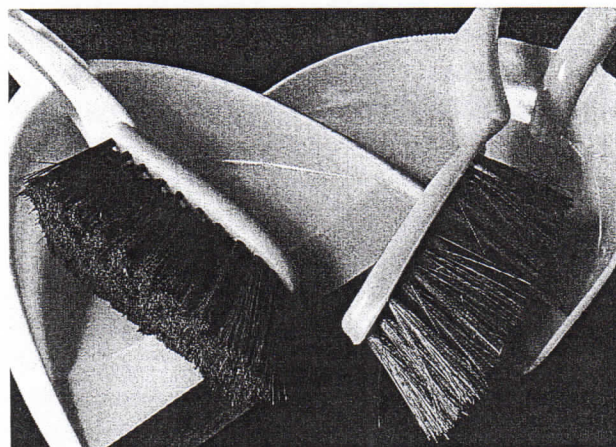
### What will the Council do?

On July 4th, they will provide five vehicles and staff to clear rubbish. This means that you can get rid of white goods (fridges, cookers etc.), old carpet and most of the other sorts of items that you no longer need or want but just don't seem to get around to disposing of. Unfortunately they are unable to deal with building rubble or asbestos.

The following week the Council will carry out an intensive clean of gutters, drains and pavements, involving the use of specialist equipment. In order for this to be effective you will be asked to move parked cars for a short period. Full details for your street will be given nearer the time. We are sure that you'll agree that the benefits of a clean and tidy neighbourhood will far outweigh any inconvenience.

### What will CCRA do?

We need to provide volunteers to work with council staff to remove rubbish from front gardens and the pavements. Gloves and protective clothing will be provided. Council staff will deal with very heavy and contaminated rubbish.



From 12.00 noon we have the use of St Richard's Hall to use to "freecycle" items you no longer want, but which other people might find useful. There will be no charge for such items. In addition, council staff and other organisations will be available with information on a variety of environmental and community safety issues.

### What can you do?

You can volunteer to help on 4th July so please *contact Dave Picton on 020 8858 4942 or David Gayther on 0208 305 2851*. You can come and celebrate the big clean up at the free barn dance in the evening – 7.30pm St. Richard's Hall. All residents are welcome. You can also volunteer to play in the band – full details on page 7.

***Please support this event. We can, together, improve the quality of our area and create a friendly, safe environment.***

### **Residents' Survey – we like living in Charlton!**

In February, we gave all CCRA households a questionnaire asking about people's experiences of living in the area. The main messages from you were that you like living in the area, the neighbourhood is friendly and the area is well serviced by public transport. However you did feel that there were some problems and the big clean up is designed to address some of these. *See middle pages for more details.*



## News from CCRA's Law and Order Action Group (LOAG)

LOAG tries to meet regularly with the Charlton Safer Neighbourhood Team, (SNT), headed up by Sergeant Musgrave and based in Mar House, just off Victoria Way. At the most recent meeting Sgt Musgrave asked CCRA to remind residents about the importance of locking garden sheds and making sure front and back doors are secured at all times. There have been a number of burglaries recently where robbers have used items from garden sheds to force entry. Also of particular concern are doors with security locks which normally have to be secured from the inside so, double check your locks!!! Leaving your house unlocked makes life easy for the casual burglar. The good news from the team is that burglary across the CCRA area is declining – so vigilance does pay off.

We have taken a closer look at crime figures. It has not been easy to make clear comparisons or to get sufficient detail for effective analysis of the figures. However, it appears that in 2008 (compared with 2007) there was a slight decrease in most categories of crime (including burglary, criminal damage, drug offences and handling stolen property). In the same periods there were slight increases in fraud, robbery and sex offences. In the period since November 2008, figures suggest that, overall, our sub-ward is registering less crime than the ward as a whole, which is good news. We hope to report on the comments you gave us in the survey about law and order in the October edition of Grapevine.



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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*

## Out and about in Charlton



As a Charlton resident for some years, I'm really fed up with having to go to Blackheath or Greenwich, or further, to hear any good music or to find a decent pub/bar that sells good food. Sorry, but that's how I feel. When a friend invited me to a "really good place" in Charlton Church Lane, I was, I'll admit, more than dubious. But it was a Sunday night and I had nothing better to do.

Cattleya at Chu & Cho's is small. We arrived just before 8pm and there were some musician's setting up in a cramped corner. It was already busy but although we hadn't booked we got a small table and the swift service soon had prawn crackers and a couple of pints of San Miguel in front of us. But then the band – an acoustic trio with amplification – started up. Whether or not it was the San Miguel but they sounded really good – easy to talk over but just the right level to hear some of the best rootsy, jazzy kinda stuff I've heard for ages. Our food was equally good: a mix of Tapas and Thai.

We stayed all night, the band played on and the San Miguel flowed. It was the best Sunday night I've ever had in Charlton. The band are called The Los Dawsons and they play every other Sunday; they even have a blog – [thelosdawsons.blogspot.com](http://thelosdawsons.blogspot.com) – and are about to record a CD. Catch 'em while you can: on the performance I saw, you'll be paying to see them by the end of the year. <http://thelosdawsons.blogspot.com>

**Sunday 24th May** Oxleas Wood Café  
Acoustic music festival 3pm – 6pm (top of Shooters Hill)

**Sunday 31st May** Cattleya @ Chu and Chos  
From 8pm Charlton Church Lane London SE7

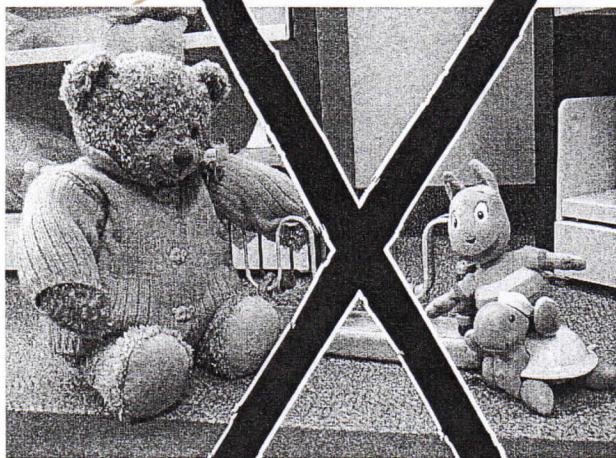
**Saturday 6th June** Wadfest Kent  
Proceeds to Demelza House Hospice for Children

**Sunday 7th June** East Greenwich Pleasaunce  
Picnic at the Pleasaunce from 2pm

**Sunday 14 June** Cattleya @ Chu and Chos 8pm



## Charlton Toy Library under threat



Unfortunately Charlton Toy library was not successful in securing funding from the Big Lottery and has been forced to close one morning a week as of 1st April. The Toy Library is a registered charity and not for profit organisation, run by a management committee of volunteers and without their dedication the toy library will cease to exist. Any help residents can offer will be gratefully received, cash donations in particular but items such as toilet paper, cleaning products, swing bin liners, anti bacterial wipes will help reduce costs. They also collect old greetings cards, ribbons, beads and other craft items which can be used to make birthday cards to sell or use in the art activities in the play area.

If you can help, contact *Debbie*, the email address is [Debbie@charltontoylibrary.co.uk](mailto:Debbie@charltontoylibrary.co.uk)

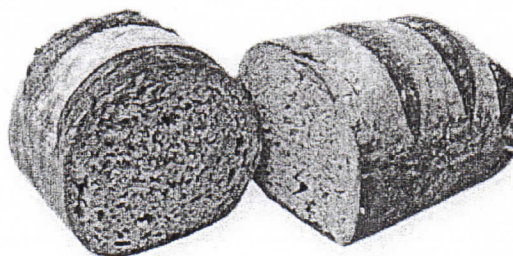
## The Case of the Strange Parcels – Beware!

We have heard that several houses locally have recently been targeted by possible credit card fraudsters. They appear to use the address of a residence that is empty during the day when a delivery would be made. The parcel is taken in by a neighbour, but the name on the item is not that of the resident. Following this the house is visited by an individual stating that he is the owner of the said parcel and that it has been delivered to the wrong address. One such parcel contained two top of the range iPhones. It is unclear who the victim of this scam is, as it is not the credit card of the resident being used to purchase the items. To be on the safe side, be careful about signing for any parcels unless your neighbours have asked you to accept them.

## The future of Charlton Post Office

A planning application has been submitted to Greenwich Council to redevelop the Post Office site in Charlton Church Lane. The proposal is to build an additional two floors on top of the existing building, to provide four, new two bed flats and a change of use for the lower ground floor to provide for one two bedroom flat. The Post Office is an important resource for the residents of Charlton and CCRA wants to ensure its long term survival.

We approached an experienced building surveyor to comment on the proposed scheme. The surveyor's comments included an apparent over intensification of the site, concerns over building onto the existing structure, the building looking out of keeping with those buildings surrounding the scheme, concerns over the quality of building materials being used, inadequate parking provisions and safety concerns over access to the rear of the property in Delafield Road. A number of local residents have submitted objection letters to the Council. However, we have heard that the Council intends to recommend approval of the application which will be considered at a public meeting of the planning committee on 27th May at Woolwich Town Hall. If you would like more information please contact *David Gayther* on 020 8305 2851



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# Residents' Survey: the results

Thank you for your responses as they will undoubtedly add weight to CCRA's voice when persuading the Council, police and others to improve their services.

Many of you took the time to give examples of the sorts of issues you felt strongly about and the charts and commentary in these middle pages are an analysis of your replies to the questions

about street appearance and cleaning. We had more than 100 responses, just over 10%, which is slightly above average for a postal questionnaire.



40% of replies were from males and 60% from females. About half respondents were in the 31 to 50 age group and the other half represented the over 50's.

Only three replies were from people aged 30 and under. Three quarters of respondents classified themselves as White British and three quarters of you have lived here for over 10 years. Future

editions of Grapevine will feature your views about law and order, community safety and the role of the CCRA.

## What YOU Said About YOUR Road

	Yes	No
Do you think your road is a good place to live in?	94%	5.6%
Do you think your road is a friendly place to live in?	8.9%	11.1%
Would you recommend your road to others to live in?	94.3%	5.7%
Are you proud to live in Charlton?	79%	21%

Street appearance	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A. clean and tidy	5.6%	46.7%	35.6%	12.2%
B. free of dog mess	6.5%	17.4%	53.3%	22.8%
C. free of graffiti	13.0%	64.1%	22.8%	0%
D. free of litter	5.6%	28.1%	49.4%	16.9%
E. free of fly-tipping	13.2%	57.1%	25.3%	4.4%
F. front gardens are generally kept tidy	5.6%	65.6%	22.2%	6.7%
G. quiet during the day	14.0%	77.4%	7.5%	1.1%
H. quiet at night	11.0%	70.3%	16.5%	2.2%
I. street lighting is adequate	9.8%	65.2%	21.7%	3.3%
J. trees are well cared for and regularly tended	13.3%	65.6%	16.7%	4.4%
K. leaves are cleared up regularly	8.9%	50.0%	32.2%	8.9%
L. pavements are in good repair	3.3%	48.9%	36.7%	11.1%
M. gutters and drains are well maintained	5.6%	38.9%	42.2%	12.2%
N. roads are in good repair	5.6%	57.8%	27.8%	8.9%

Refuse Collections	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A. the Council collects 'green' bin to my satisfaction	33.0%	61.5%	5.5%	0%
B. the Council collects 'recycle' bin to my satisfaction	33.7%	62.0%	4.3%	0%
C. the Council collects 'black' bags to my satisfaction	27.8%	62.2%	5.6%	4.4%
D. my bins are returned to my property after emptying	9.3%	44.2%	38.4%	8.1%
E. spilt waste is always cleared up by refuse collectors	1.2%	29.4%	55.3%	14.1%
F. Council information about rubbish is easy to understand	22.0%	65.9%	9.9%	2.2%
G. I have the bins appropriate to my needs	31.9%	58.2%	8.8%	1.1%



"Overall, a nice place to live", "A nice mixture of people and everyone gets on well", "Friendly, helpful locals", "It's quiet and friendly, plenty of parks and open spaces and good transport links" and, "A growing feeling of community". These were just a few of the really positive comments you made about living in Charlton. An overwhelming number of you said that your road was a good place to live and you would recommend it to others.

The tables are an analysis of your comments about your road, street appearance and refuse collection.

People said that the area is quiet, both during the day and at night, trees are well cared for and tended and street lighting is generally adequate. Fly tipping is not a problem everywhere but a quarter of you commented on dumped items, mainly shopping trolleys, discarded on the pavements.

The collection of "green", "black" and "recycle" bins was said to be very satisfactory by almost all of you. You said you have bins appropriate to your needs and that Council information about what rubbish to put where is easy to understand.

Questions about dog mess, litter, spilt waste from bins and blocked drains and gutters drew the most negative comments. Three quarters of people had serious concerns about dog mess and the time it took to get it removed. More litter bins may be a solution to encourage dog owners to "bin it". Two thirds of you said that litter is a problem and that refuse collectors do not always pick up waste that is spilt during collections. Over half of residents would like to see drains and gutters free from debris, cleaned and more regularly maintained. You felt that mostly the neighbourhood looked tidy with the exception of some "hot spots" where accumulated rubbish caused a serious nuisance for people living nearby. People want CCRA to have regular contact with the Council to improve street cleaning services.

Residents were equally divided when asking whether bins were returned to people's properties after collection. Some people were satisfied whilst other commented that bins left on the pavement were a hazard for mothers with prams and for people with restricted sight and mobility. Pavements were said to be in good repair in some areas but not others, with parking on the pavements by heavy vans cited as being the cause of cracked and uneven paving slabs.



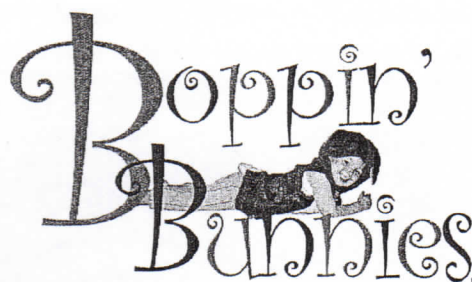
## Would you like to be an Environment Champion?

Greenwich Council will soon be launching Environment Champions, a new volunteer scheme whereby local people can become more involved in tackling the issues affecting the quality of their local environment. It is hoped that through this scheme communities can help the Council to combat the very problems that you have said affect your lives: litter, graffiti, dog fouling and fly tipping.

The Council will have a stall at the 'Great Get Together' events. The date of the event in Charlton Park (in partnership with Horn Fayre) will be on Sunday 28 June from 11am-4pm.

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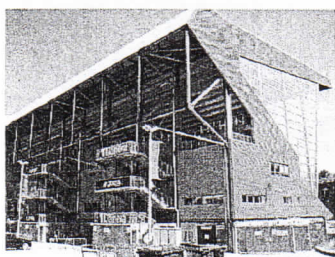


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# *I heard it on the grapevine...*



## **Voice of the Valley**

### ***A sob from the Valley***

Football is a silly game and to support it is irrational. I know that, as do the many fans up and down the country whose passion for their team is so visible in moments of joy and tears. But we cannot help it! There is an attachment to our team that is difficult to understand but once it is there it is hard to break even when you are facing relegation to League 1 for the first time in 28 years.

These are indeed bleak times for the club and its supporters. However, as you may have detected before in this column, I am an optimist as are the many supporters who at the last match of the season (against Norwich which we won 4-2) sang 'Always look on the bright side of life'. There have been many times in the club's history when events have seemed absolutely awful but, with dogged determination, Charlton has survived. It survived with the support of its fans and some committed Directors; it has even survived with the support of many local residents who voted in local elections for a political party formed by supporters whose one policy was for a return to the Valley for the club. We started to see a good team towards the end of this season and if we can hold on to some of them then I predict we should only spend one season down in this League as we did in 1980-81.

Local support is hard to win for small clubs like Charlton because coming through the gate is no longer

the only way to watch football. As Richard Murray (CAFC Chairman) discussed in a recent Evening Standard article, there is a damaging drop in income for TV rights between the leagues, from £30 million in Premiership, £3 million in the Championship to £300 thousand in League 1. It is very telling that the three clubs related to League 1 this season were all in the Premiership in 2004-5. The costs of wages, funded by Sky's TV money, along with the infrastructure expansion are very hard to deal with when a club is relegated, despite the special payments that are meant to soften the blow.

So I call on local residents to come and see a match at the Valley as gate receipts will be Charlton's main income in League One and you will be supporting, hopefully, the winners of this League. It might not be as entertaining or sexy as watching Liverpool and Chelsea from the comfort of your armchair but it is more real and you will experience the atmosphere of a live match. Come and join in with some good community singing (some songs have adult content) which we know CCRA residents like doing— see club website for words! The club is part of the history of Charlton, it puts us on the map and we need to keep its flame alive.

## **Letters to the Editor**

*Dear Editor,*

Alan Bennett, David Attenborough, Joanna Lumley and Jade Goody – an unlikely quartet but what do they all have in common? All have recently been referred to in the media as 'National Treasures'. So what defines a National Treasure? Someone who makes a unique contribution? Someone who enriches the lives of those they come into contact with? So if they are our National Treasures – who would be a 'Charlton Treasure'? Well, I'd like to nominate Michael Totty. Totty's Chemists on Charlton Church Lane has been serving our community for many years. He not only provides for our pharmaceutical needs but deals out commonsense and sound advice in equal measure. He is never too busy to talk to customers and his patience with distraught mothers, surly teenagers and worried pensioners is a testament to his people skills. So come on Charlton Residents – who would you nominate as a Charlton Treasure? Let's celebrate those people in Charlton who make it a great place to live.

***Name and address supplied.***



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# CCRA social events

## Saturday 20 June Open Gardens and Fundraising Barbecue



Open to CCRA members and their guests (Barbecue sold out). If you are not a CCRA member you can join on the door of any of the gardens. Membership £5.

This is a great opportunity to have a look at your neighbours' gardens and show off yours. Last year's event was a very sociable crawl, sampling cakes and refreshments along the way. Donations appreciated for visiting the gardens and refreshments.

Gardens and Highcombe Lane allotments will be open at the following times:

Elaine and Dave	12 Wellington Gdns	4pm onward
Diana	27 Swallowfield Rd	11 – 1pm
Dania & David	4 Elliscombe Rd	2 – 4pm
Katrin & Andrew	84 Wellington Gdns	10 – 12pm
Lisa	55 Delafield Rd	11 – 1pm
Liz & Peter	105 Elliscombe Rd	11 – 1pm
Robert & Martina	15 Sundorne Rd	12 – 2pm
Jane & Rufus	14 Priolo Rd	2 – 4pm
Dawn & Andrew	89 Elliscombe Rd	3 – 5pm
Bertrams	Highcombe allotments	2 – 4pm

A full list of gardens will be available at these addresses on the day as times have yet to be finalised with one or two garden owners. Late entries are welcome so if any of you would like to participate please *contact Sarah on 020 8244 2405 or Charlton\_residents@yahoo.co.uk*

## Saturday 4 July Big Clean Up Day and Barn Dance at St Richard's Hall

St Richard's Hall will be open from 12.00 for people to take unwanted items that other people might like to make use of. Volunteers needed to help with clean up – please see page 1 for details.

***As a reward for everyone's hard work cleaning up our neighbourhood, there will be a barn dance, from 7.30pm onwards – free to all residents in the CCRA area.***

We're hoping that music will be provided by local musicians so please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377 if you would like to join the band or know anybody who could play. The tunes are not difficult and all instruments are welcome.

Donations for refreshments would be welcome and there will be a raffle.

## Ongoing events

### Wine Appreciation Club

See next Grapevine for recommendations.

*Contact Elizabeth or Dawn for details of the next event 0208 305 0872*

### Book club

The CCRA book club has welcomed several new members whose wide range of interests and backgrounds make for some very stimulating discussions. Next in line for early June is set to be a gritty page turner of a thriller – "Birdman" by Mo Hayder, a first novel and although set in the familiar crime novel vein, promises to have some surprises up its sleeve. "Shocking, horrific, twisted, gripping and fabulous..." Prepare to take off your rose tinted glasses and look at life through the Smirnoff bottle!" Since the crimes take place on the Greenwich peninsula, this is all shaping up to be an exciting, if unnerving prospect for those of us who start the day on the 7 something train from Charlton.

To join the group or for details of what they're reading, *contact Diana on 020 8293 6431*. If you can't join, perhaps you'd like to read the book and let us know what you thought of it?

### Singing Group

The singing group continues to be well attended. Forthcoming meetings (all at 26 Wellington Gardens 7.30 – 9.00pm) will be on:

**June** Monday 1st, Thurs 18th, Mon 29th

**July** Thurs 16th, Mon 27th

Newcomers are still welcome but come soon – before long we may have to establish a waiting list!

For details ring *Chris Harrison on 0208 858 7277*.

## Cattleya

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## Forthcoming social events

### Open Gardens and Barbecue

Saturday 20th June 10.00 am onwards.

See details on page 7.

### Big Clean Up Day and Barn Dance

Saturday 4th July. Further details to be posted through your letterbox soon.

### Green chain walk

Sunday 9th August 2.00 – 4.30pm.

Full details in the next issue of Grapevine.

### Annual General Meeting

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

Details in future Grapevine and Bulletin.

### Christmas Fayre

Saturday 28 November 2.00 – 4.00pm

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

### Katrin and Andrew's Open House.

Saturday 5th December.

### 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.

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

Congratulations to John Tidy of Elliscombe Road who recently celebrated his 50th birthday.

Belated birthday wishes to Sylvia Warlow's husband (Inverine Road) who celebrated his birthday on April 15th.

Congratulations to James, Michelle and William on the latest addition to their family Sophie Alexandra Beaumont born on Marathon Day – Sunday 26th April.



## Ex-A.E.I. Club outings Seaside trips

There is an opportunity to enjoy a day at the seaside in May and June. Doreen Gunning of Nadine Street invites CCRA residents to join the ex-A.E.I. Club on their regular outings. On **Sunday 31st May** there will be a trip to Hastings and on **Sunday 21st June** the group will be going to Broadstairs. That weekend in Broadstairs is the Dickens Weekend – should be great fun! The coach trips cost £15 per person, £6 for children and under fives free. If more than 30 people book for the trip, the cost will drop to £12 – a real bargain. For full details contact Doreen, 0208 853 0075.

## 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

Or you can email [Charlton\\_residents@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Charlton_residents@yahoo.co.uk)  
Grapevine's Editorial Team are:

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**Linda Pound** 26 Wellington Gardens, 0208 858 7377