

# CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 9 FEBRUARY 2010

the newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association



## **“All aboard” for Charlton Station user’s group**



(Above) Passengers run along the platform to try to board one of Network SouthEast’s new, short, trains.

The good news is that we now have a better train service from Charlton. The new timetable gives us 23 trains in the morning and evening peak, up from just 16 rather crowded trains. Going into London from Monday to Saturday for much of the day there are eight trains an hour and even on Sunday at times there are six. For part of the day 25 years ago it was only two trains an hour into town during the day

After years of promises we finally can use an Oyster Card at Charlton Station which is in charging zone 3. (Don’t forget to touch the barrier when you come back even though there is no barrier or you could be charged to the outer zone.) By using Oyster PAYG you will get the cheapest appropriate single fare. If you’re going to London for the day you should pay no more than the price of an equivalent one-day travel card which from Charlton is £8.60 peak and £6.30 off peak. The off peak single into a London terminus is £2 (£2.60 at peak).

The bad news is that of the eight trains every hour, only two go into Charing Cross, the rest to Cannon Street. Coming back from Charing Cross to Charlton it means two trains an hour direct to Charlton or changing at London Bridge to pick up one of those six trains out of Cannon Street. For commuters from Charlton, who work in the Victoria area, there are no trains at all in the rush hour via Lewisham between 6.47 and 9.17 a.m.

The other piece of bad news is that there is no improvement in facilities. While the ambience was

improved by the arrival of the coffee stall a few years back, we still lack the facilities and staffing that our busy station needs and deserves. We have a “temporary” booking office that has become permanent, a lift that works intermittently, toilets that are hidden away and locked up unless you are able to find a member of staff to let you into them, and rather bleak and barren platforms.

In spite of Transport for London, there is often little evidence of any joined up thinking. When trains are disrupted we have to do the dance around the busy junction between the three bus stops to get a 161, 472 or 486 to North Greenwich. Weekend closures to upgrade the Jubilee Line will continue for at least part of 2010 beyond the contractual deadline for completing the programme. Particularly frustrating have been those occasions when the Jubilee Line closures have coincided with work on the DLR or Southeastern Trains or both. Writing recently to our MP, London Underground (responsible for the Jubilee Line) said they “will work closely with other organisations while a new programme is developed” and “endeavour to manage the closures so that clashes don’t occur”. But they went on to point out that what the contract describes as ‘late notice closures’ may have to be accommodated. So you will still need to check before you travel up to town on Saturday or Sunday.

***If you are concerned about any of these issues and would like to help further improve the train service and the station generally – then climb aboard to join the new Charlton Station User Group. There will be a meeting in the first week of March to launch the group which will have official consultee status with South East Trains, London Travel Watch and Passenger Focus. If you’re interested in helping then contact CCRA committee member John Tidy (John@PMcentre.dircon.co.uk or call 8853 0624).***

**Join CCRA for 2010  
Membership form  
enclosed in case you  
haven’t yet joined**





*Artist's impression of the proposed development, currently deferred*

## CCRA wins chance for improved post office

In the last Grapevine we reported on plans to redevelop the Post Office, and to build an additional two storeys above the existing building. The application was formally considered by the Council at a planning committee on 13 January. CCRA representatives were there in force to voice residents' concerns about the future of this vital facility.

We were particularly worried that the planned closure period of 5-10 days during the work was not realistic. We also had concerns about the appearance of the building and quality of the materials being used. Following our representations, and support from our local ward councillors, the meeting agreed to defer a decision on the application to a later meeting. They also agreed to a site visit to assess the local impact of the plans, to which CCRA representatives will also be invited.

The next planning meeting at which the application will be reconsidered is less than two months away. We hope this interval will be used to find ways to minimise disruption to post office services and to make any closure as short as possible. CCRA will also seek to secure some agreement on improvements to the design.

The developers have suggested to CCRA that they could provide a shuttle bus service between Charlton and Greenwich post offices during any closure period, perhaps on Mondays and Thursdays. In addition, although scaffolding would remain in place around the building after the post office reopened, a safe, protected entrance into the building would be created. CCRA also talked to the owners about the shabby condition of the post office interior and the fact that local people have to queue outside in rain and snow. This is not specifically a planning issue, but CCRA will try to bring all interested parties together to sort out these issues.

A redevelopment of the post office presents a great opportunity to trigger a longer term improvement of the whole of the lower Charlton Church Lane area. That is why CCRA is so keen to get this proposal right. Any further comments on the proposals may still have an impact, so if you haven't seen the plans or just want to have your say, please visit ([www.greenwich.gov.uk/Greenwich/YourEnvironment/PlanningAndBuilding](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/Greenwich/YourEnvironment/PlanningAndBuilding)) and search under reference no. 09/2329/F. Or just send your comments to CCRA directly via email to David Gayther ([davidgayther@hotmail.com](mailto:davidgayther@hotmail.com)).

## Whitstable Weekend!

Escape to 'Ostrea'. This beautifully refurbished 3-bedroom Victorian house is only a few minutes walk from Harbour Street, the beach and lovely eateries.

**Call Patrick on 07974 150850 or full details and online booking at [www.whitstableholidayhomes.co.uk](http://www.whitstableholidayhomes.co.uk)**

## Blackwall Tunnel closures

From February 7th a three-year refurbishment will mean nightly closures (Sunday to Friday) of the northbound tunnel from 9.00pm to 5.00am.

For full details ring 0845 305 1234 or email [londonstreets@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:londonstreets@tfl.gov.uk).



## News on Law and Order

Car crime has shot up in the CCRA area over the last three months. Thieves are vandalising cars (usually smashing side windows) to steal SATNAVs from the glove compartment. Make sure you clean off any tell-tale rings on the dashboard (where they have been fixed) and never leave them – or any other items you value – in the glove compartment or on show in your car.

The local Safer Neighbourhood Team comments on personal safety – “Think ahead and plan your journey, avoiding deserted areas. Try to avoid walking alone at night, and keep to well-lit main roads where possible. You should try to avoid short cuts like alleyways, waste ground and wooded, bushy areas. Let someone know where you are going, the route you intend to take and when you expect to return. Consider investing in a mobile phone. There are various services available for infrequent or light users. Try to avoid wearing headphones - your ability to hear traffic, strangers or potential trouble is severely restricted.”

**In an emergency dial 999**

## New NHS dentist for Charlton

Charlton is to have its own NHS dental practice. Based at 20, The Village, and opening in February 2010, the new practice plans to offer a range of services including Saturday and Sunday appointments, family appointments and a kids' club. The practice is operated by Morwenna Foxworthy, BDS BSc (Hons) MFDS RCS PhD, Judi Barham, BDS LDS RCS LLM LLB (Hons) and Karen King EDH EDT. *For further information contact [charltonvillagedental@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:charltonvillagedental@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone 020 8856 0660*

## Austrian Day at Charlton Toy Library

Anna, Elisabeth and Karoline are staying in Wellington Gardens and working in the Charlton Toy Library and with local families. They recently celebrated their stay in Charlton by organising an Austrian Day at the toy library – a great success with children and adults alike.

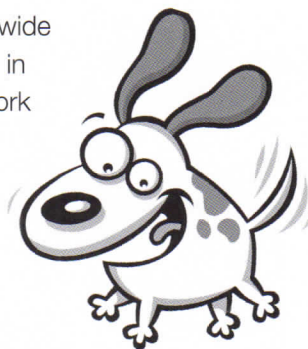


## BARK for dog-owners

Greenwich Council's borough-wide dog control orders, introduced in November, are beginning to work says Tony Brock, the council's dog control enforcement officer. Control orders have been introduced to tackle anti-social behaviour caused by irresponsible dog owners and reduce incidents and accidents involving dogs. Dogs should be on a lead unless you are in a designated dog-friendly park and owners are required to clean up after their dogs. Dog owners in breach of the orders can be fined £75.

Wardens patrol the borough to enforce the orders but they also need the help of residents. Residents who have concerns about irresponsible dog ownerships in a particular street or area can contact Tony Brock on 0208 921 4661. This will enable the team to target particular areas with warden patrols. Calls will be logged and a reference number allocated.

To encourage responsible dog ownership in the borough, Greenwich Council is in the initial planning stages of introducing a scheme entitled Borough Action for Responsible Canines (BARK) initiative this year, a scheme already in place in some London boroughs. Leaflets with all the details are being produced for delivery to borough residents. *More information about BARK will also be available in due course on [www.greenwich.gov.uk](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk).* Details of how to report breaches of dog control orders can be found on the website.



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## CCRA NEEDS YOU!

It's that time of year again! We're hoping that not only will our existing 200 members be renewing their membership but that everyone will be trying to persuade friends and neighbours who haven't yet signed up, to become CCRA members. To make joining up simple, a membership form is enclosed. You can print a form from the association's website [www.charltonresidents.org.uk](http://www.charltonresidents.org.uk) or phone the membership secretary, Elaine Picton, on 0208 858 4942 for more details. Remember, it's still only £5 a year – a real bargain.

### Who can join CCRA?

People who live in any of the following roads make up the CCRA – if you do, too, then why not join us?

Calydon Road  
Coombe Lodge  
Delafield Road  
Elliscombe Road  
Fossdene Road  
Gollogly Terrace  
Inverine Road  
Frank Burton Close  
Nadine Street  
Priolo Road  
Sundorne Road  
Swallowfield Road  
Wellington Gardens

## Why should I join?

Some existing members told us why they joined CCRA. Some of their reasons might strike a chord with you.

*“ We joined CCRA as we wanted to put something back into the community as well as benefit from the social events that the association organises. We feel that with living in London, you need to foster a good sense of community relations otherwise it can be a lonely old place to live! ”*

*“ I joined CCRA because I care about the place I live in. ”*

*“ We attended the open garden event about 6 months after moving to Charlton. We were given a warm welcome everywhere and so enjoyed the day that we decided to join up and get involved. Belonging to the association and attending its social events has enhanced the feeling of being part of a community. ”*

*“ I joined CCRA because I was worried about anti-social behaviour in our neighbourhood. Residents need to feel empowered to be able to fight back. ”*

*“ Antisocial behaviour in my street had blighted our lives for the best part of two years. Rather than sitting scared and alone behind my curtains not knowing what to do, I realised that only by getting together with other equally concerned neighbours could we actually make a stand and restore peace to our streets. ”*

# FIREPOWER NIGHTS

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**Piano Nights**, Fri 5, Fri 12, Fri 19 Feb  
Live sessions from 7.00 - 9.00pm

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from just £16 per head – Wed 10 Feb to Sun 14 Feb

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**Quiz night**, Thurs 18 Feb, £1.00\* a head

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**Jazz & blues session**, Thurs 25 Feb, £5.50\* per head

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**Beatles tribute band**, Sat 6 March, £6.50\* per head

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\* DINING NOT INCLUDED

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**“ It's good to have a sense of community. Everyone thinks London is a lonely place so it is good to have some community spirit. ”**

**“ It has been fun getting to know neighbours, walking down the street and saying hello to people, not just passing blankly. ”**

**“ Getting to know each other has meant finding out where we can be of help to each other. It makes Charlton feel like home, not just the bit behind the front door. ”**



## What's in it for me?

CCRA is committed to working towards a safer and friendlier neighbourhood – that can only be a good thing!

Joining CCRA:

- helps you to get to know your neighbours better and be more aware of the need to look out for each other;
- allows you to attend events such as the popular quiz night at a reduced rate;
- gives you 10% discount at Cattelya;
- keeps you in touch with what's happening in the area;
- helps us to work together to make Charlton a better place to live;
- gives a sense of community, helping to make what one member called “ a real place”;
- gives you a voice in local matters. There's strength in co-operating with neighbours.

## What does CCRA do?

CCRA produces 4 editions of Grapevine each year for every home in the area, in addition to 4 bulletins which only go to members. The management committee meets monthly (except in August). Action groups (or subcommittees):

- look at environment and planning issues;
- pursue law and order concerns, including liaising with the police;
- produce Grapevine, the members' bulletin and other communications;
- plan social events and explore fund-raising.

We support all the interest groups described on pages 6 and 7. We have developed contacts with our MP, council departments and councillors, transport agencies, housing associations, local shopkeepers etc. and have good contacts with local bodies such as Scouts and the church in the village who own St. Richards Hall. *If you are a member and would like to be involved in any of these activities please contact the chair Dave Picton on 0208 858 4942, or the vice chair Jason Palmer on 0208 305 0572.*



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(Fridays) & Charlton (Tuesdays)



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

## Existing CCRA interest groups

### Book Group

Members of the book club have lately been expanding their horizons, their historical knowledge and not to mention their hand baggage with Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall. *For further details of meetings contact Diana on 0208 293 6431.*

### Singing Group.

The singing group continues to flourish, with over twenty people attending on a regular basis. We have covered a wide repertoire, including early music, folk songs, songs from musical theatre and songs from different countries. The group gave a spirited performance at the CCRA social in December and also formed the core of the group which went carol singing and raised £375 for the Toy Library. New members are always welcome. No formal musical training is needed, and it's not necessary to attend every single session. The group meets fortnightly, alternating between Mondays and Thursdays, from 7.30 to 9.00 at 26 Wellington Gardens. The remaining dates for the spring are: February 8, 25, March 8, 25. *If you would like to find out more about the group, please contact Chris Harrison on 020 8858 7377.*

### 'Grapewine' Appreciation Group

The wine appreciation group are continuing their world tour of wines. Having sampled the delights of Iberia, Argentina, New Zealand, Australia and France in 2009, 2010 looks set to be another vintage year. January kicks off with a New Year fizz tasting followed by "pinks and blushes" in February and Italian wines in March. To mark St George's day the April tasting is "England v. the world", while the June tasting features the exotic and unusual with "off the beaten track". Anyone interested in receiving regular updates on forthcoming events should *email wine@charltonresidents.org.uk or telephone 020 8305 0872.*

#### Planned forthcoming sessions are:

February 12th Pinks and Blushes

March 13th and 20th (due to popular demand)

Wines of Italy

April 24th England V. the World

June 5th Off the Beaten Track

The ticket price is usually set at £12 per head but may vary according to the wines being sampled. The number of places available may also vary according to the dimensions of the host's house! Book early for this popular group!

### Having Problems **RENTING?**

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### ***How happy is my valley?***

It is midway through the season and Charlton are poised precariously between success and failure. After sitting in the comfort of the automatic promotion spot throughout the season Christmas saw Norwich overhaul us. However, there is still plenty of time to recover and in many ways the past three months have been far more entertaining than the previous three years. We have seen plenty of goals including seven in one game. Unfortunately we have also seen two Charlton players sent off in one game and I cannot personally recall when this happened before. The weather has also been a factor in our current league position as games have been postponed. Hopefully the big freeze is ending and we will return to business as usual though I fear it is going to be nail biting to the end of the season.



# CCRA social events

## New CCRA interest groups

The existing groups have proved very popular and details are given below of three additional groups which are likely to be of interest to residents of the CCRA area.

### Gardening group

Are you into gardening? Would you like to share ideas/plants with your neighbours - or maybe get some friendly advice about where on earth to start? Our plots may be small, but our ambitions and knowhow are anything but, if the gardens of CCRA residents who threw open their gates to visitors at last summer's Open Gardens are anything to go by. So for old hands, keen novices and those who just enjoy sitting and admiring, we will be establishing a special interest group; an online local network for the exchange of advice and tips, seeds and plants and hopefully visits to famous gardens for inspiration and relaxation.

If you'd like to be involved, please contact like-minded gardeners on [gardens@charltonresidents.org.uk](mailto:gardens@charltonresidents.org.uk). If you do not have internet access, *please phone Linda on 0208 858 7377*. She will be happy to pass your details on to group members who will make arrangements to involve you.

### Local history group

There has been a great deal of interest in a local history group. Jacqui has kindly offered to host an introductory meeting, planned at 8pm on Thursday 18th February, 83 Swallowfield Road. She plans to consider Charlton's Wikipedia entry as a starting point, which offers comments by Daniel Defoe from the early 18th century: "a village famous, or rather infamous for the yearly collected rabble of mad-people, at Horn-Fair; the rudeness of which I cannot but think, is such as ought to be suppressed, and indeed in a civiliz'd well govern'd nation, it may well be said to be unsufferable. The mob indeed at that time take all kinds of liberties, and the women are especially impudent for that day; as if it was a day that justify'd the giving themselves a loose to all manner of indecency and immodesty, without any reproach, or without suffering the censure which such behaviour would deserve at another time. (from A Tour through Great Britain)"

At this first meeting those attending will also explore shared areas of interest. Decisions will be taken about how often to meet and what resources are available to the group. *Please call Jacqui on 0208 853 1811 if you would like to come along.*

### Music group

Following the success of the singing group, it has been suggested that we organise some music making sessions for people who play instruments. Some CCRA resident musicians are prepared to lead this. There will be an initial meeting and music session for anyone interested on Monday February 22, 7.30 pm at 26 Wellington Gardens. The session would be open to people of any age and any level of experience. An ability to read music is not essential. Bring an instrument (if you have one) and talk about how to proceed – for instance whether to hold regular short sessions or less frequent, longer sessions.

If you are interested in this, whether or not you are able to come to the initial session, *please contact Chris Harrison on 020 8858 7377*.

## Forthcoming events

### Quiz night

Our second quiz night is planned for Saturday February 27th. Doors open at 7.00 and the quiz starts at 7.30 – so bring your family and friends along. The cost is £2 for members or £3 for non-members. Last year's quiz night proved very popular so don't leave it too late. *Call Len on 0208 858 4920 or Andrew on 0208 473 3212 (email [arippingale@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:arippingale@yahoo.co.uk)) to register or join a team – or just turn up on the night. Maximum team size is 8. Nibbles provided and refreshments available.*

### Spring social

Our spring meeting and social is planned for Wednesday April 28th, at 7.00pm in St. Richard's Hall. Jane Schofield, Chief Executive of the Greenwich PCT (Health Trust), will speak at 7.30pm and there will be a chance for you to put questions to her regarding the NHS.

## Cattleya

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## Dates for your diary

### Quiz Night

Saturday 27th February

St Richard's Hall, doors open at 7.00pm

### Spring meeting and social

Wednesday 28th April

St Richard's Hall, doors open at 7.00pm

### Open Gardens

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th June

Details to be announced

### Members' Barbecue

Saturday 12th June

Details to be announced

### Community Day

Saturday 10th July

An all day event with something for everyone!

Details to be announced.

### Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 22nd September

St Richard's Hall at 7.30pm

## Visit to Olympic Park

CCRA has managed to organise a visit to the Olympic Park on Wednesday 31st March. A bus will leave from Stratford Station at 11.30. There are only 30 places



available and these will be reserved for members. To book please contact Len Weir as soon as possible, on 0208 858 4920.

## 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 2442405 or [sarah.roseblade@ntlworld.com](mailto:sarah.roseblade@ntlworld.com). A form can be found on our website, rates for individuals and small businesses 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 of £70 for four. Space is limited so get your ad in soon.

## CCRA's website – [www.charltonresidents.org.uk](http://www.charltonresidents.org.uk)

We would like your help and ideas to make the most of it, bringing you the latest up to the minute information from CCRA, our action and interest groups. If you have any thoughts on what would make a good website send us your thoughts and ideas on [info@charltonresidents.org.uk](mailto:info@charltonresidents.org.uk). Is it regular updates, important flash headlines, residents' forums, reports? We'd also love to hear from you if you have skills in web design and development and can spare some time to help us to improve our site.

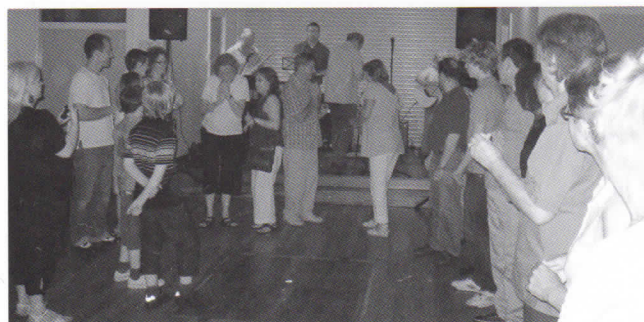
## Local elections

The elections for the local council will be on Thursday May 6th. We are part of Charlton ward which has three councillors. We'd like to put some questions to prospective councillors about our local environment. Please send your ideas to Linda on [lindapound@hotmail.com](mailto:lindapound@hotmail.com) or phone 0208 858 7377. The responses received from prospective candidates will be available at the spring social.

## 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

0208 305 0572

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)

Membership secretary **Elaine Picton** Wellington Gardens 0208 858 4942