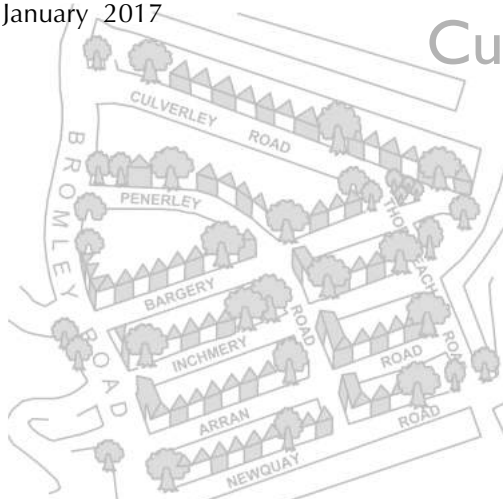


NEWSLETTER



Useful contacts

Lewisham Council:

Street cleaning, rubbish and
abandoned car removal 8314 7171
Noise (weekdays) 8314 7237
Planning 8314 7400
Green waste service 8314 9756

Police (non-emergency) 101
Safe Neighbourhood team 8721 2488

Replacing trees project - Year One

Thanks to all who have contributed or raised money for this project to replace trees in our streets lost through age or damage and particularly those lost in the Great Storm of 1987.

We raised enough to buy six trees in our first year (each tree costs £240). A start was made in Arran Road (a rowan at 21, a hornbeam at 30, a silver birch at 55 and a whitebeam at 60) with a further two trees, both hornbeams in Thornsbeach and at 71 Culverley. The next round of planting will be in autumn 2017.

As you walk round the area you'll see lime trees in Bargery and London planes in Penderley and mixed planting of hornbeam, cherries, birches etc elsewhere. If you'd like a tree outside your house or are happy to volunteer to look after a street tree in its first year do let us know.

Christmas 1919 in Inchmery Road. The man on the far right is the Antarctic explorer William Colbeck, now celebrated with a plaque on the site of this house (see page 2)



**Winter
Social
Thursday
19th January
Hartley Hall,
Culverley Road**

**7.30 to 9.30pm
with speaker Russell Bowes on
'Dig for Victory'**

**Drinks and snacks will be served
Come along and meet your neighbours!**



Letter from the Chair: Kate Richardson



Dear all,

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and may I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

We have had a lot of exciting things happen in the area since I last wrote.

Our Tree Planting Programme is now well underway. A big thank-you to Alice Jane Baker, CGRA's tree officer, for getting this sorted and to those of you who contributed to the tree fund. We plan to continue the scheme next year for other available tree pits in the roads in our area.



The unveiling of the plaque on Inchmery Road to William Colbeck in September was well attended and the Director of the National Maritime Museum performed the 'unveiling'.

The Catford Trail was brilliant lots of great craft work on display many thanks to Wendy and her team for getting this organised

In October we had a successful tidy up of the Green and we added yet more

daffodils to the beds. Our Pumpkin Competition was well supported. Congratulations to Henry for his winning entry.

In November Martha O'Toole, a local resident, organised a fantastic Lantern Parade for Catford South residents. It



was a wonderful night with what seemed to be over 200 people taking part. The children had come up with some amazing designs and the samba band certainly made sure everyone knew about it! CGRA gave a donation towards the cost of the parade. Events like this do bring the communities together and help make the area in which we live a friendlier place.

December saw the advent window project—24 households decorated their front windows and revealed them one by one over the Advent period and up to Twelfth Night. Many thanks to Jana Smith for inspiring and organising us all. The project has shown that we have a huge amount of artistic talent in the area. There have already been requests by other residents to take part next year.



Dumping and Litter: sadly this is getting worse. We are perpetually notifying Lewisham of various problems to do this and we are looking to Lewisham for more robust solutions. I am still waiting an answer from the borough on information regarding a CCTV camera. It would appear that some irresponsible people seem to think it is okay to empty out or abandon unwanted household and personal items on to our pavements. Unfortunately some of this is done by local residents. Can I ask that if you are getting rid of unwanted items that you do dispose of them in a responsible and legal manner.

I know I keep asking but if you could report any fly tipping you see using the Fix My Street app. It does get collated and the hot spots recorded. We can then use that information to push our case for more proactive action from Lewisham. Meanwhile we are having a clear up day on 29th January. I will send out an email shot nearer the time giving more details.

For the Winter Social on 19th January we're very pleased to have secured local garden historian Russell Bowes to speak on how "England's gardens took on the might of Hitler's armies" and tell us the story of the century's most famous rose. I look forward to seeing you there!

Kate

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FREE SURVEYS

Planning matters

Front Gardens



Recently, several front gardens in the area have been completely concreted over, leaving not a single blade of grass. Legally, householders can only pave an area over five square metres of their front gardens if this is done with a permeable material. The Council is looking to enforce the regulations.

If you are thinking changing your front garden, remember you need planning permission in this Article 4 area. For Council approval, a key factor is to use permeable materials and retain or introduce soft landscaping. The benefits of soft landscaping are enjoyed by everyone and include:

- reducing the flood risk
- improving air quality (which may help reduce dementia risk)
- more habitats for wildlife
- better looking streets

The Royal Horticultural Society's website had lots of advice and inspirational designs, and in brief they suggest:

Keep paving to a minimum

Use permeable paving materials

Grow plants where you can't park; any dead space

Get creative. It is possible to park and garden

Provide a home for wildlife with your plants

Keep dust and pollution on the street with a hedge

A hearing for Phoebe's

As most of you know, in June last year, Lewisham Council rejected the planning application to turn the site of Phoebe's Garden Centre into 29 units on the grounds of poor design, lack of affordable houseing and an unacceptable level of private amenity space

However the developers have appealed and a Planning Hearing was held on 10th January 2017. Some objectors to the original plans, but not all, were notified but we believe all previous letters/emails have been forwarded to the Inspector.

Planning hearings are said to be an effective way of presenting planning arguments to an inspector in person, and often include a visit to the site by the Inspector to see for themselves how the proposal would be likely to affect the site's surroundings and neighbours' properties.

As this newsletter goes to print we are not aware of the outcome: we will update everyone at the Winter Social.

Beckenham Place Park (Jenny Wood writes)

Just before Christmas Lewisham Council received confirmation that their proposals for Beckenham Place Park have been approved and £4.7m from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery fund has been released.

The plans include the development of the stable building into a new café and ecological education centre, the restoration of the Georgian lake to provide wet woodland habitats and water sports and landscaping to restore the historic gardens and to develop community horticultural facilities. Full details of the plans can be found on the Lewisham Council website regeneration pages.

If you haven't been to the park it is well worth a visit. It covers 95 hectares and has four listed buildings as well as beautiful park and wood land. Car parking facilities are available next to the Manor House at the Beckenham Hill entrance.



Resolutions never to be made or kept

A member writes...

Pondering this conundrum on New Year's Eve, as next door's security light flashed on, and off and on again, mistaking clouds of steam from both of our boilers for a potential threat, I realised that any resolutions that I made to make 2017 a better place would be unlikely to change the world to any significant degree. But undaunted:

I will continue to gather corks (when I am allowed any alcohol) to use as non-lethal missiles to discourage squirrels from eating bird food during otherwise balletic performances on the suspended feeders and also to persuade

local cats that their amateur attempts at gardening and subsequent gifted deposits are not welcome. Pity my aim and speed of delivery are not what they were.

I must remember that people who deliberately leave litter strewn along our roads or fly-tip all kinds of unwanted rubbish or leave their dog poo where it falls are in reality damaged souls who need my sympathy and understanding rather than condemnation. Fortunately, however, I continue to report the offences to the Council which I hope can become more effective to make a

positive difference. But I do intend to be more active in picking up litter at least close to my home.

As we in the CGRA area live in the biggest free commuter car park convenient for Catford and its railway stations, not to mention the daily anarchy outside Rushey Green School all of which means that our roads are clogged from dawn to dusk during the working week, we as a family are going to do our bit for global warming and the local environment and downsize to one car only. That is the current plan, at least at the time of writing.

Jean's Chocolate and Coffee Cream Layer



Method

- 1 Whip the double cream and add the yoghurt.
- 2 Using a wide shallow dish, layer the cream, then press the chocolate crumb layer into the cream with a spoon
- 3 repeat this layering, saving more than a third of the cream mixture for the top layer.
- 4 Cover and leave for three hours or over-night in the fridge.

For a different version, omit the coffee and add the grated rind of two large oranges. And for a further variation, add brandy or Grand Marnier to the cream as desired.

Ingredients

120 grams brown bread crumbs
120 grams demerara sugar
8 level tablespoons drinking chocolate
2 level tablespoons espresso coffee powder
all to be mixed together
450 ml double cream
150 ml greek style yoghurt.



Catford and the Railway Tavern around 1915. The pub was demolished in the 1920s and rebuilt as the mock-Tudor Catford Bridge Tavern. After a

chequered history, the pub suffered a devastating fire nearly two years ago, but it is due to reopen this spring.

Events diary

29 Jan	Street Clean Up
April (tbc)	CGRA AGM
20 May (tbc)	Screen on the Green
17 June	Summer fete on the Green
September	Catford Free Film Festival (week to be confirmed)
w/e 23 Sep	Catford Arts trail
w/e 30 Sep	Catford Arts trail

The CGRA Committee

Chair	Kate Richardson 38 Arran
Vice- Chair	Howard Kanini 146 Inchmery
Secretary	Diana Cashin 64 Bargery
Treasurer	Jenny Wood 164 Inchmery
Social Sec.	Jean Strange 100 Bargery
Events Sec.	Jenny Wood 164 Inchmery
Tree Officer	Alice Baker 48 Arran

Street representatives

Arran	Tara Nelson (108) Alice Baker (48)
Bargery	Jean Strange (100) Diana Cashin (64)
Bromley	vacant
Culverley	François Kitching (94)
Inchmery	Charlotte Little (95) Saladin Mecked-Garcia (121) Maddie Amos (113) Kate Mackonochie (190)
Newquay	Bob Ballam (59) Matthew Wood (80)
Penerley	Jean Strange (100 Bargery)
Thornsbeach	Mark Lingwood (13)

Newsletter editor Eric Kentley
erickentley@gmail.com

RESIDENTS FROM THE FOLLOWING ROADS ARE INVITED TO BECOME MEMBERS:

ARRAN, BARGERY, BROMLEY (25-129),
CULVERLEY, INCHMERY, NEWQUAY,
PENERLEY, THORNSBEACH (1-15 & 2-24)

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