

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

Phoebe's: update

A new application has been submitted to Lewisham Planning, based on the scheme outlined in the last newsletter. The principal concerns for us is that the development takes away the privacy of residents, in Penerley Road and Bargery roads. The number of units has been reduced by two, which means that it is 'unaffordable' to offer either social housing or a single penny as a contribution in lieu of affordable housing to the council.

The CGRA has raised a number of objections, but as the developer seems to have done just enough to meet the criticisms made by the Planning Inspector to the last application, Lewisham are very likely to approve it.

The applicant is not a builder, so will be selling the site on with the planning permission. So the plans we've seen so far may be just a 'stalking horse' -- don't be surprised if the final developer claims that this scheme is unaffordable too and the number of units is increased and a 'slab' design is re-presented.

CULVERLEY GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

AUTUMNFEST

BULB

PLANTING

ON THE GREEN

AND

CHILDREN'S

PUMPKIN

COMPETITION

SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER
FROM 2:00PM. PUMPKINS LIT 4.30PM
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

ALL WELCOME

Letter from the Chair: Kate Richardson



Dear all,

Once more Autumn is upon us and we watch the piles of leaves being swept up in our streets and, if you are young enough, succumb

to the temptation of jumping gleefully into them much to the dismay of the more restrained amongst us!!

Yet again, much has happened in the area. I know that many of us are already aware of the sorry tale of the telecoms mast on Bromley Road, the details of which you can read on the opposite page. I have written to all three of our councillors about the lack of rigour from the Planning Department but at the time of writing this letter only Councillor Stamirowski has replied, acknowledging the mistake of failing to issue the refusal notice within the statutory time.

However, as some of us know to our cost, this is not the only example of failure to follow up on planning matters that has resulted in 'mistakes' being made. As a residents association we would like to be reassured by our councillors that they are looking after the interests of their constituents, in all matters, including planning, by ensuring that the correct processes are followed and in a timely manner.

We have responded to the Planning Department about the new application for the Phoebe site with our concerns. However as neither the applicant nor the Planning Department have responded to these we have asked that our comments be treated as formal objections.

We are continuing to have a dialogue with the Council over the issue of parents' parking outside Rushey Green School and on noise from the letting of their hall to outside organisations. At the time of writing the noise issues have improved but not problems with parking generated by parents from the school.

On to happier notes...

Membership has increased yet again this year and after a sunny summer fete we had a profit of about £500 for the tree fund and other projects, such the start-up for railings for The Green. The tree planting project for our streets will

see some more planting this autumn.

We will be having our usual planting and tidying up session on The Green on Sunday October 29th, from 2:00 p.m. onward. Refreshments will be available and we will be running the children's Pumpkin

Competition at the same time. If all the competitors' pumpkins can be in by 3:15, judging can take place at 3:30pm. As an added extra this year we thought we would light the pumpkins with little battery candles after 4:00pm (we will be into GMT by then).

For the tidy-up, it would be helpful if you could bring your own trowels and forks. I am hoping we can prepare a patch of ground for a wildflower area, which Glendale is very happy for us to do. I am also hopeful that we will secure funding for a bin on The Green (away from the fence) so that visitors can use it for their rubbish rather than the planters! If you would like to help with tidying the



Mechanical animals at our summer fete -- returning next year

Green please get in touch as we could do with a team of helpers – or just turn up! Our local Beaver pack from Holy Cross will have helped prepare some of the ground.

Don't forget there will be yard sales on 21st October!

The 'Advent window' project is happening again this year so if you would like to take part please get in touch with me (if you have not already done so) and I will pass your contact on to Jana who has very kindly agreed to organise it again.

I do hope to see many of you on the 29th.

Kate



40 years on: celebrations in Penderley Road for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, June 1977. Do you recognise anyone?

Lewisham Planning Department: latest farce

Over the past few years, around 500 residents have signed letters opposing the siting of a telecommunications mast in the Conservation Area. Every application has been refused by the Council and the net result is there's a telecommunications mast on Bromley Road. Lewisham's Planning Department rejected the application on the grounds of this being part of a conservation area but, despite having 56 days to deal with it, managed to miss the deadline by a day. The mast went up just before the August Bank Holiday – one person told us the work was done in the middle of the night.

The Residents Association contacted both Vodafone and Lewisham Planning to find out what was going on. Vodafone responded within a week to say that, as they hadn't had any notification of a rejection, they were legally entitled to put the mast up. The Planning Department admitted that the letter had not been sent to Vodafone within the time. Indeed, they are still strangely reluctant to say whether a letter was ever sent to Vodafone.

Although the (admittedly furious) CGRA was simply trying to find out what had happened, the Planning Department decided to treat its letter as a complaint and held an internal

inquiry. You will doubtless be relieved to know that, after two months, they found themselves innocent of any fault. Not that they've actually been to see the mast -- they think the chipboard box alongside the metal cabinet may be a hoarding.

They have finally apologised for the 'administrative error' and any upset their error may have caused.

You may have thought that a council department not able to get a letter in the post might have been of interest to our councillors, but you'd be wrong. In response to emails from the CGRA chair, one said planning was nothing to do with them, the other two didn't even bother to reply.

If this was the only incident, with the Planning Department, then it could be forgiven as 'one of those things' but there is something deeply worrying here: there seems to be a planning lottery going on. Blatent breaches of planning go un-enforced while entirely appropriate applications are rejected. For example, one resident had an application for a wooden fence (based on the early photographs of the streets) refused because it was 'uncharacteristic of the Conservation Area'.

The CGRA will continue to press for a better service.



The Lewisham Council Planning Department Efficiency Memorial.

est. 2015

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Jean's Fresh Fig Tart

for the pastry

170g plain flour sifted
plus extra for dusting
pinch salt
100g unsalted butter cubed
50g caster sugar
1 egg yolk
50ml double cream

for the filling

500g mascarpone cheese
6 tbspclear honey
6 large, 7 medium or 8 small fresh figs,
stems trimmed and halved.

For the pastry, mix the flour, salt and butter until it resembles breadcrumbs, then stir in the sugar. Mix the egg yolk and cream, and add to the flour mixture so that it comes together to form a dough. On a floured surface, roll out the pastry and use it to line a 26 cm, loose-bottomed flan tin. (If it's

difficult to handle, wrap and chill for 30 minutes in the fridge.)

Trim the edges of the pastry, cover with cling film and rest it in the freezer for 30 minutes.

Heat the oven to 180°C / gas 4, line the pastry with baking parchment, fill with baking beans or rice and bake blind for 10 minutes. Remove the paper and beans and cook for a further three minutes. Take out of the oven and lower the temperature to 160°C / gas 3.

Soften the mascarpone with the honey in a small saucepan over a low heat. Pour into the pastry case, then lay the figs on top, cut-side up. Bake for



30 minutes until starting to turn golden around the edges. To serve, allow to cool to room temperature before removing from tin and cutting.

A word from our printing sponsor: Richard Wells, director of Hunters Catford

I have lived in South London since I moved there in 1989 at the age of 22 (please don't do the maths!) I later found out that my grandparents and great-grandparents were either born or lived or got married within a mile or two of where I had chosen to settle. One distant relative even made cricket bats for the Oval around 100 years ago. Our roots (and their effect on us) intrigue me. On my first day in London back in the 1980s, I walked round the whole area.

Now, many years later, running a business in Catford, I take every opportunity to walk around SE6. You

see much more than when you drive. Everything from social interactions, to the varied architecture of the houses, to the beauty of the autumn leaves starting to fall from the trees.

I like to be busy, but not too busy that I miss out on what life is all about.

Similarly, business is more than the bottom line (important though that is). So I am pleased that Hunters can support the CGRA and its work. I look forward to meeting more of you, continuing to walk throughout Catford, and sharing beyond the busyness

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 Bob & Mary Metcalf (4 Penerley)
Culverley François Kitching (94)
Inchmery Charlotte Little (95)
Saladin Mecked-Garcia (121)
Newquay Bob Ballam (59)
Matthew Wood (80)
Penerley Bob & Mary Metcalf (4)
Thornsbeach Mark Lingwood (13)

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RESIDENTS FROM THE FOLLOWING ROADS ARE INVITED TO BECOME MEMBERS:

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