

# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



NEXT MEETING: 7PM ON TUESDAY 5TH JULY 2005 AT LORENZO'S RESTAURANT

[www.norwoodchamber.org.uk](http://www.norwoodchamber.org.uk)

*For more information about the chamber, its objectives, minutes of the last meeting, copies of our newsletter and the opportunity to join the mailing list visit [www.norwoodchamber.org.uk](http://www.norwoodchamber.org.uk)*



## INCREASING POSTAGE COSTS

Royal Mail has increased the cost of posting a first class letter by 2p. It will now cost 30p. The basic second class stamp remains at 21p but special delivery will increase from £3.75 to £3.85 and a guaranteed 9am delivery will now cost £7.95, up from £6.95.

Royal Mail said the price changes reflected the true cost of delivering mail. It says it is losing 5p on delivering first class stamped letters and 9p on second class letters. However, the postage rate changes which became effective from 7th April required the introduction of several new stamps. This seemingly straightforward situation was made complicated by the recent changes in the security printing industry which saw De La Rue take over Questa in 2004.

Consolidating their production facilities in 2004 meant that definitive stamps were printed on a variety of different papers and with different phosphor bands during that year. Further consolidation meant an interruption to production in early 2005, so

alternative printers were used for some of the new stamps. Philatelists had a field day.

Postwatch has urged people to use second class mail. It said it was more reliable. In last year's survey, 3 out of 10 items posted first class failed to reach their destination the next day, against a target of less than 1 in 10. However, 9 out of 10 second class items beat their three day target.

Business users who send franked or pre-paid first class mail can pay less, as part of a new cost-based pricing structure. Royal Mail said the changes would spread costs more fairly but Postwatch reminded customers it was still not meeting basic delivery targets.

Royal Mail also announced increased charges for post sent overseas. International prices will rise between 5% and 6.9%.

## PROMOTIONAL PENS

Back by popular demand! We have taken delivery of more promotional pens to help raise awareness of the Chamber of Commerce. We will be distributing the personalised pens free of charge to members, shops and offices on the Triangle, and at the Victorian Weekend in Crystal Palace Park.



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## NEW 020 DIALING CODES

Ofcom has announced a new number for London. The (020) 3 number range will be used alongside the existing (020) 7 and (020) 8 numbers. It will be given out to some residential and business customers who put in a new line or apply for a new telephone number from late summer onwards. Existing residential and business customers do not need to change their existing number. However, despite a public information campaign organised by Ofcom, many people still can't quite grasp the subtle difference between a code change (which would affect everyone) and the introduction of an additional range of numbers.

## DVLA OFFERS TAX DISCS ONLINE

You can now apply for a new tax disc on the internet. You can also use the Vehicle Details Enquiry service to check what information DVLA holds on its database about a vehicle. For a new tax disc the DVLA check the vehicle is insured and, if applicable has a new style MOT Test Certificate/ GVT Test Certificate. However, only debit cards can be used for payment due to pending legislation changes. Visit [www.vehiclelicence.gov.uk](http://www.vehiclelicence.gov.uk) for further information.



## EAST LONDON LINE PROJECT

Peter Boxell, Head of Communications and Stakeholder Management for the East London Line Project, has informed the Chamber of Commerce that Parsons Brinkerhoff have been given the main works contract for the East London Line Project.

The main works will start on site in November 2006. By May 2009 the rolling stock will be available for testing and infrastructure works completed. The line is scheduled to open in June 2010.

A national rail Metro type service will be provided using train units made up of four carriages. The proposed service pattern for phase one of the East London Line Project has 4 trains per hour from Dalston Junction to New Cross, 4 trains per hour from Dalston Junction to Crystal Palace and 4 trains per hour from Dalston Junction to West Croydon.