



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

*Making a difference
to life on the Grid*

GRID NEWS

Spring 2019

SAVE THE DATE AND GET PLANTING!

FRONT GARDEN AWARDS 2019

The sun is shining which means it's time to start thinking about preparing your front gardens. This year in the SGRA Front Garden Awards the organisers will be continuing with the bronze, silver and gold awards introduced last year. Gold recipients will be eligible to receive the Best Front Garden Award. There will also be a Best Street Planting category where the best plot in each street will be recognised. This links in the Green the Grid street planting which takes place at the end of April. So just two categories in all. As a Grid resident you are automatically entered into this competition. All you have to do is get your garden / pots / streets blooming in time for the last two weeks of June (15-29 June), when judging will take place.

This year Green the Grid are going to hand out sunflowers and seeds to be planted in front gardens and will then be judging 'Spectacular Sunflowers of Southfields' in late August. So get digging, pruning, planting, attracting wildlife and gardening!



WINDOW WANDERLAND LIGHTS UP SOUTHFIELDS

The magical Window Wanderland returned to Southfields this February. It was a huge success with over 160 homes and businesses taking part, transforming their windows with wonderful displays. Sponsored by the SGRA and Number Works 'n Words, it was a fabulous community event, with young and old taking to the streets to see the stunning outdoor gallery.

For one six year old called Thomas, it was almost too much. As he looked at an amazing Star Wars Lego window he cried: "Mummy, my head is exploding right now"! That sums it up perfectly.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who took part and made it such a success.

windowwanderland.com/southfields

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to our first 'Grid News' of 2019. We hope you enjoy reading about local life as much as we at the SGRA enjoy publishing it.

A recent visit by me to the Wandsworth Heritage Service office in Lavender Hill to track down SGRA archives resulted in the discovery of back copies of Grid News in its various guises since our foundation around 1974/1975. The date is a debate, but the contents of each issue are fascinating. Long-forgotten people are prominent, local events and activities take up space, as well as hand-drawn adverts for shops and services no longer around. Anyone remember shopping at Freeman and Griffin's deli, or attending the Southfields Community Festival each June?



CHARLES RUNCIE

The issues of the day never change. Litter, shops, roadworks – and crime. Even back in 1982 “burglars seem to have a field day on the Grid of late” bemoaned the editor. Jumping to the present, a spate of car and house crime raised concerns on our social media outlets. We're giving the issue extra prominence in this edition, as well as the forming of a 'Safer Southfields' group to suggest creative ways of combatting crime. As Nick Ross said on Crimewatch “please don't have nightmares”. Despite everything you hear we do live in a super place.

Charles Runcie
charles@charlesruncie.co.uk

CORONATION GARDENS MAKES FRIENDS

A long-held ambition of the SGRA will be realised this spring, when a 'Friends of Coronation Gardens' group is set up by residents whose houses border the century-old heritage park. The group will be connected to the SGRA, but with its own committee and constitution. It's being formed after a request from Enable, the council's green space contractors, and its aims will be to suggest improvements and bid for external funding.

Susannah Perry-Greene, who runs a design business from her home

in Standen Road, overlooking the Gardens, is part of this initiative. “It's really important residents can influence how a park like this is maintained” she says “and in time we hope to encourage some long-overdue improvements”. A public meeting will be held at the Scout Hall bordering the Gardens on Wednesday 3rd April at 7.30pm to officially constitute the 'FoCG'.

You can contact the FoCG steering group at

focoronationgardens@gmail.com



Kathy, Nada, Susannah and Charles in Coronation Gardens

BLOOMING SOUTHFIELDS

Our other 'new face' on Replingham Road is Sam of SW Blooms. Brought up in a family of florists (his mother even taught flower arranging), Sam had followed in the family footsteps to become a florist. But as with many family businesses, there came a point when he wanted to be his own boss and do things his own way.

Being a man of many talents, Sam took a break from floristry to do a bit of property developing. After finishing a long building project, he decided to do all the flower arranging for his own wedding. His guests were enthralled by the beautiful displays and the fire to get back into floristry was stoked, so he started to look for an established florist to buy.

Sam loved the feel of Southfields. Then he discovered that Blooms florist for sale, including the run-down flat above it. This gave him the perfect combination for his floristry and property developing skills.

The flat development is now well under way and in addition to two original drivers and three staff members, he has added two more people to the team. They had an amazing Valentine's Day this year, with lilies and roses remaining the most popular choice and he is looking forward to experiencing his first Wimbledon fortnight.

Sam has developed a new website and virtual shop and hopes that in the future they can open on a Sunday and maybe even offer flower arranging classes.

You can visit the virtual store on bloomsflowers.co.uk, follow them on twitter @swblooms, phone to order on 020 8874 5559 or just pop in and let one of the team create a beautiful bouquet.



Nick & Aisha Horvath of Momo & Co Design

-UPDATE- SOUTHFIELDS PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS

The start date for the public realm improvements has been delayed mainly by the SGN gas mains works in Augustus Road and the one-day tennis event at The All England Club, (Wimbledon tennis) in May, but also by slight revision of part of the plans. Unfortunately, SGN has come across problems and this means the work in Augustus Road is taking longer than expected. It is estimated that the work will take about nine to ten weeks.

It is now hoped that the works will start at the station after Wimbledon, which runs from 1 - 14 July 2019. Wandsworth have the materials in stock so should be able to start then. The work of replacing the paving in Replingham Road, Wimbledon Park Road and Augustus Road is planned to be completed in phases and there is no assurance yet on when the subsequent phases will start. A factor affecting this is the delay in getting permission from the freeholders of the shop forecourts. These forecourts are included in the scheme at no cost to the freeholders but it is proving difficult to get the proper agreements in place.

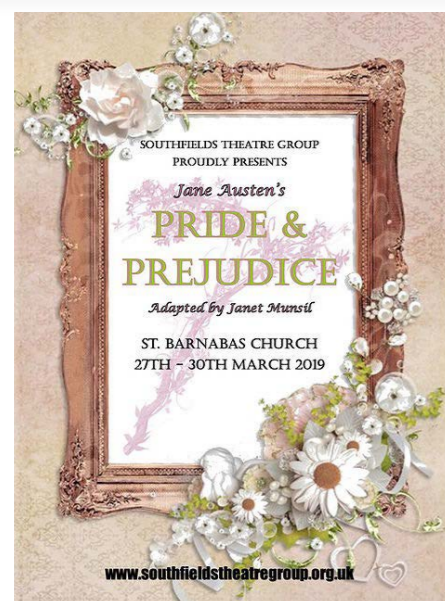
The design approved in June last year has been revised slightly. The railings surrounding the station will be removed and concrete block seating installed on new paving. The proposed Copenhagen crossing in Heythorp Street has been shelved in favour of a raised entry treatment. We are still pressing for the idea of 'parklets' (mini planted areas) to be removed from the scheme because

of their impact on parking.

Some minor preliminary works have occurred and the council plans to start checking the foundations, for the proposed location of street furniture and trees, in the next few weeks.

They have also funded BT to decommission the phone box at the top end of Replingham Road, outside Oxfam, so that the area can be repaved more easily and create a more open space.

FARMERS MARKET LAUNCHES IN SOUTHFIELDS



Southfields Theatre Group

SPRING TEA PARTY

The SGRA is pleased to invite our older residents to our annual tea party on Saturday 13th April from 3.00-5.30pm. This free event will be held in St Barnabas Church, using the Merton Road entrance. Catering is by Salt & Pepper and the music will be provided by the Cygnet Players. There will also be a raffle, bingo and special guests, and SGRA Treasurer Chris Puleston will be displaying some of his fascinating collection of century old postcards of the area.

Please encourage your older neighbours to join us. No need to book, just turn up for a good afternoon out.

LOCAL NOTES AND PLANNING UPDATE

Wandsworth Council is currently reviewing the Local Plan, which has to conform to the draft London Plan. This is the strategic plan for the capital, setting out an economic, environmental, transport and social framework for development. The government has proposed further changes to permitted developments, which could allow shops in our local parades to convert to residential. The draft London Plan requires the council to provide 2310 more homes a year and one way is the upward extension of houses to enable conversion into flats.

The planning applications for 243 and 239 Wimbledon Park Road, to develop the basements as small studio flats, have been approved. The planning officer decided that as a commercially viable retail space

would be retained, it complies with permitted development.

The Council have introduced new bye-laws for the parks, including Coronation Gardens, which are less restrictive than before. Ball games are now permitted, but this does not extend to cricket or golf.

Justine Greening's recent community meeting on Heathrow's latest consultation was well attended. There was no support for their plans for a third runway or the proposed additional 25,000 flights a year. This will result in many more planes over Southfields during the day with inevitable noise pollution.

SOUTHFIELDS BUSINESS FORUM

Post Office

Southfields Business Forum believes that a post box will be placed near the Post Office in Replingham Road, near to Heythorp Street, however it looks like the old one will remain outside the old Post Office building..

Sainsbury's

Sainsbury's seem to be progressing well with the old garage site. It is rumoured that work will be completed in September. The front of the current shop will be a new retail space with the rear being incorporated into the store.

Natwest Bank

The bank has now put this building up for rent/sale. It is on the market for £800,000-£850,000

Christmas lights

The Christmas event went well and in spite of the weather we had a crowd of over seven hundred. The schools and the choirs all took part again and The Wimbledon Foundation's Chairman, Philip Brook, switched the lights on. and school band from Southfields Academy.

Crime

Unfortunately, Replingham Road and Wimbledon Park Road have been targeted by break-ins, robberies and an assault on one of the business owners. As a group, SBF is taking steps to sort this out, but it all takes time and patience.

Loney Miller

Estate Agent Loney Miller is now operating from Brookwood Road, where the old sweet shop was.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

Joshua Willoughby, the manager of Southfields Fara charity shop on Wimbledon Park Road, would like to pass on a big thank you for all the kind donations that they receive. However, he is sure that donors would be sad to hear that they estimate approximately 80% of the higher end donations, which are left outside overnight, end up being stolen. When bags are left outside the shops, legally speaking, this is 'fly tipping'. The bags are then regularly ripped open, the higher quality items stolen and the rest left strewn across the pavement. It is then left to the council, or the staff in the shops, to clear up the remainder. By this stage donations will be ruined and end up in landfill.

Please make your kind donations count, by handing them in to staff when the shops are open and not leaving them outside when the shops are shut. Both Fara and Fara Kids will accept donations for each other when the other shop is shut.

FARA was founded in in 1991 to help the children abandoned in Romania's terrible and notorious state institutions under the rule of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. FARA started as a group of volunteers transporting emergency aid from the UK, but by 1997 they were able to open their first family home for children called St Nicholas. At St Nicholas, children were given a chance to live in a family for the first time. Many new projects followed and FARA continues to serve some of the most vulnerable young people in Romania.

If you would like to know more about the Fara charity's incredible work, please visit: faracharity.org

Opening hours:

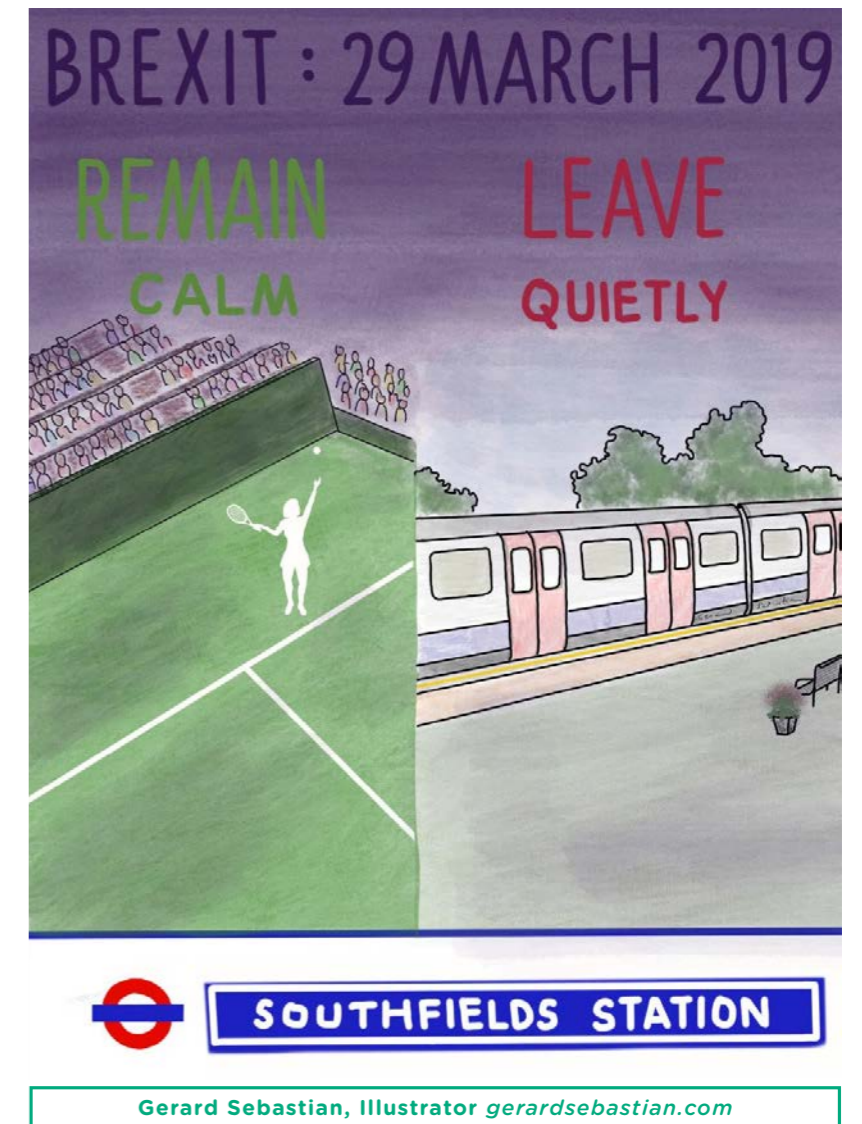
Fara and Fara Kids are open seven days a week.

Fara: from 10am - 6pm

Fara Kids: from 9.30am - 5.30pm

RE-CHARGE YOUR BATTERY

Much excitement in Grid streets, as car charging sockets have recently been installed in lampposts in both Elborough and Engadine streets. It is part of work by the council to install new electric vehicle (EV) charging sockets in around 250 street lights around the borough. This latest investment is helping the council meet its target of delivering nearly 900 on-street charging points in total. Wandsworth are now asking people to register their interest in an EV charging point near their house via the council's website in time for the next tranche of installations.



GREEN THE GRID SPRINGS BACK!

Green the Grid will be back on Saturday 27 April with its first planting day of the year. Join them as they hit the streets again to plant new tree bases, tidy existing ones and make Southfields front gardens greener and brighter. They've planted 312 tree bases to date but there are still almost 100 waiting to be planted, so please put Saturday 27 April in your diary and get the Grid ready for summer. They will be outside McCluskeys Food and Wine on Revelstoke Rd on the day lending tools and providing advice. Look out for more information via Nextdoor, Facebook and Twitter and through posters and leaflets closer to the event.

And if you're heading down to Wimbledon Park, look out for the new Green the Grid Community Herb Garden at the end of Revelstoke Road.

Please pick herbs from it to use in your cooking and feel free to plant any spare herb plants you have. We'd also welcome a little extra help in watering or weeding this garden when it looks like it needs some love.

To find out more and sign up for the next planting day get in touch at frontgardenfriendly.uk

CRIME IN THE GRID - SPECIAL REPORT

The recent spate of car and house crime on the Grid, 'distraction burglaries' and the different ways of reporting crime, were all on the agenda when the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) for Southfields held its regular quarterly meeting at St Barnabas Church recently. Sgt Adam Garcia and PC James Elvy represented the Safer Neighbourhood Team, which covers the whole Southfields local authority ward. They were there to outline their work and take questions from a larger-than-normal gathering of residents. They outlined the crime figures for the area for the last four weeks. It totalled two burglaries and 22 thefts from motor vehicles, seven of which were on the Grid.

Car Thefts

Thefts from cars are sometimes the result of them being left unlocked, and the advice was to take everything out of your cars when parked. The SNT do regular patrols of Grid streets and are always surprised at the number of cars left unlocked. In addition, there have been several 'relay thefts' of cars using wireless transmitters. These transmitters are held up to the front door or window of a house, or the handbag/pocket of a car owner, to capture the signal from a fob and relay it to a target vehicle. They advise residents to keep keys in a 'Faraday bag', which blocks the electrical signal that unlocks cars, and to keep this at the back of your house. When cars are stolen, 90% of them are never recovered, as they can have number plates changed, and are usually en route to Europe.

House Crime

House crimes in the Grid usually fall into two categories. Firstly there are break-ins into sheds and back doors. Cheap locks on sheds are no deterrent, so the SNT advice is to fit the best type of locks to door and sheds from reputable manufacturers such as Banham. You can get advice from Oakley's the locksmiths on

Replingham Road. There has been a recent re-appearance of 'distraction burglaries', where thieves dressed as workmen gain entrance to a house on a false pretence, usually utility-related. While the owner is distracted, their accomplices slip into other rooms to steal. Older people are particularly vulnerable to this. You can buy video doorbells that enable you to track who is at your door, and even monitor your home from your smartphone, tablet or PC. The good news is that there has been some success in catching people too. One burglar was arrested recently in nearby Strathville Road at 2am.

Mail Order

Another popular crime is the theft of mail order items from front doors, where delivery drivers have left parcels visible or even just thrown them from a van. The SNT team suggest people should think hard about how they ensure safe delivery of their mail order goods, preferably getting them left with reliable neighbours or delivered to work

CCTV and Signage

The use of CCTV and warning signage were both raised as ways of deterring crime. Wandsworth Council have moved away from fixed CCTV points, and now have 20 mobile CCTV units to cover the whole borough. Each can be deployed for a three-month period, but the units must be bid for, with a strong case backed up with stats. Recent requests for use on the Grid have been turned down, so the SNT are encouraging us to report all minor crimes, using the Met Police's 'Report a Crime' website, to help support their case for CCTV in this area. As far as signage is concerned, this is being used in Merton but not here, so this will be investigated. Some residents dislike large warning signs, as they fear it blights an area.

Speed Gun

The speed gun bought by Grid residents and the council has been well-used by the SNT, though some people are surprisingly aggressive when stopped and spoken to in 20mph areas. The council say the scheme has been a success and will be extended. Residents can ask to use the speed gun after having had the proper training.

Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel

Areas of Wandsworth have had established ward panels for many years. These meet on a regular basis and liaise with their local police on relevant topics. Southfields is one of five areas without one, a fact the SNT have put down to previous indifference when one was in existence, and the meetings at St Barnabas have superseded it. The pan-Wandsworth Safer Neighbourhood Board meets quarterly to discuss all aspects of local policing, and the next meeting is due to be on Tuesday 13th June at Wandsworth Town Hall at 6.30pm.

Further Information

There are two ways to get more information on local crime stats:

- Further information on Southfields ward (not just the Grid) can be obtained from www.police.uk using the search function on the page.
- The SGRA always compile monthly crime figures. These as well as new annual figures, plus a comparison, are all now available on our [SGRA website](#).

There is also a section on crime prevention with lots of advice and help here

police.uk/crime-prevention-advice/

Next SNT Meeting

This will be held in the Mirror Hall at St Barnabas Church on Saturday 11th May 2019 starting at 10.30am.

LOCK IT AND KEEP IT

In response to concerns from a number of Grid residents about crime, we asked our local experts, Oakley's, for some advice on keeping your home safe:

Burglaries and thefts are always a worry for any home owner and is a popular topic for Southfields home owners and businesses at the moment. Data from Scotland Yard indicates that only 5% of burglaries are solved, which means that most turn to increased security measures to ensure they are not the next victim. Oakley Locksmiths often finds itself having to deal with the aftermath once a burglar has struck.

Unfortunately, time after time we attend properties and find that the owners have all the necessary locks on their doors and windows but have not opted to use them. Whether you

are popping out for some milk or going to see a neighbour you must make sure your house is secured!

When looking at general home insurance requirements most policies require a minimum of a 5 lever or equivalent Euro deadlock to a BS3621 rating or a multi-point locking mechanism fitted to all external doors. All accessible windows must have a key lockable product fitted. However, every policy is different so please check that your home is compliant.

Sometimes home owners would like a little extra security, a popular choice at the moment is keyless egress deadlock, this type of deadlock allows the user to lock the deadlock from the inside with a thumb turn and a key from the outside. This means that the

homeowner feels secure allowing them to deadlock the door, but also in case of an emergency such as a fire, all occupants can leave the property with ease. When fitting a thumb turn deadlock to a front door we at Oakley's recommend fitting a security cowl (an internal fixed cover) to restrict access through the letterbox.

A particular note for the Southfields residents is to those who have front garden hedges, our advice is to keep them well trimmed to limit hiding spaces for potential thieves.

For further advice or for a free security check please contact:

Oakley Locksmiths Ltd, 81 Replingham Road, on **020 8871 1238** or at oakleylocksmithsLtd@hotmail.co.uk



OLD - BUT NOT ANCIENT!



Friends of Wimbledon Park Update

Our lovely veteran English Oak (*Quercus robur*) which stands near the old Bowling Green in Wimbledon Park, is now enclosed by fencing to help protect it and its roots. Although approximately 240 years old it is not yet ancient as it needs to reach its 400 birthday before it achieves that status. Oak trees host hundreds of species of insects, supplying many British birds with an important food source as well as providing shelter for bats. Seven species were identified in the park bat survey in Summer 2017. Long may it prosper.

WANDSWORTH AND MERTON'S TALENTED CHILDREN

The Capability Brown Society Art Competition and Exhibition

At the beginning of December, Wimbledon Park Bowling Pavilion was transformed into an art gallery, filled with colourful and imaginative art work created by students aged 7-18. Eight schools in both Wandsworth and Merton, and some non-school based students participated, and over 275 people visited the exhibition. The themes related to landscapes and movement in the park. The organisers would like to thank all the delightful and

very talented young artists who took part and the organisers who made it happen. It was such a success that The Capability Brown Society is already thinking of doing another exhibition later this year.



A winning entry from King's College School

WOMEN ON THE GRID

With the 8th March marking International Women's Day, Grid News wanted to recognise some remarkable women from Southfields.

Grid residents, Tammy Parlour and Jo Bostock, the co-founders of Women's Sport Trust (WST), were both awarded MBE's in the New Year 2019 Honours List, for services to gender equality in sport.

Founded in 2012, following the London Olympics and Paralympics, WST's ambition was to make women's sport more visible, viable and unstoppable.

Through WST, they have created multiple platforms to showcase female role models in sport. They have openly challenged standard notions about how success looks, who sport is for and the role of women and girls - both on and off the playing field.

Commenting on their awards, Jo Bostock said, "It's been the hardest

and best thing we've ever done. We genuinely believe that women's sport has the power to stimulate social change and greater equality. It's been an absolute privilege to be part of something like WST and to get to work with so many great people to help make that change happen."

They have run powerful events, campaigns and media initiatives including working with Getty Images on creating visual standards for photographing female athletes, an annual awards event, a Sky Sports #ShowUp spectatorship campaign and most recently a collaboration with England Hockey and Nielsen Sports to release data that showed the scale of the UK women's sport market.

WST works with a number of high profile influencers in sport, media and business. Its patrons are Anna Watkins MBE, Kate Richardson-Walsh OBE, Kelly Smith MBE, Sophie Christiansen CBE and Maggie Alphonsi MBE.



Whilst they are excited about the progress made, Tammy and Jo's current focus is on getting women's sport into the mainstream. This will enable it to be seamlessly woven into media schedules, thoroughly accessible throughout the year and an integral part of brand's investment portfolios. Women's sport needs to become part of the sporting fabric.

If you'd like to find out more about the Women's Sport Trust, you can find them at WomensSportTrust.com

We wish them every success for the future.

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Monday - Saturday 9:30 - 6:00
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Karen Gregory, Ann Kerr, Amelia Obertelli-
Moriarty, Clive Williams.

Street Representatives

Astonville Street

Lesley McCaul at 109

Brookwood Road

Karen Gregory at 140

Clonmore Street, Mid & North Blocks 1-79

Ann Kerr at 72

Clonmore Street, South Block 80-179

Nick Steiner at 116

Elborough Street

Mike Caswell

Elsenham Street

Oliver Ashbee at 78

Engadine Street

Jackie Pearce at 18

Hamilton Mews

Charles Runcie at 17 Pirbright Road

Hanford Close

Karen Gregory at 140 Brookwood

Heythorp Street

Kyra von Schottenstein at 127

Langton Place

Karen Gregory at 140 Brookwood

Lavenham Road

Margaret Brett at 15 Elsenham

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Pirbright Road

Charles Runcie at 17 Pirbright

Replingham Road

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Revelstoke Road

Lesley McCaul at 109 Astonville

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If you have any news, stories or information you think would be interesting to the grid community, please contact the editor, Philippa Haslegrave.

DIARY OF EVENTS

SGRA MEETINGS, ST BARNABAS CHURCH

26 March 7.45pm	Open meeting
21 May 7.30pm	Annual General Meeting
23 July 7.45pm	Open meeting
24 September 7.45pm	Open meeting
26th November 7.45pm	Open meeting

WEEKLY EVENTS AT ST BARNABAS CHURCH

Monday Club - a social drop in group for older people.

Every Monday | 2-3.30pm

Hestia drop in group for over 60s - just come along

Every Tuesday | 10-1pm

Under 3s - for little ones and their carers

Every Friday | 9.30-11.30am

OTHER EVENTS

Pop-up Art Fair (Free Admission)

Sunday 31 March | 12pm-6pm

Gardens Tennis Club, 343 Wimbeldon Park Road

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austin (+ Matinee on 30th March 3pm)

From 27-30 March | 7.45pm

For tickets email: boxoffice@southfieldstheatregroup.org.uk
or call: 07534 92249207

St Barnabas Church

Inaugural Meeting of the Friends of Coronation Gardens

Wednesday 3 April | 7.30pm

8th Wandsworth Scout Group Hut, 93 Pirbright Road

(by Coronation Gardens). Everyone is welcome -
focoronationgardens@gmail.com

Annual Spring Tea Party for older residents

Saturday 13 April | 3.00pm-5.30pm

St Barnabas Church

Green The Grid's First Planting Day of 2019

Saturday 27 April | For more information: frontgardenfriendly.uk

Cygnets will perform Alfie (+ Matinee on 11 May 2.30pm)

8-11 May | 10.30am

St Barnabas Church

Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Team Meeting

Thursday 11 May | 3.00pm-5.30pm

St Barnabas Church, Mirror Hall

Barn Dance in aid of Glass Door Homeless Charity and Ibba Girls
School, South Suddan

Friday 17 May | Doors Open 6:30pm, Supper 6.45-7.30pm, Dancing
7.45pm (£15 Per head incl. supper, £5 Children Over 5)

For tickets email: adamcpark@gmail.com or drop a letter to
Adam Park, 68 Pirbright Road.

Safer Neighbourhood Board Quarterly Meeting to discuss all
aspects of local policing

Thursday 13 June | 6.30pm

Wandsworth Town Hall

SGRA Front Gardens Award Judging Weeks

15-29 June