



Southfields Grid  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# Grid News

*Making a difference to life on the Grid*

— SUMMER 2019 —

## SPRING TEA PARTY

The SGRA welcomed 60 guests to the annual tea party at St Barnabas Church on Saturday 13th April. In attendance were the Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Piers McCausland and his wife and Cllr Guy Humphries. Local caterers Salt & Pepper provided a lovely afternoon tea and the Cygnet Players entertained guests with a musical medley.

Entertainment included bingo, a quiz and a raffle. Chris Puleston, SGRA Treasurer, displayed his growing collection of century-old postcards which one guest called "an exceptional historic collection".

Guests were delighted with the afternoon and commented:

*"Very good company, a jolly good time and the food is great."*

*"I look forward to it, I heard about it at Monday Club."*

*"It's my first time here and I will come again. I won a prize in the raffle."*

*"It's very well organised, beautiful singing, lovely food and a friendly atmosphere."*

The SGRA would like to thank everyone who subscribes to the SGRA annually. It is these funds that pay for this valuable event which enables our older residents to meet friends and neighbours and to socialise. Thanks to St Barnabas church for the hire of the hall and to street reps and friends of the SGRA for helping. We had a great team!



**NICK LISZKA AND CLARE JAMES  
AT 98 ELSENHAM STREET**

## FRONT GARDEN AWARDS 2019

*— Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty announces this year's winners —*



**NINA TJARKS AT 135 HEYTHORP STREET**

We are delighted to announce that we now have a winner for our Front Garden Awards 2019! This was an even more difficult decision than usual this year as we gave out eighteen gold awards - last year there were just nine. This reflects the hard work and care that has gone into these gardens. Ultimately, eight gardens were all in close contention and, after a lot of pounding of the Grid streets and much deliberation by all the judges, we awarded the title of winning garden to: **Nina Tjarks at 135 Heythorp Street**. The two runners up are: **Nick Liszka and Clare James at 98 Elsenham Street** and **Susan Long at 44 Lavenham Road**.

Our warmest congratulations to the winner, runners up and everyone who received a gold, silver or bronze award this year. Well done!



**SUSAN LONG  
AT 44 LAVENHAM ROAD**

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



CHARLES RUNCIE

Welcome to another Grid News. As ever its aim is to reflect life in our special part of London as well as reporting on local news. You could of course come to our next SGRA open meeting, taking place in the Parish Room of St Barnabas Church (Lavenham Road entrance) on Tuesday 23rd July from 7.45pm. It would be lovely to hear your views.

We had a good attendance at our recent AGM. I was able to report on an encouraging 12 months activity, whether hosting events, helping other to contribute or representing our community in the corridors of power. My congratulations to the Executive Committee, all re-elected for another year.

This summer issue will contain our annual SGRA subscription envelope. It's our only direct method of raising the money we need to do everything we'd like to for the Grid. We don't have a council grant, as some people think, nor should we. The subs pay for everything - meeting room hire, putting on events, organising awards and admin costs. Thanks to increased collections from our street

reps and prudent housekeeping we're able to hold the amount at a minimum £3 per household for 2019-20. It's amazing value for money, although you can of course give more if you feel able! Simply fill in the details and return the envelope to your street rep, or better still do it online. Nearly 20% of you now do.

Finally, good luck to everyone involved in the new Friends of Coronation Gardens, recently formed to preserve and enhance our own little park. You may even have gone to their "picnic" earlier this month. There are Friends groups popping up all over the place, so plenty of expertise to tap into.

Enjoy your summer, and please get in touch if we can ever help at: [info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk](mailto:info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk).

You can keep in touch with the latest Southfields news via Facebook, the NextDoor App, or on Twitter @SouthfieldsGrid.

*Charles Runcie*  
Chairman

[charles@charlesruncie.co.uk](mailto:charles@charlesruncie.co.uk)

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to this Summer issue of Grid News, the third issue which I have edited.

Since taking over last summer, I have tried to cover stories which are of interest to every element of our local community. I have met some wonderful and interesting local residents and business owners, as well as local volunteers who make projects such as Green the Grid and Friends of Coronation Gardens happen.

In this one-off 'bumper' issue, we have a special feature on gardens, with fantastic advice from gardening expert Karen Booth, from Green the Grid.

In each issue I try to feature a different local business, or person. This time I

have interviewed local residents Isabelle Lemetre and John Berkoski who have (amongst others) kindly given their time and skills to help with various local projects.

I am always looking for news, and would love to hear from anyone who has an interesting story to tell. As a community newsletter we represent everyone. If you're a stay at home parent who's setting up a business from home, or retired and taking up a new hobby, I would love to hear from you.

I am also conscious that children are a very important part of the Southfields Grid community, and I would love to hear about any clubs or activities they are involved in.

I would also like say thank you to Karen Gregory, who manages all the advertising for the newsletter, keeping it local and relevant and funding the costs of printing what I hope you find is an informative and valuable read.

Please get in touch if you have anything that you think is of interest to Grid News readers.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and I wish you all a very happy summer.

*Philippa Haslegrave*  
Editor

[philippa@haslegrave.co.uk](mailto:philippa@haslegrave.co.uk)

# FRIENDS UNITED IN CORONATION GARDENS

It seems that there is no end to our enthusiasm for the great outdoors in Southfields. Following the huge success of Green the Grid, the independent Friends of Coronation Gardens group was officially formed this April by a group of Southfields residents. This 'not-for-profit' organisation's key aims are to improve the Edwardian gardens and make them appealing and safe again.

As a starting point, by the time you read this newsletter, the dreadful chipped red paint on the railings will have been re-painted a tasteful shade of green and a significant amount of planting is also about to happen. The Friends Group is actively seeking local volunteers to help with the planting, so please visit their website or Facebook page for details (see below).

On 6th July from 12pm – 3.00pm, there was a picnic in the gardens, as part of Wandsworth Council's LoveParks programme, which is designed to encourage people to use and enjoy their outdoor space. Families brought

picnics and enjoyed a variety of activities, including music provided by World Heartbeat Music Academy, Southfields Academy, and the Cubs and Beavers who were doing kids competitions. Mayor of Wandsworth, Mayor Jane Cooper was there to hand out the prizes. It was a great day and gave locals a chance to meet the team who have made this possible:

**Chairman:** Charles Runcie  
**Vice Chair:** Susannah Perry-Greene  
**Treasurer:** Daniel Lund  
**Secretary:** Nada Savitch  
**Committee members:** Lesley Ewels, Jo Dainow, Wendy Cater & Toby Dean

This was just the first of many enjoyable community and family friendly events – to raise funds to improve this important part of Southfields.

The next step for the Group is to establish what improvements Wandsworth Council is willing to pay for, and what will need fund

raising. Future plans include:

- \* A campaign to lock the gates
- \* Making a dog free area
- \* Re-paving where necessary
- \* Planting more plants, flowers and a wild meadow
- \* Creating an area at the back, where herbs can be planted and maintained by local schools and clubs.

In the longer term, it is hoped that there will be a 'Friends Hut' and maybe a café serving homemade cakes and coffee.

You can support Friends of Coronation Gardens by becoming a Member of Coronation Gardens for just £10 p.a. or alternatively you can just make a donation on their website.

For further information visit:

**Website:** [focoronationgardens.co.uk](http://focoronationgardens.co.uk)  
**Facebook:** [Friends of Coronation Gardens SW18](#)  
**Twitter:** [@CoronationGdns](#)

# DEROSIER CHOCOLATE AND COFFEE

There is a great deal of coffee shop competition in the Southfields Grid, and as personal tastes vary so much, no two people will ever agree on which shop is best. But with the Wimbledon fortnight just over, I thought it would be interesting to find out a bit more about the wonderful handmade chocolates which are lovingly produced for the All England Club, by local firm DeRosier Chocolate.

In 2008 Grid resident Leona Finkelstein was shopping for a Mother's Day gift and just couldn't find a box of chocolates she liked. This was the cue for a momentous decision to leave the safety of the Civil Service and start a chocolate company.

She began a period of intense training, leaving her job and making a big investment in a commercial tempering machine. Two years and much practice later, through a contact at the All England Club, her first order was to provide boxes of chocolates for Royal Box guests during the Championships. Leona's locally handmade artisan chocolates proved irresistible and this year will be DeRosier's ninth year supplying the Club.



The logical next step was to open a small shop. In August 2012, despite having no retail experience between them, Leona and husband Andrew opened DeRosier Chocolate and Coffee on Revelstoke Road.

Although it was clear that this venture would require a big commitment, Andrew had no plans to leave his City job. Two experienced baristas were recruited and Andrew took two weeks holiday from work for the opening, learning how to make coffee and planning the running of the shop. It soon became clear that he would

## CHOCOLATES FIT FOR THE ROYAL BOX

be needed full time and he never returned to his office.

DeRosier now have three shops in the area and make all the chocolate in their Earlsfield branch. They have received multiple Academy of Chocolate and Great Taste awards for their products. [www.derosierchocolates.com](http://www.derosierchocolates.com).

## LOCAL NOTES AND PLANNING

### Gas Works

The replacement gas works, which started with an emergency gas leak in Replingham Road at the end of August 2018, have finally reached the top of Augustus Road. The works will be suspended during the Wimbledon Tennis fortnight, but no longer impact on Southfields. The west bound route of the 493 bus through Southfields has been restored.

### Planning

There are two contentious planning applications in the Grid area. The first is described as a three storey extension to the rear of 235a -237 Wimbledon Park Road and the second is for a residential flat to the rear of 17 Replingham Road, also listed as 6 Pirbright Road. Both are for buildings on the small private car park to the rear of the shops.

The first application does not make it clear that it also includes 233 Wimbledon Park Road and it is for a change of use from a shop to residential access. Currently this little shopping parade has protected shop frontages. The proposed extension will also impact on 233a Wimbledon Park Road, Chanteroy, as it will block the rear

delivery access and the fire escape for the preparation area in the basement. There are numerous objections to this planning application, including from Justine Greening MP and Cllr. Walsh.

The second application is really for retrospective planning permission as the structure is already in place. However, there is no amenity space for a home and there are no arrangements in place for the collection of waste. This means that there is fly tipping in Pirbright Road or rubbish is being left on private land.

Other applications of concern in our area are issues with the design of a proposed new property at the rear of 130 Wimbledon Park Road which is out of character in a conservation area, and the proposed demolition of an end of terrace house at 61 Longfield Street with the construction of a three storey, plus basement, block of flats.

There has been a recent change in permitted development rules that allow, among other things, rear extensions for residential properties. The precise details of these have still not been published by central government, but what was a

temporary relaxation of the rules, has been made permanent.

### Southfields Public Realm

We have a shiny new post box outside Tesco's in Replingham Road after intervention by the Council officer dealing with the improvements. Work is supposed to start at the tube station after the tennis but the Council has not replied to our request for further details of this. We expect them to remove the railings, resurface the pavement and then install blocks that provide seating and also protect the access to the station. The erosion of the road markings in Replingham Road, following the various utility works, is causing problems to traffic trying to turn into and out of the Grid.

## OBITUARY

**Karen Gregory, SGRA Committee Member, remembers Patrick O'Connor**

It is with sadness that we announce that Patrick O'Connor, who many residents will know from the TV Repair shop on Brookwood Road, passed away on Sunday 12th May 2019 aged 80.

In 1970, Pat opened his Television shop at 74 Brookwood Road with business partner Mike Witham. Pat and Mike sold new televisions as well as repairing old ones, and ran a photographic studio on the floor above. I remember Pat telling me: "Back in the day, when colour televisions were just starting to become more affordable and Wimbledon Tennis Championships were on, we would get 20-30 people outside all looking in through the window to see the tennis in colour".

I will miss saying "Good morning" on my way to work, or walking my dog. Pat was always keen to chat and pass on his stories about his passion for horses, cars and how Brookwood Road has changed over the last few decades. A few months ago, he shared a photograph with me of the road when it had two butchers, a confectionery shop, three greengrocers, a bookmaker, a wet fish shop, a florist and a fish and chip restaurant. That photograph now hangs on our wall.

Pat recently celebrated his 80th birthday with friends, family and neighbours who held a party for him. He will be greatly missed.

## SOUTHFIELDS BUSINESS FORUM

### *An Update from Gill Habershon*

As it is now five years since we resurrected the Southfields Business Forum, we thought we would share with you how, during this short period of time, the two main shopping streets of Southfields have changed. Some believe these changes are for the better, others may disagree.

Five years ago, in 2014, we had 94 businesses. We now have approximately 80 that are still trading. We have seen over twenty businesses change hands, for example HSBC has been replaced by Caffè Nero. Five businesses have closed and been turned into residential dwellings. A further five buildings are vacant, with two others to be vacated by the end of June. Finally, where the Old Garage and the old Post Office were in Wimbledon Park Road were, two new developments are under construction, with residential flats being built above the retail units.

The key issues the Forum has dealt with in the last five years are: parking, business rates, waste, Sunny News closure, Wimbledon Park Road parade of shops, Southfields Improvement Scheme, crime, the Post Office closure and the gas works. Unfortunately, with only one exception, they are issues that are still causing various concerns to Southfields' businesses.

On a happier note, our Christmas event has grown and in 2018, despite the terrible weather, we managed to get a crowd of over 750 coming to see the Christmas lights switched on.

The Business Forum would like to thank you all for your support over these past five years. As we continue to learn to adapt to change, we hope we can rely on your support us, as without it we will find more and more shops become vacant and most probably be turned into residential dwellings.

[habershonfamily@gmail.com](mailto:habershonfamily@gmail.com)

## BEHIND THE SCENES OF SOUTHFIELDS GRID

*John Berkoski*



**JOHN BERKOSKI AND HIS AFFENPINSCHERS**

Behind the scenes of the SGRA are a number of local residents, who volunteer their time and business skills to help with various SGRA projects. John Berkoski is one of these people. He rebuilt the SGRA website and helps with their social media pages and website content. John also advises Friends of Wimbledon Park and Green the Grid with their online presence.

Originally from Pittsburgh, USA, John moved to London in 2007, when his wife Nell's job was relocated here. Having had a life-long fascination with British culture, comedy, and the countryside, moving to the UK was, he says, "Like a dream come true." John and Nell have lived in Southfields since 2011 and enjoy its village feel, independent shops and restaurants, and proximity to parks and green spaces.

Having spent his entire career in the technology sector, as a software developer, project manager, and latterly as director of consulting and customer

success for various companies, he took the decision to set up his own business. He creates attractive and high-quality websites and online shops for businesses, and helps them get more business online through use of Google Ads, social media, and other online practices. Helping companies go up the Google rankings by improving their 'search engine optimisation' may be a mystery to many of us, but not to John!

When he is not busy working, he can be found running, cycling, skiing or walking his three Affenpinscher dogs. He enjoys cycling through the vineyards of France, is a keen cook, and helps keep the grid green with his adopted tree base.

If you run your own business and need help with your website or social media, you can contact John through his website:

[roove.com](http://roove.com).

*Isabelle Lemettre*



**SELF PORTRAIT  
BY ISABELLE LEMETTRE**

Another of our local volunteers is Isabelle Lemettre. Isabelle has helped out, camera in hand, at many local events. From Green the Grid and Southfields Harvest to Dragonboat Racing, Isabelle will be snapping away. She also volunteers her photography services, through the 'Remember my Baby' Charity.

Isabelle has always had a passion for photography. But she started her career in Communications, organising team-building events, photo shoots and movies for a fashion company in France, where she is from.

Before having children, she worked for the Walt Disney Company for 14 years, part of it in IT building websites for the company intranet. She left her job to look after her family and qualified with The British Academy of Photography in 2016. She absolutely loves making memories of events such as birthday parties, wedding anniversary celebrations, family occasions, and business gatherings.

[info@isabellejphotography.com](mailto:info@isabellejphotography.com)

## ABUNDANCE PREDICT ABUNDANCE IN 2019 HARVEST

Abundance Southfields is anticipating a bumper local fruit harvest in 2019 following a subdued 2018 when the cold snap nicknamed the "Beast from the East" wiped out much of the crop.

The project, established to eliminate food waste and promote biodiversity, is getting ready for its seventh harvest season by purchasing more equipment for picking and processing the glut of fruit that arrives all at once at the end of summer. A couple of extra extendable picking poles that reach fruit dangling up to five metres above the ground, a larger fruit press and a motorised fruit crusher are all on the shopping list. The support of Wandsworth Council means that Abundance now has a rent-free premises to store all of this equipment.

"We pick fruit from trees in private gardens, on school grounds and on council estates," says Richard Konig of Abundance. "Even a small tree can generate more fruit than the owners can use and we want to ensure that the excess is put to good use rather than ending up

on a compost heap. There are plenty of volunteer pickers and local residents who would like to share their crop for eating, baking, juicing or jam making. When a tree owner tells us that they need some help, we arrange a few pickers to harvest and let people know that fruit is available. A wide variety of apples and pears make up the bulk of it, but there are some pretty good plums and quinces in the borough too.

"It is important for the biodiversity of the area that all these trees are kept in good shape."

Abundance frequently returns from picking with 50kg or more of fruit which is far more than most bakers or juicers need. Whatever remains (including the bruised fruit and windfalls) gets turned into sparkling apple cider or cider vinegar, which is later sold at events like the annual Southfields Harvest to raise funds for equipment and projects. Of course, the tree owners who contributed the fruit are always given a share of the product when it is ready.



To get involved as a picker, a tree owner, to help at events, or as someone who would like to help organise and run the project just visit our website and sign up to the mailing list.

Be sure to tell friends and neighbours who have fruit trees about the project too.

For further information:  
[abundancesouthfields.com](http://abundancesouthfields.com)

## BARNSTORMING AT ST BARNABAS



GUESTS ENJOY THE DANCING

This May, St Barnabas church hosted an old-fashioned barn dance. About 65 guests, both young and old, learned how to do-si-do and promenade to lively music performed by the 'Skinner's Rats'. It was a fun event that brought together the Southfields community. The band, which includes a fiddler, accordion and guitar player, as well as a 'caller' (who tells the dancers what to do), has been around for nearly 50 years and helped make it a memorable night.

The organisers would like to thank caterer Karen Hopkins, who provided a hearty and tasty meal. She will be back at the church on October 11, catering for the church's annual quiz night (see below). The barn dance raised money for a number of good causes, including homeless charity Glass Door and the Ibba Girls' School in South Sudan. Some of the proceeds will also help fund a new piano for the church. The organisers are hoping to make the barn dance an annual event.

## COLLECTIVE TALENT IN SOUTHFIELDS

### — *The Ismena Collective* —

In 2013, local cellist Mayda Narvey formed the Ismena Collective. The mission of the Collective is to perform high quality local concerts that integrate words with music in order to explore a theme. Audiences have commented on the originality of the programming which often crosses genres and uses both poetry and prose to shine a light on the music.

Musicians who have performed over the years include: mezzo soprano Clara Kanter, who recently soloed at the Cadogan Hall; violinist Miriam Kramer, whose disc on the Naxos label has been described as 'a superlative recording'; Swiss violinist Lorenz Hasler, of the Decca recorded 'I Salonisti' (who can be seen sinking with the Titanic in the eponymous 1997 film); and jazz pianist Chad Lelong, who boasts tributes from Sir Paul McCartney and Elton John.



THE ISMENA COLLECTIVE

Actors who read have been as diverse as the venerable Jane Lapotaire, Madeleine Hyland (who was recently seen in the ITV production of *Vanity Fair*), and lead singer of the 1980's punk band Golinski Brothers, Darris Golinski. The Collective is committed to performing in local venues where the audience can feel close to the music and the instruments and can mix and chat after the concert. They also enjoy performing house concerts where friends and family of the host can sit back with a glass of wine and become absorbed by music and readings in a relaxing and intimate environment.

## QUIZ NIGHT IN SOUTHFIELDS

The brilliant annual Quiz Night returns to St Barnabas Church for its fifth year on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October starting at 6.45pm. Last year it raised £2,400 for chosen causes the Glass Door homeless charity, the church piano fund and Ibbas Girls' School in Sudan. Tickets are £17.50 each, and the price also includes really delicious food by Karen at Thoughtful

Food. There's a raffle plus a cash bar stocked with beer, wine and prosecco. Tables are teams of eight, but if you don't have eight you'll be paired up with another table. Email [mary.golden@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mary.golden@hotmail.co.uk) to reserve your ticket or table now - booking forms are available over the summer. Last year they were turning people away, so do book early.

## FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK MAKE PLANS

During his presentation at the recent AGM, Nick Steiner, Chair of the FOWP, outlined some of the things that the Society would like to set in motion in the near future. Many of these are long term objectives and some are more ambitious than others. These are not written in any order of preference, but FoWP would like to know which one comes top of Grid News readers' priorities.

Please contact them and give your feedback at:

**Website:**  
[friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk](http://friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk)

**Facebook:**  
[Friends of Wimbledon Park](https://www.facebook.com/Friends of Wimbledon Park)

**Twitter:**  
[@FoWimbledonPark](https://twitter.com/FoWimbledonPark)

### *What they'd like to do in 2019:*

- Restore the Heritage lake and dam
- Write a management plan for Ashen Grove (ancient woodland) & Owl Copse.
- Enhance the bat habitat
- Improve the Revelstoke Road entrance.
- Resolve the toilet problem in the Public Park
- Resolve buildings that impair vistas and impede biodiversity.
- Look at the options for upgrading the buildings.
- Help to obtain the Green Flag award for the Public Park

St Barnabas Church in Lavenham Road has provided a local home for the Collective both as a rehearsal and performance space, although they have performed in venues across London and beyond. They recently performed at St Barnabas on Bastille Day 'Storming the Bastille: Music and Words Celebrating the Courage to Change' which explored

the notion of revolution both political and personal through the music of Debussy, Amy Beach and Arvo Pärt and the poetry of WB Yeats, Louis MacNeice and others. If you would like to come to one of their future concerts, receive the newsletter or plan a house concert in your own home, you can find out more at: [ismenacollective.com](http://ismenacollective.com).

# AMELIA OBERTELLI-MORIARTY ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE SGRA FRONT GARDEN AWARDS 2019

And so, another Front Garden Awards season ends! The judging is over and the new winners are in place. As in previous years, we, the judges, have had a fabulous time looking at your front gardens and street planting. It is always so fascinating to see how different the planted areas are. Thank-you.

The Front Garden Awards (formerly known as the Front Garden Competition) started in 1979 and has been a summer feature, albeit intermittently, since then. The first name on the silver platter, which is awarded to the overall winner who keeps it for a year was Mrs. Josey (1979/80). Regrettably the platter was

lost at some point and then 'found' in 2011. The SGRA is proud to be involved in this resurrected community event and we hope it will continue uninterrupted.

This year, thus far, we have judged two categories – Best Front Garden and Best Street Planting.

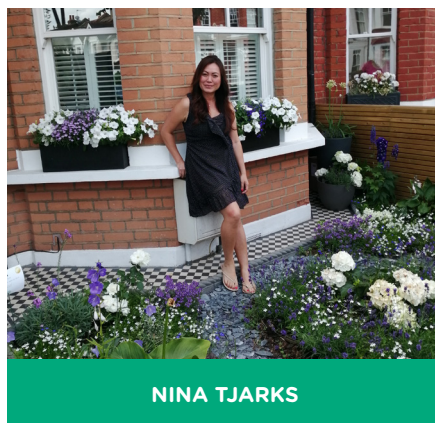
## BEST FRONT GARDEN

This year we have handed out somewhere in the region of 200 bronze, silver and gold awards. Well done to all of you who got an award! This award system began last year (2018) as we wanted to recognise, encourage and reward more people who have put both time and effort into greening their front gardens. Our front gardens, like many across London, may be small, but the capital's estimated 1.8 million front gardens cover approx. 9,400 hectares and therefore make a big contribution to our environmental and aesthetic wellbeing. They also provide an important habitat for urban wildlife.

Sometimes people ask what we are looking for when judging. We do not have a tick list approach, so it is not prescriptive. We are looking for a 'pleasing garden' which leaves the onlooker with a sense of wellbeing and which gives your outside space colour, scent and texture. Choosing plants that have the added benefit of helping wildlife to thrive is always a positive. Other aspects would include some attention to design and originality; creating a sense of harmony and co-ordination as well showing a sense of care. Remember a 'garden' need not be a conventional plot – it can be a collection of pots, window boxes and hanging baskets – something that will make hard surfaced gardens softer. The new mini 'herb' garden set up by Green the Grid, outside the entrance to Wimbledon Park, in Revelstoke Road, was designed to encourage people to think about the different options available for greening their front gardens.

For example, bees love thyme, oregano and chives and these are all easy to grow.

### *Meet our Front Garden Award Winner 2019*



NINA TJARKS

Warmest congratulations to Nina Tjarks, the overall winner of the 2019 Front Garden Awards. Nina, who lives at 135, Heythorp Street, said she was "blown away" at receiving this award as she is relatively new to gardening. Originally, her front garden had lots of box hedging which was badly affected by blight and died. So, about two years ago, she started to design and plant her new garden from scratch. Nina credits her nanny, Angelika, and her next door neighbours, Malcolm and Angela, (who also were given a gold award this year) for her newly found confidence in gardening. Their help and support, as well as that of her daughter, Mia, has been invaluable. "If I can do it", Nina said, "then anybody can!" So, if you haven't started gardening yet, take Nina at her word. Nice one Nina!

## BEST STREET PLANTING

This category used to be known as 'Guerrilla Gardening.' This title was originally given to gardening public land without permission. Times have changed. Green the Grid (GTG) have been given funding from Wandsworth Council to green the tree bases surrounding the borough's street trees. And what a great job they have done. There are colourful, well-tended and wildlife friendly flowers and shrubs to be seen in tree pits across the grid. The judges have looked at these too. So, if you have mysteriously found a gnome in your adopted tree pit (one per street) this means that you have been awarded a special prize as the street winner! Lucky you!

Still to come...the Spectacular Sunflowers of Southfields. The seeds were handed out on Green the Grid's planting day on April 27th, and there are now some gorgeous, healthy sunflowers growing in both gardens and tree bases. Judging of these (best in the street) will take place at the end of the summer. Look out for large sunflower designs popping up in your front gardens and tree pits!

The presentation of all prizes and trophies to winner will take place at our SGRA meeting on Tuesday 24th September.

# GREEN THE GRID SPRINGS UP AGAIN

*By Karen Booth of Green the Grid*

The first Green the Grid planting day of the year took place on Saturday 27 April. Over 100 Grid residents of all ages came along to pick up a range of plants including stocks, lily of the valley and saxifrage. Sunflower seedlings were a particular hit with children, and will feature in the Spectacular Sunflowers of Southfields competition taking place in late August.

Despite some rain at the start, the weather was fresh and breezy. The event was opened by Councillors Kim Caddy and Guy Humphreys who described the project as a 'fantastic community project with a really positive local response'.

There was a good attendance throughout the morning, with local residents coming along to learn about street planting, and also to visit the 'mini front garden' outside the entrance to Wimbledon Park. As well as providing free herbs for cooking, the display is designed to encourage people to think about options for greening front gardens, Green the Grid's focus for this year. We were delighted to hear that so many of you were already thinking about ways of doing this.

We would like to thank Wandsworth Council who funded the plants for the day through a grant. As in previous planting days, we also want to thank Eamon



McCluskey who gave Green the Grid use of the forecourt outside McCluskey's Food and Wine for the morning. And finally, we'd like to thank everyone who turned up on the day for the continued interest and engagement!

## GARDENING TIPS FOR BEGINNERS

*Gardening expert Karen Booth of Green the Grid gives her advice for sprucing up your garden.*

This year, we're looking to encourage Grid residents to create greener front gardens as part of our mission to become a Front Garden Friendly Neighbourhood. This could be as simple as planting a container or two in your front garden or a more complex project involving removing non-permeable paving so you can plant directly into the soil, making your garden more nature-friendly.

In areas that need paving, using permeable paving is the best option because it allows water to drain naturally into the soil below and also reduces the risk of flooding. It is worth noting that whilst impermeable coverings don't require planning permission, if you cover an area of more than five square metres with no border or lawn for water to drain into, you will need to get planning permission first.

Introducing plants will encourage wildlife, reduce urban heating and increase wellbeing.

If you are new to gardening, can't spare a lot of time or are not in a position to make major changes to your front garden, container gardening is a good place to start. It's cheap and does not require any particular knowledge. All you need is a container such as a terracotta or glazed pot, a bag of all-purpose compost and some suitable plants. Bedding plants such as wallflowers, marigolds, foxgloves, petunias, cosmos, daisies, lavenders and geraniums all flower throughout the summer and attract bees and other pollinators.

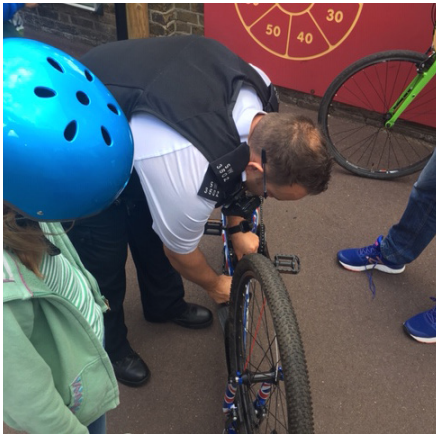
To keep your plants healthy and attractive, water them regularly in warm weather, remove dead flower heads and provide feed on a regular (or not so regular) basis. Many plants are quite forgiving. The benefits include doing your bit for the environment, improving air quality and a bright show of blooms outside your front door.

Another easy option that doesn't require specialist knowledge is planting a hedge. A recent study by Surrey University's Global Centre for Clean Air Research suggests that hedges can block airborne pollutants including vehicle particulates by more than 50 per cent at breathing level height.

Suitable evergreen hedges for Southfields include Pittosporum, Eleagnus, Yew, Ceanothus, Privet, Viburnum tinus, Laurel, Bay or Choisya. All need trimming twice in early and late summer but are not as fast growing as Privet. Plant evergreen hedges in early autumn-winter and allow sufficient space for the plants to mature. Patience is required as hedges take between 3 and 7 years to reach their desired size.

To find out more about Green the Grid or to get in touch with your Green the Grid neighbours go to: [frontgardenfriendly.uk](http://frontgardenfriendly.uk)

## POLICE UPDATE FROM PC ELVY



At the time of writing, Wimbledon is almost upon us - so by the time you read this I hope that the sun shone and there was no need for Sir Cliff to do any singing on Centre Court.

And with the sun in mind, please remember in the warmer weather to make sure that if you leave your front windows open to let air flow through, please, please keep them on vent and not wide open for anyone to come along and steal items from you, which has happened in the past.

Please also remember that if you think it's a good idea to use your car's air conditioning to cool your car down before you get in, don't forget that your keys are inside. If you go back inside your house, you may return to find your car gone.

Following a successful bike marking event at Southfields Farmers Market on Saturday 15th June, we plan another at the end of July/ August. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page, Southfields Police, and Twitter @MPSSouthfields.

Finally, don't forget to come to our next public meeting in the Mirror Hall, at St Barnabas Church on Saturday 17th August. It's your chance to meet us and discuss any crime issues in our community. It starts at 10.30am.

Thanks,  
**Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Team**  
(James, Robbie & Don)

## FINAL CUT FOR RICHARD JAMES HAIRDRESSERS

The outlook for the threatened parade of shops on Wimbledon Park Road was dealt another blow with the closure on 21st June of the long-established hairdressing salon run by Richard James. The business was originally started by his parents in 1937, with him acquiring the current premises in 1952.

"I am sad, but feel it is time after 52 years working in the salon." Richard told Grid News. "I've been very lucky with my current staff Ronni and Jolanda, who have been great support and an absolute pleasure to work with. I shall no doubt

miss them and all my loyal customers, although we plan to continue mobile hairdressing".

The parade of shops is being developed by the landlord. The development plans have proved controversial to many and could involve the closure of up to six local businesses.

You can contact Richard and his team on:

**Richard 07958 100887**

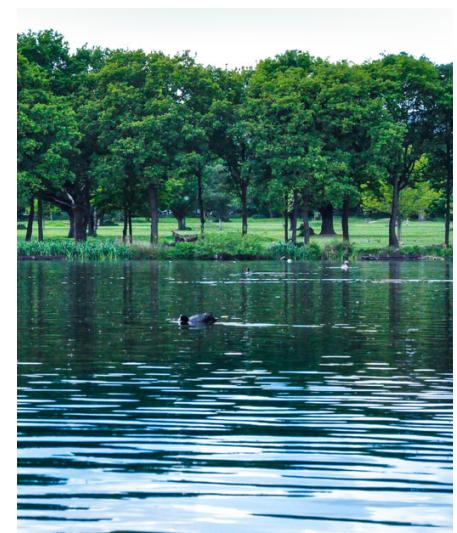
**Ronni 07508 717533**

**Jolanda 07903 213607**

## SWIM WIMBLEDON PARK LAKE

'Swim Wimbledon Park Lake' is a local campaign aiming to allow open water swimming in Wimbledon Park. There is a petition on Change.org - and it needs your support. As you may already be aware, a 'Master Plan' has been published by Merton Council, for the redevelopment of Wimbledon Park and, in parallel, on one side of the lake the All England Lawn Tennis Club will be expanding its facilities over the next ten years. All these changes overlap with essential maintenance and remedial works which Merton Council is obliged to carry out to the lake by 2022. With these two factors combined, this makes it a perfect time to consider how swimming can be brought back to the lake.

Swim Wimbledon is a group of local residents and volunteers who have a vision for a cleaner, safer and more accessible lake offering publicly accessible swimming facilities to local residents, schools, communities and visitors to Merton and Wandsworth. It has been building momentum and on Saturday 8th June, many local organisations including



Friends of Wimbledon Park, The Wimbledon Club, The Athletics Stadium and Wimbledon Park Run, pledged their support for this initiative. Continuing to demonstrate local support and demand for this service is key to its success. If you are interested in finding out more about it and lending your support, visit: [swimwimbledon.co.uk](http://swimwimbledon.co.uk)

# MEET, EAT, MAKE AND SHARE AT SOUTHFIELDS HARVEST 2019

Annual community celebration, Southfields Harvest, returns to St Barnabas on Saturday 28th September, from 12 - 3pm. Enjoy a cornucopia of all things local including allotment veg, honey and jam, craft beer, cider and apple pressing, BBQ and live music. In the mix as always is the chance for keen bakers to show off their skills in the 6th Southfields Bake-Off. They mean it when they say it's the most fun you'll have in Southfields on a Saturday afternoon.

In response to the Climate Change Emergency, this year they're focusing on ways to make sustainable, greener



choices. Join a green-themed art-making session, get advice from the Grid's guerrilla gardeners, talk to SW18's

Abundance fruit pickers and sharers and meet the folk championing our parks and green spaces. If you have a community-minded idea to share with your neighbours or an edible, locally grown or made product you'd like them to try, or if you'd like to volunteer to help make Southfields Harvest the best yet, we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch:

- Email [southfieldsharvest@gmail.com](mailto:southfieldsharvest@gmail.com)
- Twitter [@Southfieldsharv](https://twitter.com/Southfieldsharv)
- Website [southfieldsharvest.org.uk](http://southfieldsharvest.org.uk)



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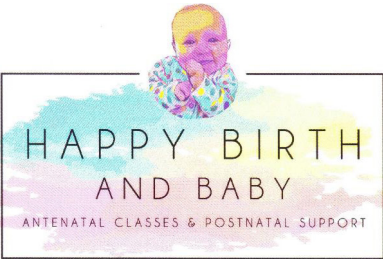
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**Secretary:** Nigel Rawson | 07725 709262  
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**Treasurer:** Chris Puleston | 07715 054609  
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## Editor

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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.

## SGRA MEETINGS ST BARNABAS CHURCH

**Open meetings at 7.45pm on:**  
23rd July 2019  
24th September 2019  
26th November 2019  
28 January 2020

## 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  
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**Under 3s** - for little ones and their carers  
**Every Friday | 9.30-11.30am**

## IN & AROUND THE GRID

**Southfields Harvest** - Free Entry  
**Saturday 28th September | 12-3pm**

**Cygnets Players Theatre Group** - 'All Shook Up' at Putney Arts Theatre. Visit [cygnetsplayers.com](http://cygnetsplayers.com) for details  
**Wednesday 4th - Saturday 7th September**

**Quiz Night** - St Barnabas Church (See Page 7)  
**Friday 11th October | 6.45pm**

## FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK & CAPABILITY BROWN SOCIETY EVENTS

**Family Sports Day & Country Fayre and Farmers Market**  
**Saturday 7th September**  
Wimbledon Park

**Local Schools' Performances of Dance, Music and Concert Bands**  
**Saturday 14th September | 12pm**  
At The Lake Room at The Wimbledon Club

**Bat Walk**  
**Saturday 21st September | 7pm**  
Wimbledon Park - at the dam by the Water Sports Centre

**Capability Brown Walk around the Park and Lake**  
**Sunday 22nd September | 3.30pm**  
meet at Wimbledon Park Road entrance. Finish with Tea & Talk at The Wimbledon Club at 5.30pm

**Wandsworth Artists Open House: 11am - 6pm**  
**Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th October**  
**Saturday 12th - Sunday 13th October**  
Visit [wandsworthart.com](http://wandsworthart.com) for details

**Storytelling Evening: 'Lots of Pots and some Stories'**  
**Friday 11th October | 7.30pm,**  
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**Schools Arts Competition**  
**Saturday 16 November - Sunday 18th November**  
The Bowling Pavilion, Wimbledon Park

## LOCAL POLICE

**Safer Neighbourhood Team Meeting**  
**Saturday 17th August | 10.30am**  
St Barnabas Church, Mirror Hall