



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

*Making a difference
to life on the Grid*

GRID NEWS

■■■ WINTER 2019/20 ■■■

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS FACE FURTHER DELAY

The commencement of the long-delayed Southfields 'Public Realm Improvement Programme' has been deferred until early 2020.

"We made the decision to start work in the new year following concerns from some businesses about the busy retail period in the lead up to Christmas" admitted the Council's senior transport planner, Sidonie Forrest-Brown. "Although we would not work through December, there was some concern about the whole lead-up to Christmas. We made the decision to start in January when it's a much quieter retail time. There are also a couple of outstanding issues to resolve, so this allows us time to complete everything".

When work starts, the Council propose these temporary road closures:

- Clonmore Street, for 20m from the junction with Replingham Road for two weeks;
- Elsenham Street, for 20m from the junction with Replingham Road for two weeks;
- Replingham Road, for 30m each side of the junction with Heythorp Street together with the closure of Heythorp Street, for 20m from the junction with Replingham Road for four weeks.

The closures will be sequential, and alternative routes will be signed using Brookwood Road and Engadine Street. The one-way system in Elsenham Street will be suspended to allow local access. All traffic, including cycles, will be prohibited. Work will start at Clonmore Street then move towards the station and along Wimbledon Park Road. The whole project is expected to take around nine months.



THOUSANDS OF BULBS TO BRIGHTEN SPRING

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS

FoCG recently held a very successful bulb planting day in Coronation Gardens, with the help of pupils from Riversdale School, the local Scouts, the Parks Police and Safer Neighbourhood Team, Chris Hibbert from Prime Garden Design, and Enable. Their first community event is on Saturday 14th December, from 4.30-6.00pm. Come and see the Edwardian Gardens magically lit up. Sing along to carols sung by Riversdale, Sheringdale, St Michael's, Saint Cecilia's and Southfields

Academy Schools. Eat Mince pies made and sold by Linden Lodge School pupils, sip our very own mulled Coronation Gin, served by The Earl Spencer, and buy gifts from our local small businesses: Gray & Grennery, Catriona Stevenson Jewellery, Teapot Whistles, Little Ray's Cakes, It's All About Me, Head To Heart Books, Little K Clothing & Ten Little Wishes. What better way to celebrate Christmas? Book early to avoid disappointment at:

focoronationgardens.co.uk/events

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



After a long and beautiful summer in Southfields, it seems that a cold wet winter has now set in. But with lots of exciting developments, there is no need to feel despondent.

Gail's Bakery is arriving soon in the old NatWest Bank building and whilst we

undoubtedly have a lot of coffee and cake shops already, I can't help feeling excited at the prospect of their beautiful baked goods.

Friends of Coronation Gardens has really been busy arranging a community planting event, with Riversdale School and the

Scouts planting bulbs in the flower beds. The daffodils in the strip running from Coronation Gardens to the Merton Road are always stunning. Having the good fortune to overlook the gardens, I am now really looking forward to all the new spring flowers.

This year, in addition to the popular annual Christmas Lights event in Southfields, organised by Southfields Business Forum, Friends of Coronation Gardens are organising a wonderful Christmas event in the Gardens. Tickets are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

And with so much going on to improve our local environment (by which I mean the incredible work done by Green the Grid, Friends of Coronation Gardens and Abundance Southfields), why not ditch your car, avoid the crowds and do your Christmas shopping in Southfields? Our special feature (see pages 8 & 9) has lots of shopping ideas.

I hope you enjoy this Winter issue of Grid News and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Philippa Haslegrave

Editor

philippa@haslegrave.co.uk

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



CHARLES RUNCIE

Welcome to our latest Grid News – gosh winter is upon us! It must be me getting older, but doesn't the year fly by quicker than ever? Nonetheless In our corner of SW London there's always plenty happening. Shop openings, closings, seasonal events, houses bought, houses sold, and (judging by the scaffolding all down my street) plenty being renovated. Southfields never seems to sleep!

A reminder if you've not yet done so, please pay your SGRA 2019-20 annual sub asap! It's a bargain £3 minimum payment, and remember the SGRA gets no grants or council handouts. All the money raised goes towards our efforts towards "making a difference to life on the Grid". Details of how to pay are elsewhere in Grid News

Now, would you like to help the SGRA executive run our work? We've a vacancy for a Secretary to join our team. It's only to run the admin (not onerous, honestly!) but assist in the work of the Executive. From maintaining our external relationships to providing expertise on the many interesting issues the SGRA get involved in, it's fascinating stuff. Please contact me for a chat if you can spare some time.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Charles Runcie

Chairman

charles@charlesruncie.co.uk

WORLD HEART BEAT STRIKES A CHORD AT SOUTHFIELDS HARVEST



MAYOR OF LONDON, SADIQ KHAN, JOINS WORLD HEART BEAT MUSICIANS AT SOUTHFIELDS HARVEST

World Heart Beat Music Academy, the local award-winning music academy

on Kimber Road, took part in Southfields Harvest with a pop-up music tent enabling

children of all ages to drop by and sample instruments for themselves.

The Academy brought a range of instruments including trumpet, violin, saxophone and tabla to name a few and World Heart Beat students were on site to help the fantastic turn out of enthusiastic children keen to trial an instrument. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, came to show his support for inclusive creativity in the arts.

Sahana Gero, Founder and Artistic Director said: "At World Heart Beat Music Academy we take such pleasure in giving children from all backgrounds, some of whom have never played an instrument before, the opportunity to discover the joys of learning music and we welcome the chance to spread the word throughout our community."

For further information please visit World Heart Beat Music Academy at: worldheartbeat.org or call 0208 870 3042.

RIVERSDALE CHILDREN DISCOVER LOCAL HISTORY

A Riversdale School Year 6 student writes about how life in the local area has changed.

Year 6 recently visited St Barnabas Church Hall to speak with members of the local community about how Southfields has changed over the years, for our topic on World War II. It was a fantastic experience and we learnt so much from many interesting people. In the hall, we sat in small groups with different adults, spread across the room and, prepared with our questions, had discussions on specific themes. We swapped groups to get different adults' perspectives on the same topics. By the end, I had plenty of notes to discuss back at school. We learnt that so much can change in just a few years... so what was Southfields like in the 1940's?

These are my notes:

The population is much bigger than it

used to be, because we now have many more citizens from across the world. As the houses are split into flats, it means that more families can live in the same space.

There have been many changes to the shops. There didn't used to be as many shops in the village and many of them now are chains. Before they were smaller, family owned businesses. We also have Southside nearby, which is much bigger than it used to be, offering lots of variety.

The number of cars has increased with the number of people. The most interesting change is how many electric cars there now are, and so many brands! Outside Olive Garden there are chargers which was unheard of, even just a few years ago.

Before, we used to knock on our friends' doors because few people had phones (which were house phones) and everyone is nearby. Nowadays, even though people may be nearby, they all have iPhones or Smart Phones so they don't actually see each other.

Houses have changed a lot because many of them have had extensions and central heating added. The materials that houses can be made of have changed too, so lots of houses in the area look completely different.

Some houses were bombed during the Blitz, that's why some houses in the middle of a street look more modern than the traditional houses.

We did not have computers, we had to go outside and play!

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS UPDATE

Many thanks to the 15% of Grid households who have paid their 2019-2020 annual subscriptions this year and our merry band of street reps who collect it. Your donations go to help support many local initiatives.

If you have still to donate then please use the envelope distributed with the last issue, drop a donation round to your street rep (see back page) or donate online either by PayPal to treasurer@southfieldsgrid.org.uk or direct to our bank account: Sort Code 20-90-69, Account Number 83500020.

Many thanks.

Chris Puleston

SGRA Treasurer

LOCAL NOTES AND PLANNING

Margaret Brett reports

Robin's Cakes has closed and much of the site is being converted into a ground floor flat. There is still a small shop area left. The new Sainsbury's opened on 1 November and the former shop has now closed.

There have been complaints about the changes being made to the small shops in Wimbledon Park Road. Planning permission is needed to change the frontages. The basement conversions are covered by permitted development rules.

Merton Council has changed the speed limit in Durnsford Road to 20mph. The road continues into Wandsworth as Merton Road and the limit changes to 30mph. There are two schools fairly close to this junction and we have asked the Council about their plans to reduce the speed limit. They are currently consulting in other areas and have said that they will look at this further in the new year, subject to the outcome of traffic data.

Thames Tideway have been working in the north east part of King George's Park for some time. They are building an interception shaft to reroute the sewage that currently flows via an overflow sewer into the Wandle under Southside. This work has involved tunnelling from Dormay Street to the park. Charlotte, the tunnel boring machine, successfully reached the shaft on 24 October. After maintenance it will be removed back to Dormay Street to start tunnelling under the river to the Carnwath Road site.

The Local Government Boundary Commission is consulting on ward boundary changes in Wandsworth. This will affect Southfields as they propose changes to the size and shape of the ward and a reduction from three ward councillors to two. Find out more at: lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/wandsworth

SPRING TEA PARTY

This annual free event for older people, with good food and entertainment, will be held on 4 April 2020 from 3-5.30pm at St Barnabas Church Hall, Merton Road.

GAIL'S BAKERY OPENING



A SELECTION OF GAIL'S
FRESH FOOD

Gail's Bakery is scheduled to open in the new year, on the site of the vacant NatWest Bank building, at the junction of Wimbledon Park and Augustus Roads.

Gail's aim is to make world-class craft bread a part of every community. They bake fresh, handmade bread, pastries and cakes every day, served with house blend coffee or afternoon tea.

Gail's also has a policy of trying to keep as little food wasted as possible. Surplus food is donated to over 40 charities across London, including Glass Door, which is held at several churches in Wandsworth, including St Barnabas.

If you know of any charities that could benefit from this surplus food, get in touch at: gailsbread.co.uk

LOTS OF POTS AND WINTRY STORIES

Hannah Need, the Storyteller of Southfields, took part in this autumn's Wandsworth Artists Open House with her friend Sandrine Jarnet. Here, she shares her story:

For Wandsworth Artists Open Houses in October, with my friend Sandrine Jarnet, a potter, we welcomed people into my home to see Sandrine's beautiful work, and enjoy tea and cakes. It was lovely to chat to people and Sandrine shared her knowledge of ceramics. A young visitor was encouraged to pursue her interest in ceramics, and given recommendations for local open studios.

On a very wet evening we welcomed guests to an evening of storytelling, my new show:

'Lots of Pots and Some Stories'. Tea, cakes and red wine warmed up the audience. I told traditional tales with twists, wishes made and some pots. The audience left relaxed, contented and wanting more stories.

Why not join me at the Earl Spencer, Southfields, Thursday November 28th for some Wintery Tales?

Contact: hannahneed@yahoo.co.uk
sjarnet@yahoo.co.uk

SOUTHFIELDS BUSINESS FORUM UPDATE

*Gill Habershon of Southfields
Business Forum reports*

CRIME

Our businesses in Southfields have suffered increasing crime for nearly two years. We have had assaults, armed robbery and shoplifting, all of which have snowballed in the last year. We as a Forum have recently joined the Wandsworth Business against Crime scheme, an online database giving members the ability to submit incident reports to the police, plus securely view and upload photos and details of people suspected of engaging in criminal activity across the borough. We hope this will help to reduce crime in our shops.

SOUTHFIELDS CHRISTMAS EVENT

This popular event returns for 2019 and will happen on Wednesday 4th December from approx. 4.30pm. This year it will again be held on Replingham Road between Food + Wine and the Olive Garden restaurant. The Wimbledon Foundation, part of the All England Tennis Club, is again supporting this event. We shall have stalls, a Father Christmas Grotto, choirs from Riversdale, St. Michael's and Sheringdale schools, the SingSwell Choir and hopefully two school bands. More details will be circulated locally nearer the day, when we hope the Mayor and other dignitaries will be joining us.

Gill Habershon

SBF chair

habershonfamily@googlemail.com

SOUTHFIELDS CHARITY KEEPS MEMORIES ALIVE



BARBARA ALTOUNYAN

Some years ago, when local Southfields resident Barbara Altounyan's father was declared terminally ill, she had the idea of recording his life story on audio, so that his stories would not be lost, and

she would be able to hear his voice after he passed away.

She was so pleased with the recording that she decided to set up a charity, The Hospice Biographers, so that other terminally ill patients could record their stories for posterity.

Here Barbara Altounyan, CEO and Founder of The Hospice Biographers, tells her story:

When I knew my Dad was terminally ill, I had the idea of recording my Dad's life story whilst there was still time. When I asked my mum and my four siblings, they were vehemently against the idea.

"Well let's go and ask Dad then." I said.

I remember Dad said (rather loudly) "Yes of course, what a marvellous idea Barbara." And so I did! It is the best decision I've ever made.

He died just two weeks after I'd finished my recordings, and each member of my family then had the cheek to ask me for a copy!

This inspired me to set up The Hospice Biographers, which is now a nationwide charity. We train specialist volunteers to record, on audio, the life stories of

terminally patients in hospices – all 200 of them across the UK.

We do this for our patients' pleasure and relief and it means their families will still be able to hear their voices and precious memories for generations to come. Since the charity was launched back in November 2017, we've recorded around 180 patient life stories, which would otherwise have been lost forever.

All our recording services are free of charge and we supply a free broadcast quality audio recorder to each and every hospice we train up.

We don't need interviewers at the moment, but we do need part time volunteer and paid bookkeepers, training organisers, fund raisers and meticulous admin staff. Thanks to one very generous person, we have free offices by the Shard in London Bridge, where you will be trained if you want to help us. Thereafter you can work from home and in your own time.

If you're interested in getting involved, please email me on:

barbara@thehospicebiographers.com
Website: thehospicebiographers.com

WELL HEELED IN SOUTHFIELDS



TONY IN HIS SHOP

Born in Paddington, to Cypriot parents, local cobbler Tony has been helping keep Southfields on their feet since 1991.

As a teenager, having very little interest in school, he used to hang out with a friend who worked in a cobbler's shop. He spent so much time there that eventually, the owner offered to train him to be a cobbler.

A few years down the line, he set up his shop in Southfields, and has been here ever since.

As well as shoe mending, Tony does key cutting and watch batteries. You can buy shoe cleaner and cream, as well as laces and shoe trees in his shop.

"I always recommend shoe cream rather than the hard polish. Cream soaks into the leather and nourishes it." Says Tony. "And for suede, use a suede renovator regularly,

but make sure you spray it outside!"

For leather products other than shoes, he recommends Hide Food.

"Hide food is what Bentley and Rolls Royce use on their leather upholstery." Says Tony.

And being in the middle of the cold wet winter months, Tony recommends a rubber sole to protect men's leather soled shoes.

When he's not busy in his shop, Tony is a huge football fan. He supports Arsenal! He is also very keen on cars.

So, if you have a pair of shoes hiding at the back of the wardrobe, that you haven't worn for a while because they need a bit of love and attention, pop in to see Tony on Replingham Road.

MAKING THE NEW YEAR A HAPPY ONE



ANI NAQVI

Sadly, for some people, Christmas is not always the happiest time of year. Due to a variety of circumstances, they are not surrounded by family and loved ones. In the past, local resident Ani Naqvi has been one of these people. Here she talks about the difficulties that many face at Christmas, and gives a practical approach to New Year's Resolutions.

I have often found Christmas a difficult time, my family were dispersed across the four corners of the world and I was a single female and often facing an uncertain future. I'd wonder which friend would invite me for the festive day so I could feel a part of something.

The holiday season can be a time of sadness and loneliness, instead of a time of celebration. But it is also perfect time to go inwards and shift that thinking and set yourself up for a new year and a new way of approaching life transitions like the end of a year.

Before my work as a life coach I would often find myself facing the next year and looking back at what I did or didn't accomplish. Then I would make a list of things I wanted to change. Resolutions like losing weight, getting fit or finding a partner. It was all a bit random and done

last minute.

But a staggering 80% of these New Year resolutions we all make, fail. Most of mine did.

I simply didn't know then how to make these deeper desires actually happen. That came years later as my role as a life coach grew, and I understood how to support people to make these changes happen. I also made them happen in my own life.

It's much easier to make those changes with someone supporting you by your side. Most of us need someone who held us accountable to our bigger life goals. Someone that can spot our blind side be our cheerleader, and challenger at the same time.

I encourage my clients to use the transition to a New Year as an opportunity to do a realistic stock-take on the past year and to set some big picture goals for the next 12 months. Don't just zone in on one area in your life – like love or business. Try and cover your broader life like personal development, purpose, passion, health and wellbeing, family, relationships, career, home etc.

Then see how you want to shift these. Not with resolutions, but with clear life strategies. Mine are things like accepting

myself as I am, being kinder to myself, building my business internationally and with clear focus, laughing more, finishing writing my book and supporting and inspiring others.

What do you need for the next year and can you write that down in a way that both inspires you, and holds you accountable. Can you open that list come next year and see how you have created a smooth path to change?

Wishing everyone a very happy festive season.

Ani is a Transformational Coach, NLP Practitioner & Ayurveda & Yoga Therapist. You can contact her by email or through her website.

Email: ani@anicoaching.com

Website: anicoaching.com

WINDOW WANDERLAND

The ever-popular Window Wanderland is due to take place again in the spring, on the 8th and 9th of February. If you are interested in taking part, visit:

windowwanderland.com



ONE OF LAST YEAR'S DISPLAYS

GREEN THE GRID'S BIG GREEN WEEKEND

Nina Kowalska and Karen Booth, of Green the Grid, give an update on GTG's events and activities.

Over 150 people joined Green the Grid for our first ever Big Green Weekend at Southfields Harvest at the end of September.

Over 120 households came along to pick up free bulbs to deliver a splash of colour to tree bases early next spring, and children designed beautiful front gardens full of colour and wildlife.

We also gave advice to dozens of people on planting their front gardens with demonstrations on a range of subjects including preparing the soil and choosing suitable plants.

This year saw Wandsworth declare a climate emergency and London become a National Park City. London loses a green space the size of two and a half Hyde Parks every year, just from people swapping planting for paving in their gardens. So planting our streets and gardens has never been more important as it delivers

significant environmental benefits - including improving air quality, absorbing carbon and increasing biodiversity - as well as making the Grid a brighter place to live.

On Sunday 29th September, neighbours walked the Grid's first Front Garden Trail, visiting four very different award-winning gardens, to learn more about how each garden was created and pick up some practical ideas.

Finally, save the date for our first event of 2020! We'll be hosting our very own Gardener's Question Time on Thursday 2 April at 7.30 pm at St Barnabas Church, with a panel of local experts to answer your questions! And the Spectacular Sunflowers of Southfields will be back later in the year.

Keep up to date with what we are up to on:

Twitter: @greenthegrid

Website: frontgardenfriendly.uk

Or if you want to get more involved or have any ideas on how we can green our community, email us on:

greenthegridsw18@hotmail.com



ST BARNABAS CHURCH GIVES WINTER SHELTER

On Friday 8 November St Barnabas Church in Lavenham Road once again started hosting a Winter Shelter for homeless people, organised by specialist charity Glass Door. This is the fourth year running that St Barnabas has taken part in this essential scheme to give those without a home a hot meal, safe place to sleep and a light breakfast every Friday night, until 3 April 2020. Other churches taking part and providing shelter on different nights include St Michael's and All Angels in Granville Road.

Guests are provided with a three-course, home-cooked meal and St Barnabas would like to hear from anyone over 18 who would be able to cook for the shelter occasionally, or join the rota to help prepare, serve and clear away on Friday evenings. Food costs can be reimbursed and the serving hours

are from around 6.30pm till 9.30pm. No volunteers are asked to stay overnight as Glass Door staff carry out this responsibility and serve breakfast.

Glass Door runs London's largest open-access network of emergency winter shelters and support services for men and women affected by homelessness. Its vision is a London where no one has to sleep on the streets. By partnering with churches to provide shelter and support, Glass Door is committed to helping people to get off, and stay off, the streets.

In the winter of 2018-2019, a total of 700 individuals, aged between 17 and 83, found shelter across 29 church shelters. Glass Door also works year-round to help guests find work and a permanent home. Between June 2018 and April 2019, 59 guests found work and 204 moved into housing.

If you are interested in volunteering at the St Barnabas Winter Shelter, or cooking/donating suitable food, or donating clothes for the guests, please get in touch.

Email:

stbarnabassouthfieldsoffice@gmail.com

Phone: 0208 480 2290

Or for more about Glass Door visit:

glassdoor.org.uk

This year has been a big year for environmental awareness. So if you want to do your bit for the environment, reduce your carbon footprint, minimise waste and support your local community, why not leave your car at home and do your Christmas shopping in Southfields.

Here is just a taster of what our wonderful shops and businesses in Southfields have to offer.

CHALK

This tiny shop in Southfields is like Dr Who's Tardis. It has gifts for every age group. As a mother of two boys, I was thrilled to see that there was a very even balance of gifts for boys and girls alike. From stocking fillers to more substantial gifts, babies to grandpas, Chalk has it covered!

Tiny tots:

Jellycat soft toys and Orchard puzzles and games.

Children of all ages:

Board games, make your own kits, science kits, bead making kits, girls' hair accessories, stocking fillers.

For the grown-ups:

Heyland and Whittle candles and diffusers and soaps; Chalk's own range of candles - Black Pomegranate, Lime Basil and Mandarin, Fresh Linen; collapsible coffee cups; cheese knife sets; picture frames; bobble hats; scarves; socks; jewellery and a whole lot more.

So, having chosen suitable gifts, they can all be wrapped in recyclable wrapping paper and sent with a charity Christmas card. And don't forget to pick up a pack of 'thank you' cards.

THE VILLAGE BUTCHERS

Christmas would not be Christmas without turkey, or possibly goose or duck, depending on your preference! So why not pop in to The Village Butchers asap to order your bird of choice. The cut-off date for orders is 15 December, but their supply is limited, so don't leave it until the last minute.

Whilst no turkey has ever been known to vote for Christmas, they know that all their



turkeys have had a good life. Roaming free on a farm in Yorkshire, they are fed a unique herb diet.

If you fancy something more exciting than just plain turkey, you could try their three bird roast, which is turkey, duck and chicken. Or for those of you who don't want to be eating cold turkey for days afterwards, why not order a turkey crown or rolled turkey breast?

If you're after something more 'gamey', there is pheasant, guinea fowl, rabbit and venison and all can be accompanied by ready rolled pigs in blankets, or stuffing balls.

All their meat is ethically sourced. The pork is all rare breed and they currently supply Gloucester Old Spot and the lamb is either Salt Marsh from Dorset or Texel.



FRESHERS GREENGROCERS

Love them or hate them, Christmas would not be complete without brussels sprouts. And if you object to too much plastic wrapping on your fruit and veg, or you're fed up throwing surplus vegetables away, then buy exactly what you need in the local greengrocer - just take your own bags to put it in.

This year, as in previous years, the greengrocers will be selling Christmas trees and wreaths. So take a family member or friend with you, to help carry it home.

CHRISTMAS BRIDES

According to research, almost half of all marriage proposals take place over the Christmas season. If you are half of one of those happy couples, you might be needing the services of local resident Lucy Martin.

Lucy runs her own bespoke bridal design business. She has been using the back room at MOMO Design to do fittings, but is currently looking for premises elsewhere in Southfields.

She is planning a sale in early December, so visit her website for further details or bridal inspiration:

lucymartinbridal.co.uk

CECE & ME

Southfields based CeCe & Me is a shoe fitting service for pre-school children. As a parent myself, I know just how important it is to get well fitting shoes for children's rapidly growing feet, and how stressful it can be shopping with a toddler.

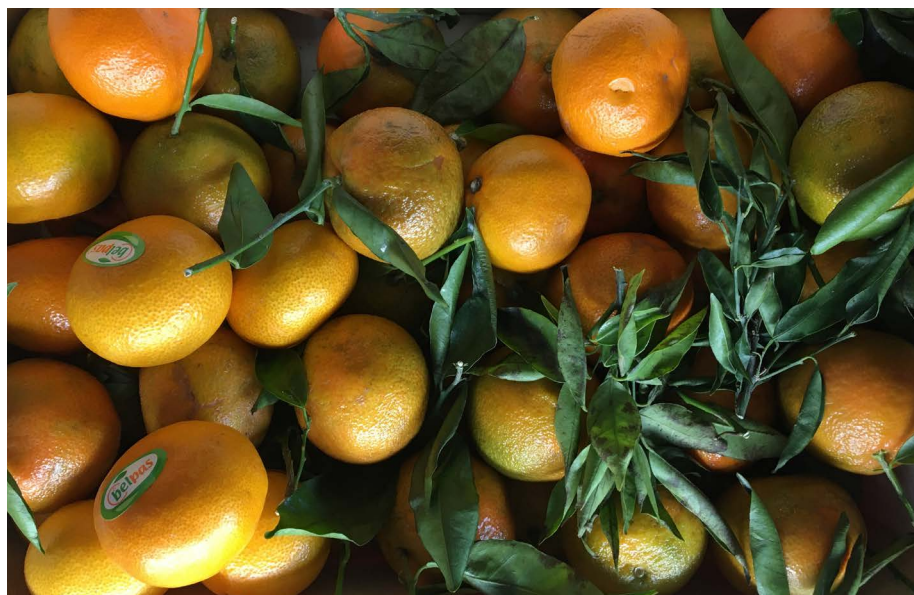
This is where Sam at CeCe & Me comes into her own. Having had many frustrating trips herself, Sam decided to train with the Society of Shoefitters and set up her shoe fitting company.

So, if you need a special pair of shoes for your little ones this Christmas, why not contact CeCe & Me for a shoe fitting? As well as private appointments, Sam operates a pop-up shop at playgroups, soft play and family friendly cafes. To find out more about the shoes she supplies and venues she will be at, visit: ceceandme.co.uk

WINE RACK

Once the turkey (or duck or goose) is in the oven on Christmas Day, many of us like a little tippie. Why not pop into the Wine Rack and select a wine which is perfectly suited to your meal? The staff are always happy to advise and there is a huge variety of wine on offer.

If wine is not your drink of choice, they also have an incredible selection of alternatives. The selection of whisky is impressive, with



everything from your basic blended whisky to Japanese, American and Canadian single malts, with prices varying from £13.99 for a basic bottle to £200 for something a bit special. They also make very good gifts.

And for all those Southfields Hipsters out there, as well as non-hipsters who just like gin, the selection of gins is very impressive. They also sell both Fever-Tree and Schweppes mixers, so all you need is ice and a slice.

I also spotted charming miniatures of all sorts of drinks, which make perfect stocking fillers for grown-ups. Keep your eyes open for their special Christmas deals, which will be available in the run up to Christmas.

GIFT VOUCHERS

If you don't know what to buy for the man / woman who has everything, why not buy them a voucher from one of our local businesses?

Pop in to The Gym next to M&S, where you can buy a variety of vouchers to help work off the effects of the mince pies.

The Villager Salon, does gift vouchers for all hair treatments or you can buy a bundle of their hair products all beautifully wrapped. On Wimbledon Park Road, Le Parlour Nails & Beauty do vouchers for manicures and pedicures, which is always a nice treat. And don't forget Hairline in Brookwood Road does a wide range of hair and nail treatments, have a look at their Facebook page Hairline Southfields.

SWEDISH LADIES ONLY MASSAGE

If you need a gift for a hard-working lady who deserves a treat, why not buy a voucher for the ultimate treatment - a hour and a half Swedish and lymphatic massage, in the comfort of her own home.

Local resident Dede Hawkins is trained in Swedish, lymphatic and relaxation techniques, which promote sleep and well-being, improves circulation and helps the body eliminate toxins.

Call Dede on **07956 443050**.

£60 (plus parking if outside Southfields)



CELEBRATING THE FRONT GARDEN AWARDS 2019



NINA TJARKS RECEIVES HER AWARD FROM THE MAYOR OF WANDSWORTH

Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty gives an update on the Front Gardens Awards 2019

We celebrated the end of the Front Garden Awards 2019 during the SGRA meeting on 24 September when the Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Jane Cooper accompanied by her consort, Mr. Arnold Cooper, joined us for the prize giving. A packed room saw the Mayor proudly present prizes to our overall winner, Nina Tjarks (Heythorp Street), and the two runners up, Clare James and Nick Liszka (Elsenham Street) and Susan Long (Lavenham Road). Nina was also rewarded with the Front Garden Awards Silver Salver which she will retain for a year. The Salver has the names of all previous winners engraved on it and now includes Nina's name too! This was then followed by an illustrated presentation of front gardens, street planted bases and sunflowers, in all their summer glory, by Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, co-ordinator for the Front Garden Awards.

Very well done to all the winners and a big thank you to everyone who participated in this glorious gardening event. The judges thoroughly enjoyed seeing the Grid 'in bloom!' We hope to have another Front Garden Awards celebration in 2020 so keep gardening!

FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS UPDATE

Since its formation in April 2019, FoCG has revitalised our local Edwardian heritage Gardens. It has successfully applied for grants from the Wandsworth Grant Fund and the National Lottery's 'Awards for All'. The FoCG team have set up a website focoronationgardens.co.uk to showcase its work, and hosted a 'Love Parks' public event in early July.

The FoCG has regular liaison with the council managers Enable Leisure + Culture, and this winter there will be a trial to deter anti-social behaviour, when the Gardens will be locked on Thursday-Sunday nights.

The FoCG is applying for a Coop Community Fund grant, to work with local schools, volunteers and Wandsworth BC to devise a sustainable wildlife planting plan. Please sign up to support them at: membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration

If you'd like to support or offer practical gardening help get in touch through the website:

focoronationgardens.co.uk

FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK UPDATE



By Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty

FOWP have been very concerned about the closure of the Wimbledon Park Paddling Pool this summer. This was a huge disappointment for many residents, particularly children. Our Facebook page registered over 10,000 hits on this topic - the most ever! The ongoing closure was due, we understand, to the 'significant failure of the water filtering mechanisms - amongst other items.'

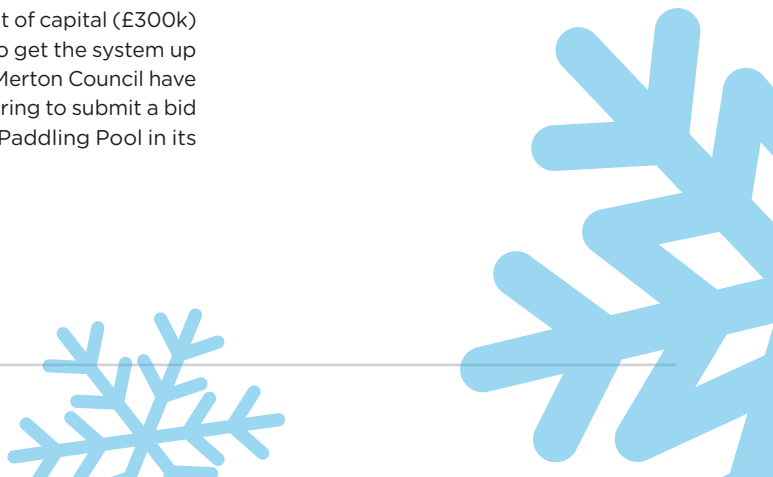
It looks like a fair amount of capital (£300k) is going to be needed to get the system up and running again, but Merton Council have said that they are preparing to submit a bid in order to replace the Paddling Pool in its

entirety. Whether or not this will mean it is ready for summer 2020 remains to be seen.

The FOWP are in the process of preparing our proposals for the water play area, toilets etc, which will be open for public consultation in the near future.

To keep up to date, visit our website:

friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk



LOCK IT AND KEEP IT

PC James Elvy, from the Safer Neighbourhood Team, gives advice on keeping safe this winter.

In the run up to Christmas, it is inevitable that more deliveries will be made to your house and many other houses in your street.

Sadly, delivery drivers often leave parcels (some of them very big) on the doorstep, not even trying to place them in your 'Special Place', when you're out.

Please help your neighbours out if you see this happening. If your neighbours are out, take the parcel in for them.

We recently have been out checking on car doors in the Grid, to see how many have been left open. In just four roads, we found 11 cars open. Please help us to reduce crime by checking that you have locked your car, and remember, if you don't lock your car, you could invalidate your insurance.

As the nights are drawing in and you head out for festive meals and drinks, please make sure that your alarms are set and doors and windows are locked. If you are going to be out all day, and not home before dark, having a light on a timer switch is also good idea.

Bushy bushes or trees which conceal the front of your house are great cover for burglars, so give them a chop and if you don't have a security light at your front door, please think of getting one.

Finally, if you see something suspicious please call 999 and tell Police about it, rather than putting it on Nextdoor or Twitter.

southfields.snt@met.police.uk



BUMPER HARVEST FOR ABUNDANCE SOUTHFIELDS

Richard Konig, from Abundance Southfields, reports on this summer's success

Abundance Southfields has had an amazing 2019 harvest season that extended from June through to late October. This year has delivered a bumper crop of plums and apples, which were either given away for free, or fermented into cider to be sold to raise funds.

This was the first year that volunteers handed out fruit outside the tube station on weekends. It was tremendously well received and a lot of fun to do. Who knew that you could meet so many new people in the neighbourhood, simply by offering an apple? We had quite a few people popping along with bags of apples from their gardens, to add to the fruit we had collected and even had a few allotment growers turn up with extra vegetables that they were happy to share with the community. The intention is not only to repeat this in 2020 but also to extend the idea to other parts of Wandsworth, starting with Earlsfield and Putney.

Abundance is a self-funding project and those funds come from the sale of our cider. Not only does making cider help generate money for equipment, but it is also quite good fun and a great way of processing and storing the harvest for use over the following months.

We have produced 25 batches of around 40 bottles each this year. Each batch is unique in so far as the apples going into it are entirely random varieties, depending on what has been picked that week. Some batches are from a single tree and others from multiple trees that may be a mix of eating and cooking varieties, but all are hand-picked, hand-pressed, local and organic ciders. We have a list of what went into each batch and bottles are numbered correspondingly so that people know which street their cider grew in. We sold out at the Tooting Foodival in August and also had a great day at the Southfields Harvest. We will hold the great 2019 vintage cider tasting and sale event in November. Once we have fixed a date we will let everyone know by email so please sign up to the newsletter via the contacts page on:

abundancesouthfields.com

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Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty at 169

Tania Kowalski at 91

Editor

Philippa Haslegrave
philippa@haslegrave.co.uk

Advertising

Karen Gregory
karengregory33@yahoo.co.uk

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:

Tuesday 26 November 2019

Tuesday 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

Every Tuesday | 10-1pm

Under 3s - for little ones and their carers

Every Friday | 9.30-11.30am

OTHER EVENTS

Spring Tea Party at St Barnabas Church Hall

4 April 2020 | 3-5.30pm

Green the Grid, Gardener's Question Time at St Barnabas Church

2 April | 7.30pm

Safer Neighbourhood Team meetings, all at St Barnabas Church:

Saturday 15th February | 10:30

Saturday 30th May | 10:30

Saturday 8th August | 10:30

Saturday 21st November | 10.30

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST BARNABAS CHURCH

Christmas Fair

Saturday 7th December | 12-3pm

Carol Service

Sunday 15th December | 6pm

Nativity Service

Tuesday 24th December | 4pm

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday 25th December | 10.30am

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Christmas Lights Event, Replingham Road

Wednesday 4 December | 4.30-6.00pm

FoCG Winter WonderGarden

Saturday 14 December | 4.30-6.00pm