



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

*Making a difference
to life on the Grid*

GRID NEWS

■■■ SPRING 2020 ■■■



'STRANGER THINGS' IN SOUTHFIELDS

WINDOW WANDERLAND

Window Wanderland returned to Southfields on the weekend of 8-9th February. This year a record 202 homes and businesses participated transforming their windows into wonderful displays and our streets into a magical outdoor gallery for everyone to enjoy. Harry Potter, Peppa Pig, Stranger Things, Star Wars, Lego, Ghostbusters, Frozen, The Gruffalo, Greta, Butterflies, Bees, Pandas, Koalas and

Owls to name just a few of the amazing windows....and one beautiful tribute to 'Mad John', Southfields legend, who died recently. With heartfelt thanks to all who joined in the fun and to our official sponsors, Number Works 'n Words and the SGRA for their continued support. What great community spirit we have - see you next year, hopefully with better weather!
windowwanderland.com

MUSIC FESTIVAL COMES TO SOUTHFIELDS

This June sees a new brand new music festival coming to our local area. Sounds of Southfields will be taking place over the weekend of Friday 5th - Sunday 7th June in St Barnabas Church, Lavenham Road, and promises to be a diverse and rewarding weekend of wonderful music-making.

A concert at 7.30pm on the Friday evening entitled 'Serenades and Strings' will open the festival, featuring collaborations between local classical music professionals.

Saturday features a 'Come and Sing' event, which is open to all keen amateur singers in the area.

Sunday sees a morning coffee concert of words and music for cello, then on Sunday afternoon from 2pm the church will be host to a family concert entitled 'Squeaks, Squawks and Squeals' featuring Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*, mask-making and more.

The organisers are still looking for musicians who might be interested in performing at the festival, and volunteers to help with stewarding. If this is of interest to you please get in touch with the organisers via info@soundsofsouthfields.co.uk, or visit their website: theartssalon.org for more information as it emerges. You can also follow them on Twitter [@SoSouthfields](https://twitter.com/SoSouthfields).

SWIMBLEDON

Plans for open water swimming in Wimbledon Park have been deferred, after requests for clarification on a number of safety counts were raised by councillors. Detailed proposals from campaigning group 'Swimbledon', developed with Merton Council's Leisure + Culture field office team, had been positively received. The group are now putting together a paper on the relevant safety issues, for the council.

EDITOR'S LETTER



© GERARD SEBASTIAN

Since the last edition of Grid News, it seems that an enormous amount has happened. Not only did we have yet another general election, but with it, our

first Labour MP in 15 years, Fleur Anderson. With a list of candidates who were not familiar to local residents, SGRA Chairman, Charles Runcie, and Rev Ian Tattum, hosted a very successful 'hustings', giving all the candidates the opportunity to introduce themselves to the local community. Whilst Grid News likes to remain non-partisan, we thought our readers would be interested to know a bit more about our new MP Fleur Anderson - see page 7.

This Christmas, Southfields Grid played host to a number of community events, including the first Christmas event to be hosted by Friends of Coronation Gardens, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. See our December roundup on page 8.

On a less cheerful note, January marked the passing of local legend John Wise, aka 'Mad John' a larger than life character, whose impact on those he met and the affection people had for him, was reflected in the turnout for the wonderful vigil outside Southfields Station. See page five.

At the beginning of February, and in spite of the dreadful weather, Southfields was again illuminated by countless talented

local residents, who took part in Window Wanderland.

Gail's bakery finally opened during February half term week and was very busy, sparking a big debate on the Nextdoor app. It seems that residents of Southfields have varied and exacting standards and loyalty to their respective choices of coffee shop.

Despite the dreadful weather we have had, and the whole of Coronation Gardens being waterlogged, the daffodils are already lighting up the path from the gardens to Merton Road. Hopefully it won't be long until all the bulbs planted by FoCG, with help from the Scouts and children from local schools, are brightening up the park.

If you have any news or stories you think Grid residents would be interested in, please get in touch.

I wish everyone a very Happy Easter.

Philippa Haslegrave

Editor

philippa@haslegrave.co.uk

CORONAVIRUS – GETTING THE FACTS STRAIGHT

Report by Philippa Haslegrave

Over the last couple of weeks, like most people, I have been keeping my eye on all the developments about the spread of Coronavirus. I have also seen some extraordinary social media posts (there's the one about holding your breath for 30 seconds to see if you feel a 'burning' sensation!) many are simply untrue and unhelpful.

In order to dispel these myths and give you useful fact-based information, I spoke to Ian Roberts, Professor of Public Health at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Where are the best places to find information on Coronavirus?

There is a lot of useful information on Public Health England's website. (Just type 'Public Health England' into your search engine). Social media, however, is unlikely to be a good source.

The Government website Gov.uk is another good source of science-based information.

For older residents, who do not have internet access, the BBC is very reliable and their reports are in line with the Chief Medical Officer.

My general opinion is to listen to what the Government says. Advice from the Chief Medical Officer is given on the best information available.

Should we panic?

People definitely shouldn't panic. It doesn't achieve anything. Focus on what constructive things you can do to keep yourself and your family safe such as following government advice on hand washing and self-isolating when appropriate.

What can people do to help themselves and others?

In the event that you are told to work from home and not to participate in gatherings

- follow the advice.

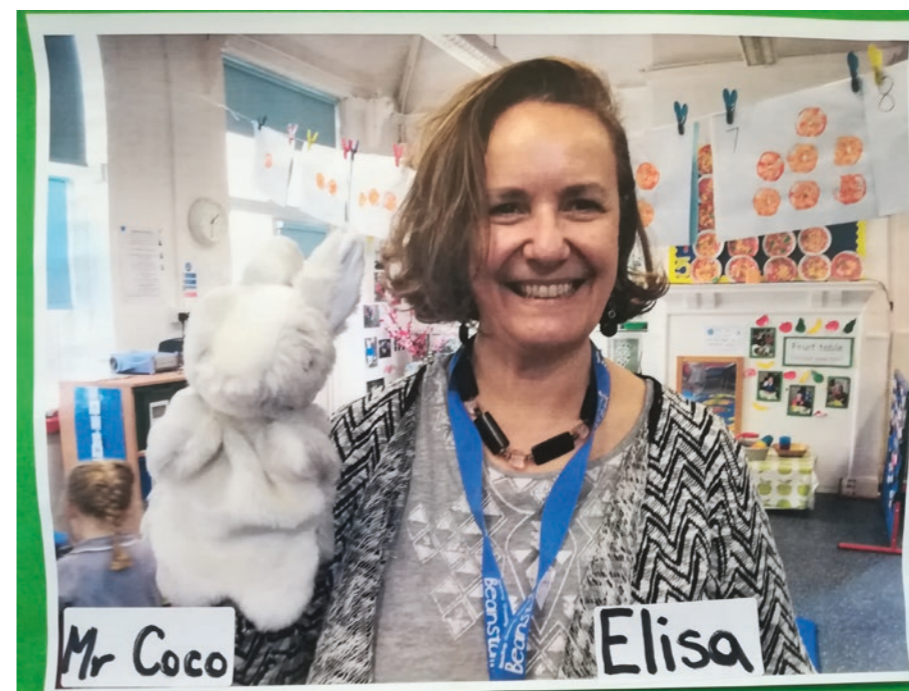
If you are a smoker, there has never been a better time to stop smoking! The Coronavirus reduces your lungs ability to do their job. If you add smoking, it will deplete this ability even more. If you or your friends or family smoke, you should seriously consider quitting and / or helping them quit.

When a smoker quits smoking, they get an improvement in lung function very quickly. Encouraging our friends and family to help quit is one of the best things you can do.

Exercise and keeping fit boosts the immune system, so keep moving and exercising.

If you're worried about a neighbour, and don't want to risk infecting them, keep in touch by phone. You can offer to help do their shopping and leave it outside their door for them.

HELPING WANDSWORTH CHILDREN LEARN TO LOVE TO READ



ELISA SURINI

Do you have some spare time on your hands? If so, why not do something amazing and volunteer as one-to-one reading helper with children in a local Wandsworth school?

Southfields resident Elisa Surini is doing just that. She started three years ago

with the charity Coram Beanstalk, who partnered her with Beatrix Potter School in Earlsfield.

"Due to health reasons, I decided to cut back my working hours and get more involved with my local community, where I have been living for over six years. I'd always wanted to be a reading helper, but

because of my long office hours I could never do it." said Elisa.

"I now volunteer twice a week at the Nursery, reading to five or six children, on a one-to-one basis, to develop their love for books and reading, even before they can read themselves. Think about all the things we have to read every day and you realize how important reading is: a bus timetable, a medicine leaflet, a poster, a recipe, the web. We want to make sure children don't fall behind. Introducing them early to the wonderful experience of reading books, goes a long way towards achieving that."

Elisa says that volunteering is very rewarding, makes her feel happier, is good for one's mental and physical health and is a simple way of giving something to others.

"I am now starting to volunteer for another local charity called Learn2Love2Read which works with seven schools in Wandsworth, giving one-to-one support to children in Years 1 and 2, early literary classes for toddlers, guidance to parents to support their children's reading at home."

If you would like to get involved and could spare 1 or 2 hours per week during term times, please contact:

Coram Beanstalk: corambeanstalk.org.uk

Learn2Love2Read: learn2love2read.org.uk

SENIORS SPRING TEA PARTY - STOP PRESS!

Just as we were about to go to print, the news came through that due to concerns about Corona Virus, the SGRA has decided to delay this year's Seniors' Spring Tea Party until slightly later in the year. The hope is that it will take place in the summer. The SGRA will keep everyone updated through its Facebook page and website and will be following the government's guidelines and advice on gatherings of people.

Just to remind everyone, the plan for the day will hopefully remain the same, with Salt & Pepper providing afternoon tea and the Cygnet Payers, a local theatre group, performing a musical entertainment. There will be a raffle, Bingo, a light-hearted quiz, great company and a display of historic postcards of the area.

We hope that you will be able to attend.



LAST YEAR'S TEA PARTY

LOCAL NOTES AND PLANNING

An update from Margaret Brett

The planning application to develop the rear of 235a-237 Wimbledon Park Road 2019/1231 has been revised. We have many concerns about this development, not least because it closes off access to the rear of Chanteroy and could affect their business. There are still no planning applications for the changes already made to the fronts of the shops in that parade.

The new barbers is now open and we are told that a Polish deli and a juice bar are to go into what was Coral. There is a phone and vape outlet in 243.

The Trieste Restaurant at the traffic lights which has been closed for many months, is planned to be let, as its Italian owners are relocating to Switzerland. The site of the old Sikelia coffee shop near the top of Replingham Road remains up for sale.

There is a planning application to develop the upper floors of 2 Replingham Road as residential and to change the ground floor use to retail. (Planning application number: 2019/4665).

Wandsworth's Environmental and Sustainability Strategy Action Plan has now been approved by the Council. This involves working in partnership with community groups as well as businesses and residents. One of the key actions is to discourage the destruction of biodiversity in gardens such as the paving of front gardens, launching a garden competition and celebrating the borough's gardens.

There is opposition to new dropped curbs for garden parking. We can expect more Electric Vehicle Charging Points and they are looking at differential charging for parking permits to discourage higher polluting and carbon emitting vehicles.

SOUTHFIELDS BUSINESS FORUM

An update from Gill Habershon

Regretfully the businesses in Southfields are having problems with burglaries, shoplifting, and break-ins. Since last June we have had over twenty break-ins and two attempted ones. This figure does not include the constant shoplifting from shops. Last year, Wandsworth Businesses Against Crime team came to visit us and many of the businesses joined their scheme.

Somehow though this does not protect them when their premises get broken into in the early hours of the morning. We ask you all to be vigilant and if you see anything to contact the Police.

Gail's has now opened in the old NatWest Bank building, Sainsbury's old shop unit is still up to let, and the Villager Hair Salon will moving their business across the road to the old Robin's cake shop.

habershonfamily@gmail.com

SOUTHFIELDS HARVEST 2020



**SOUTHFIELDS HARVEST - SATURDAY
26TH SEPTEMBER 2020**

Southfields' much-loved neighbourhood festival will take place on Saturday 26th September from 12-3pm. The organisers need your help preparing stalls, helping on the day, leafleting, PR and ideas for community-minded stalls. If you can spare a little time to ensure the success of this year's event, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact: southfieldsharvest@gmail.com

SOUTHFIELDS IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME

An update from Margaret Brett

The Council have finally started their promised works in Southfields and are replacing the paving on the south side of Replingham Road. This is the first phase of the work that extends from Gartmoor Gardens to Pirbright Road and Sutherland Grove to Clonmore Street and is expected to last 18 months.

Sidonie Forrest-Brown, Senior Transport Planner for Richmond and Wandsworth Councils, who is responsible for delivering this scheme, attended and spoke at the SGRA open meeting on 28th January.

Most of the businesses have signed up to have their forecourts included in the scheme. The junctions will have raised crossings and seven new trees will be planted. There will be seating at the station and a water fountain. There will be more cycle parking spaces.

As part of this work, there has been a road traffic order affecting parking in Replingham Road. There will be loading restrictions 7am-10am and 4pm-7pm Monday - Saturdays in Replingham Road. There will no waiting at any time in Replingham Road (south side) from Clonmore Street to Elsenham Street and also opposite Heythorp Street and Elsenham Street junctions on the north side, as well as outside 17 Replingham Road.

The commemorative bench, that is usually at the top of Replingham Road, is being refurbished by Tideway, the super sewer people who are working in King George's Park, and will be returned. This is part of their contribution to the local community and we welcome their help.

Full details of the improvements scheme can be found in the minutes (see SGRA website), or you can contact S.Forrest-Brown@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk.

STREET REPS WANTED

The SGRA is looking for street reps for Revelstoke Road and Elborough Street. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch:

info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk

OBITUARY JOHN WISE (1935-2020)



A TRIBUTE TO JOHN WISE

Southfields was shocked and saddened to hear of the death in early January of one of its most colourful characters. John Wise, born Paddy Christopher O'Shea, but known to all as 'Mad John', patrolled the streets of Southfields, Wimbledon Park and Putney, on his trusty bike. Dressed in all weathers in his trademark colourful Hawaiian shirts and shorts, with flowing white beard. His banter, usually conducted at the top of his voice, was the stuff of legends. Locals were very fond the man with a mysterious past, a kind heart and penchant for Special Brew.

At the news of his passing, a memorial of flowers, photos and messages quickly sprouted at Southfields Station, then on Saturday 11th January a public tribute was

held at the tube station, drawing over 150 people. His funeral was held at Putney Vale cemetery on Friday March 6th.

Below is a selection of local residents' memories of John:

When I was 17, I was at Southfields station donning my flicked black eyeliner. Mad John came up to me. "You are Priscilla Presley! You are Priscilla Presley!". He got down on bended knee and sang me a wonderful and very loud rendition of 'Are you lonesome tonight' right next to the ticket machines. He was holding my hand the whole way through the song. (Allison Rose)

My Dad owned Azmir Tandoori on Brookwood Road around 1982. We gave him many free meals over the years. He

would come in to buy, but Dad would never take his money. (Latif Bounce)

I thought Wimbledon tennis was always the funniest time, with John around scaring the tennis fans who had no idea who he was while he stopped the traffic with his umbrella. (Ella Soucek)

My fondest memory of him was when he told a group of Japanese tourists "I'm the Mayor of Wimbledon", and they were all having selfies with him. (Victoria McAllister)

I once watched him open the door of the Post Office for a group of American tourists who'd come to watch the tennis. They all started to walk out, not paying him much attention. He suddenly shouted at the top of his voice "Come one your lot, I haven't got all bloody day ". The tourists jumped out of their skin and scuttled down the road as fast as they could. (Lauren Blackwell)

I remember more than one very lengthy (of course) exposition in the mid-90s on why the Titanic sank. Most sentences were prefaced with the words "I've been all around the world" in case one doubted John. It was all about substandard quality control manufacturing the rivets holding the metal together. Funny thing is, John's explanation was a worldwide scoop, as later scientific research showed this to be exactly the reason. (Nick Douse)

He would often engage me with the opening line "Before you go on your merry way ..." then be off in full conversation. One of life's great characters. (Kerina Broughton)

I remember once talking to him with my friend. He said, "they should have a ski lift from Asda in Roehampton to Putney, going down Putney Hill". He had a lot of ideas like that. Southfields will not be the same without him. He was part of it, like the station. (James Sutehall)

He was always around the roundabout near St Mike's with his cans of Special Brew, or up on the Triangle with his bike. He always made you laugh, he could always raise a smile, and he would always give you the time of day. The world needs more people like Mad John. (Hannah Huff)

In 2011 the newsletter published an article about John, which can be found under 'latest posts' on the SGRA website.

LOCAL SHOPS KEEP UP WITH THE TIMES



ANNE MCCLUSKEY WITH PICTURE OF EAMON SNR

Changing habits mean many shops in the Grid have gone forever. However, two favourites are still here: McCluskey's on Revelstoke Road; and Asser's on Lavenham Road. Charles Runcie, SGRA Chairman went to speak to them, to find out how they've adapted.

Eamon Snr and Anne McCluskey came to London from Kilkenny in 1954, arriving in Southfields in 1962. Having previously run pubs, they became the managers of an off-licence on the corner of Elsenham and Revelstoke Roads, previously run by Westminster Wine. This eventually became the McCluskey's we know today, which they've developed into a convenience store, always stocking that bag of sugar, birthday card, pint of milk or household item, plus a range of newspapers and magazines.

Narendra and Kamlesh Asser moved to London from their native Coventry to give Mr Asser more work as a builder. They settled in Lavenham Road in 1982, renovating an upstairs flat on condition they took on the small shop below. Neither had run one before, and the previous owner left it in a poor state, with few customers and out-of-date stock.

They built up the business and moved over the road, to their current premises, in 1989.

"It was a former insurance office and it was the last thing on our minds to run a local shop" laughs Mrs Asser. "A close friend persuaded us to do it". They started with newspapers and magazines down one wall, and stationery and cards down the other, asking customers who came in what they thought should be stocked.



EAMON JR AND THE MEMORIES BOARD

They worked hard, getting in every morning at 5am to prepare the paper rounds, employing two delivery boys who were sons of close friends. They didn't close until 11pm. One of their most popular sales was locally-baked bread. "An Italian family had a bakery up at Beaumont Road, and they supplied us with lovely fresh bread, cakes, mince pies and the like. People came from miles around to buy it, and lots used to order it for Christmas".

Wimbledon fortnight brings business into Southfields, and McCluskey's benefits too.



MRS ASSER IN HER SHOP

The forecourt serves refreshments to 'The Queue' in Wimbledon Park, and customers come back annually to chat and share a cup of tea or chilled drink. The family were overwhelmed by the many messages of condolence and kindness when Eamon Snr died a few years ago. "We had boxes of cards and a huge collection was made by our customers." said Anne, "It really touched us". Inside the shop there's a 'memories' board with photos of the shop and its customers over the decades.

Eamon Jr now runs the shop, supported by Ollie and James who work part-time. "Many local children call us the Green Shop, and I've known many of my customers and their families for decades" says Eamon. "I've always been a huge supporter of my local community, fundraising for charities. I love 'Green the Grid', as I'm passionate about gardening myself, and have created the little garden just outside the shop to support it".

Mrs Asser agrees. "The Grid has a great community atmosphere, with houses now all smart. When we arrived many had broken windows. We used to offer elderly residents a cuppa when they stopped for a chat." After 30 years in the business, changing shopping habits have affected the Asser's trade, and they've just stopped selling newspapers. Although in their 70's, they're not thinking of retiring quite yet, "It's the warmth of the local community that keeps us going."

Next time you need a magazine, a tin of dog food, a card or a snack, go in, say hello and support our two local convenience shops on the Grid.

SOUTHFIELDS WELCOMES ITS NEW MP FLEUR ANDERSON

In December 2019's General Election, Southfields voted in its first Labour MP since 1974. For those who have not yet met her, we invited Fleur Anderson to introduce herself to our community.

I am delighted and honoured to have been elected in December. Thank you to everyone who talked with me or a Labour supporter during the campaign in November and December. We were part of one of the biggest local campaigns in the country, and I'm grateful for your positive interest in all of the candidates. It was a pleasure to talk with so many

local people and now to be representing everyone (no matter who you voted for) in Parliament. I hit the ground running in December and started setting up my offices in Westminster and in Putney, made my maiden speech as early as possible, and have been having regular surgeries.

I've lived in Wandsworth with my family (I have four children) for 25 years, was a local school governor and have been running a local community centre and youth services, so I am very pleased to be on the Education Select Committee.

Other local issues have been the repaving in Southfields village and meeting with

local businesses, meeting with the District Line controllers about the constant delays, mental health services cuts, opposing Heathrow expansion and setting up the Putney Environment Commission.

In my spare time you'll find me walking my dog, ferrying my children about (even though two are now at University) and enjoying theatre and musicals.

I'm holding regular surgeries in Southfields, Putney and Roehampton - please email for latest information, or about any other issue: fleur.anderson.mp@parliament.uk

SGRA FRONT GARDEN AWARDS 2020



ONE OF LAST YEAR'S 'GOLD' AWARD WINNING GARDENS

Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty launches the 2020 Front Garden Awards.

According to the BBC Generation Project, the great news is that gardening could help you live to 100. There is evidence that gardeners live longer and

are less stressed. So, with that in mind, this is a great opportunity to start preparing your front gardens for our awards! Not only will it be good for your health, it would make the Grid more attractive, reduce pollution and provide food and homes for wildlife.

We have two categories: Best Front Gardens, where we will be continuing with the bronze, silver and gold awards; and Best Street Planting, where the best tree-based planting plot in each street will be recognised.

Remember that a front garden could be a window ledge, a space outside your door, pots and containers, hanging baskets as well as a conventional plot.

Winners of Best Front Gardens Gold awards will be eligible to receive the overall Best Front Garden Award.

Judging for both categories will take place from **13 June - 28 June**. Nobody needs to sign up as everyone on the Grid is automatically included.

Last year we had 'Spectacular Sunflowers of Southfields'. This was very popular, so we are repeating it. On 4 April (10am-12pm) Green the Grid is running a 'Sunflower Seed Share' where you can get the seeds to plant, either in front gardens or tree bases, ready for judging in early August.

So, do get digging, pruning, planting, attracting wildlife and gardening. We, the judges, are raring to go! Go on, help us brighten up the Grid even more this year!

For more information on the BBC Generation Project, type: [bbc worklife article 20181210](https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20181210) into your search engine.

DECEMBER ROUND-UP



CHILDREN SING AT WINTER WONDERGARDEN

December in Southfields is always a busy time, but it was made even more so by no less than four well-attended events in only 10 days. It proved, if we needed reminding, that the community spirit is alive and well in the Grid.

First off was the traditional 'switch-on' of our Christmas Lights on Wednesday December 4th, organised by the Southfields Business Forum and sponsored by the Wimbledon Foundation. In mild early evening weather in Replingham Road, and

with an attendance approaching 750, the Mayor of Wandsworth and local resident Cllr Jane Cooper did the honours. Local schools provided musical accompaniment, many shops and businesses had street stalls - even the Young's famous dray horses turned up.

Three days later, Saturday 7th, St Barnabas Church was buzzing with its annual Christmas Fair. A multitude of stalls did a roaring pre-Christmas trade, including many from Grid residents, plus there was

plenty of Christmas cheer around thanks to the mulled wine!

Two days later, politics took centre stage at a packed St Barnabas. The SGRA and Rev Ian Tattum hosted a hustings to coincide with that week's General Election. It was great to see all four candidates turning up to talk about and debate their policies in front of 250 people in a combative but well-mannered fashion. Talking afterwards, all said it was the best hustings they had taken part in. Honours at the polls later that week went to local councillor Fleur Anderson.

Finally, on the afternoon of Saturday 14th December the first ever Winter Wondergarden was held in Coronation Gardens. Tickets for it had sold out in 48 hours, delighting the organisers, with the proceedings designed to raise money for the recently-formed Friends group as well as celebrate our local heritage gardens. Primary school choirs from Riversdale and Sheringdale sang some lovely Christmas songs and carols, there were several stalls for those last-minute presents, plus the local Royal Marines and police were on display to the public. It was a lovely festive atmosphere and the good news is that it will return on Saturday 12th December 2020, even bigger and better.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SOUTHFIELDS LIBRARY THIS SPRING

By Sucheta Samant, Library Manager

Southfields library is an award-winning library, hidden up a pathway leading from Wimbledon Park Road onto the Wimbledon Park Estate, near the new Sainsbury's. It has something for every age group.

For the younger ones: Science Club for girls. Come and discover fun in science and many other craft activities. Babies - tell Dad to bring you to our special "Dad's Rhyme Time" sessions.

For the more mature: four different monthly meetings for all ages. Get help using our computers, or your own laptops, start emailing family and friends, or revise for your exams.

You can play Scrabble with our club or make tactile books for the Clearvision charity, to help blind and partially-sighted children; save money by borrowing the latest fiction and non-fiction bestsellers for free; or make new friends or reminisce about the past during our 'Reading Friends' sessions.

The local council ward boundaries are possibly changing, so do pop into the library to see a map of the proposed new boundaries.

For dates and times visit our website, or just pop in.

better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/southfields-library

GREEN THE GRID GARDENING QUESTION TIME

Nina Kowalska of GTG reports

This spring, Green the Grid is planning something slightly different.

Join us for our first Green the Grid 'Gardening Question Time' on the evening of Thursday 2 April from 7.45 - 9.15 pm at St Barnabas Church Hall on Lavenham Road. This will be your chance to come along and ask our panel of local horticultural and sustainability experts questions on all aspects of gardening and greening.

Maybe you want to turn your front garden a haven for bees and butterflies and don't know where to start. Perhaps you want to start growing your own fruit and veg or want to create a beautiful window box display. It doesn't matter if you are

a beginner or experienced - everyone is welcome and it's also a chance to meet like-minded neighbours over a drink or two.

And finally... last year's Spectacular Sunflowers of Southfields saw the Grid resplendent with bright summery sunflowers. We're repeating the event this year so if you want to get involved, come along to McCluskeys on Revelstoke Road on Saturday 4 April from 10 am to collect your free sunflower plants or seeds. We're on a mission to plant even more sunflowers this year.

To reserve your place for 'Gardening Question Time' and to submit a question in advance email us at:

greenhthegridsw18@hotmail.com



LAST YEAR'S SUNFLOWERS IN SOUTHFIELDS

FANCY RENTING A ROOM OUT DURING WIMBLEDON?



JENNIFER DRYSDALE OF ACER LETTINGS

Jennifer Drysdale of Acer Lettings explains how it's done.

10 years ago we decided to let someone else pay for our holiday by doing a 'Wimbledon Let'. We'd just completed an

extensive renovation, so I was a bit nervous, but I needn't have worried. I loved the experience so much I bought the company!

Acer Tennis Lettings only deals with players (including the Top 5), media companies, tennis associations etc. They're people who come to the Championships to work, not party! Our clients love Southfields, some have been coming for years, often staying at the same house. Tennis lets are easy and lucrative. The tenants are hardly in, as they work long hours, want to eat out then come back to a nice place to sleep.

Most clients ask, "what do I need to clear?" Well, imagine your fussy mother-in-law is staying - clean, decluttered and comfortable, not depersonalised!

My top recommendations are:

- Clear a metre of hanging and a couple of drawers in each bedroom. Empty your fridge/freezer and a kitchen cupboard.
- Take anything sentimental/fragile/valuable with you or keep a room for storage.

- Only make available the space you feel comfortable with. Some homeowners make all the bedrooms available but setting aside the study/nursery/junk room is fine. We have tenants for everything, from one bedroom flats to five bedroom houses.
- Buy some white, 100% cotton, mid-range bedding and towels. John Lewis or Marks and Spencer sales are ideal!

I've never known anything go missing, but gifts left behind is different. Championship towels, humungous tennis shoes, tennis balls, a freezer-full of steaks once, and heartfelt 'thank you' cards are just some. Tennis people are like Grid residents - happy, normal, respectful people. I couldn't be happier to live and work with both!

This year's Wimbledon tennis Championships run from Monday 29th June to Sunday July 12th.

You can find out more at:

acertennislettings.com

FIX IT DON'T BIN IT

Fed up with throwing stuff away? Want to repair and reuse electrics, electronics and more? SGRA Secretary, Serena Potter, outlines her hopes for a 'Restart Project'

We are currently looking into the possibility of starting up 'repair' events on the Grid using the support of 'The Restart Project' or similar projects.

I recently visited a 'Restart Party' in Tooting, organised with Transition Town Tooting and saw a room full of volunteers helping people to fix laptops, a vacuum cleaner, an iron and a fan heater! The community buzz was tremendous and items were saved from landfill.

There were several volunteers who live locally, and volunteers from Restart were supporting. We would like to try to develop this on the Grid and would love to hear from anyone who is interested, whether it be as a vital volunteer who has some knowledge of electronics/electrics/carpentry/sewing or general mending, or as a general helper in setting it up. Professionals/ex-professionals or willing amateur repairers are all welcome. There are clear guidelines regarding safety and insurance to which we will adhere.

If you're interested in finding out more, or want to take an item to be repaired, the next event in Tooting is on Saturday 28th March 1.30-4.30pm. They have a further one on 16th May.

We have invited a speaker from The Restart Project to come to our next SGRA meeting on 31st March and tell us more. Please contact Serena Potter with any queries or offers of volunteering:

info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk

For more details visit:

therestartproject.org/parties/tooting-20/

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM UPDATE



Although the Grid is a low crime area, there's been a huge increase in catalytic converters being stolen from vehicles. This is not just in the Grid but nationwide. The main vehicles being

targeted are Honda Jazz and Toyota Prius vehicles. If you have one of these vehicles, please make steps to secure it.

General theft from inside vehicles has also risen, with residents still not locking

them. We continue to find cars unlocked on Grid streets, for example we found than 15 unlocked cars in 45 minutes on a recent patrol. Items are sometimes left out on display, so please ensure you check your vehicle when you leave it. Most thefts from vehicles are when they're left open, as very few are actually 'broken into' with damage caused.

Secondly, we've had a few thefts of parcels. If you are expecting a delivery, and you know you won't be in your house when it arrives, please get in delivered to a nominated place. It could be a neighbour, your local Post Office, or collection point.

Thirdly, there have been a few burglaries in the Grid recently where suspects have used overgrown bushes and foliage to keep them hidden. If you have overgrown bushes, please have them cut. If you know of an elderly neighbour who has overgrown hedges or bushes, and might need help in doing this, please contact the SGRA or our team and we'll see what we can do.

Finally, stay safe, and remember if you see anything suspicious dial 101 straight away.

PC Elvy, Safer Neighbourhood Team

southfields.snt@met.police.uk

FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS BLOOMING YEAR



Charles Runcie reports on a year of the Friends' group

On April 3rd, 2019 the Friends of Coronation Gardens was formed. In less than a year we've made huge strides improving our small heritage Gardens. Our aims? To make the Gardens safer, more

attractive and more inviting. We'd like more people to use the Gardens too, and were very grateful to receive a grant from Wandsworth Council's Wandsworth Grant Fund last summer.

We planted bulbs in the autumn, and held a sell-out 'Winder Wondergarden' community event for 600 before Christmas.

With help from a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All, we're planning more events and activities, including a summer picnic on Saturday 4th July as part of Wandsworth Love Parks. We'll also see the play area of the nursery available for everyone by this summer.

We've been working closely with Enable Leisure and Culture, who manage the Gardens on behalf of Wandsworth Council. We've been trialling over the winter locking the gates at night to reduce anti-social behaviour, and we've got a great relationship with the Parks Police and the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

We hold our Annual Meeting on Wednesday 25th March at the Scout Hut, Pirbright Road at 7.30pm. Come along and have your say, or maybe join our committee.

Find out more about FoCG at focoronationgardens.co.uk and become a Friend. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. You can also raise money for us by shopping at the Co-op. Find out more at: membership.coop.co.uk/causes/36211.

EVERY PENNY COUNTS

Every year, the SGRA asks for Membership Subscriptions. Our treasurer, Chris Pulesden explains why this money is needed and how it is spent.

Your donations help a number of local initiatives.

Subscriptions from Southfields grid residents fund the Annual Tea Party, the Front Garden Competition and give support for a number of exciting activities including this year Green the Grid, Friends of Coronation Gardens and the recent

Window Wanderland. It also funds our SGRA admin costs.

Our financial year ends at the end of May, so many thanks to everyone who has already made a donation to help us fund these local projects. Street collections are 12% down on last year but there is still time to make this up before we close the accounts for the year, so we can fund even more next year.

If you have still to contribute (the annual minimum is £3) please drop a donation

round to your street rep (see back page for address) 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.**

Thank you.

Chris Puleston - Treasurer

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Vice-chair: Gerard Sebastian
ggerard.sebastian@gmail.com

Secretary: Serena Potter
info@southfieldsgrid.co.uk

Treasurer: Chris Puleston | 07715 054609
chrispuleston@gmail.com

Committee Members: Margaret Brett,
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

Andrew Dunley at 90 Elsenham

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

Merton Road

Tim Lynch

timothyedwardlynch@yahoo.co.uk

Pirbright Road

Charles Runcie at 17

Replingham Road

Graham Skyrme at 130a

Revelstoke Road

Vacant, volunteers welcome

Trentham Street

Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty at 169

Tania Kowalski at 91

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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 by June 15th, Philippa Haslegrave.

SGRA OPEN MEETING DATES 2020

Held at St Barnabas Church at 7.45pm:
Tuesday 31st March
Tuesday 26th May - Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 21st July

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
Every Tuesday | 10-1pm

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

CHURCH SERVICES AT ST BARNABAS CHURCH

Passion Sunday Service
Sunday 29th March | 10.30am

Palm Sunday Service
Sunday 5th April | 10.30am

Choral Evensong
Sunday 5th April | 6.30pm

Night Prayer
April 6th, 7th & 8th | 8pm

Maundy Thursday Eucharist
Thursday 9th April | 8pm

Good Friday Eucharist
Friday 10th April | 12noon

Vigil Service at St Barnabas
Saturday 11th April | 9pm

Easter Sunday Eucharist
Sunday, 12th April | 10.30am

OTHER EVENTS

Thursday 19th March, 8pm, **Friends of Wimbledon Park AGM**, St Barnabas Church Hall

Wednesday 25th March, 7.30pm, **FoCG Annual Meeting**, Scout Hut, Pirbright Road

Thursday 2nd April, 8-9.15pm, **Gardening Question Time**, St Barnabas Church Hall

Saturday 4th April, 10am-12pm, **GTG sunflower seeds share**, McCluskey's, Revelstoke Rd

25th-26th April, **Friends of Wimbledon Park Nature Weekend** - Microscopy, Nature & Heritage Walk, Hedgehogs and Bat Walk. For further info see FOWP Facebook page

Cygnets Players Present: The Vicar of Dibley, St Barnabas Church:
Sunday 17th May pm
18th-22nd May - evenings
Saturday 23rd May pm

5th-7th June, **Sounds of Southfields**, St Barnabas Church

12th-28th June, **Judging for SGRA Front Gardens Awards**

Saturday 4th July, 12-3pm, **FOCG Picnic in Coronation Gardens**

Saturday 26th September, 12-3pm, **Southfields Harvest**, St Barnabas Church