



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

*Making a difference
to life on the Grid*

GRID NEWS

Winter 2020

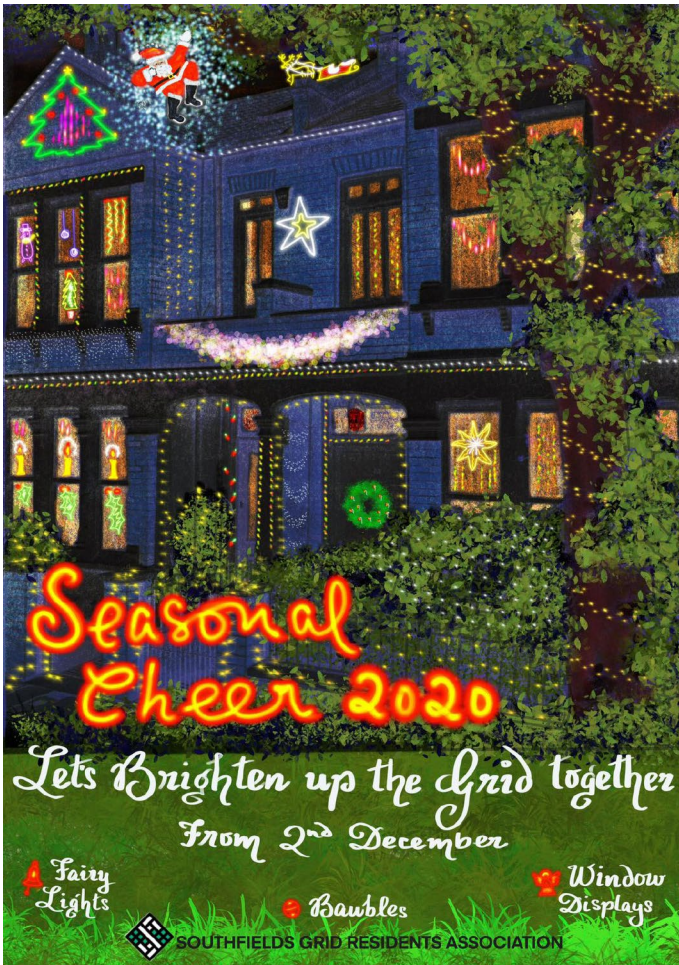
CHRISTMAS CONCERT CHEER WITH THE AUGUSTUS CONSORT SINGERS

We all need some Christmas cheer after the events of 2020, so on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd December, local choral group The Augustus Consort will provide just that! They return to St Barnabas Church for an a cappella choral concert of Christmas music from the 16-21st centuries as part of the Sounds of Southfields Live Autumn Series.

They are planning four performances of a programme of music by Tomás Luis de Victoria, Kenneth Leighton, Francis Poulenc and more. Performances are at 6pm and 8pm each day, and tickets are £15 each. They will also live stream one of the performances into local care homes. Their BYOB policy remains, so bring your favourite beverage and glasses.

On Christmas Eve afternoon, they are organising a wandering band of Christmas carollers, available 'on demand' throughout the Grid and the wider Southfields area. Timings are yet to be finalised, but a schedule will be online, and residents can make on-demand 'request stops' via Twitter.

For a full concert programme and more information about the music and performers, visit their website at soundsofsouthfields.co.uk.



Decorate your house for Christmas to cheer everyone up

SEASONAL CHEER

After a very challenging 2020, we could all do with some cheering up, so please join the SGRA and help brighten up the Grid with some 'seasonal cheer'!

We want to liven up our streets by asking you all to decorate your front gardens, balconies, windows, window sills, front doors etc. with displays, garlands, baubles, fairy lights, greenery and anything else you can think of!

We noticed a few houses had a head start in November, and they look beautiful, but if you haven't put your decorations up already, don't hold back!



Please see the article on page three for details on how you can help support our local elderly and vulnerable residents this Christmas.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Neighbours,

After two years editing Grid News, I have decided that it is time to stand down and let someone else take on the role.

It has been a great experience editing the newsletter. I have met more local people than I ever would have done otherwise - and what a fantastic and talented community we have.

I have seen Green the Grid and the Friends of Coronation Gardens grow from seedlings into the fantastic and

successful organisations they have become. I have also witnessed the incredible generosity and hard work that the founders and volunteers of the Grid Alliance have put in, to support the Grid during this unprecedented year.

This year has undoubtedly been challenging for everyone. No one has been left untouched by it, and I sincerely hope that next year we are on track for vaccinations to allow us all to return to our normal lives again.

In the meantime, supporting our local shops (once they have re-opened) and

protecting our local vulnerable people has to remain a priority. So let's shop local and decorate our houses to cheer everyone up and maybe support our neighbour, Emma Chisholm, who is running Wandsworth's Operation Christmas Cheer for the charity Age UK (see article on page 3).

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes 2021.

Philippa Haslegrave

SOUTHFIELDS RESIDENT LAUNCHES ONLINE PARENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Despite having prepared a beautiful nursery and having a well-packed hospital bag, the reality of arriving home with a newborn baby was a shock for Lara Russell-Jones, as it is for many parents. She quickly became aware of the sudden change to new parents' lives and the anxiety of not really knowing who to ask for help.

Whilst on maternity leave from her job at a leading management consultancy firm, Lara decided to set up Apparently Kids. It is a directory service which is free for parents to use, and designed to help parents in the Grid and the Wandsworth & Merton area, to access the wide range of professional baby and child support services available to them. "We're so lucky in this area to have amazing professionals who can support us, but many new parents just aren't aware of them" explains Lara.

"The extensive range of services includes: infant first aid courses teaching baby specific lifesaving techniques, specialist women's health physios and postnatal personal trainers, to help new mums

recover from birth, and even respite night nanny or postnatal doulas. From fertility services through to the toddler years, the website can help."

All professionals listed on the Apparently Kids website come from personal recommendations, which are followed up by background checks, to ensure they are suitably qualified, accredited and have appropriate insurance. Testimonials, which have been personally verified, can be found for each professional. Lara also offers an anonymous 'ask the expert' section on the site, where parents can ask professionals a question free of charge.

Having started in the Grid, Lara is now expanding Apparently across London and beyond - we wish her all the best!

For further information visit: apparentlykids.co.uk

Or follow them on Twitter:

@apparentlykids

DOGS ON THE GREEN

There has been a significant increase in the number of new dogs and puppies in the Grid since the lockdowns. It is wonderful to have so many new furry neighbours, however whilst most owners are responsible and clear up after their pet, sadly there are a few who are not. Please remember:

1. Parks are a wonderful place for both children and dogs to play. Parents should not have to worry about their children being contaminated with dog waste.
2. The lovely tree bases people spent so much time cultivating are not dog toilets. It's heart-breaking to see them torn up and soiled.
3. There are no 'dog poo bag fairies' and they don't make attractive decorations. Please do not drop dog waste bags on the side of the road or tree bases, or hang them on tree branches. If you can't find a bin, take them home and dispose of them properly.
4. Please keep our pavements clean and safe by being responsible dog owners, and not leaving any dog waste lying about.

Thank you for helping to keep the Grid tidy.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHEER

By Emma Chisholm, Trentham Street resident and Community and Wellbeing Lead for Age UK Wandsworth,

This year has been tough for all of us, but especially so for our older residents who have been most at risk from COVID-19. And with all the usual festive events cancelled and likely restrictions on family visiting, winter is looking difficult too. In my role as Community and Wellbeing lead at Age UK Wandsworth, I wanted to run an initiative to do something about this and so Operation Christmas Cheer was born! Our mission is to ensure every isolated older person in Wandsworth has a reason to smile this Christmas and the support they need to get through winter. The plan is to make and deliver Christmas parcels to over 1000 isolated older people in Wandsworth.

The parcels will contain lovely treat items, Christmas cards from local school children, craft kits to keep busy with, practical things to keep warm and safe, plus important information on the local support available.

The response from the community so far has been amazing. We have 10 local schools involved hand-making Christmas cards, local street collections of items for the parcels, teams of residents hand-making face-masks and even a local celebrity, Ainsley Harriot, championing the campaign!

The deliveries will start w/c 14th December and there are 3 things that you can do to help:

1) **Buy an item for a parcel.** Boxes of biscuits, chocolates, nice toiletries, hot-water bottles, hand sanitiser and sturdy bags.

2) **Make an item for a parcel.** We have schools working on the cards but we are keen for more hand-made facemasks and knitted hats, scarves and gloves

3) **Donate the cost of a parcel.** This will allow us to buy items we are in need of and make more parcels!

The information on how to do all of this is on our website: ageukwandsworth.org.uk. If you don't have access to a computer and would like to help, call: 0208 877 8940

Thank you for all your support, lets end 2020 with some much needed Christmas Cheer!



CHI FROM AGE UK WITH CHRISTMAS MASKS

POP-UP TARTS



POP-UP TARTS POP UP SHOP

After a challenging time for the high street, Pop-Up Tarts, run by Southfields' business women Lucy Martin and Alex Townshend, delighted fashion-conscious local residents with their recent pop-up shop on Replingham Road. It was an injection of some much-needed retail therapy at a time when everyone has been craving something stylish to replace their loungewear. Even better, it allowed them to do it close to home.

It was the second event the pair have run in Southfields and demand was high. At the time of writing, a third event is being provisionally planned post lockdown. But please visit their website which will be kept up to date with details of future events.

Pop-Up Tarts was established because, like many of us, Lucy (a local wedding dress

designer) and Alex (a psychotherapist) can't bear the idea of the high street dying. They wanted to find a way to connect lesser known brands to the empty retail space that is appearing in the village. It is an initiative which, given the current economics, seems more important than ever.

"Since the pandemic started, our Pop Ups haven't just been about selling stuff," explains Alex. "They have shown how important community and customer engagement is. We don't just introduce people to brands and products they don't know about, we offer local connection and an in-person experience".

For future events and latest stock, sign up at Instagram @popup_tarts, or visit their website: popuptarts.co.uk

LOCAL PLANNING NOTES

An update from Margaret Brett

The public realm improvements in Southfields have been delayed because of the late arrival of materials. The contractors will now finish on Replingham Road in mid-December and restart in early January by Gartmoor Gardens, when they will work back along Wimbledon Park Road.

The pavement outside the Oxfam shop will have a slightly different pavement treatment and is scheduled to be laid further into next year. It is pleasing to see our refurbished SGRA bench, donated to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002, returned to its spot at the top of Replingham Road.

Planners have refused the planning application to build on land adjacent to 147 Lavenham Road because it is the garden space for the flats at 406-8 Merton Road. The Council has a policy of protecting garden space. One of the reasons the flats gained planning permission in 2005 was that there was to be a communal garden.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has produced final proposals for redrawing the boundaries of the Southfields Ward.

All the ward boundaries in Wandsworth are set to change, the result being we will only

be able to elect two ward councillors rather than three in the 2022 elections. These proposals still need parliamentary approval.

The SGRA responded to the consultation on the government's Planning White Paper. Our key concern is the recommendation to curtail any community input from the neighbours affected or other interested parties such as ourselves at the time when specific planning proposals are known.

Margaret Brett, SGRA Executive

SOUTHFIELDS BUSINESS FORUM UPDATE

By Gill Habershon,

At the time of writing, most of the independent shops in Southfields are in lockdown, so I have decided to concentrate my column on news about our empty shops.

REPLINGHAM ROAD

2 Replingham Road - the old Bulcraigs solicitors, has been bought by a business couple, who have planning permission to develop it building into ground floor retail with residential units above.

3 Replingham Road - the old Sikelia site is still on the market.

16/ 18 Replingham Road - Barclays Bank has closed and the ATM has been removed.

27 Replingham Road - the old Village Hairdressers is for sale.

WIMBLEDON PARK ROAD

258 Wimbledon Park Road - the old Oscar Knight. It opened in late November as a dry cleaner with a difference. Called Drop Let, it will open 7 days a week from 10am- 5pm, and they also offer a repair services for clothes and other garments.

255-257 Wimbledon Park Road - the old DeRosier shop has a new buyer, but no information will be made public until the transaction is completed.

Old Post Office - there's interest being shown for the 2 retail units there.

253 Wimbledon Park Road - the old Trieste site has a buyer, but unfortunately there is a delay in completing due to TFL.

253a Wimbledon Park Road - the ice cream parlour has now left.

256 Wimbledon Park Road - there has been interest in the old Sainsbury's building, but to date no further news.

I hope this is of help - please remember to shop local, as they depend on your support!

Gill Habershon, SBF chair habershonfamily@googlemail.com

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM UPDATE

Hello from your SNT of PCs James, Robbie & Don. We hope you are staying safe during these difficult times. We would like to highlight three areas of continuing concern:

Firstly, it is the time of the year when we usually see an increase in burglary and thefts. However, hopefully you are following the Government guidelines and staying at home when possible.

If you are expecting a delivery, and for whatever reason you are not going to be at

home, please get the parcel re-directed to a neighbour if you can, or collect it from the Post Office or nearby depot/drop off point.

We all know certain delivery companies are better than others, with items being left outside on doorsteps. If you see this, please do the neighbourly thing and bring it in, or even knock on their door to make sure they are not in.

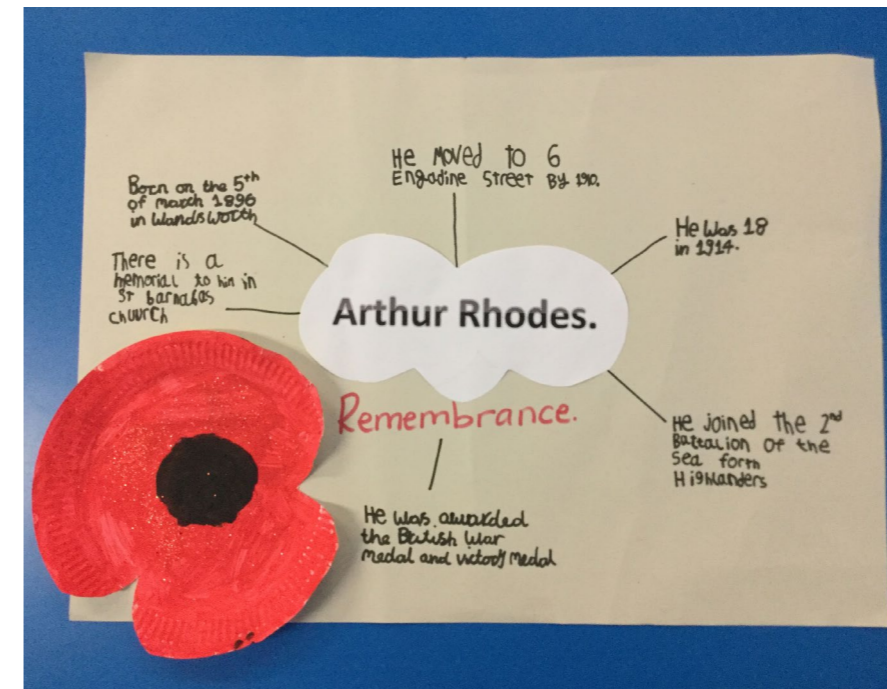
Secondly, we have recently completed a "Day of doors", seeing if any cars have been left

open in streets on our patrols. Again, we are frustrated at the number of open vehicles we find, especially with valuables left on display. Please remember - LOCK YOUR CARS and REMOVE ALL VALUABLES.

Thirdly we have once again been receiving emails and social media messages saying, "a crime is being committed", or has just been committed. If you see this happening PLEASE CALL 999 immediately, or the opportunity to arrest the suspects will be lost.

Finally, if you have a house alarm please use it!

ENGADINE STREET WAR VETERAN REMEMBERED BY SOUTHMEAD SCHOOL



ARTHUR RHODES SCHOOL PROJECT

Children at Southmead Primary School have been learning about a former Southfields Grid soldier, killed in the First World War, who is commemorated with a memorial at St Barnabas Church. The school was trying to find a local First World War soldier, named on the St Barnabas parishioners memorial, for a class to learn about as part of their Remembrance Day project. With the help of the SGRA, they discovered Arthur Rhodes (1896 - 1916). He lived on Engadine Street, just 10 minutes walk from the school.

"In the UK's school curriculum, it states children should learn about 'significant historical events, people and places in their own locality'" explained subject lead teacher Kristin McInnes. "It's incredibly important that the history we teach is not only about our wider nation, but local. It's important for children to learn about the significant people from Southfields, as it helps them to connect with history by making it a more memorable learning experience".



ST BARNABAS WAR MEMORIAL

The oldest of the five children of Arthur and Alice Rhodes, Arthur junior was born on 5th March 1896 in Wandsworth. After a spell in Fulham the family moved in 1910 to 6 Engadine Street, probably when these houses were built. Arthur was 18 when he enlisted in 1914. After training he joined the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, eventually transferred to the Machine Gun Corps (known as the "suicide club") and was killed in action on 12th November 1916. He was awarded both the British War Medal and Victory Medal and is buried at the Maily Maillot cemetery in the Somme area of France. There is a memorial to him in St Barnabas Church, and he is recorded on the Southfields war memorial. Arthur senior remained at 6 Engadine Street until his death in 1932.

"Arthur Rhodes was a soldier from our local area" said Kirstin, "and it's important to Southmead Primary School to remember people local to our school who demonstrated values of bravery and valour, and for their achievements".

GRID MILKMAN IAN'S ON TV

Our favourite Grid milkman Ian Beardwell has been the subject of a feature on the BBC, his third starring role on TV in just over a year. A camera crew from the new BBC1 show Morning Live, spent an early hour with Ian last month, filming a feature all about the recent increased popularity of the UK's milkmen and women.

Presenter Sabrina Grant chatted to Ian about what his role is these days, as well as to local resident Charles Runcie on Pirbright Road about what makes having

a fresh milk delivery in our area so special. Ian, the third generation of milkmen in his family, has recently had a 50% increase in his customers since lockdown started. More people than ever warm to the idea of not only a doorstep delivery, but also using glass milk bottles instead of supermarket plastic.

Ian was the UK Milkman of the Year in 2019 and been the subject of films about his work on ITV London and ARD in Germany.



IAN BEARDWELL BEING FILMED

END OF AN ERA AS BARCLAYS BANK CLOSES OUR SOUTHFIELDS BRANCH

Decades of banking history in Southfields came to an end on Bonfire Night with the closure of our last remaining bank. Barclays closed their branch on Replingham Road, which had been there for over 90 years, on 5th November despite protests from both customers and local MP Fleur Anderson. The 85 regular customers using this branch exclusively for their banking will now have to travel to the nearest branch at 60 Putney High Street, 1.8 miles away using the 39 bus. Routine banking facilities can be done at our nearby Post Office.

A spokesman for the bank told Grid News: "The decision to close a branch is never an easy one, however customers are increasingly using alternatives to branches to do their banking. As a result, we are seeing a sustained fall in branch visits across the UK.

This is reflected at the Southfields branch where there has been an 18% reduction in counter transactions in the two years to September 2019. In addition, over 90 per cent of customers at the branch are also using different ways to bank. We look forward to continuing to support our local customers at our alternative branches, or through one of the many alternatives to branch based banking".

Barclays was the last of the three branches in Southfields to close in recent years. HSBC shut its doors in 2016, and is now Caffè Nero, while NatWest closed in 2019 to become a Gail's Bakery early this year. The bank added they did not intend to make anyone redundant because of this closure. People working there have been offered alternative roles in the bank.



BARCLAYS BANK IN THE 1930'S

OXFAM SOUTHFIELDS CELEBRATES A RECORD-BREAKING 45TH YEAR

Rob Smith told Ann Kerr about his busy first year as manager of Oxfam Southfields:

I took over as the shop's manager in June 2019 and could not be happier. Everyone has been a joy. I love the customers, the local community and our amazing volunteers. There is a real sense of community here, and I have loved meeting our friendly customers. The support they have shown the shop has led to us having our best year since we opened way back in 1975. We took £142,479 in 2019-20 despite being closed for the last two weeks of the financial year due to the Coronavirus lockdown. This beat our previous record, which was set in 2007.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the Southfields community for their amazing generosity. From the high-quality donations received, to the loyal customers who keep the money coming in, you have helped us to increase our contribution to Oxfam's work in fighting poverty and inequality wherever it exists.

We have had some fantastic donations this year, including a Swiss gold pocket watch which we sold for £275, and a beautiful vase by the French maker Daum which achieved £300 at auction.

My role is full-time, and Holly our deputy manager works two days a week. However, the real stars are our team of 30 volunteers. They make the difference, and without them the shop simply would not be a success. We have a diverse team aged from 14-80+. We offer them the chance to gain valuable workplace skills, meet new people, be part of a local community and use their own skills and passion to help Oxfam.

There have been many challenges in 2020, and we are always looking for new volunteers to help us maximise the shop's potential. We currently need people to help us with clothing, books, and homewares, as well as shopfloor service and listing items on our online shop. Flexible shifts are available. If you have a few hours a week to spare and want to get involved, you can apply online at volunteer.oxfam.org.uk or pop into our shop on Replingham Road for an informal chat. We look forward to meeting you.



OXFAM SHOP MANAGERS ROB AND HOLLY

AUTUMN FAIR AT ST BARNABAS A SOCIALLY-DISTANCED SUCCESS

St Barnabas Church welcomed nearly 150 socially-distanced visitors to their Autumn Fair, on a beautiful sunny Saturday 19th September.

The event was held in place of Southfields Harvest, which decided to take a year off. It was a celebration of the wonderful, creative and diverse Southfields community, bringing together local food, live music, gardening, arts and crafts.

As well as the funds raised by stallholders, St Barnabas raised around £350 towards maintenance of its halls. The organisers wish to thank all the stallholders, Salt & Pepper for running the café, Green the Grid for distributing bulbs, Michael Csanyi-Wills and the Cygnet Singers for performing, and most importantly everyone who visited and supported the event. We look forward to spring 2021 when we hope to be able to do it again.

ENJOY A GOOD STORY? HANNAH IS ON HAND TO HELP

By Hannah Need, the 'Storyteller of Southfields'

As a storyteller, I like to tell traditional tales with a twist, so current events might crop up in unexpected places. Princesses do not need a Prince to save them, they save themselves, and when ideas pop into my head they will come into the story completely unplanned. There are no scripts and no books, so the stories are never the same twice.

My name 'The Storyteller of Southfields' reflects what I like to do, bringing stories and storytelling to our local community. Storytelling can happen anywhere - gardens, pubs, my back room and more recently on Zoom.

Here are some highlights:

- My show Life, Death and Dreams Along the Way was inspired by both my parents' battles with terminal cancer. It brought laughter and tears, and a chance for the audience to chat about their own families and experiences.
- Stories in my Backroom brought together friends and neighbours for an evening of storytelling, a glass of wine and a chance to meet and catch up.
- As part of Wandsworth Artists Open House, I collaborate with local artists, bringing together art, ceramics and stories. The art shapes and inspires my stories.

- This summer's Wandsworth Arts Festival helped me conquer my fear of Zoom to produce Two Tales. Some of my favourite characters were faced with COVID, Rapunzel rebelled, and Little Red Riding Hood grew up.
- Children love to hear stories, and I use storytelling in schools and nurseries, and explore the children's ideas, to support their learning, build confidence and communication skills.
- I look forward to returning to live audiences, but in the meantime, there are some wonderful storytelling events online.
- Please do get in touch with me at: hannahneed@yahoo.co.uk or check out my website: hannahneed.co.uk

FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS UPDATE

By Susannah Perry-Greene,

Despite the current situation we have had some big successes. Firstly, after several years' hiatus, the play area next to the nursery is open for public use again, great news for families.

After our well-attended AGM on September 30th we have two new Committee members. Ellora Coupe runs the Southfields Parents Network on Facebook, and is keen to get this playground area updated with modern equipment. Candice Cheers wants to run a regular under 5s playgroup starting next year. She has had a lot of interest in this.

We shall soon have a Friends noticeboard by the Pirbright Road entrance, to update the public with our news and encourage more people to join.

The improvement works to the NW area have started and should be finished by December. It used to have a greenhouse on it, but it will soon be an attractive area including a rose arch. We were hoping to have a Planting Club to help with the fruit and herb planting, but due to Covid-19 this will not happen until 2021. A new water fountain will be going into this area, with a water source to help water the trees and plants.

Over the last year we have been a Local Community Fund nominee for Co-op shoppers. We have just been told that an amazing £1,453.48 has been raised by their members. What a Christmas present!

Finally, a Duke of Edinburgh Award is being offered to schools who want to participate in gardening here.

Email us at focoronationgardens@gmail.com if you're interested. We have 32 members - it would be great to have more! Please sign up at focoronationgardens.co.uk/membership

ALL ENGLAND CLUB GROW NUTS

The All England Club at Wimbledon is doing the preliminary work on its plans for new courts on the current Golf Club opposite their main site. One particularly interesting and imaginative initiative has been work to understand the history and heritage of the park's landscape. This was largely set out by our greatest landscape gardener Capability Brown (1716-1783) working for the first Earl Spencer in the 1760s. The AELTC has been harvesting acorns from the ancient trees, the largest of which is known to be many hundreds of years old.

They are working with two selected growers in Cambridgeshire and Kent to propagate these acorns, from which they hope to grow several trees, and which in time can be planted in the park to continue the lineage. The Club invited local councillors Ed Gretton from Merton and Malcolm Grimston from Wandsworth to take part in the exercise. Their work was sadly limited to holding some leaves and smiling for the camera - from a safe social distance of course.

"It is a fascinating exercise" said Malcolm, Ed and Sally Bolton, the CEO of the AELTC.

Outline plans for the park redevelopment are due to be unveiled in the early part of 2022. It has also recently been confirmed by the Club that the world-famous tennis championships WILL take place from Monday 28th June to Sunday 11th July, with or without fans present.

SOUNDS OF SOUTHFIELDS

For the last few months a new local performing arts organisation has made it their mission to stage live, but safe, classical music concerts. Sounds of Southfields was originally founded in late 2019 to promote a music festival scheduled for June 2020. After its cancellation, this group of locally-based musicians and arts professionals re-tooled and re-launched.

Sounds of Southfields now has a dual purpose. Its website is a platform for local performing arts projects, ranging from online recordings made in isolation, to Zoom-based collaborations between professional musicians and much besides. Once restrictions were relaxed in the summer, Sounds of Southfields expanded offline and became a live concert promoter, working closely with St Barnabas Church in Lavenham Road.

The Sounds of Southfields team includes representatives from across the arts, all of whom live locally. Partners Greg Skidmore and Rebecca Lea are full-time professional singers with the UK's top ensembles. Teacher and cellist Mayda Narvey's professional ensemble, the Ismena Collective, are well-known locally and further afield. Soprano Katie Gilbert is active in music education locally and performs nationally. Bona Lewis, of Theatre for All and The Arts Salon, and Elizabeth Owen bring considerable experience in the charitable arts sector.

Their ambition is to complement the increasingly localised approach many are adopting, providing world-class performing arts experiences for everyone, right here in Southfields. They believe we have the venues, the talent and the audience, to support a

vibrant performing arts scene for everyone, all within walking distance of our homes.

In September the Sounds of Southfields Live Autumn Series 2020 launched with several well-attended concerts, ranging from Vaughan Williams to Vivaldi. The next plan is to perform A Choral Christmas on Tuesday and Wednesday 22/23rd December. As life is still unpredictable these concerts are arranged on a tight schedule, but the Sounds of Southfields team communicate clearly and regularly with audiences and supporters.

For more information:

Website: soundsofsouthfields.co.uk

Twitter: @SoSouthfields

Email: info@soundsofsouthfields.co.uk

SGRA DONATIONS UP OVER 10% IN 2020

Thank you all for your donations to SGRA funds this year. So far, we have collected over 10% more than last year, despite the challenging circumstances collecting our funds. A special thank you to Lesley McCaul and the residents of Astonville Street, who have so far donated £468, a massive 54% up on 2019.

If you think you have forgotten and still want to contribute to the funds that enable us to exist, please return a donation of £3 minimum to your street rep (see back of Grid News) or donate online into our bank account.

Sort code is 20-90-69, account number 83500020, or by PayPal to treasurer@southfieldsgrid.org.uk

Your donations have helped the SGRA to fund or assist others in a number of activities throughout 2020, including our Front Garden awards, Green the Grid's activities, our "lockdown special" edition of Grid News and the popular "Window Wanderland". So please, give generously, as hopefully we can fund more activities in 2021 and beyond.

Chris Puleston, SGRA Treasurer, chrispuleston@gmail.com

of Southfields team communicate clearly and regularly with audiences and supporters.

For more information:

Website: soundsofsouthfields.co.uk

Twitter: @SoSouthfields

Email: info@soundsofsouthfields.co.uk

WINDOW WANDERLAND - BACK FOR 2021!

Window Wanderland, one of the Grid's most popular events, will return again in 2021 for its 5th year. Organiser, Samantha Traynor and her team, are hoping that residents once again decorate the front of their houses to make them and their street as cheerful as possible this winter.

The event started in the Grid in 2017 with 110 windows decorated, by 2020 they had

reached 203 windows, and the target for 2021 is 350 windows. It will take place over the weekend of Saturday 27th - Sunday 28th February 2021, a little later than before, to avoid half term and inclement weather.

"Hopefully people will be more up for it, given what we've all been through this year", says Sam. "I feel the community is stronger, and people now know their neighbours much

better. Who knows if we'll be in another lockdown by then, but it's a Covid-19 friendly event after all".

You can find out more at: windowwanderland.com

Or email: windowwanderlandsouthfields@gmail.com

REMEMBERING JOAN CAIRNS, TRENTHAM STREET RESIDENT FOR 86 YEARS

By Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, adapted with kind thanks from a moving obituary by Joan's close friend Carolyn Lacey,

Joan Cairns, 2 December 1928 - 18 October 2020

Trentham Street residents have lost a wonderful neighbour and a very dear friend. Sadly Joan Cairns, a Trentham Street resident for 86 years, died recently following a short illness.

Joan was a Wandsworth thoroughbred; born in Tooting, schooled in Putney and worked in the Putney Courts for many years; she lived in the borough all her life. She made her final house move 65 years ago - from the middle of Trentham Street to its south section. Her marriage to Brian in 1954 at the Wandsworth Registry Office saw the beginning of another happy era, which sadly came to an end in 1992 when Brian passed away suddenly. However, surrounded by the love of her family and friends, her zest for life remained undiminished.

Joan had real, enduring friendships with people and she never lost touch with anyone. She was still in contact with her primary school friends. One of her delights was having people round for her New Year's Eve parties, which became legendary. Joan enjoyed going on holiday with family and friends, and she visited many European countries. One of her favourites were her pilgrimages to Walsingham. She loved the peace and calm there, the beautiful grounds and wonderful services.

Music was a great love of hers and she would take any opportunity to visit the theatre especially if they were musicals. She had a huge selection of CD's, and if she heard a tune she liked, she would buy or request it as a Christmas gift!

Ever the trooper, she went to computer skills classes in her 80's. She became adept at the computer and was an active participant on the street's WhatsApp group. How many other 90+ year olds can say that?

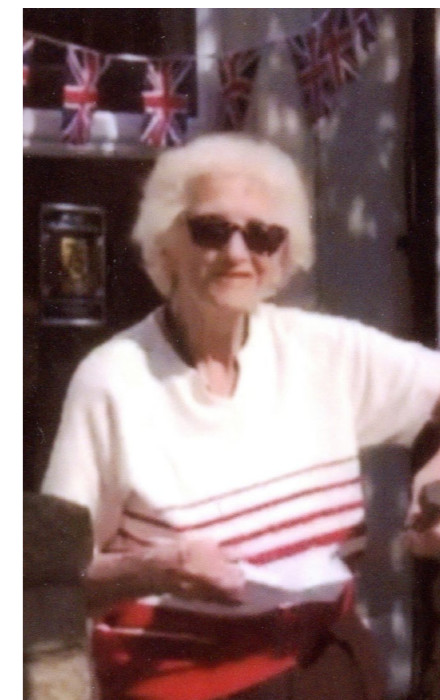
One of our last happy memories of Joan was on the 75th anniversary of VE day this year

when she gave a wonderful speech about the festivities she enjoyed on 8 May 1945 when she was a teenager. St. Barnabas Church, where she was christened, played a central role in her life. She attended Sunday School aged 7 and her involvement with the church continued to the end of her life. Joan herself once said, 'I have been very happy in my long association with St. Barnabas and it holds a special place in my heart with some wonderful memories.'

Joan holds a very special place in the hearts of her family, friends and neighbours. She will be sorely missed.



JOAN CELEBRATING HER 90TH



JOAN CELEBRATES VE DAY IN 2020

GRID ALLIANCE'S BOOK COLLECTION IS A LOCKDOWN PRISON HIT

During the summer the Southfields Grid Alliance collected nearly 1,000 books for the prisoners at HMP Wandsworth. Grid News asked prison Chaplain Liz Bridge, to tell us the fascinating story about what happened to them.

I took more than 60 bags of books and more than 40 bags of magazines into HMP Wandsworth, where I have 11 book trolleys. I gave 12 bags of books and 6 bags of magazines each to HMP Brixton and HMP Pentonville and 24 bags of books and 12 bags of magazines each to Feltham and High Down prisons. They were both surprised and grateful for the generosity and the work done!

Each trolley carries predominantly English books, but each has a section of foreign books which we try to keep matched with the nationalities on that wing. The trolleys are

the major source of reading for most men in the prison. Our library is now supplying men with specific requested texts for education and law, as men are not allowed in the library, and librarians not allowed on the wings.

There were of course books we did not use. Few men in prison would get solace from a book called Cooking with cream, or a travel guide to Thailand! Due to the huge volume we had, 80 bags of books went off to the HIV charity Oasis, who worked through the lockdown and were able to collect and free up our space.

Our books are a great adventure for many prisoners, who never would have dreamt of going to a library. It has been most entertaining to listen to them advising others on a good read, discussions about the difference between true crime books and

crime fiction, the voice of Thomas Cromwell in Wolf Hall, which is the best book for a Russian who speaks good English and wants to try reading in English. We now have a reading group on one wing who have read Catcher in the Rye, To Kill a Mockingbird, and the Curious Incident of the Dog in The Night Time. They are currently reading 1984.

No one is supposed to have fun in prison, but the books have given so much pleasure and relief. On behalf of my readers I thank you all most sincerely. As one man said to me "On a bad day there is nothing like knowing that you can make a cup of tea and get out your book and escape".

I know that feeling – and suspect you do too.

liz@thetaxbridge.com



PRISON BOOKS FOR HMP WANDSWORTH

STOP PRESS:

Following an extremely successful book appeal (see page 10), Liz Bridge, Chaplain of Wandsworth prison, has launched an urgent appeal for warm hats for inmates. If you have any hats, beanies, bobble hats etc please could you deliver them to the addresses listed on SGRA's Facebook page or to St Barnabas Church, or 15 Pirbright Road.

NB hats must not be black.



HATS FOR INMATES

FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK UPDATE

By Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty,

Earlier on this year we held a survey about commercial activities in the Park. We asked people to vote on the activities they would like to see continue. We had 251 responses, and these were the outcomes. Any surprises?

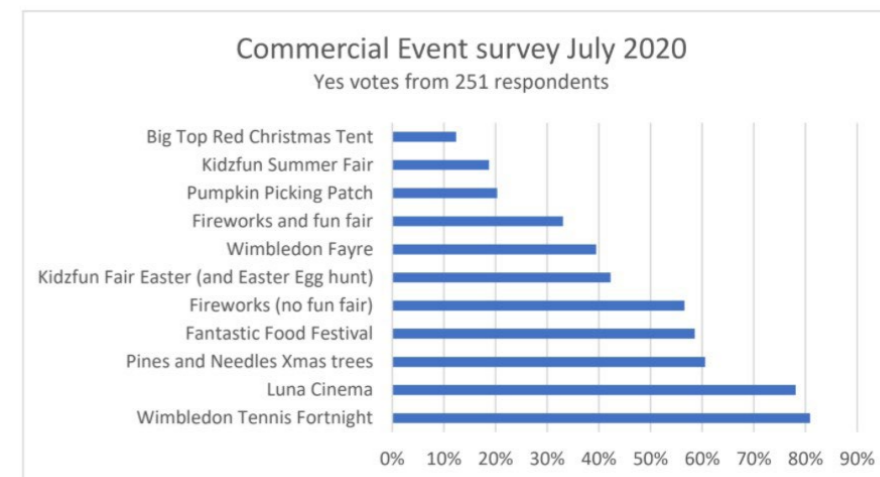
Merton Council also set up their own borough-wide survey about parks and green spaces. This asked for people's views about such matters as barbecues, paddling pools, outdoor events etc. No results have been published yet, as we are told no outcomes have apparently been finalised. So we wait!

The Wimbledon Park Lake Safety Project was set up by Merton Council in 2017 following the publication of its park Masterplan. Its objective was to 'co-ordinate and deliver the required remedial works and improvements to the lake' to meet the Council's statutory obligations and duties. This covers such areas as reservoir safety, flood risk amenity, heritage and biodiversity. For more info please go to merton.gov.uk and search for 'Wimbledon Park Lake Project'. Our Chair Nick Steiner has now been invited to join this project. The Council are seeking additional input to assist the appointed design team as they start the lead up to a planning application.

We understand that the Flood Study Stage 2 Full Report has been published but is not yet available online. The park has, once again, recently suffered from flooding and the dam has also overtopped so it would be interesting to see the full report.



SPRING FLOWERS IN SOUTHFIELDS



GREEN THE GRID AUTUMN UPDATE

By Nina Kowalska,

It is great to see so many tree bases having been refreshed with the bulbs we distributed at the St Barnabas Autumn Fair in September. Thanks to donations of daffodil bulbs from a resident and plants from lovely SW Blooms Florist shop on Replingham Road even more tree bases will be blooming in Spring 2021. We have also been very excited to see a couple of front gardens that have pulled up paving to enable planting into the soil! In the second lockdown we know many people were delighted that garden centres remained open, so we could get on with autumn planting and garden maintenance. Yippee!

We were delighted to be part of Wandsworth's

'Climate Summit'. Alongside the Carbon Trust and Battersea Power Station we shared our 'Green the Grid' story, how we developed

the project, what we have achieved as a community, and tips for others to do the same. Thanks to those who joined us online.

Finally, the Replingham Road improvement works are moving forwards with new paving, bike racks, bins and a lone tree outside Greggs. We continue to be in contact with our local councillors and the council to encourage and support them in bringing more greenery into the scheme. Watch this space, we will keep you updated!

Until then, keep gardening and keep up to date with what's going on at twitter.com/greenthegrid.



THIS YEAR'S SPRING FLOWERS

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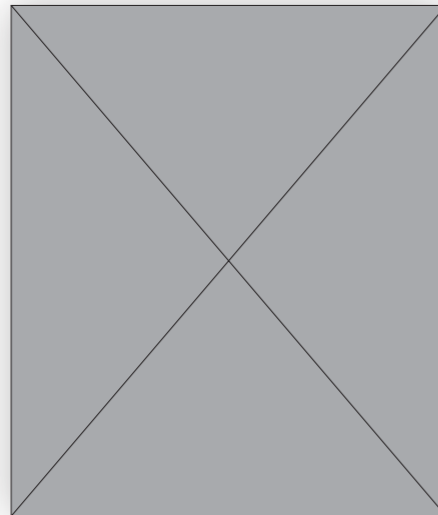
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If you have any news, stories or information you think would be interesting to the grid community, please contact Charles Runcie: charles@charlesruncie.co.uk

SGRA CHAIR'S LETTER

In spite of lockdowns and other restrictions, the work of the SGRA goes on. In this issue we've tried to reflect everything people get up to despite the ever-changing regulations imposed on our daily lives. We hope 2021 will see a return to some form of normality. I'm impressed by the initiative shown by residents during 2020 to keep things going. From virtual concerts to socially-distanced fairs, you cannot keep the spirit of the Southfields Grid down.

Talking of which, our Southfields Grid Alliance has continued its amazing work. We took the decision to keep its infrastructure going throughout the summer, knowing a second COVID-19 wave was imminent.

Our coordinator Becky tells me we're easily coping with any requests for help, even including helping someone to hospital for an important appointment.

Remember, if you know of someone needing a helping hand, ring Becky on 07734 818540 and she will do the rest.

The SGRA continues to hold regular public meetings via Zoom, and everyone is welcome to attend. The date of our next two meetings are Tuesday 26th January at 7.30pm, and Tuesday 30th March at 2pm. Members will receive a link by email, but if you're not a member you can get a link to either meeting by contacting us at info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk.

Finally, this is the last issue under the editorship of Philippa Haslegrave. She's bowing out after two years at the helm, during which time Grid News has grown to become a "must read" for everyone on the Grid. Thanks, Philippa!

To all our readers, stay safe and all the best for 2021 from everyone at the SGRA.

Charles Runcie

Chair, Southfields Grid Residents' Association

