



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

*Making a difference
to life on the Grid*

GRID NEWS

Spring 2021

Delivered free to every home and business in Southfields Grid

WINDOW WANDERLAND AND SEASONAL CHEER LIGHT UP THE GRID

Two amazing art displays have lit up houses across the Grid in recent weeks. At Christmas, with cold weather and a hard lockdown, the SGRA encouraged homeowners to decorate their houses in an effort to brighten up our streets. Seasonal Cheer was the result, with dozens of houses entering into the Christmas spirit and a multitude of colourful creations. Then over the weekend of February 27/8th Window Wanderland returned to Southfields for a 5th year, and what a show it was. A record 329 people transformed their windows into breath-taking displays, turning the streets of Southfields into a magical outdoor gallery for all to enjoy. We all know what an amazing community Southfields is, but Window Wanderland weekend was a testament to that. See our centre page spread.



ONE OF THE AMAZINGLY-DECORATED WINDOWS DURING WINDOW WANDERLAND

LOOK, THE GRID'S ON THE TELLY AGAIN!

BBC London highlighted our Green the Grid work on Friday March 5th, when SGRA executive member Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty talked to journalist Victoria Hollins for their 6.30 pm news programme about our efforts to improve front gardens. The RHS had published a report that day saying the proportion of front gardens planted rather than paved has increased dramatically in recent years, so the BBC wanted a location where lots has been happening. "What a shock it is to see oneself on TV!" a delighted Amelia recalled, having organised the shoot within hours. "Victoria was lovely and so easy to talk to.

All the ideas she had at the end of the piece were ones I had put forward - pots, planting fruit + veg etc! Anyway, 'twas an experience!". Green the Grid will unveil this year's plans around Easter.



BBC'S VICTORIA AND SGRA'S AMELIA

TENNIS EXPANSION PLANS - AELTC CONSULTATION LAUNCHED

The All England Club's consultation about their proposed development of Wimbledon Park golf course land was launched on March 3rd. It is the first of several they plan. They will be holding a second consultation on their proposals on 14th April, then a final consultation in June on responses to feedback. A formal planning application will be submitted sometime over the summer. The first of these "virtual" consultations, which focuses on explaining what they have discovered about the history of the park and its ecology is at www.wimbledon.com/consultation.

Johnny Perkins, consultant to the All England Club, explained the background. "We have spent a great deal of time seeking to understand exactly what assets - flora and fauna - the landscape contains, and how we might return to the fundamentals of its Capability Brown design, protecting and enhancing it while making it suitable for both a tennis event and year-round community use". The SGRA and the Friends of Wimbledon Park are fully involved in these meetings and will keep residents informed of any updates as soon as possible.



EDITOR'S LETTER



Charles Runcie, SGRA Chair

Welcome to the spring issue of Grid News, my first since succeeding Philippa, and a wide circle of residents have all contributed items over the next 16 pages. There is still plenty going on even in these strange times! I have made a few tweaks, including a new "local directory" page at the back with information about local groups, activities, dates and contacts.

The Southfields Grid Residents' Association continue to meet monthly, and our next public meetings will be on Tuesday 30th March at 2.30pm and our AGM on Tuesday 25th May at 7.30pm. Contact us for links to those two events, or anything else you would like the SGRA to get involved with:

info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk

SOUTHFIELDS GRID ALLIANCE CELEBRATES A YEAR OF "STEPPING UP" TO HELP

Grid Alliance was formed shortly before the nation went into lockdown last March. The idea was to be a one-stop shop for Southfields Grid and surrounding areas, using the resources and knowledge of the members of the Southfields Grid Residents' Association, the Grid Mummies and the congregation of St Barnabas Church to provide help and support for the less well-off and vulnerable. Since then the hand-picked volunteer army of over 60 residents have run messages, done shopping, walked dogs, become "phone friends" and a multitude of other tasks. Co-ordinator Becky Bailey, who has kept her hotline 07734 818540 going day and night since March 2020, to reflect on what a year it has been.

"Who would have imagined that one year on we would have had 3 lockdowns, 60+ volunteers, one WhatsApp group - and thousands of errands would have been completed for all our local elderly and isolating. It has been so heart-warming to see how incredible our local volunteers are, and how eagerly and selflessly they have stepped up to help others. The Grid Alliance has lots of regular locals we support, as well as hoc help when needed. Friendships have been made along the way, and I hear regularly of people

who were matched with those requiring assistance at the beginning of lockdown 1 who are still receiving support in the shape of meals, collections, phone calls, shopping and thoughtful gifts and gestures. With the vaccine roll-out going well in the UK who knows how much longer the Grid Alliance will be needed? For the time being we are still here, happy to help, and I think I speak for all our volunteers when I say how proud and honoured we are to have been a part of something so positive in what has been such a difficult year. Not content with masterminding this work, Becky is due to give birth to her second child shortly! Our congratulations to her, and Grid Alliance hotline 07734 818540 will continue. Feel free to contact it anytime if you have something that you cannot do that we can.



GRID ALLIANCE'S BECKY BAILEY



CARTOON - GERARD SEBASTIAN

The SGRA is looking for someone to help with keeping our website up-to-date. If you have some WordPress IT skills and could spare us a few minutes every week, please contact us.

ST BARNABAS IS NOW VACCINE HQ CENTRAL FOR THOUSANDS NEEDING “THE JAB”

Amy Sefton, Care Navigator at our Elborough Street Surgery, tells the remarkable story behind the transformation of our local church.

Throughout the whole pandemic it has seemed as though most of us could do very little to fight back. Working from home, staying distant and waiting it out seemed to be the only way to get through, with very little else in the artillery other than hope. Now though it seems that things are starting to change, and that there is finally something to hit back with. It is this thought of finally being able to do something productive that has fuelled the staff and volunteers to vaccinate around 10,000 patients since the end of December at St Barnabas Church, working together to get as many vaccines in as many arms as possible. How was this all done? A team was quickly assembled, bringing together a mix of clinical staff, administrators and volunteers, each bringing a different background and skillset, but with the same enthusiasm and dedication to the task at hand. Pharmacists, a paramedic, GPs, an anaesthetist, nurses and healthcare assistants make up the mix of vaccinators, whilst the volunteers have been assembled from a wide range of backgrounds and were all keen to put their spare time to good use. The first clinics at the end of December were a learning curve for everyone. Nothing like this has ever been done before, especially

not at such scale by a group of community practitioners. The target was to vaccinate 1170 patients in 3.5 days, but without a bespoke IT system, without the benefit of prior experience and with the new rules of social distancing and highly sensitive vaccines. There were queues around the street, and a rush to get patients in so that this precious liquid was not wasted if it were to run past its “use by” date. After a busy year and in the run up to Christmas, everyone was physically tired, but mentally energised with the excitement and sense of hope. The job just had to get done, even if it became a little chaotic at times.



THE CORE VACCINATION TEAM TAKE A BREAK

The job did get done that week and now almost 12 weeks later the team has continued to work tirelessly to extend the vaccination programme across the community. The goal remains the same, to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible, but this time there are no more

queues, no more scrambles to find patients and no more stressed faces. Eligible patients from the five Wandle PCN practices are now invited via a text message, which contains a link to book their own appointment. When it is their turn they then arrive to little or no queue outside the vaccination centre, where they are checked in on an iPad and directed to the next available vaccinator. If having a Pfizer vaccine, patients wait for 15 minutes afterwards in the serenity of St Barnabas, or if having an AstraZeneca vaccine they will be swiftly on their way home with the whole experience taking 10 minutes at most. This level of efficiency means that the centre has proudly not wasted a single dose, with any ‘spares’ being quickly taken to vaccinate a nearby housebound patient or given to a local health care worker or person on a standby list. The numbers are calculated daily, to keep track of how many potential ‘spares’ may be left over once a vial has been opened, and any patients who do not show up are contacted to ensure they’re not planning to attend before their dose is given to another individual in need. It is an amazing achievement of which everyone involved is immensely proud to be a part. The support from the local community has been incredible, and there is no way all of this could have been achieved without the dedicated team of volunteers that we are so lucky to have found.

GRID RESIDENT JACK INSPIRES FESTIVE SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CHARITIES – AGED 6!

Jack Gale, a 6 year old Lavenham Road resident, recently had an inspired idea to support the independent bookshop Wimbledon Books and the Roehampton-based charity Regenerate. The family wanted to support Wimbledon Books, who had recommended many incredible books over the years. Their aim was to collect 170 locally donated books to go in the Christmas Community Boxes provided by Regenerate to local families in need. Starting in November they contacted friends, family and Jack’s school, asking people to buy a book to support the bookshop, plus a second one to donate to Regenerate. Many people had decided to buy books as presents, so were happy to buy an extra one. The final number of books delivered to Regenerate was around 270 books.

Regenerate is based on the Alton estate, and runs a wide range of local community projects. They have sent out over 8,000 Community Boxes, containing essential food, personal hygiene, activity and educational supplies to families since the pandemic began. They wanted to make Christmas special, and Jack’s idea sparked other people’s interest, so more books and toys were then donated. Their current CEO Andy says, “over 400 Christmas Boxes with lots of toys and books were given out at Christmas, inspired by young Jack!”

www.regenerateuk.co.uk
www.wimbledonbooks.co.uk



YOUNG JACK’S A REAL BOOKWORM!

2021 SGRA FRONT GARDEN AWARDS PREVIEW

Chair of judges Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty looks ahead to our annual summer event

Gardening is now the second most popular lockdown activity after watching TV, according to recent GlobalData market research. This augurs well for our popular annual SGRA Front Garden Awards, as there should be many more delightful examples in the Grid to choose from

Yes, it is time to start thinking about your front gardens. The awards season will be with us again soon. 'Front garden' is interpreted in the broadest sense: a window ledge, a space outside your door, pots and containers, hanging baskets as well as a conventional plot.

Once again we have two categories. Firstly we have Best Front Gardens, with our bronze, silver and gold awards. Those awarded a gold are also eligible for the overall Best Front Garden Award. The other category is Best Street Planting. We are hoping that people will be re-energized and start tending their street planted plots again, as some are looking a little sad. The best tree-based planted plot in each Grid street will be recognised.

This year we are going to have a new Front Garden Awards poster competition for children with prizes for the best entries. Keep an eye on our social media for details.

Judging for both categories will take place from 11- 21st June, which looks like it might be liberation from COVID-19 restrictions day! Remember nobody needs to sign up, as everyone on the Grid is automatically included.

For the past two years we have celebrated our extremely popular 'Spectacular Sunflowers of Southfields' event – and we are doing it again! More details on our social media nearer the time. So get pruning, digging, planting, attracting wildlife and gardening. The judges are ready – are you?

THE GRID PROPERTY MARKET - OUR EXPERT'S LOCKDOWN LOWDOWN!

By local estate agent Maddie Miller

In May 2020 the Government decided estate agents should be allowed back to work, to get the property market moving again. We were inundated, not just with buyers frustrated their searches had been forcibly halted for two months, but also with sellers. They were desperate to make their next move out of London, as their houses shrank with the effort of working from home combined with home-schooling during lockdown. "Outdoor space" became top priority for buyers looking in Southfields too, for obvious reasons. The

market continued to fly throughout June and July. As the volume of property increased the buyers became pickier, always anticipating a more suitable property coming onto the market. This inevitably led to a slowdown in offers coming forward, and the market once again becoming price sensitive.

It is also clear Southfields buyers would rather pay a premium for the finished product than take on any level of work. So properties requiring work, even if not immediately necessary, struggled to sell. So far this year we have enjoyed a buoyant market, with good

quality homes achieving strong prices.

If you are planning to sell it is worth taking time to present your home at its very best. Buyers these days are time-poor and condition-focused. With most people working from home, buyers are considering where they will work within a home, and most would prefer to pay a higher price for a property in good condition. Consider the "lifestyle" you are trying to sell and remember first impressions are crucial for successful viewings.

mmiller@loneymiller.co.uk

LOCAL PLANNING NOTES

By Margaret Brett, SGRA Executive member

There has been a lot going on about planning nationally. The SGRA responded to the Government's Planning White Paper, which proposes a radical reform of planning. Our principal concern is the recommendation to preclude any community input from any neighbours affected by plans, or other interested parties such as the SGRA, at the time when specific planning proposals are known.

Central government brought in revised change of use classes in September 2020 that allow for unrestricted change of use, without planning permission, for shops to other business and commercial uses and vice

versa. We responded to the government's consultation on housing delivery, emphasising the negative effect their proposals could have on our local shops. The proposal to allow commercial frontage, wherever it is, to change easily to residential as permitted development, could destroy Southfields centre.

We have also responded to Wandsworth Council's Draft Local Plan. This sets out their vision for the borough into the future. We were very concerned to see their idea that the centre of Southfields should be designated as "suitable for tall buildings". By this they mean five storey buildings but that limit is no guarantee for the future.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has produced final proposals for redrawing the boundaries of Southfields Ward. These need parliamentary approval and mean that we will only have two ward councillors rather than three, after the 2022 elections.

Work has been continuing on the public realm improvements. The contractors are now in the south part of Wimbledon Park Road working from Drop Shot coffee shop towards the junction at Replingham Road, with all going to plan.

ma_brett@hotmail.com

FRAMING AN EXCITING FUTURE FOR REPLINGHAM ROAD SHOP

An amble along Replingham Road often reveals a hidden gem amongst the shop windows. Currently there is none better than the two striking bricolage dog sculptures in the window of Southfields Framery. They are an enticing appetiser for the spring re-launch that new owners Amata Thaysen and Benedict Hughes are planning. They took over the business from Benedict's father Laurence last year. A picture framer from the age of 14, Laurence set up the shop in the early 1980s. Previously it had been a greengrocer's shop, and it still has the trap door in the wooden floor where vegetables were stored to keep them cool and fresh. The shop has operated as a framery for over 40 years and has an established and loyal clientele. The shop will be re-launched as Amata Benedict and will create a space for the couple to display and sell their own work as a creative partnership, but still continue to provide a framing service. Amata studied Interior design at the Glasgow School of Art and went on to work for World of Interiors as well as developing a more practical skill set working at Cox London, a bespoke furniture and design company. Benedict's background is in Fine Art, studying at Central St. Martins and completing a Masters at City & Guilds

Art School in Sculpture. Both have a keen interest in the process of creating objects which fulfil a dual purpose of being both useful and beautiful, using a wide range of materials such as clay, wood, metal and fabric. "We want to introduce to Southfields a shop that creates bespoke works for the interior" explained Amata. "We aim to make furniture that straddles art and design and brings an enjoyment beyond just the functional. We want to attract a wide range of clientele who have a discerning eye and an enjoyment of art and design. Our style incorporates a playful approach to the applied arts, with a strong focus on narrative and craft. The intention for us is to provide

an interior that allows a retreat from the everyday." When asked about the most intriguing piece of art the shop had been asked to frame the answer was "wedding underwear"! No names were mentioned, but if any of your friends have a pair of underpants on their wall you will know where they got them framed. Amata and Benedict's passion for their art, and excitement at the environment the re-launched shop will offer, is inspiring. There will never be a better time to ask a shopkeeper "How much is that doggy in the window?". Follow them on Instagram [@amatabenedict](#), and they are keen to answer any DM's readers send their way.



NEW FRAMERY OWNERS AMATA AND BENEDICT

SOUTHFIELDS LIBRARY NEWS

Our experienced staff are working tirelessly to find reservations and get them to our readers. Children's events remain online with weekly Baby Rhyme Times with guitar, regular Story Times, Story Explorers and Quizzes streamed through the libraries' Facebook page. Sucheta has been busy creating visual art from old books. Her

creations for Valentines, Love Your Pet Day, LGBTQ+ month, Chinese New Year, Cancer day and more can be viewed again through Southfields Library social media. Wandsworth Libraries launched its new scheme A Chance To Talk. The programme has been designed to combat the growing national crisis around loneliness and social isolation. If you know someone who would

like a friendly weekly chat over the phone to help your mental well-being, you can arrange to speak to one of our trained staff by emailing Patrick.malone@gll.org or call 020 8780 1945. We have had so much positive feedback from people, and we are grateful for everyone's kind words.

Sucheta.Samant@gll.org

EASTER AT ST BARNABAS

What's On

Palm Sunday, 28th March - 9am Eucharist, 11.00am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 31st March - Stations of the Cross Holy Week meditation. Church open 10-12.30pm

Maundy Thursday, 1st April - Stations of the cross Holy Week meditation. Church open 10-12.30pm. Eucharist celebrating Holy Communion. 7.30 pm

Good Friday 2nd April: 12 noon Eucharist

Saturday 3rd April. 8pm Easter Vigil, in Church

Easter Sunday, 4th April. Eucharist at 9am and 11am.

If you plan to attend any services please let the Church know, as due to Covid restrictions numbers are limited.

www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk

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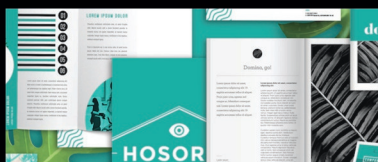
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STREET TREES ON THE GRID

By *Serena Potter, SGRA secretary*

Last summer around 45 residents kindly 'adopted' young trees outside their homes and watered them through the dry months as part of the volunteer Wandsworth Tree Wardens 'Watering Hub' scheme. This winter Enable, who hold the contract for managing the planting and maintaining of trees across Wandsworth borough, have planted 450 new street trees, including several on the Grid. They can be identified by the yellow paint at the top of their wooden support post. They also have a 'Gator' slow release watering bag, holding around 60

litres of water. The use of 'gators' is an innovation this year across Wandsworth and should help new trees to flourish. See how they work here www.treegator.com Enable will ensure they are kept filled, but if the weather becomes very dry we may give the new, one and 2 year old trees an extra helping hand. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

Another new tree initiative this year is the support the Wandsworth Tree Wardens volunteer group are going to give Enable in monitoring the condition of new trees planted over the winter. Across the borough the Tree Warden group have

allocated wardens to each ward, and a co-ordinated approach to giving information back to Enable about the condition of these trees has been organised. I will be co-ordinating Southfields ward with one other warden.

For further information about the work of the Wandsworth Tree Wardens see www.wandsworthtreewardens.org. If you are concerned that a tree on the Grid is struggling or have any other tree related query, please contact Serena at sjpotter304@gmail.com or contact Enable direct at trees@enablelc.org

GRID RUGBY SUCCESS FOR 'TAG' TEAM

Rugby Union aficionados will be aware the Grid has been the home down the years of revered but now retired internationals including Nick Evans, Nick Easter and Will Greenwood. It is good to report that the Grid has produced a new generation of international rugby stars. The format of the game though is 'Tag Rugby'. It is a minimal contact version of rugby union, generally played in the 7-a-side format, and one of the fastest growing, all-inclusive men's and women's sports in the UK. Starting in Australia in the 1990's as a training game for Rugby League players, it soon took on a life of its own and spread around the world, with around 8000 registered

players in the UK. It reached the Grid in 2015, and soon a teenage team based around an Elsenham Street friendship group was cobbled together. They named the team 'Tagkeshi's Castle', a play on the name of the 1980's Japanese game show. Many had never played rugby before, but undeterred they entered the mixed local league playing in Wimbledon Park, and despite a difficult start the team improved and eventually won the league. From this humble start great progress has been made. From that original group two very talented young women, Rosie Blount and Garrett Mackinder, have realised their great talent and progressed to professional careers playing 15 a side Rugby Union. On

the male side Elsenham Street residents Tom Entwistle, Jake Powell and Jake Dunley represented Great Britain in the World Cup in Brisbane in 2018 and are current international players. Dunley is a huge enthusiast for the sport. "Tag Rugby is an inclusive sport, great for busy people, and has a great social side thrown in too!". Not a bad return from a few friends from the Grid discovering a new game and chucking an oval ball around in their nearby Park!

If you would like to get involved in Tag Rugby contact Jake Dunley via jake.dunley@hotmail.com

FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS UPDATE

By *Susannah Perry-Greene, vice chair FoCG*

The Friends of Coronation Gardens (FoCG) have been busy over the winter, with improvements ongoing that will make the Gardens an even better place for Grid residents to enjoy in 2021. The revamp of the NW corner continues, with three chairs installed and varnished, and a rose arch under construction which in time will be a lovely addition. We continue to work with local schools and groups to make the Gardens into an 'outdoor classroom'. This includes the production of an interpretation board about 'flora and fauna'. We shall also be buying a

'bug hut', full of all sorts of natural materials and providing hidey-holes for creatures galore. A water fountain from Wandsworth Council is due to be installed on the far wall before Easter, and a new noticeboard for us has also just been installed. The FoCG bought some gardening tools for Riversdale School, trowels and gloves, to encourage pupils to dig deep once better weather arrives. We are also hoping to get some more bulbs to plant, so look out for our Gardening Club details on our website or social media pages. Instagram: [focoronationgardens](https://www.instagram.com/focoronationgardens), Facebook: Friends Of Coronation Gardens SW18. Finally we have a poetry competition with a £50 Amazon voucher award for the winner. In not more

than 100 words tell us what you think of Coronation Gardens, or how it has affected or helped you recently. Send entries to focoronationgardens@gmail.com by Monday 19th April. Remember you can join the Friends anytime, just go to our website and follow the membership link. Annual membership is only £10. Our annual meeting, where we review the year, discuss future work and have a special guest, will be on Wednesday 31st March from 7-8pm. If you care about our lovely local heritage gardens please join us then and join up! Our website is www.focoronationgardens.co.uk, and we are across all social media platforms too.

LIGHTING UP THE GRID! - THESE TWO 'STREET' EV

SEASONAL CHEER PHOTO GALLERY

By *Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty*

In December we asked Grid residents to join in 'Seasonal Cheer' and brighten up our streets: to decorate front gardens, windows, window sills, balconies, front doors etc with displays, baubles, garlands, greenery, fairy lights - the whole works. We wanted to counter the Covid-depressed year with joy and light, bringing the community together whilst celebrating the Christmas festive season.

You, the community, responded in the most brilliant way. Creativity abounded and the Grid streets looked amazing at all times. Here is a little taster of some of the homes that gave



NUTCRACKER BALLET WINDOW

Amongst the many wonderful displays of lights and decorations, this gorgeous Nutcracker scene caught my eye. Surrounded by a sea of sparkling multi-coloured lights and a twinkling tree, it reminded me of the lovely Nutcracker ballet, a traditional Christmas occasion!

Candy canes and a sleigh full of presents completed the picture: streets looked amazing at all times. Here is a little taster of some of the homes that gave us so much joy.



CHRISTMAS TREE WINDOW

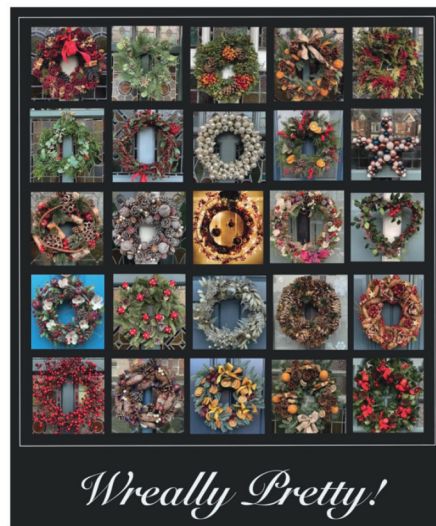
A gorgeous Christmas tree which caught many people's attention. It was bold, inspiring and child oriented as well as being colourful and joyous. Who does not love an adorned Christmas tree? As the carol says 'O, Christmas tree, O Christmas tree. With what delight I see you. When winter days are dark and drear, you bring us hope for all the year' You won't find anything as original as this at Pines and Needles!



INFLATABLE SNOWMEN WINDOW

This inflatable group were great fun. I saw them on December 6th when the reindeer was being added to the group, and the family queried if it was overkill.

As I had a reindeer in my own garden, I thought it perfectly reasonable. I passed by the following day to find them collapsed - 'the morning after the night before' - but thankfully they were rejuvenated and continued to entertain passers-by until they were folded up and put away. so much joy.



Wreally Pretty!

CHRISTMAS WREATHS WINDOW

From a small sample we selected for publication here, the wreaths were the crowning glory, and how beautiful they were! The vibrant festive colours and the stylish elegance they radiated really did bring cheer to the hearts of Grid residents last Christmas. Thank you so much to everyone who took part - you are all superstars.

Shall we do it again next year?

EVENTS CHEERED US ALL UP DURING OUR WINTER

WINDOW WANDERLAND PHOTO GALLERY

By *Samantha Traynor*

Window Wanderland is a favourite annual event in Southfields Grid, and this year did not disappoint. We were all still able to enjoy the event in mild evening weather with social distancing being adhered to. We had monkeys in a bubble bath, complete with a bubble machine, Star Wars, The Ocean, Batman, inspirational quotes, Mary Poppins, Pacman, beaches, Gorillas, penguins, dinosaurs and an amazing Yayoi Kusama display. NHS tributes and The Beatles popped up on Brookwood Road, and Riversdale, St Cecilia's and St Michael's schools also lit up for the weekend. We even had a front garden disco on Sutherland Grove, plus disco ball and neon light installation made especially for the weekend.

To quote Grid resident Isla aged 4, "It made me feel happy and excited. My favourite window was mine because I love Frozen". Heartfelt thanks to our sponsors The Magpie Tree and the SGRA for their continued sponsorship and support.

DJ Window: I absolutely loved this window. As an avid gig-goer this is one of the things I have missed most since lockdown. It was so happy and fun, and made me feel hopeful we will socialise and dance with our friends once again. Live music venues will need us more than ever when they finally re-open.



THE WHOLE WORLD WINDOW

Kite Window: I loved the 3D element to this window. Kites in windows, so original and so effective. I could not stop looking at it. The colours, the kites, the quotes & the butterflies – a delight.



KITE WINDOW

The whole world window: this one tugged at my heart strings somewhat. I love how every window evokes a different feeling and emotion. This window was utterly charming and made me feel connected not only to my neighbourhood but to those all around the world and to what we have collectively experienced over the past year. We also live in such a diverse neighbourhood and this window totally reflected Southfields.



DJ WINDOW



SECRET OF BLACK ROCK WINDOW

The Secret of Black Rock; This window blew my mind. I think I stood outside the house for 15 minutes just staring at it. A stunning portrayal of the much adored book about an adventurous young girl who must protect a peaceful living creature. The detail was so intricate and the imagery breath-taking. I felt transported to another place.

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BOBBLE HATS PROVE A PERFECT FIT FOR HMP WANDSWORTH PRISONERS

Late last year our Grid community collected and donated knitted or bobble hats for the inmates of HMP Wandsworth. Prison Chaplain Liz Bridge talks about how they got from us to the prisoners, and the extraordinary effect they have had. The hats were a phenomenal success. We have about 1600 men in HMP Wandsworth, and in previous years a Christmas present from Chaplaincy was little more than a mince pie and a chocolate Father Christmas. We thought of hats when a lady called Anita offered to knit for us. Initially I felt irritable, because faced with 1600 needy people what good is one knitter? Then we began asking about, and it became obvious that all sorts of people would help. There were “the knitters” who in lockdown wanted to get out their needles and use up their old balls of wool. There were “the ferreters” who wanted to turn out their cupboards and get a home for unwanted beanies. There were “the online hunters” who wanted to go into the online forest and gather bargain hats. I had about four weeks of sleepless nights worrying, because we only had enough hats for one wing, then two, then perhaps three and the hospital unit. Then then the flood began, and the real fun. It is

a long time since I have tried to keep potential Christmas parcels secret, and walk with a bundle under my coat or inside my jumper. I walked into the prison most mornings with a trolley full of hats pretending they were books. It nearly killed us in Christmas week. We had to get hats into plastic bags in ones and twos ready to hang on doorknobs, then we had to carry bags and bags of hats up and down staircases and onto prison wings. We tried to do the delivery over two days, because we did not want men out of their cells as we delivered for fear we would be stuck in “I’d like a blue one not a green one” conversations. We tried to make the pairs different but similar, so that when two men together opened the bag neither had a much better hat than the other. One wing we did with entirely new hats another wing, we did with entirely homemade hats. I did not think pompom hats would be popular, I thought everyone would want a new beanie. Then suddenly we were off, cells were opened for the afternoon exercise, and there was such excitement and laughter. One man refused to take the shop and price tags off his hat, because he had never had anything new. There was much swapping of colours, and much finding of a hat

that fitted. To my surprise some human beings have very large heads, and some very small. One man had a large head and small hat but refused to part with it because he was going to use it for fruit! I watched a painter put his hat in a plastic bag and then put the whole lot on his head. Again, to my surprise the pompoms found their market. If you are a young fashionista in HMP Wandsworth, you want to swagger with a pompom! I saw a man with three pompoms because he had “de-pom”ed his friend’s hats. They just laughed. The best scene was recently when we had snow, and there were excited queues for the yard with everyone in hats, shouting up to wings to bring a hat. The yards sprang into life with colour. Thank you all for your efforts, and for the hats. It has been amazing to see how much joy a small act of kindness can create, and how much a good laugh and a bit of personalized clothing soften the hardest heart. If you have hats still “on the needles”, just finish them off and send to me. I am already storing for next year – it was such a good game! You can drop off any remaining hats to the SGRA’s Andrew Dunley at 90 Elsenham Street, and he will pass them onto the prison.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM UPDATE

Hello residents - hopefully this will be the last “lockdown” edition of this newsletter, and that all going well our lives will return to as normal as we can over the next few months. COVID hit us in the Southfields SNT, with Robbie contracting it in early February and us having to self-isolate for 10 days. Luckily Robbie only had mild symptoms.

Car crime still remains an issue but has dropped slightly over the past few months. Please stay vigilant, remove all valuables and lock your cars when parked. What has become more prevalent is theft of pedal cycles. We have had ones stolen from locked sheds, padlocked to lamp-posts, and from communal areas of flats. Please place your bike in a secure shed/locked with a D-type lock, or even better bring it into your house or garage if you can.

As the weather is getting warmer (fingers crossed) please remember to close your

windows when you go out or go to bed. Burglars may see your slightly open window as an easy entry point. Again, if you have an alarm please USE it!

Finally, a change to how we operate with you. We have held quarterly public meetings for many years. We have now been informed we need to have a Ward Panel consisting of a Ward Chair and Secretary, which will need to be voted by yourselves. The aims of the ward panel are:

1. To ensure the local community is closely involved in setting the ward level priorities for the ward and Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)
2. To support activity on the ward priorities
3. To scrutinise the work of the SNT
4. To encourage and support community members to become more closely involved in

problem solving and crime prevention

5. To support the SNT in building trust and confidence within the wider community
6. To be representative of, and have considerable reach within, our community
7. To assist the police in increasing community engagement, e.g community contact sessions
8. To support groups within the ward that have a focus on crime prevention and community safety, e.g. Neighbourhood Watch

We held a public meeting on Friday 12th March to establish the panel, so hopefully this new way of working will be in over the next few months.

Regards,

James, Robbie & Don at southfields@met.police.uk

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NEW RECYCLING GROUP IN SOUTHFIELDS AIMS TO CLEAN UP

By Sue Wixley

A group of local residents have big ideas for your recyclable rubbish! Indeed you might have spotted some of their windows at Window Wanderland last month encouraging us to pay more attention to what we throw away, to recycle more and waste less.

Sue Lovell-Greene, a retired CEO who has lived on the Grid for 35 years, is one of the founders of Recycle More Southfields. The group aims to make recycling easier by promoting awareness and take-up of the Wandsworth Council's recycling scheme and have also set up a local collection point for hard-to-recycle items. "Recycling is a complete no-brainer" Sue insists. "By cutting down on waste that goes in the bin, and being more conscious about packaging, we can all do our bit for the environment. It is that simple. We're grateful to the SGRA for their

support in getting our project off the ground."

Dante Hatrick-Smith, a finance professional and local mum of two who has lived in Southfields for 15 years, found time to host the first collection point on the Grid for Recycle More Southfields. It is for items not taken by the Council. She has been very encouraged by how many local residents have already got involved, collecting a whopping 21.6kg in the first six weeks. "We as individuals can all play our part in helping reduce our impact on the planet but the power of the collective makes a huge difference. Southfields is the perfect place for this as we have an incredible community. In our busy lives, unless something is convenient, it becomes a barrier. So I wanted to help as many people as possible do their little bit. Recycling is one step on a bigger journey, but it's a great way to start".

The team are looking for help with collecting items, as well as sorting and transporting these to a Terracycle drop-off in Tolworth, where this rubbish is turned into useful products like park benches or children's slides. See the flyer in this newsletter for information on what, where and how of recycling in Southfields.

- Sign up for one of the forthcoming online talks with the Wandsworth Council Recycling Centre on Smugglers Way. The events are free to attend, but you need to register as places are limited. Dates are 19 April, 10am, 28 April, 2pm and 3 May, 6pm.

- Get in touch with Recycle More Southfields through their website and visit their Facebook page to find out more. www.recyclemoresouthfields.org and www.facebook.com/RecycleMoreSouthfields/

LOCAL OBITUARIES

Ann McCluskey

We lost a key member of our Grid community on 2nd December when Ann McCluskey, who had lived and worked on the Grid for nearly 60 years, died after a short illness.

Born in Kilkenny, Ireland on 31st March 1936, Ann was brought up in a large family within a farming community. As a teenager she worked in a vicarage and local stores in Kilkenny town. One of her greatest joys was dancing, and it was through this that she met her future husband Eamon at an open-air country dance. They decided to

move to London in 1954 and got married the following year, living in Streatham before moving to Southfields in 1962. When talking about her move to Southfields Ann said, "We just fell in love with the area." At first she and Eamon worked in what was then Westminster Wines in Revelstoke Road, but in 1975 they purchased the shop and our local McCluskey's Food and Wine was born.

Ann successfully combined her busy work life with her equally busy family commitments – they had five children. Her love for dancing continued, and she also enjoyed playing cards and Bingo. Once Eamon retired in 1995 they

were able to spend more time together until after 61 years of marriage he passed away in 2016. This was a difficult time for her but supported by her family and friends she was able to get her zest for life back again. She enjoyed her travels to Ireland and Canada, where her daughter lives, and family meals and gatherings were a source of great joy to her.

Ann will be forever remembered by visitors to McCluskey's for her smiling, welcoming and friendly manner. She will be sorely missed by all, particularly her family of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Joyce Burrage

Joyce Burrage, who died on 22nd January 2021, was a long-time resident of Southfields Grid.

Born on 9th February 1935, Joyce Maureen Meredith was the youngest of five children. She grew up in Battersea and lived-in south-west London all her life. Her first job was at the OK Sauce factory in Wandsworth, and on Christmas Day 1953 she married the love of her life, Roy Burrage. A year later Steve was born, and in 1962 their family was complete when daughter Julie arrived.

In the late 1960's Joyce and Roy took over ownership of the Unity Tavern pub in Battersea. There they made countless

lifelong friends and memories, with Joyce fearlessly running the bar and Roy providing the entertainment. Joyce was famous for her legendary quick wit and incredible memory skills, while often having to deal with inebriated customers in her brilliantly inimitable style.

In the late 1970's Joyce and Roy left the pub, relocating to Southfields. For many years they provided the perfect family base for the ever-extending Burrage and Sneath families. Joyce would spend hours playing games and providing sweets for her grandchildren, who loved spending time at 75 Elborough Street. Joyce and Roy, who had started his own roofing business with son Steve, would spend several wonderful holidays abroad with


friends and family.

After Roy's death in 1991 Joyce moved to Brookwood Road. Her small, cosy flat was a constant hub of love and joy, with family and friends regularly visiting for a chat and several cups of tea. Even when dementia took its toll, Joyce's spirit and energy shone through. Though she could not communicate through words, her smile radiated. She continued to dress immaculately every day, was always made up, and would never miss a hair appointment.


Her funeral took place on 9th February 2021, what would have been her 86th birthday. She will be warmly remembered by her family, friends and Grid neighbours.

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FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK UPDATE

By *Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty*

At last! Much of the park's Big Field fencing, which has been in place for over a year because of damage from commercial activities in 2019, has now been taken down. The fencing particularly inconvenienced people trying to walk around the park, especially at 'pinch points' close to the paths. Thank you to Cllr Oonagh Moulton from Wimbledon Park Ward for her support.

Do you remember the dark, cold January days when we were in "lockdown 2" and people were urged to 'stay local'? There was a surge of visitors to the park, putting pressure on space and making social distancing difficult. We asked Merton Council to open the running track for joggers/runners and the path behind the stadium for walkers to ease the congestion. We also wrote to the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club at Wimbledon asking if walks could be opened up on the golf course for the duration of the lockdown. Regrettably it was a nay from both of them. No joy!

The Pines and Needles site is still in dire need of repair - it requires more than just TLC. Merton Council have said that this site should be 'fixed' in mid-March, although this depends on the weather. There is also a remediation plan for the old bowling green, but this will not be done until after the children's funfair.

In December 2020 the FoCG advertised for a volunteer Logo Designer. We wanted a more engaging and inspiring new logo identity for

our Friends group, and we had much interest. The Executive Committee have now given the 'go ahead' to one of the submitted designs. All will be revealed once the concept has been completed. The designer has kindly volunteered to write an article about how the logo came about, and the inspiration behind it.

The Friends group have had a couple of meetings with Merton Council and their technical team about the statutory improvements they must carry out for the lake's infrastructure, to avoid potential flooding. Talks continue. What we do know is the outflow from the lake into the stilling

pool in Ashen Grove Wood will remain. It is proposed that the brook from the stilling pool, which currently flows through a pipe to the bridge near the children's play area, will be opened up or "deculverted". The lake works will probably take place from this August to January 2022. For more info please see www.merton.gov.uk/wimbledonparklakeproject

Finally, please join us at our next FoWP Forum to learn more about our year-round work. It takes place on Tuesday 20th April at 7.30pm. Our website is www.friendsowimbledonpark.org.uk - we are also on Facebook and Twitter.



THE "PINES AND NEEDLES" SITE AT THE WIMBLEDON PARK ROAD ENTRANCE

SOUTHFIELDS BUSINESS FORUM UPDATE

By *Gill Habershon, SBF chair*

Most of the independent shops in Southfields are still in lockdown. However, as I write this, we do hope that just after Easter Southfields will be a hive of activity. Restaurants and the pub could still be closed for dining, though some are doing takeaways.

REPLINGHAM ROAD

There have been issues with the Post Office at Krystal Food Market, over opening times and shop layout. Post Office HQ is in contact with them, and Council "Covid Marshals" have visited the shop to check that all staff are complying with the current regulations. Regrettably we still have some empty shops in the street. One bit of good news is that the old solicitor's office at number 2 has been granted planning permission, and soon work

will begin to provide residential flats as well as two retail units. Sikelia is still on the open market, and so is number 27 which was Village Hairdressers. No one seems to know what is happening with Barclays Bank, which seems to have some work going on inside the building, and it was such a shame the ATM machine was removed.

WIMBLEDON PARK ROAD

279, which was Haarts, is now to let via Franklin the commercial agent. 265, which was the old Post Office, is apparently nearly finished! We are led to believe they have someone interested in having a single retail unit instead of the two planned separate units. The owner of 259-263 nearby has applied to develop it further. 258, formerly Oscar Knight estate agents, has been replaced by Droplet, which they say is "a dry cleaner with a difference".

The old Sainsbury's Local shop at 256 has had several enquiries, but to date no-one has shown interest. 255 - 257 opposite, the old DeRosier coffee shop, quickly found a new owner and has opened as a sushi bar. The former Trieste Restaurant at 253 has a buyer, but unfortunately delays by TFL in completing the final paperwork prevented their opening before the new lockdown in December. We are waiting to see what will happen there, as with the ice cream parlour at 253a which closed. The building between Gail's Bread and Sainsbury's is also up for sale.

Finally may I thank you for all your kind messages of good wishes following my recent illness. See you around our local shops once they are all open again, and please continue to support our local businesses. You can email me at:

habershonfamily@gmail.com

Chairman: Charles Runcie | 020 8875 9565
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Vice-chair: Gerard Sebastian
ggerard.sebastian@gmail.com

Secretary: Serena Potter | 07778 419569
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Treasurer: Chris Puleston | 07715 054609
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Committee Members: Margaret Brett,
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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
Chris Puleston at 164

Elsenham Street
Andrew Dunley at 90

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
Alise Veremeya at 180a

Revelstoke Road
Lesley McCaul at 109 Astonville

Trentham Street
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty at 169
Tania Kowalski at 91

MEMBERSHIP

The SGRA's financial and membership year runs from June 1st-May 31st, and donations are a minimum £3 annually, though we always are grateful for more! There are several easy ways to pay:

- By cash to your street representative – see this page
- By PayPal - Log in to your PayPal account:
treasurer@southfieldsgrid.org.uk
- By BACS – our details are Barclays Bank, sort code 20-90-69, account number 83500020

If you wish to join our SGRA database we must have your consent, in order to adhere to GDPR regulations. You can do this either by ticking the consent box on envelope which comes with our summer issue, or if paying online by requesting this from sgrasecretary@gmail.com

LOCAL FACILITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

Business

Southfields Business Forum - habershonfamily@googlemail.com
Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce www.wandsworthchamber.org

Cultural

"Southfields storyteller" - www.hannahneed.co.uk
Sounds of Southfields - www.soundsofsouthfields.co.uk.co.uk
Southfields Artists Group - via slavica@melroseroad.net
Southfields Theatre Group - contact via www.facebook.com/southfieldstg
Southfields Sings - SouthfieldsSings@gmail.com
Window Wanderland - www.windowwanderland.com/southfields
World Heartbeat Music Academy - www.worldheartbeat.org
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Interest groups

Friends of Coronation Gardens - www.focoronationgardens.org
Friends of Wimbledon Park - www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk
Green the Grid - www.frontgardenfriendly.uk
Grid Mummies - via jennifer@acertennislettings.com
Wandsworth Tree Wardens www.wandsworthtreewardens.org

Library

Southfields Library, Wimbledon Park Road - open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10-3.30pm, Saturday 10-2.30pm

Nearby Resident Associations

Gardens RA - sophiamail@onetel.com
Sutherland Grove Conservation Area RA - email admin@sgcara.org.uk
Wimbledon Park RA - www.wimbledonpark.com

Police

If an incident is an emergency, ring 999 immediately. If not, ring 101. Please report all crimes. Southfields SNT - 0208 721 2434 or email southfields.snt@met.police.uk. Parks Police - 07500 814108 or email parkspolice@wandsworth.gov.uk

Senior groups

Hestia adult support - www.hestia.org/older-people or 0208 767 8426
Monday Club, c/o St Barnabas Church - email ma_brett@hotmail.com
Wandsworth Older Peoples Forum - www.wopf.org.uk

Sport

All England Club - www.wimbledon.org
Swimbleton, Wild swimming - www.swimbleton.co.uk
'Tag' Rugby - via Jake Dunley Jake.Dunley@hotmail.com
Wandsworth Boxing Club - www.wandsworthboxingclub.co.uk

Sustainability

Abundance Southfields - www.abundancesouthfields.com
Recycle More Southfields - www.recyclemoresouthfields.org
Southfields Harvest - www.southfieldsharvest.org.uk

Forthcoming local events

Tuesday 30th March, 2-3.30pm - SGRA public meeting. Contact us for joining details. Wednesday 7th April, 7-8pm - Friends of Coronation Gardens annual meeting. Contact them for joining details. Monday 26th April, 7.30-9pm - GLA election husting for Wandsworth and Merton candidates, hosted by the SGRA. Contact info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk for joining details. Thursday 6th May - Mayoral and GLA elections. Tuesday 25th May, 7.30-9pm - SGRA AGM. Friday 25th June to Sunday 11th July - Wandsworth Arts Fringe. Registration ends on 23rd April. Tuesday 27th July - SGRA public meeting, 2-3.30pm. Contact us for joining details.

Next Issue

The summer edition of Grid News will be published in mid-July. If you have a comment or contribution to make about any aspect of life in the Southfields Grid, we would love to hear from you. Send details to info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk but note the copy deadline is Friday 18th June.