Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Making a difference to life on the Grid

GRID NEWS

Spring 2022

Delivered free to every home and business in Southfields Grid

WAITING GAME GOES ON FOR TENNIS DEVELOPMENTS

Simon Wright brings us up-to-date on proposals to develop the golf course

The All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) plans to transform the former Wimbledon Park Golf Course are due to go before Merton and Wandsworth Councils' planning committees this spring. Since November there have been a series of public meetings, including two hosted by local MPs Fleur Anderson and Stephen Hammond. The subject that received the most attention at these meetings and elsewhere is the discovery of restrictive covenants covering the former Wimbledon Park Golf Course on which AELTC hopes to build. The covenants date back to 1993 when Merton Council sold the land to the AELTC. The then leader of the Council said at the time "The Golf Course will be retained as open space. The whole stretch has been designated Metropolitan Open Land. We have declared it a conservation area and placed strong covenants on the sale." The Chairman of AELTC responded at the time "We completely understand and support everyone's determination to keep the land open and we have purchased the land on that basis."

At a meeting of Merton Council held on February 2nd the minority Liberal Democrat group put forward a motion that would require the Council to "enforce" its covenants. This motion was defeated, but a second motion put forward by the majority Labour group was passed. It merely required the Council to "respect" the covenants. The Council's meeting received media coverage from The Times, The Guardian and the Evening Standard. With local elections taking place in the borough on Thursday, May 5th it seems unlikely that a proposal will come before either planning committee before then. Our Grid councillor Kim Caddy has agreed to present the concerns of residents to the Wandsworth Planning Committee when it does eventually consider the plans.



WHAT WILL THIS LOOK LIKE IN 2030?

The Greater London Assembly (GLA) has issued an initial report on AELTC's application. They conclude that AELTC has not justified the claim that "Very Special Circumstances" exist to authorise any planning approval, nor, even if they do exist, would those claimed outweigh the harm which the development would cause. A paper on this subject has now been written by Residents Associations which has been submitted to both Wandsworth and Merton Planning Committees, who are obliged to consider the views of the GLA. You can read the paper on our SGRA website **www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk/posts** and please email me at **simon@ofplus.com** if you would like the SGRA to support this position.

JUBILEE STREET PARTY – IS YOUR STREET UP FOR ONE?

As you know HM The Queen celebrates 70 years on the throne this June. The UK will have a four-day Jubilee Holiday from Thursday 2nd – Sunday 5th June to mark the event. People are being encouraged to hold traditional street parties over that long weekend, and Wandsworth Council has waived their £60 fee to enable streets in the borough to be closed. A simple application form will still have to be made, to ensure transport and safety rules are met, which you can find on the Council website (simply search for "hold a street party") along with useful hints and tips on how to organise a good one. At the time of writing parties are already being planned in Elsenham and Heythorp, and there will no doubt be more as we welcome the warmer spring weather.



A JUBILEE PARTY IN FULL SWING IN 1977

Back in 1977 in glorious weather, there were quite a few street parties locally to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Some photographs have recently emerged of one that took place in Pirbright Road. The picture printed here shows a crowd of excited, happy children having their party in the scout hut. Can you recognise anyone? Other attractions promised on the invitation that afternoon were racing in the road, "Uncle Reg entertains", then a 'Canadian Supper' and disco in the evening. Happy days back then!

EDITOR'S LETTER



Charles Runcie, SGRA Chair

Hello everyone, welcome to our spring issue, packed with news, features and information about our super area of SW London. With restrictions easing there's the promise of life beginning to open up again after the events of the past two years. In this issue we remember the actions of one Grid resident during the 2020 lockdown.

On other pages we've featured a local author, our successful athletics club and a stalwart local councillor, all contributing to the variety of life on the Grid, plus regular updates from some of our leading organisations. I'm also starting a column called 'This and That' rounding up some of the bits and pieces of news and information you might have missed.

My usual reminder – do join the SGRA! If you've recently moved here or lost that envelope we delivered last summer, see our joining details on the back page. Our next public meeting is on Tuesday 29th March at 7.45 pm via Zoom. Watch out for more details, or if you don't get our emails contact sgrasecretary@southfieldsgrid.org.uk

Looking ahead, we're planning another of our election hustings evenings on Monday 25th April at 7.45 pm at St Barnabas. You will be able to hear and quiz our local election candidates on their ideas and policies. We're also holding our AGM on Tuesday 31st May at 7.45 pm. So plenty going on!

Finally, if you fancy getting involved in our activities we're currently looking for a web page editor. It would require a little bit of work but have lots of rewards. If you have little skills but a lot of community interest I look forward to hearing from you.

charles@charlesruncie.co.uk



CARTOON BY GERARD

COUNCILLOR TERRY WALSH RETIRES

Guy Humphries reflects on the career of his council colleague Terry Walsh, who steps down at this year's elections.

Terry was first elected as a Wandsworth Councillor in 1974 for West Hill ward. When it was split into two, West Hill and Parkside in 1978, he continued as a councillor in Parkside Ward until 1982. He returned as a Southfields councillor from 2012-22. He has a strong record of delivery for local people, where his quiet charm, dry sense of humour and determination have paid dividends in following residents' concerns up and achieving improvements for both Southfields and the wider Wandsworth borough. He is a long-standing Southfields resident - he went to Wandsworth School and holds degrees in Economics and Law.

Now retired, Terry worked at the University of London for 37 years. His tasks included negotiating film location agreements and chairing a working party drawing up an environmental plan for Senate House. To give you an idea of the number of roles at the Council Terry currently fulfils, he is Deputy Chairman of the Community Services and Open Spaces Committee, and Chairman of our local Passenger Transport Liaison Committee.

He still finds time to sit on outside bodies such as the North East Surrey Crematorium Board and the Wandsworth Bereavement Service. Terry is also the Secretary of a Trust which provides funding for equipment used by local health services. In his remaining spare time, one of his interests is railways. He serves occasionally as a source of information about potential transport locations for film crews.

Although he would never admit to it, Terry is also known as a generous patron and donor to many local charities and voluntary groups, offering much-appreciated support despite his anonymity. Terry's loyalty to local people and his commitment to community service will be sadly missed when he stands down as a Southfields councillor in May.

ghumphries@wandsworth.gov.uk



CLLR TERRY WALSH

YOUR BOOTS WERE MADE FOR WALKING – AND TALKING – IN WIMBLEDON PARK

Ali Palmer explains how a simple lockdown idea has become a big success

The idea of what has become the 'Walk and Talk Movement' came about during lockdown. Andy Yates, one of its co-founders, was seeing lots of people walking around Wimbledon Park alone, and he wondered whether there was an easy way to bring people together. The idea is simple, a weekly community walk-in Wimbledon Park every Saturday morning come rain or shine, meeting at 10.30 am near the cafe.

We began the walks last September, and since then over 400 people have taken part. While we have stayed nearby we have enjoyed walks through the various local parks, learning more about both our local history and literary figures including George Eliot and Raymond Briggs.

From our walks we have learnt three main things:



WALK AND TALK MOVEMENT LAUNCH ©DAVID CLARK-BELL

• simple connections have never been more important, and having local friends and neighbours can make all the difference. Some of our walkers and talkers realised that they lived in the same street but had never met!

• modern life can be lonely, and it has been difficult to meet people, especially during Covid. Walking and Talking can offer a simple way to meet new people

• our walkers and talkers make us proud. It takes courage and commitment to make the first step to meet new people, especially if you are coming on your own. Everyone ensures that all people are included, and there is always someone new to talk to

This is a chance for all generations to take a stroll, chat, meet friends, make new ones and help others. Our goal is for walkers to meet neighbours and help their neighbours – and make a real difference to people's health and fitness in a very inclusive and engaging way.

Together we have walked more than 850 miles together, enjoyed hundreds of stories and conversations and burned more than 85,000 calories. So don't be afraid to come along - you will fit right in. You don't have anything to lose and everything to gain - come and experience a walk and talk for yourself any Saturday.

Website: **www.walkandtalkmovement.org**

Facebook group: **www.facebook.com/groups/wimbledonparkwalkandtalk**

ST BARNABAS CHURCH UPDATE

By Rev Ian Tattum

We are planning a series of concerts and book readings plus have the return of the Quiz night in May. Easter is always a busy time for our church. Here are Holy Week details - please look at our website for full details.

•Sunday 10th April - Palm Sunday Service at 10.30 am

•Sunday 17th April - Easter Day Eucharist at 10.30 am

We have a busy month in May. In addition to our regular church activities, Friday, May 13th sees our popular 'St Barnabas Quiz night' return after a COVID absence. Then on the evening of Saturday, June 25th, there's a concert by the Ismena Collective.

Sunday School has started again, and people are very welcome.

We are planning a series of concerts throughout the spring, summer and autumn. There will also be various literary and community events. When full details are available they will be put on the website, church Twitter feed and Facebook page, so do sign up to them for updates.

Finally the service of 'Compline', a short version of Choral Evensong, takes place on the last Sunday of each month except August at 7 pm. It's a lovely and reflective way to end each week, with our choir under the brilliant leadership of Greg Skidmore.

www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk



ST BARNABAS CHURCH

FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK UPDATE

By Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty

It was a grey, rainy morning when our hardy volunteers started planting daffodil bulbs 'round the ole oak tree' last November. They did a great job. Over the years our daffodils have never ceased to enchant park visitors with their cheerful beauty and vibrant colour in the springtime.

The good news about tree planting is that environmental charity The Conservation Volunteers Group gave us over 100 tree whips - English Oak, Silver Birch, Aspen, Green Beech, Common Alder, Rowan and Goat Willow. We also bought some Hawthorns and Hornbeams, so 160 trees in total! Our members/volunteers then planted these around the park on the 4th and 5th March. It was a great turnout and a real team effort, with FoWP members, volunteers, Merton Tree Wardens, idverde staff and the Community Payback Team all helping one another.

Andrew Kauffman, previously Head of Greenspaces at contractors idverde, is now the new Head of Parks at Merton Council. Warmest congratulations, Andrew. We've worked happily with Andrew in the past, and we very much look forward to working with him in the future.

The dam safety works started in January. To clear up any confusion – the lake is NOT being desilted. Merton Council is improving and modifying the existing dam to meet



TREE PLANTING IN FULL SWING

statutory safety standards. Unfortunately to the disappointment of many the dam promenade walkway had to be closed off completely for a few months even though we had asked the contractors if this could be done in phases. We did however succeed in getting the planners to extend the length of the new open stream joining the existing open brook. This will be much more aesthetically pleasing, could reduce flood risk, and have enhanced ecological value. The works are due for completion in May 2022.

We sent in another response regarding the AELTC planning application to both Merton and Wandsworth Councils. We are seeking to stop AELTC from using our public park as a car park during the Championships in the summer. This has over the years consistently caused damage and restricted public access and enjoyment. Please read the full report on our website.

We sadly lost three trees to Storm Eunice - one near the brook, another by the stadium and a third near Horse Close Wood. It's always sad to lose trees in this way and we don't know if these will be replaced. Wherever possible fallen trees are now left to nature, as deadwood supports a diversity of life.

Our new website is coming along fabulously, and we have had lots of positive feedback. Do have a look at it, and why not join our group? Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Facebook too!

www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org

ATHLETICS IN THE PARK - IT'S A HERCULE-AN EFFORT

George Mallett, a member of Hercules AC senior men's squad, profiles our successful athletics club based in Wimbledon Park

Residents may have wandered past the Wimbledon Park athletics track and wondered about those people running, jumping, and throwing their way around its sheltered confines. The track is home to Hercules Wimbledon AC, an athletics club that has for decades produced international athletes across several events. Whilst Hercules Wimbledon was formally the result of a merger between Hercules Athletic Club and Wimbledon Athletic Club in 1967, it can trace its roots to shortly after the Second World War when the cinder track first opened in 1953.

Since then every level of athlete has passed through its gates, from 10,000m 1972 Olympian Dave Holt to Dave Clarke, a 12-time representative of Great Britain at the World Cross Country Championships. Moving down in distance, 400m runner Dwayne Cowan won World Championship bronze as part of the 2017 Great Britain & NI 4x400m team.

After a quieter start to the 21st century, Hercules, as they are generally referred to, are currently enjoying an impressive renaissance. The club has a clear lead in the men's Surrey Cross-Country League Division One, widely held to be one of the most competitive leagues in the country, and recently finished a club record 10th in the National 6-Stage Road Relays race. With their strength in depth (their B team came 19th overall, beating most A teams) they expect to be in medal contention for the 12-Stage equivalent.

Alongside the team, success has come individual honours. U20 Ellen Weir has represented Great Britain & NI on several occasions, finishing 14th in the recent European Cross-Country Championships and Chad Miller won bronze in the 2019 European



WINNERS OF THE SURREY CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

Junior Championships over 100m.

Hercules has even made the mainstream news thanks to one of their coaches, Patrick Hutchinson, who was pictured saving a protester's life during the Black Lives Matter demonstrations in June 2020. The image has since led to the publication of his best-selling book, Everyone Versus Racism, A Letter to my Children.

Given the impact the club has had on the local community, it may come as some surprise that until very recently the club's future looked under threat. Despite having some of the nation's best sprinters Hercules is currently unable to host sprint competitions due to the deteriorating state of the track. After a lengthy "Save our Track" campaign, supported by, amongst others, England Athletics CEO Chris Jones, negotiations look promising. Initial council meetings show broad support to relay the track, with the club hopeful of completing the works in April.

For anyone of any age who would like to try out athletics for themselves, further details can be found at www.herculeswimbledon.org.uk With the 2021 Athletics Weekly 'Masters Athlete of the Year' Lisa Thomas amongst their flock it's never too late to give the sport a go!

OUR DONATIONS 'SOCK' IT TO THEM AT CHRISTMAS – OVER 3,000 OF THEM

HMP Wandsworth's Chaplain Liz Bridge reports on the latest appeal Grid residents helped with – spare socks!

The 2021 socks appeal was a great success. It didn't perhaps have the visual impact of the 2020 hats appeal, but it was just as good for getting smiles on faces. We originally aimed for 1600 pairs of socks, being one pair for each prisoner.

I was torn - a pair of socks is skilled work if you attempt to knit one but is much cheaper than a hat for a potential purchaser. Would people be prepared to buy any, or would they simply give up on us? Well .... the answer was wonderful. We had enough new socks donated, 3,200, for TWO pairs each, and many were bought from shops like the British Heart Foundation and the Cats Protection League, so there were more winners than just us. The variety of colours, sizes and types, from just foot covers to mountaineering, to specialist socks for diabetics, was amazing.

The socks themselves divided opinion. They came in two distinct flavours, plain and sensible, and wildly coloured. We made up bags as near as we could, a pair of each. The issue was done in waves on the Tuesday before Christmas – it takes a day to get a bag of socks to each man in the prison! At home time we met the prisoners who move the food trolleys from the kitchens to the wings, taking a great train of trolleys back to the kitchens, and a shout when up – "thanks for the socks, Miss!" - and they started to jump about showing me their socks. A young Muslim who I normally see in a very conservative Muslim gown lifted it to reveal lime green socks covered in what looked like fried eggs. His friend was delighted with his black socks that went right up to his knees. There was a lot of hilarity.

HMP Wandsworth is becoming a remand prison, so about 1000 of the men we hold are charged but awaiting trial, sentencing, or extradition. The rest of our population have jobs in the laundry or kitchens, or as cleaners. Because we're a remand prison the turnover of prisoners is very high. When the regime is running well men should not stay long, either being released as innocent or once sentenced moved to more suitable prisons for a long sentence.



ONE OF MANY PILES OF SOCKS DONATED

The result is our Christmas socks on our feet are beginning to melt away, but not our stock of reserve socks! These we use where someone is seriously mentally ill, is self-harming, or suicidal; then chaplains and officers are working together to hang onto sanity and hope. In the donations there were pairs of special socks for diabetics, so they went to the nurses' station and they give them out during the year. A pair of socks can be soft and/or colourful in a world where clothes are grey and much washed. They are a very gentle human gift that can do no one any harm and cannot be misinterpreted. So our Christmas appeal is still working some magic.

On the topic of ongoing help from gifts, the book trolleys with the 2020 donations are still on the wings, and still working well. The Southfields Grid Residents' Association worked so hard to start them up, and at least some of your books are still on their rounds two years later! We now have ten trolleys, always full of thrillers, adventures, and some classic fiction. Our books are good, as we often get donations of brand new and very modern books. Just like at home, prisoners like having a pile in their cell for the days when something happens and they are locked up all day with the only time out being the lunch queue.

Finally the bobble hats. Strangely enough, the hats have not melted away as much as the socks. I saw a work party of recycling cleaners this morning, about ten men, all in a hand-knitted hat of a different hue. There is no way that anyone seeing them could fail to realise that a coloured hat adds to the joy in the world, whoever wears it, and we all waved at one another.

Thank you everyone in the Southfields Grid, and your friends, for your true kindness and ongoing support. Now - is anyone having newish novels and thrillers they want to get rid of? Just email me at **liz@thetaxbridge**.com and I will tell you where to take them.

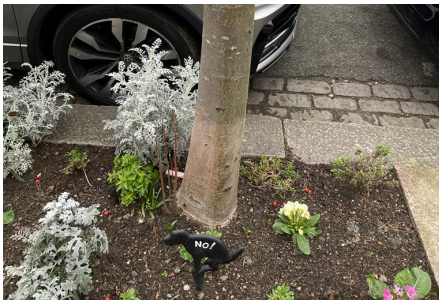
PLANT FOR POLLINATORS WITH GREEN THE GRID

Nina Kowalska says 'save the date, Saturday 14th May'

Green the Grid is back for 2022 and this year our theme is 'Plant for Pollinators'. Saturday 14th May is our first planting day, where we'll be giving away bee and butterfly-friendly plants to brighten up our Grid tree bases and green our front gardens.

Although bees get most of the credit, at least 1,500 insect species pollinate plants in the UK including butterflies, wasps and even the humble fly. Almost 90% of wild plants and 75% of crops depend on animal pollination. However the number of pollinating insects has declined in recent decades, and one of the major causes has been a decline of suitable nectar-rich flowering plants.

We're on a mission to create a pollinator's paradise here in the Grid. Even the smallest tree base or flower box can make a real difference provided it contains pollinator-friendly plants. Our plant giveaway on 14th May will help you get off to a flying start!



A BRILLIANT TREE BASE

Become a Grid Grower

Want to help out before 14th May? We want to make 'Plant for Pollinators' as community-focused and sustainable as possible, so we're looking for volunteers to become Grid Growers and help us grow the plants for the May planting day. We'll supply seeds for you to propagate or plug plants, to nurture into larger plants more suitable for planting into the ground, window boxes or large pots.

Budding gardeners are also welcome, as guidance will be given. If you're interested in becoming a Grid Grower please get in touch with us at **greenthegridsw18@hotmail.com** to sign up.

Save the date, watch out for more details, get in touch - to become a Grid Grower today!

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RECYCLING UPDATE – HOW IS THE GRID DOING?

Tom Newman, Waste Projects Officer at Wandsworth Council, updates on the food recycling scheme we're trialling on the Grid.

Wandsworth Council's food waste recycling trial has now been running for 4 months. The results have been positive, and on average we collect 1.52 kilograms of waste food per household every week, which is in line with national averages. Around 70% of households in The Grid are recycling their waste food regularly. With your support, we think there's potential to recycle even more!

If you haven't already, we would like to encourage you to try recycling your food waste at home. In the autumn you were issued with the following:

• a 23L kerbside food waste collection box, coloured brown and embossed with an industry-standard WRAP food waste icon and the Wandsworth Council logo

• a silver kitchen caddy to be kept indoors for convenient separation of food waste

• a starter supply of biodegradable liners

• an instructional 'how-to' leaflet

The service is easy to use and what's more, many people find they begin to waste less food as they start to separate it for recycling. If you have any questions or would like support in getting started please email us at the Wandsworth Recycling Team on foodwasterecycling@wandsworth.gov.uk

We would also like to remind those residents whose free starter roll of compostable liners has run out that replacement liners can be bought at most supermarkets, usually alongside the other bin liners. Please make sure any liners you buy are fully compostable by checking the packet shows the 'seedling' logo pictured. You can also make use of old paper bags or newspapers to line your food waste containers. Just don't use regular plastic bags!

The Council is committed to providing this trial service for one year ending November 2022. The trial results will then be analysed, to help inform decisions on the range of recycling services to be provided under the Council's next waste collection contract.

Update on Recycle More Southfields by Dante Crowden

Recycle More Southfields finished our first year in 2021 having recycled a massive 410kg of hard-to-recycle plastics that would otherwise have gone into waste. This was a huge achievement from our 230 members and 20+ volunteers. 2022 got off to a big start in January, having a record month of 50kg of recycling. The community spirit in the group continues to inspire and educate, and we are always welcoming others who would like to get involved.

If you would like to know more, you can visit our website **www.recyclemoresouthfields.org** or email us at **recyclemoresouthfields@gmail.com**

ANNUAL FRONT GARDEN AWARDS PREVIEW – 18-27TH JUNE

Yes the time has come - to start thinking about your front gardens and street tree bases, as the awards season will be with us again soon! Let's celebrate our wonderful community by showing the love for our front gardens and tree bases and creating habitats, as well as improving the ecology of our Grid area. Who doesn't enjoy walking along plant and flower infused front gardens and streets? It is a wonderful gift for all residents and visitors

This year we will, as before, be handing out awards for 'Best Front Gardens' and 'Best Street Planting'. Judging for both categories will take place between 18–27th June. A reminder that 'front garden' is construed in the broadest sense: a window ledge, a space outside your door, pots and containers, hanging baskets as well as a conventional plot. You don't need to sign up as everyone on the Grid is automatically included.



COULD YOUR FRONT GARDEN LOOK LIKE THIS?

We hope to rejuvenate the street tree bases as some are in need of TLC via the 'Best Street Planting' awards. We are going to give an award to the best tree base in each street. Also we'll be acknowledging the street with the most planted tree bases. Astonville Street won this award in 2021. Will they win it again this year?

Green the Grid will be handing out seeds and plants, including sunflowers which are super- attractive to pollinators over the coming months; ideal for planting in front gardens and street bases. This could help create a pollinator corridor in our area.

So, as a community, let's get pruning, digging, planting, attracting wildlife and gardening. Green spaces are precious – let's make the most of them.

All the results and a selection of the best front gardens will be featured in our summer issue of Grid News, out mid-July.

GRID STREETS LIGHT UP FOR A WONDERFUL WINDOW WANDERLAND WEEKEND

Founder and organiser Samantha Traynor reviews another amazing display of Grid creativity

A stunning 241 windows officially participated in our 2022 Southfields Window Wanderland, the 6th year running for this truly wonderful event. Southfields was transformed yet again into a magical outdoor gallery for everyone to enjoy. The streets were buzzing with kids giggling and neighbours chatting, as cries of wonder and delight filled the night skies.

The Monopoly board on Lavenham was inspired, and I believe an anonymous Greggs sausage roll (see photos) was delivered to their door! Someone must have taken the "Chance: advance to Southfields Station. If you pass Greggs buy me a sausage roll" quite literally! We almost had to impose crowd control restrictions at one stage at my window. Time Out even reposted the photo (see photos) and they've got a million followers!

This is a unique community. You need events like these to serve as a reminder of what we have here in Southfields. To connect, to come together, it's needed now more than ever. There's something for everyone, I find some windows really move you. For me, this year I was deeply moved by all the windows devoted to Ukraine and how we stand in solidarity with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated, and a special thank you to the official sponsors this year. They were: The Magpie Tree, The SGRA, iActive.Me PT and the Sutherland Grove Residents Association. See you all in 2023.

www.windowwanderland.com/southfields



LOVE WAR WINDOW



QUEEN WINDOW



BORIS WINDOW



GRID MONOPOLY WINDOW



SAMANTHA'S WINDOW



GREGGS SAUSAGE ROLL WINDOW

THIS AND THAT – GRID NEWS ROUND-UP

Local council elections take place on Thursday, May 5th. Our Southfields Ward becomes smaller as a result of recent boundary changes, losing the area from the Park Tavern to the Southside Shopping Centre. As a result of the reduction we shall be electing only two councillors, not three.

The SGRA will be holding a hustings on the evening of Monday 25th April at St Barnabas Church, starting at 7.45 pm, when you will be able to hear everything about the various candidates' ideas.

A query was raised at our January public meeting about defibrillators on the Grid. There is a defibrillator at Southfields Station and one in Wimbledon Park. We have investigated the cost of funding a second one on the Grid. The British Heart Foundation suggests the cost would be around £700, and there are currently shortages of supply. The Committee discussed the siting, given they need protection from vandalism and theft.

Wandsworth Boxing Club is holding another evening of top-class amateur boxing on Thursday March 31st at their HQ, the Royal Marines Reserve Barracks, 351 Merton Road. Doors open at 6 pm, the show starts at 7.30 pm, and tickets are £15adult/£10 child. Visit **wandsworthboxingclub@gmail.com** or ring **07956 347238**.



THE EASTER BUNNY IS BACK!

Hannah Need, the Storyteller of Southfields, tells us there will be more dates for her 'Stories in my Back Room' series in April, May and throughout the year. These take place at her Grid home and also online, so please visit **www.hannahneed.co.uk** for full details of them all.

Finally the Wimbledon Park Montessori School's Easter Bunny's annual run is on Saturday 16th April, raising money for the children of Ukraine. The route starts at Magdalen Road in Earlsfield, getting to the bottom of Revelstoke Road at 11.50 am and finishing in Wimbledon Park at 12.15 pm. Details and map - **www.justgiving.com/fundraising/activelittleangels22**

PLANNING NOTES

By Margaret Brett, SGRA executive member

Among the usual planning applications for domestic extensions is the one to build a house on the yard space at the rear of Douglas and Gordon (2021/5729) which has been refused. The planners considered that the development would provide substandard accommodation, be obtrusive and cause undue harm to the visual amenity of the street scene and local character, as well as to the amenity of nearby occupiers.

The application to retain the new shop front at 243a Wimbledon Park Road (2021/2214) was refused as inappropriate and out of keeping, resulting in a substandard shopfront with accessibility concerns. The decision requires that the shopfront and residential entrance should be removed and replaced with a shopfront similar to that which previously existed.

There has been an application for a Premises Licence for the old Barclays Bank site. Bourne's hardware, Freshers greengrocers and Costa Coffee have all closed. We are told that Tomberries nursery will expand into the Costa space.

The proposed one-way traffic trial on Penwith Road is not going ahead. 80% of the 2,300 people who responded to the Council's consultation exercise voted against it.

The Wimbledon Park Rifle Club's application to be designated an Asset of Community Value was approved. The Club is in dispute with the freeholder over its lease extension. The freeholder has consulted locally on his plans to create a day nursery on the site. This would be for up to 100 children and there would be 3 junior hard courts for tennis coaching at the rear where the allotments are at present. A planning application is expected at Easter but will not be considered before the May Council Elections.

There has been some progress on upgrading the pavements in Southfields and the works have moved near the station. A water dispenser has been installed outside Caffé Nero and there are two new flower planters at the station. The Council is to remove the old telephone box at the top of Replingham Road.

A consultation on the further draft of the new Local Plan for Wandsworth ended on 28th February. We wrote to object to the proposals in the first draft to designate the centre of Southfields and the west side of King George's Park as suitable for tall buildings. These proposals have been removed from the new draft.

The owners of gift shop Chalk are hoping to retire this summer, and are looking to sell the shop as a going concern. Do you know anyone who might be interested, maybe 2 or 3 people who'd like to get together? Contact **paulene@chalkgifts.co.uk** if you'd like to know more.

COVID LOCKDOWN TWO YEARS ON – WHO REMEMBERS CATRIN THE HARPIST?

Amidst the awful time many of us went through in the first COVID lockdown in 2020, there were multiple instances of amazing community spirit, with people wanting to do their best to cheer up everyone stuck at home. As we mark the second anniversary of those dismal days in the early spring of 2020, one particular episode stood out. Astonville Street resident Catrin Meek, one of the country's leading harpists, decided to share her lovely music with locals. Each Thursday night, as people stood outside their homes to clap for the NHS, Catrin would bring out her harp and play a selection of music to the delight of all around. Soon a crowd would gather each week, socially distanced of course, to applaud not only our NHS but her uplifting performances. Now living in Windsor with her family, she has such happy memories of those times. "I loved the Grid community, and this was one way of both repaying the love and cheering everyone up".



HEAVENLY HARP SOUNDS FROM 2020

You can find out all about Catrin and her music at www.catrinmeekharpist.com We must try to get her back for a concert one day.

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QUIZ NIGHT AND SENIORS TEA PARTY – THEY'RE BACK!

Two popular annual events that fell victim to the pandemic are both returning to provide two fun events in the Grid this spring.

Firstly St Barnabas Church will be running its popular Quiz Night again on the evening of Friday 13th May after a pandemic-enforced hiatus. Quiz Queen Rachel Collander-Brown will be testing minds and memories, and the evening will include a two-course supper and raffle. Profits will go to support St Barnabas, which hosts many community services and events. They include a food bank, a regular Monday afternoon club for the over 50s, a winter homeless shelter and our super annual neighbourhood festival 'Southfields Harvest'. Tables of up to 8 are £20 a head, to include a two-course supper. Please contact organiser Jennie Allen without delay at **jennieallen@virginmedia.com**.

Secondly the SGRA Seniors Tea Party will return after a two-year absence. Absolutely free to attend, we invite all older people in the Grid to come along and enjoy the fun on Saturday, June 4th from 3-5.30 pm. Although there's no need to book, you can just turn up, we'd appreciate it if you can book your place so we have a rough idea of numbers. Please contact Margaret Brett for further details on 8870 5364. We can promise you fine local food, good company and great entertainment for a Platinum Jubilee weekend.

NEW WARD PANEL TO SCRUTINISE LOCAL POLICE WORK

As many of you will know in Southfields Ward we have, for many years, had quarterly 'report back' meetings with our Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers to discuss local crime figures, trends and ward priorities. Although it seems that in Southfields Ward we have more regular meetings with our SNT than some of the other Wandsworth council wards, we have now had to come into line with other wards.

Therefore the Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel (SNP) has been established to support and scrutinise the work of the SNT. Southfields Grid Residents' Association executive member Clive Williams, who has been collating monthly crime figures from the www.police.uk website has become its Chair, with Shireen Watson as Secretary.

Southfields Grid residents may know that crime figures for the SGRA area show that the Grid has the lowest reported crime rate of all of Southfields Ward. Higher numbers of crimes were reported in the north of the ward by Wandsworth High Street and Southside Shopping Centre.

This May the boundaries of Southfields Ward will change, as will the boundaries of most of the wards in Wandsworth. meaning our ward loses all the area north of Granville Road and Brathway Road up to Southside and Wandsworth High Street. This means the 'new' Southfields Ward boundaries will now be the District Line railway in the west, Granville Road and Brathway Road in the North, the River Wandle in the east down to Penwith Road with Ravensbury Road and Revelstoke Road forming the Southern Boundary. This means total reported crimes per month in Southfields Ward will reduce by approximately two thirds over the 'old' ward figures as shown below:

- Crimes Oct 2021: 151 of which 16 SGRA area, + 29 in new ward = 45 new ward total
- Crimes Nov 2021: 124 of which 16 SGRA area, + 30 in new ward = 46 new ward total
- Crimes Dec 2021: 127 of which 17 SGRA area, + 23 in new ward = 40 new ward total



JANUARY'S WARD PANEL MEETING

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM UPDATE

Here's an update on the main crime and safety issues in the Grid.

- Crime statistics are low for burglary, but theft from cars remains a concern, so this is a focus for the team. They are patrolling hot spots and checking car doors, as too many remain unlocked.
- Please dial 999 if you require an immediate response to a crime - don't hesitate if you're unsure if a situation merits 999. The operator will determine the risk. For less serious offences that need reporting, there can be a delay dialling 101, but it can also be completed online. A report is generated, and you WILL be contacted.
- Theft of catalytic converters is a well-organised crime. Please dial 999. 'Ring' and other CCTV doorbell brands are useful crime prevention tools, and the footage can be used. The information can also be used for 'stop and search'.
- The best number for a local police station is 101 – the closest are Wimbledon or Lavender Hill. An officer/car can be arranged to attend your house.

The next Ward Panel meeting is on Saturday 23rd April at 10.30 am at St Barnabas Church. Please come along and find out about our work!

southfields@met.police.uk



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LOCAL AUTHOR IVY, MIXING WORDS AND PEOPLE

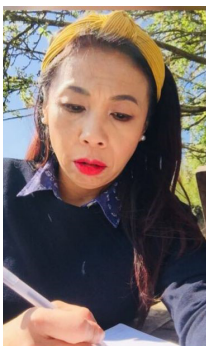
By Charles Runcie

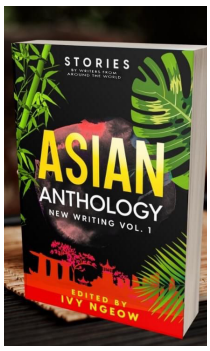
Ivy Ngeow loves writing and loves our area, where she's lived since June 2001. The two dovetailed recently when she marked the publication of her latest book "Asian Anthology New Writing Vol 1" with a book reading at St Barnabas.

For this, her 4th book, Ivy came up with the anthology idea. Authors were invited to submit ideas for publication, and 23 were eventually chosen. She enjoyed discovering the new writing of both established and up-and-coming authors.

It's the first publication of its kind, with contributions from writers originating from Malaysia, Singapore, India, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Serbia, Austria and France as well as the UK and USA. "These 23 shorts capture that paradox of richness, diversity and humour that is Asia," says Ivy. "This new book encourages new voices and writers who are writing about Asia". The book is in the top ten literary new releases in the UK and the top 20 in the USA.

To celebrate the launch Ivy recently put on a literary event at St Barnabas, where she and three other writers read excerpts from the new book. It all came about when Ivy tweeted she was keen to get local community support for some book events. "The Rev Ian Tattum saw my tweet and approached me to ask if I would host a local event" explains Ivy. "Having had two years with nothing to enjoy 'live' it seemed a good way to get local people interested in the arts again".





IVY NGEOW

Born and raised in Malaysia, Ivy's family found it tricky to source books for her where they lived. "I wrote constantly as a child to entertain myself and my brothers, telling stories". Her Mum eventually got Ivy her first library card when she was just 9. "A library card and a chopper bike, that was me sorted!" she laughs. Moving to the UK at 26, Ivy came on a working holiday doing resort design and also working to earn money in smart hotels like Claridge's. Although hotel designing became her full-time job, she always kept writing. She was rewarded when she won an international literary prize for her debut novel which was published in 2017.

Ivy lives in Pirbright Road with partner Geoff and their family, and loves the area. However busy, she always has a couple of projects up her sleeve, usually writing suspense novels and thrillers. "With other hobbies, you need a kit. The great thing is with books, all you need is a pen and paper".

You can read lots more about Ivy at her website www.writengeow.com and contact her at **ivy_ngeow@yahoo.com**

FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS UPDATE

By Susannah Perry Greene, FoCG vice-chair

2022 has got off to a good start, as thanks to some marketing, there are a healthy 93 members of the Friends. Two new faces are on the committee too - Geoff Davis as Membership Secretary and Mario Pisani as our Treasurer. We've added help too from five Duke of Edinburgh Award helpers, all doing a great job of weeding, bed shaping, painting and planting as well as leaflet dropping.

The Friends are planning three events this year:

• Our Annual Meeting on Wednesday 27th April at 7.30 pm at the Scout Hut, Pirbright Road. Everyone is welcome

• Summer Picnic on Saturday 2nd July from 12-3 pm

• 'Winter Wandergarden' winter fair on Saturday 10th December, time to be confirmed

There's been quite a bit of work going on in the gardens. Two birch trees and a cherry tree have been planted so far, and the council have installed a water tap to make watering much easier. The restoration of the Edwardian water fountain is due to be completed by the end of March, paid for by the council. It will be redesigned to its working order as close to the original design as possible.

Exciting news about a future development now. We have won a bid for £120,000 to redevelop the popular playground by the nursery. Plans are being formulated now, and thoughts about its design. The gardens managers Enable Leisure and Culture plc are waiting for the Council to process documents and go through the tendering process.

If your family use the playground and have ideas about what it should contain, please contact us now at **www.focoronationgardens.co.uk**

LATEST FROM SOUTHFIELDS LIBRARY

By Sucheta Samant, Library Manager

It is nice to see so many of our residents back in the library. It is delightful to see our Saturdays getting busy with families. There will be lots happening during the next few months at the library. Please pick up our monthly bulletin so that you don't miss anything.

Last month we celebrated National Women's Month with local resident Jill Hopper giving an author talk, displays, plus craft activity events for St Patrick's Day and Mother's Day.

For Adults, we have lots to entertain - more computer classes run by Digipals, meet the Community Police, Reading Group meetings, Knit and Natter club, Scrabble Club and Quirky National Day displays.

Easter craft activities will take place, alongside our usual popular Baby Rhyme Times and Story Times.

Our lovely Duke of Edinburgh students are still helping out with 1-2- Reading Support and Scrabble club for children, so come along to these. Coming up are National Pet and National Stress month; Autism Awareness, Gardening Week and many National days like Stephen Lawrence Day to commemorate.

We will also be celebrating our Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, so do visit and be part of our exciting times ahead. We will also be welcoming some new staff and increasing our social media presence.

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

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OUR POSTBOX TOPPER STRIKES AGAIN – 'PRAY FOR UKRAINE' IMAGE

We highlighted in the last issue that the top of the letterbox in Wimbledon Park Road is being decorated by a marvellous knitted creation, done by one of the secret army of 'post box toppers' around the UK. No longer had the festive season passed that a rather lovely depiction of St Valentine's Day appeared, and now we have a tribute to the people of Ukraine at this terrible time. Wonder if our mystery knitter is now working on something Easter-related? Whatever is done, it's a lovely addition to the Southfields streetscape.

If you're the topper, we'd love to feature you in our next Grid News in July. Please email **info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk** and we promise to keep your identity a secret!



OUR TOPICAL TOPPER

PLASTIC-FREE SHOPPING? WE UNWRAP A GUIDE TO THE GRID

by Jill Hopper

Many of us are worried about plastic pollution in the oceans. Recycling your plastic waste is good, but the best thing is to choose plastic-free in the first place. We are lucky in Southfields to have lots of independent businesses, many of which are taking steps to reduce packaging and stock eco-friendly products.

One big source of waste is disposable coffee cups. If you switch to a reusable one, you can save money: Dropshot on Wimbledon Park Road gives 20p off your coffee when you use your cup, and at De Rosier Chocolate and Coffee on Revelstoke Road there's a nice selection of bamboo cups, a free coffee when you buy one, and 10p off each time you use it.

For fruit and veg, you could visit our excellent local farmers' market, held on Saturday mornings from 9-1 pm at Wimbledon Park Primary School, Havana Road. Take your shopping baskets, containers and egg boxes for the full zero-waste experience!

At The Village Butcher on Replingham Road, meat is wrapped in wax-coated paper, not plastic, or they are happy for you to take your containers. A few doors down, Sam and the friendly florists at SW Blooms use biodegradable oasis, string and raffia ties and brown paper/biodegradable cellophane for their bouquets. At the Wellbeing Pharmacy, you'll find bamboo toothbrushes and plastic-free dental floss. Fullers Library has plenty of notebooks and stationery without packaging, while just opposite, the team at Yellow Print Shop package their print jobs in cardboard and have a recycling point for printer cartridges.

At Chalk gift shop on Replingham Road, there is a wealth of plastic-free products including paper straws, bamboo plates and toothbrushes, unwrapped soaps and candles, fabric and jute ribbons, and greetings cards in biodegradable cellophane. Co-owner Paulene Cattle says: "We are seeing more demand from our customers for these products and we want to help their efforts by expanding our range all the time. We all must do our bit."

Other useful information

Abundance Southfields: Organises the picking and sharing of fruit from local trees. See **www.abundancesouthfields.com**

Beeswax wraps: An alternative to clingfilm. Available from zero-waste shops (see below),

Lakeland in Wimbledon or online suppliers like **www.beeswaxwraps.co.uk**

Milk&More: Milk and dairy products are delivered to your door, also fruit juice in glass bottles.

Guppy bags: Catch plastic micro-fibres from clothes as you wash them. See **www.guppyfriend.com**

Lush, Wimbledon/Putney: Toiletries and cosmetics sold unwrapped or in recycled plastic packaging. Return your empty packaging and they refill it or melt it down and remould.

Sutton Community Farm: Fresh, seasonal veg delivered to you from a local community farm. See **www.vegbox.suttoncommunityfarm.org.uk**

TK Maxx, Wimbledon/Wandsworth: Good range of soap bars in paper wrappers.

Zero-waste shops: Packaging-free goods sold in bulk, including pasta, pulses, cereals, cleaning products and toiletries. Fill your receptacles or use recycled jars provided. You can also donate jars and egg boxes for them to reuse.

Zéro, Unit 201, Centre Court, Wimbledon: See **www.thezeroshop.com**

Bring Your Own, Tooting Market: See **www.byo.london**

Want to do more?

1. Email your local supermarket and ask them to act on plastic packaging!

2. Join local group Recycle More Southfields and recycle more of your household waste that can't currently be handled by the council, such as toothbrushes, pens and cosmetics. See **recyclemoresouthfields.org**

3. Transition Town Tooting is starting a new project to fix items that are broken or worn, using the skills of local volunteers. Contact **transitiontowntooting@gmail.com for details.**

SGRA Executive Committee

Chairman: Charles Runcie | 020 8875 9565
charles@charlesruncie.co.uk

Vice-chair: Gerard Sebastian | 020 8877 2518
ggerard.sebastian@gmail.com

Secretary: Serena Potter | 07778 419569
sgrasecretary@gmail.com

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

Committee Members: Margaret Brett, Ann Kerr, Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, Clive Williams, Alise Veremeja

Street Representatives

Astonville Street
Lesley McCaul at 109
Brookwood Road
Ian Shaw imks11662@outlook.com
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
Oliver Ashbee at 78
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Zola du Preez at 24
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Margaret Brett at 15 Elsenham
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Tim Lynch timothyedwardlynch@yahoo.co.uk
Pirbright Road
Charles Runcie at 17
Replingham Road
Alise Veremeja at 182
Revelstoke Road
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Trentham Street
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty at 169
Tania Kowalski at 91

PLEASE JOIN THE SGRA

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:

- Cash to your street representative, list above
- PayPal - Log in to your PayPal account: treasurer@southfieldsgrid.org.uk
- 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 by emailing sgrasecretary@gmail.com to confirm your payment, and our database will be updated. Better still, put your address as the online reference when you pay".

LOCAL FACILITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

Business
Southfields Business Forum - sunny.p@talk21.com
Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce www.wandsworthchamber.org

Cultural
Singswell – www.singswell.co.uk
"Southfields storyteller" - www.hannahneed.co.uk
Sounds of Southfields – www.soundsofsouthfields.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

Faith
St Barnabas, Lavenham Road - www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk
Everyday Church, Wimbledon Park Road - www.everyday.org.uk/southfields
Ahmadiyya Mosque, Gressenhall Road – www.loveforallhatredfornone.org
Wimbledon Mosque, Durnsford Road – www.wimbledonmosque.org

Interest groups
Friends of Coronation Gardens – www.focoronationgardens.co.uk
Friends of Wimbledon Park – www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk
Green the Grid – www.frontgardenfriendly.uk
Grid Mummies – jennifer@acertennislettings.com
Wandsworth Tree Wardens www.wandsworthtreewardens.org
Walk and Talk' Movement, Wimbledon Park www.walkandtalkmovement.org

Library
Southfields Library, Wimbledon Park Road - open Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9-7pm, Friday 9-5pm, Saturday 10-2.30pm

Nearby Resident Associations
Gardens RA – sophiamail@onetel.com
Southfields Triangle Residents Association www.southfieldstriangle.co.uk
Sutherland Grove Conservation Area RA – admin@sgcara.org.uk
Wimbledon Park RA – www.wimbledonpark.com

Police
If an incident is an emergency, ring 999 immediately. If not, ring 101.
Southfields – 0208 721 2434 or southfields@met.police.uk
Parks Police - 07500 814108 or 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.com
Swimbledon, wild swimming – www.swimbledon.co.uk.
'Tag' Rugby – 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
Tree Inspector - michael.hinks@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk
Tree warden - Andrew West awest@enablelc.org

Forthcoming local events
Tuesday 29th March – SGRA public meeting via Zoom, 7.45 pm
Thursday 31st March – Wandsworth Boxing Club evening, Royal Marines barracks
Sunday 10th April – Easter Week begins; see www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk
Saturday 23rd April – Southfields SNP meeting, St Barnabas, 10.30 am
Monday 25th April – SGRA local elections hustings, St Barnabas, 7.45 pm
Wednesday 27th April – Friends of Coronation Gardens AGM, 7.30 pm, Scout hut, Pirbright Road
Thursday 5th May – local government elections
Friday 13th May - St Barnabas quiz evening
Saturday 14th May – Green the Grid planting day
Tuesday 31st May – SGRA AGM, St Barnabas, 7.45 pm
Saturday 4th June – Annual Seniors
18-27th June – SGRA Front Garden Awards judging period
Saturday 25th June – Ismena Collective concert, time TBC
Monday 27th June – Wimbledon tennis fortnight begins
Sat 29th September – Southfields Harvest; www.southfieldsharvest.org.uk

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