



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Making a difference
to life on the Grid



GRID NEWS

Summer 2022

Delivered free to every home and business in Southfields Grid

GRID HAS A PARTY OVER PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND

The Grid's Jubilee celebrations went off with a bang last month. There were several well-attended street parties, an SGRA-organised Seniors' Tea Party and Wandsworth Council held a 'Big Picnic' event in Coronation Gardens.

Heythorp Street had not one but TWO street parties. It was a fantastic way to meet and spend time with neighbours in the top/middle section of Heythorp. There was fun for residents old and young, from face painting and a 'Bake Off' competition to a banging DJ set from resident Danny as the sun came down on a memorable jubilee weekend. Sports Day included a Piggy Back race, egg and spoon, relay and hopscotch. The youngest attendee was Baby Thomas, aged just 2 days old!

Both Elsenham and Trentham Streets both put on big events, while the north end of Clonmore Street's Jubilee Party was a tremendous success. According to organiser Johnny Glasscock, it was not all fun and games either. "The street's generosity on the day ensured we made an additional £150, for Linden Lodge School, donated by residents Sue and Douglas on behalf of their

son James" explained Johnny. "Thanks to all who contributed - this is tremendously appreciated," added Sue. "It reflects the joy of community spirit shared by our very special Grid street and the community at Linden Lodge." Elborough, Astonville and Engadine Streets also had events, while off-



JOSEPHINE SZALACSI, AGED JUST 8, WAS OUR JUBILEE QUEEN!

Grid the nearby Crescent Gardens party drew attendees from surrounding streets.

St Barnabas Church hall was bedecked with bunting to welcome older Grid residents to our SGRA Tea Party on Saturday 4th June. Local caterers Salt & Pepper catered a themed afternoon tea for around 45 guests, complete with corgi and crown cake toppers! Guests enjoyed the familiar quiz, bingo and raffle followed by a medley of songs by Cygnet Players. We were delighted to welcome a special guest, the newly-installed Mayor of Wandsworth Cllr Jeremy Ambache. Many thanks to all our helpers who made it such a special day and to St Barnabas for hosting.

On the afternoon of Sunday 5th, June Coronation Gardens was the venue for a council-organised 'Big Picnic' designed to attract families to come and have a relaxed time. Although the overcast weather restricted the number of picnics on show, an outdoor Piano Party featured 70 young pianists from the World Heart Beat Music Academy and local schools, who entertained a large crowd.

You can see two pages of pictures in our special centre page spread

LOUTS RUIN JUBILEE 'POST BOX TOPPER' CROWN

Residents and shoppers were admiring the latest 'post-box topper' on Wimbledon Park Road, made to coincide with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last month. Sadly the Jubilee creation was targeted one night, and the crown was damaged. The incident was fortunately captured on CCTV, though, and the artist who creates the toppers has distributed screenshots to identify these louts. If you know them, contact the West Hill police at westhill@met.police.uk

The artist, who prefers to remain anonymous, is determined it won't spoil the enjoyment of



THE TOPPER IN ALL ITS GLORY

creating these designs, and the pleasure they give residents. "I plan to exhibit many of them, and there are 2 crowns in the shop windows in front of the post box, safe for all to enjoy".

A previous creation dedicated to Ukraine (the 'dog with sunflowers' design) was put on the 'Olympics' golden post box on Church Road, near the All England Club, so visitors to Wimbledon and tourists could have a smile and inspiration. "One day I'll look for a Jubilee exhibition to put the crown in. I was going to leave the crown all year round on the post-box, but it seems that it's mission impossible!"

EDITOR'S LETTER



Charles Runcie, SGRA Chair

Hello and welcome to another Grid News. I hope you enjoy reading another interesting issue packed with news, features and information about life on the Grid. We're putting this together just after the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, and there's a lovely centre page spread showing how our fellow residents celebrated. Mind you, I think I've seen enough cake for one year! If you ever think we should feature something you're up to then please do get in touch - it's your newsletter.

My SGRA colleague Amelia and her judging panel have been working hard to see around the Grid's front gardens, judging our annual Front Garden Awards. See the results on page 4, which we've worked hard to get into this issue. Even if you've not won, try to make your front garden the best-looking it can be, as it creates such a nice natural environment for humans and wildlife alike.

You will find an envelope inside this issue. This is the time when we ask for your yearly membership, which means you get to keep up with the work of the SGRA, and your money helps pay for our running costs as well as several fine initiatives. Our Treasurer Chris writes more about the finances on this page.

Finally, our next SGRA public meeting before the summer break will be on Tuesday 26th July at 7.45 pm, at our usual venue of St Barnabas Church. If you've never been to one of our meetings, do come along, you'll learn a lot!

My best wishes to you all for a lovely summer, and your continued support of the SGRA.

charles@charlesruncie.co.uk



CARTOON BY GERARD SEBASTIAN

SGRA FUNDS ARE SO IMPORTANT

By Chris Puleston, SGRA Treasurer

Enclosed with this issue of 'Grid News' is the envelope we distribute to collect donations, to run the SGRA for the coming year. Thanks to every one of you who contributed in 2021, as we collected just over £3,000 to support local initiatives. These included the Front Garden Awards, our Jubilee Seniors' Tea Party, Window Wanderland, Green the Grid - and of course this newsletter. We also need some money to pay for the running of the SGRA - meeting room bookings, postage, stationery, website maintenance and so on. If you wish to donate, simply drop some cash in an envelope and return it to your street representative (see back page listing) or by going directly to our bank account: sort code 20-90-69, account number 83500020. A big thank you also to our street representatives who deliver the newsletter and collect the donations each year.

GOLF COURSE PLANS - UPDATE

By Simon Wright

The timing of the recent council elections may have contributed to the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) planning application not yet having been considered by both Merton and Wandsworth councils, and it's fairly certain this will not now happen until August. Tony Belton is the new Chair of the Wandsworth Planning Applications Committee, while our local councillor Guy Humphries remains on the committee. Merton Council and AELTC have been asked to respond to questions about the restrictive covenants placed on the land in 1993 - neither have yet done so. Local MPs Stephen Hammond (Wimbledon) and Fleur Anderson (Southfields) continue to take a keen interest in the subject, and Fleur has already met the new Wandsworth Council Leader Simon Hogg to express her concerns. At the end of May AELTC submitted a further document to support their planning application entitled

"Community Benefits Statement." This confirms their commitment to building the Parkland Show Court and the 38 grass courts and also includes the following:

- The land formerly occupied by the golf course would have the same access hours as the rest of Wimbledon Park except during the Championships, Qualifying, Set Up and Dismantling. The land will remain subject to permissive access



- 500 Parkland court tickets will be sold to residents per day. The capacity of this proposed new court alone is 8,000. "Local" to be defined subsequently

- A "target" to eliminate cars parking on Wimbledon Park by 2026"

simon.wright@global-organics.com

KFH SOUTHFIELDS SUPPORTS UKRAINE APPEAL – HOME AND AWAY

Local estate agents Kinleigh Folkard & Hayward (KFH) and prominent client and local Southfields father John Silvester teamed up to start a remarkable appeal in support of Ukraine. The effort was coordinated by Lloyd Noblett, Southfields sales branch director at KFH, collecting financial donations as well as toiletries, clothes and baby items for those affected by the crisis in Ukraine.

They set up a JustGiving page alongside a donation drop-off at KFH's Southfields office. It quickly had them soaring towards their £5,000 target, and they were inundated with crucial items dropped daily by residents. During the appeal, they stumbled across a Southfields resident named Olga, who had a strong relationship with someone in Poland, especially in orphanages. She was able to connect them with the people they were so desperately looking to reach. This contact proved to be pivotal to their journey to Eastern Europe.

They set off in the early hours of Wednesday 25th May, a 2000-mile roundtrip, with two large trucks filled to the brim with donations from Southfields residents including toothpaste, shower gel, clothes, water, food, scooters, bikes, shoes, stationery and textbooks. With a schedule of reaching Leipzig in Germany as quickly as European traffic would allow, they wouldn't get there until 11 pm that evening.

After only a few hours of sleep they were back on the road heading to their first stop; an orphanage south of Warsaw where 39 Ukrainian children were staying. The venue has been set up for them by local businesses and volunteers within an out-of-season and currently disused scouting/orienteering facility. On their arrival, the children were happy and intrigued by the contents of the trucks. The two men spent many hours unpacking, talking and getting to know them as best they could with the help of a volunteer translator. The donations were received with smiles, especially when the craft sets, art materials, summer shoes and toys were unpacked. They were warmly received by the directors of the Orphanage, who insisted on keeping them both fuelled with traditional cuisine especially Pelmeni, pork dumplings, and a traditional Ukrainian dish. They sent them off on their way with a collection of drawings from the children to say 'thanks' and in the direction of their second orphanage, only 45 minutes away.

It was clear at the second orphanage to see funding to support the children being homed there had been erratically received, so the clothes, soft toys, food, arts and crafts books and children's bicycles brought joy to their faces as well as making their day-to-day living circumstances more comfortably. Giving them a break from what they've had to endure recently, as well as living with the

memory of each day. The orphanages took only the bare minimum supplies, to last them until we could get them more in the coming weeks. The vans were re-packed, and John and Lloyd were heading for their 3rd and final stop, a Government building in the



LLOYD (LEFT) AND JOHN TUCK INTO TASTY LOCAL CUISINE PELMENI

Khmelnyskyi district of Poland to provide more children's supplies as well as food, water, bedding and adults' clothes to be transported across Poland Ukraine border to help those still located in Ukraine.

On their return, after an itinerary spanning England, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and Poland and a fuel bill of £1,800, John and Lloyd received letters of thanks from Khmelnyskyi District Council for their support. There were also pictures of the children making use of a package of supplies including summer shoes, Ukrainian school books, and stationery, items John sent on his return using funds from the JustGiving page. Lloyd admitted "Being a new dad I have been so affected by the agonising hardship that people and families are experiencing in Ukraine, even once they reach relative safety across the border. I couldn't just stand there and not try to help. Thank you to everyone in Southfields who took the time to donate to our cause. Hopefully we can make a small difference to those most in need during a tough time in their lives."

Donations have now stopped, but if you would like to support them financially, the JustGiving page is still here www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/johnsilvester-lloydnoblett



UNLOADING SUPPLIES AT ONE OF THE ORPHANAGES

AREN'T THEY LOVELY? OUR FRONT GARDEN AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Phew - another SGRA Front Garden Awards season has ended! It has been hectic, but at least the sunshine allowed the judges to up their quota of vitamin D whilst trawling the Grid. It's been a mixed event; many gardens brimmed with abundant creativity and love while others looked a little sad, unloved, and in a few instances newly and heavily paved over. As with the planted tree bases, some were amazing and beautifully kept; others had been 'left behind.' However, there were more than enough to keep us going. We had our trusty gardens, the ones who always look good every year, but also some wonderful new gardens. This was a joyful surprise which cheered us up no end.

We handed out 28 'Outstanding' (equivalent to last year's Gold) awards which is the most ever (22 last year). In the 'Delightful' category there were no less than 124! Of tree bases, there were 11 true beauties. Our warmest congratulations to all those hard-working and creative gardeners. Bravo! Please put your awards in a prominent place so everyone can applaud your efforts and commitment to greening the Grid. I know that some didn't quite manage an award; please don't be dispirited as we do appreciate all our gardeners so, please keep going and thank you for all your efforts.

So, the big question is - who were our winners and runners-up? It was once again a close call, but yes we have our favourite three. All are brilliant!

Our runners-up are 16 Lavenham Road and 103 Elborough Street. 16 Lavenham has been here before, with Kez its designer having won a runners-up prize in 2020. We were once again entranced by the attractive selection of mainly white flowers - none of which are annuals. Lovely to see a composter camouflaged by an attractive wooden casing in the front garden too. Splendid!



RUNNER-UP - 103 ELBOROUGH STREET

Our other runner-up, 103 Elborough Street is cared for beautifully by Gail and has country garden charm. Masses of pots of varying sizes on the ground and window ledges overflow with mostly white, pink and blue luxuriant blooms as well as handsome foliage in varying shades of green. It creates a natural, relaxed and charming garden. Terrific. Heartiest congratulations to all three - very well deserved.



WINNER - 86 TRENTHAM STREET

Our winner this year is 86 Trentham Street, a newcomer to the awards and tended by Carolyn and Claire. It's well designed, beautifully symmetrical with a lovely array of pots containing purple, white and pink flowers (salvias, carnations and lavender to name a few). A sedum-roofed shed and a 'bee hotel' all contribute to the enchantment. Fabulous!



TREE BASE WINNER - TRENTHAM STREET

Finally we have a new street winner for Best Planted Tree Bases. Trentham Street has taken over from Astonville! Lots of stunning tree bases in Trentham, including this marvellous micro meadow, and mostly in the southern section where tree bases are being looked after lovingly. Well done, Trentham!

Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, chair of judges



RUNNER-UP - 16 LAVENHAM ROAD

SOUTHFIELDS GRID FOOD BANK NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Elsenham Street resident Grid Diana Chitty talk about her food bank

Southfields' community spirit has never been in doubt, nor has its generosity. Residents have now donated a staggering 8,000kg of food via my doorstep at 154 Elsenham Street, all of which has gone to help people facing severe hardship via local food bank centres in The Trussell Trust network.

When face-to-face operations at my food bank were forced by lockdown to close in March 2020, we started home deliveries. I put handmade posters in our front windows on Elsenham Street asking if local people might donate. And donate they did, and still do! The response was overwhelming. People stopped to chat, children bought food with their pocket money, and hungry families received much-needed food as a result. Southfields' wonderful local businesses displayed our handmade posters in their shop windows.



DIANA USES HER EASELS TO HIGHLIGHT FOOD NEEDS

But Wandsworth Foodbank is about much more than food. The food bank does not just give out emergency food. Its mission is to end the need for a food bank, by helping people out of poverty and campaigning for change. Clients are referred through job centres, GPs, and other social agencies to ensure food is given to those who truly and desperately need it.

Back now at our food bank centres, free services include legal and debt advice, well-being support, nutrition, fuel poverty and housing advice, supported by Citizens Advice and pro bono lawyers. Two years on from the start of the pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis has sadly increased poverty levels even further. So, THANK YOU Southfields and our neighbours for your continuing support.

Bring your donations to 154 Elsenham Street, and online donations can also be made at

www.wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk/donate

READ ALL ABOUT IT! SOUTHFIELDS LIBRARY ALIVE ONCE AGAIN

By Sucheta Sumant, Library manager

Our Southfields library is a buzzing, busy library again. We have had our locals all feel safe to return; students using our study spaces to revise for their exams; people coming in to browse our daily newspapers; reading groups in full swing enthusiastically discussing and sharing what they've read.

We couldn't hold a street party for the Jubilee celebrations, but we had the ambience and the bunting. Our entrance table featured a selection of our books on the Royal Family which were digested by many.

We had well-known local author and illustrator Jane Porter coming to read stories to local schoolchildren and talked about Empathy as it was 'Empathy Day' on Thursday 9th June. She also very quickly illustrated a few animals at the request of the children. They all benefitted from these sessions and could have spent much longer with Jane as they had lots of questions to ask her. Jane also read from her new book, 'The Girl Who Noticed Everything' - it was an exclusive preview!

We also have three local authors planning to visit our Library in the next few months:



CHILDREN WERE ENTRANCED TO HEAR LOCAL AUTHOR JANE PORTER

- Catherine Yardley has just had her debut novel 'Ember' published and will be visiting the library on Saturday 16th July at 11 am to talk about her book and writing experience. Ember is a family story that asks, "Can you ever walk away from someone you love or do some fires never die out?"

- Sarah Clarke signed a deal for three 'domestic noir' psychological thrillers. They are all set in the local area, including Southfields and Wimbledon, as well as Wandsworth, Clapham and Battersea. Her first book 'A Mother Never Lies' has been very well received, and her second book 'Every Little Secret' was recently published. Sarah will be visiting the library on Saturday 6th August at 11 am.

- Ivy Ngeow has written many fiction books and non-fiction articles and has been shortlisted and won many awards. She'll be visiting the library on Saturday 8th October at 11 am to talk about her recently published 'Asian Anthology Vol 1' and her other books. She was featured in the spring edition of 'Grid News.'

We have copies of these available to borrow, so do grab one before others do and join us for these author events. Let's support our local authors, and maybe buy a signed copy too.

Saturday 9th July brings the highlight of our library calendar, The Summer Reading Challenge. Children read six books over the summer holidays and get stickers, a medal and a certificate. We may even throw in a few other goodies in a prize draw. The theme this year is GADGETEERS. Let's keep the cogs and literacy working over the holidays and keep the children busy. We also have some magnificent events planned.

We are a fantastic bunch of colleagues who love it when our library is busy. Email me anytime, to be added to our email contact list, at sucheta.samant@gll.org

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GREEN THE GRID'S 800 PLANT GIVEAWAY AIMS TO STOP DECLINE IN POLLINATORS

By Karen Booth, *Green the Grid*

This year our 'Green the Grid' group is on a mission to create a pollinator's paradise in the Grid by encouraging residents to plant pollinator-friendly flowering plants in their local tree bases and front gardens. It's estimated around 1,500 insect species pollinate plants in the UK including butterflies, wasps and even the humble fly. However, the number of pollinating insects has declined in recent decades, due in part to a lack of nectar-rich flowering plants.

To get things off to a flying start, we held a plant giveaway on Saturday 14th May. The weather was sunny and very warm, so there was a good turnout at our stall outside McCluskey's on Revelstoke Road. A good mix of residents turned up to collect their plants, including the 'Walk and Talk Movement' who dropped by on their regular Saturday morning walk. Though it was perhaps a little too warm for some of our more delicate plants, which needed frequent watering to keep them happy, lots found new homes.

Our new 'Grid Growers' group was key to our success this year. We are determined to make Green the Grid as community-focused and sustainable as we can, so we recruited an army of volunteer 'Grid Growers' to grow seedlings and young plants for the day. Over 800 plants large and small were grown, including sunflowers, cosmos, nasturtiums, salvia, snapdragons, gazania, fennel, broad beans and runner beans. We also received a donation of marigolds from Edgecombe Hall Resident Association Gardens in Southfields, which was much appreciated.

Our sunflowers were a particular hit with many people wanting to grow them in solidarity with Ukraine, so we are hoping for a particularly good showing of 'Spectacular Sunflowers of Southfields' later this summer.

Although we are not formally judging sunflowers this year, the annual Front Garden Awards judging took place in June, and awards will be handed out at Southfields Harvest on Saturday 24th September.

Finally, we would love more people to join us and grow plants from seed, so please do get in contact if you would like to volunteer as a 'Grid Grower' for future events.

Our email is: greenhthegridsw18@hotmail.com



HELP, ADVICE AND TIPS BEING EXCHANGED AT OUR PLANT DAY

FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS UPDATE

By Susannah Perry-Greene

Thank you to everybody that turned up and met us at the Jubilee festival in Coronation Gardens in early June. It was lovely to meet you all, despite the threatening weather, and we have also signed up another 20 members which is fantastic news.

The next big event we are planning is our annual informal picnic, taking place from 12-3 pm on Saturday 23rd July. We invite families from around the local area to come along, bring a picnic and celebrate our lovely heritage Gardens. We'll have our Friends gazebo there with some giveaways, and the chance to join up as a member. Then in December 'Winter Wondergarden' will return for the first time since 2019, our midwinter fair and music event, on the afternoon of Saturday 10th December. We would love some help organising this massive project if you have a spare couple of hours a week? It's really interesting and you'll learn a lot. Please contact me via the website.

A big thank you goes out to our Duke of Edinburgh Award pupils. They have been weeding, planting, painting, litter picking and doing general maintenance of the flowerbeds since last September. If your child would like to complete their Duke of Edinburgh award from September please let us know.

The FoCG has also been active in the last year working with Wandsworth Council's contractors Enable Leisure + Culture to ensure the Coronation Gardens playground is re-designed to better serve families in the local community. "We believe it has the potential to be an exceptional playground that surpasses anything currently available in the local area" outlines Ellora Coupe, the FoCG's playground committee member. "We want something more in touch with its natural setting, which provides a really beautiful imaginative space for children to play and learn." If all goes well the new playground should be installed by spring 2023.

Finally, if you ever have a picnic in the Gardens PLEASE TAKE AWAY YOUR RUBBISH!

However clean you tidy up, black bags filled in the Gardens overnight attract urban foxes. They tear at the plastic to get at the scraps, and the resulting mess is predictable – but totally avoidable if you take your rubbish with you.

Please contact us about anything to do with Coronation Gardens via our website www.focoronationgardens.co.uk



OUR INDUSTRIOUS FRIENDS GROUP COMMITTEE MEET REGULARLY

PICTURE SPECIAL - FROM STREET PARTIES TO TEA PARTIES, SOUTHFIELDS CELEBRATES THE PLATINUM JUBILEE IN FINE STYLE



A HIGHLIGHT OF ASTONVILLE WAS A BOUNCY CASTLE



THE SUN HAS COME OUT, SO CLONMORE TUCKS IN



FUN AND GAMES FOR THE YOUNGSTERS ON CLONMORE



I'M NOT SURE YOU'RE ALLOWED IN THERE, SUNSHINE!



TUG OF WAR WAS POPULAR AT THE CRESCENT GARDENS EVENT



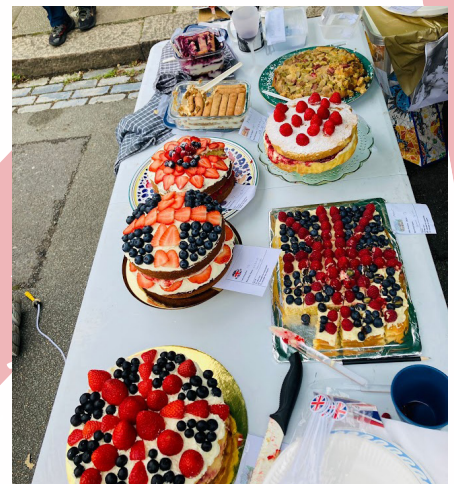
TIME TO SHOUT ABOUT OUR STREET PARTY ON ELBOROUGH



ONE OF THE MANY CAKES THAT WERE SERVED UP AT STREET PARTIES



ON YOUR MARKS! HEYTHORP PARENTS' RACE IS ABOUT TO GET UNDERWAY



HEYTHORP CAKES DISPLAY - MARY BERRY WOULD BE IMPRESSED



PIRBRIGHT'S 'GINS BY THE BINS' EVENT DREW A LARGE CROWD



FACE PAINTER NIKKI WAS IN GREAT DEMAND ON TRENTHAM



FUN IN THE SUNSHINE AS TRENTHAM RESIDENTS ENJOY THEIR PARTY



BUSINESS WAS BRISK WITH CUPCAKES IN CORONATION GARDENS



CORONATION GARDENS IN A PARTY MOOD DESPITE OVERCAST WEATHER



OUR SENIORS TEA PARTY GUESTS LIKE LESLEY ALL GOT A JUBILEE MUG



THE MAYOR SAYS 'HELLO' TO OUR GRID SENIORS AT THEIR TEA PARTY



THEY WERE 'DANCING IN THE STREETS' ON ELSENHAM



ALISON COOPER GREETS A VISITOR AND HER DOG TO ELSENHAM

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GOSIA THE NEW 'GRID GROWER' GETS GREEN-FINGERED!

Gosia Salmon on her seed-growing adventure

On Saturday 14th May our community celebrated yet another enjoyable day highlighting what living in Southfields really means. What a great and successful day it was too, with over 800 pollinator-friendly seedlings distributed amongst the community under a splendour of a gloriously sunny day.

Now not everyone will have realised that the seedlings given away there have been enthusiastically homegrown by locals, the real stars of this project. Through various sources it didn't take long to gather a team of 'Grid Growers,' a group of around 20 quite different people but with one honourable purpose in mind - to grow plants from seeds.

We formed a WhatsApp group, and soon it was pleasantly buzzing with all sorts of chats about the various challenges ahead. Where



THE RESULTS - PERFECT SEEDS!

to find the best seedling trays? How to even start growing things? Many of us, myself included, did not have very much experience in such brave projects. We were also not

aware of the devastating effects of a night-time slug invasion, seeds that will not show up, and even wonky sunflowers! There were pictures posted of the most magnificent and most ridiculous home-grown seedlings in greenhouses, kitchen floors and offices, just about anywhere that could be used! Not to forget my favourite picture of the final results - my pride and joy - home-grown seedlings. Here it is if you all were wondering where all the 800 seedlings came from.

It was a steep learning curve for most of us, but we all had a true experience of love, passion and perseverance. I personally cannot wait to do it again next year and will do it all the better this time with new knowledge gained and the hugely supportive chats from my fellow 'Grid Growers.' Thanks to you this dream idea could - and did - happen.

If you'd like to become a Grid Grower in 2023 email ninakowalska@aol.com

POLICE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM UPDATE

By *PCSO Don Lopes*

Our Southfields ward, including the Grid Area, is still suffering from offences regarding thefts from motor vehicles. The perpetrators are targeting vehicles left insecure with valuables on display. Please do not leave any valuables on display in your vehicle, as this makes it more likely that criminals will attempt to break in.

Unfortunately, we have also had offences of 'theft of motor vehicle' as well. Please do not leave your car keys near the front door. We recommend that you leave them away from the front door and in a secure Faraday Box.

Residents are still having delivered packages stolen from communal areas and outside properties. Please leave specific delivery

instructions and postage information for postal companies. This will help to prevent your package from being taken by an opportunist thief.

Officers from Southfields SNT have recently conducted a 'Safer Streets Operation' on Wimbledon Park Road. This has involved Police Officers wearing hi-visibility jackets and making use of our improved speed gun camera to advantageous effect. We have been targeting drivers travelling faster than 20mph in a 20mph designated zone.

Officers attended some of the recent Jubilee parties in the Grid. They engaged with residents, providing crime prevention advice and handing out 'I Met the Met Stickers' to children in the company of their parents.

Southfields SNT has also been engaging

with the management of Tesco Express on Replingham Road regarding a homeless male beggar who has been using the location as a toilet. We have been engaging with him over the past year. We have also been in constant contact with Streetlink, a homeless charity. The beggar was offered accommodation, but nevertheless, he's decided to return to the area largely due to the amount of money donated to him by passers-by!

Finally, please attend the upcoming Southfields ward panel meeting on Saturday 23rd July at 10.30 am. This will be held at St Barnabas Church, 146 Lavenham Road SW18 5EP. This meeting is a terrific opportunity for all Grid residents to meet the team and pose any questions to them.

southfields@met.police.uk

LOCAL PLANNING NOTES

By *Margaret Brett*

The application to develop the Wimbledon Park Rifle Club site as a children's nursery with adjacent mini tennis courts is registered with the council (2022/1549). This has provoked vehement and spirited opposition, not only locally but from around the UK. The club has been on the site since 1904 and is valued for its special contribution to this inclusive sport. It has an exceptionally long waiting list. Many of the objections make the point that there is an excess of local nursery spaces, so no need for more tennis courts,

whereas the current provision is irreplaceable.

Shop news - recently-closed Replingham Road shops Bourne's Hardware and Thai Girder restaurant are both being refurbished. Thai Girder has opened as 'Chilli and Basil' and Bourne's might be a deli.

The application, (2021/3379), for two additional storeys at the old Costa Coffee at 271 Wimbledon Park Road has been refused. They are now making changes to the front of the building without planning permission.

Work to upgrade the pavements paused at the

tube station for the duration of Wimbledon tennis. New concrete block seats, which will function as 'hostile vehicle mitigation' security barriers, will go where the new tarmac has been left.

TfL is consulting on extending the Ultra Low Emission Zone, currently the area within the North and South Circulars. They're proposing it covers the current London-wide Low Emission Zone within the M25 from 29th August 2023. The consultation is at www.haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/cleanair until 29th July.

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THIS AND THAT - GRID NEWS ROUND-UP

Local Refugees

It's great Wandsworth people are welcoming Ukrainian refugees into their homes. Our local churches are providing some help as well. There is a long-established community cafe at St Andrew's Earlsfield, and St Michael's on Wimbledon Park Road is providing a meal between 6-9 pm on Fridays at Brathway Hall. St Barnabas is now hosting a drop-in cafe on Saturday mornings between 10.30-12 noon to provide a meeting place for recently arrived Ukrainian refugees (and other refugees) to meet and chat with each other. Any offers to help will be welcome. Speak to Margaret Brett at ma_brett@hotmail.com or 020 8870 5364.

Quiz night

The famous Southfields 'Quiz Night' was re-launched on Friday 13th May with 11 local teams competing for the title Top Quizzers at St Barnabas. Questions ranged from "Which of the four Beatles could read and write music?" to "What is the current population of Spain?" and were compiled by Quiz Queen Rachel Collander-Brown. A delicious supper

was provided by Southfields-based caterers Thoughtful Food. The winning team included Adam and Bella Park and Colin and Stephanie Buckley plus 4 friends. Thanks to the last-minute auctioning of a ticket to the FA Cup Final the next day, kindly donated by Grid resident Lincoln Jopp, profits from the event just nudged over the £1500 mark. They will be used to help restore St Barnabas' financial reserves to full health after being somewhat depleted during the pandemic. Many thanks to all who took part, helped or donated raffle prizes.

Royal Marine Reserves

Our neighbours at the Royal Marine Reserve City of London Regiment held a Family Day mini-festival at their barracks on Merton Road on Saturday 18th June. There were bands, children's entertainment and comedians, plenty of stands depicting the work of the RM and RMR and a terrific display by the Royal Marine Corps of Drums. As the date fell around the 40th anniversary of the end of the Falklands War, two veterans gave powerfully moving recollections of their time in the South Atlantic, to warm applause.

SGRA AGM

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 31st May, when Chair Charles Runcie and Treasurer Chris Puleston gave reports as well as some other local organisations. The Committee was re-elected unopposed (see back page for Committee details) while guest speakers were Diana Chitty on her food bank work, and Fleur Anderson MP who talked about her work with various local issues.

Recycle More Southfields

Recycle More Southfields has been in operation for 18 months, and the group continues to make an impact. For the first half of 2022 they've saved 250kg of hard-to-recycle plastics from going to waste, a 30% increase from 2021. They're also finding ways to continue spreading the word, including getting involved in some of our local schools' summer fairs, and speaking at a trading show to educate on recycling in the community. If you'd like to know more or join up, visit www.recyclemoresouthfields.org or email Dante Crowden at recyclemoresouthfields@gmail.com

ST BARNABAS CHURCH UPDATE

By Rev Ian Tattum

Calling Performers! On Saturday 16th July we are hosting a 'Performathon' to raise money to support music and performance in our church. The event will comprise 12 hours of non-stop performances in the church, from 7.30 am until 7.30 pm. It's a whole community event which celebrates live performance! We're hoping to draw on the wealth of talent that lies within our Southfields Grid community, and so are putting out a call for performers. Music, theatre, spoken word – it's all warmly encouraged! All disciplines and lengths of the programme are most welcome. Further information is available

on the church website or email Rebecca at stbarnabasperformathon@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

In May we launched a new children's service, and this has proved very popular with families with small children. The next date is Sunday 4th September at 9.30 am.

Our Compline Service continues every month on a Sunday at 7 pm. The choir under the expert leadership of Greg Skidmore is growing, and new members are always welcome. Future dates have not been fixed, but see our website for confirmed dates, it's usually the last Sunday of the month.

Martin Whittaker has taken over from David

as our volunteer gardener. He is looking for volunteers, and we are also planning to make training available for people who want to know more about gardening, particularly gardening for nature. You might remember Martin from the many years his business 'The Wimbledon Gardener' was based on Merton Road.

We are expecting to run the Glass Door Night Shelter again in the autumn and winter, so would welcome volunteers to help their vital work with the homeless and continue to run an emergency larder to help struggling families.

www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk

SOUTHFIELDS HARVEST 2022 PREVIEW

One of our area's best-loved events returns on Saturday 24th September at St Barnabas Church from 12-3 pm. Storytellers, makers, bakers, doers, growers, park-lovers, beekeepers, fruit pickers, gardeners, recyclers, singers, musicians, friends, neighbours and much, much more – you'll find them all at Southfields Harvest 2022. Organiser Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen says "We've got an exciting afternoon lined up for you, filled with local goodies aplenty produced right here in Southfields, from cider and honey

to allotment veg. There will be fun things to do and loads of interesting people to meet"

New to our area? Head down to St Barnabas to get acquainted with your neighbours and involved in community projects. There will also be:

- 'Southfields Bake Off'
- Local art event
- SGRA Front Garden Awards ceremony
- Green the Grid


• New for 2022, the 'Listening Cart' from Meet and Make Spaces

If you have a locally produced, edible product you'd like Southfields to try, an idea or initiative you'd like to share, or you'd like to volunteer to help, please drop a line to Elizabeth at southfieldsharvest@gmail.com We can't wait to see you.

"The festival is one day, but the impact is all year round... making Southfields such a great community." Fleur Anderson, MP

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FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK ROUND-UP

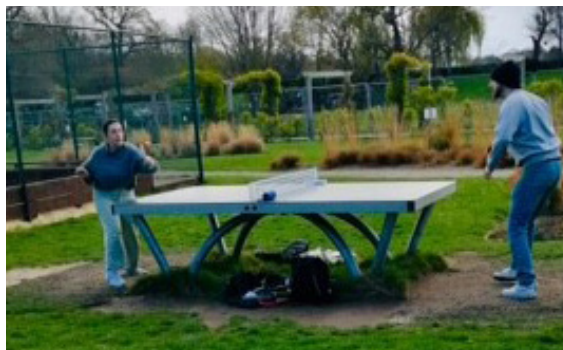
By *Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty*

There's been a lot of building work going on in the park over the past few months.

The dam safety works continued digging up the Wimbledon Park Brook, resulting in the Crazy Golf having to be closed. Given the new stream's steep banks and harsh landscaping, we asked the dam's Safety team about making it safer and more attractive. The team also built a large, raised horseshoe-shaped 'bund' (an embankment) in front of Revelstoke Road to prevent flooding into the Grid. We queried why a gap had appeared in the bund. We were told it is to 'provide vehicle access to the park for future events and, apparently to assist people with mobility issues. In the event of an actual flood, sandbags would be used.

The lakeside benches at the Athletics Stadium end of the dam walkway have not been re-installed, though there are benches at the

other end. FoWP is seeking to get these benches reinstalled, as they were very well used and much appreciated by all park visitors.



THE PARK'S TABLE TENNIS TABLE IS WELL-USED

It was lovely to see so many players taking part in a recent table tennis event. Both experienced and novice players got a chance to play and were given guidance and tips by

the organiser Louis Cadier. Good to see our very own table put to such effective use! We hope more people will take up table tennis, and don't forget we have another table ready for the near future! For more info see www.streettt.com/about

We have had several queries from readers about BBQs. We have now learned that Merton Council has clearly decided that no BBQs will be permitted in the park and has erected signs about this.

Finally, the interactive water play area has finally opened, and will run until Sunday 4th September. It's wonderful to see the joy this activity engenders! Following a request from one of our followers, we have asked Merton Council if it could remain open for at least a week more.

This would allow pre-schoolers more time to play once the older children have returned to school.

www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org

ABUNDANCE SOUTHFIELDS IS ALL READY TO PICK, SQUISH AND FERMENT!

Organiser Richard Konig looks ahead to another busy summer shaking local trees

We have had a cloudy and damp start to summer 2022 so far. Hopefully, you will barely remember this spell of weather by the time you are reading this article in a sunny mid-July which is when we will be gearing up for another season of fruit picking and cider fermenting. The picking and fermenting starts in mid to late August and extends into the start of October, so we have probably still got our feet up. What happens around July is that we start selling last year's ciders which should be perfect for consumption on hot, long summer days. The 2021 Abundance Southfields ciders are sweeter than the dry ciders we have made in earlier seasons, which may suit some drinkers and disappoint others. To stay informed about where and when we are selling you need to follow us on Instagram (@abundancesouthfields) or sign up for our newsletter via the contact page on our website (details at bottom)

For those who do not already know about Abundance Southfields - a quick recap. The project involves volunteer fruit pickers going to collect the excess fruit - apples and pears - that arrives in large volumes on and under the trees of residents all over Wandsworth in summer. The idea is to save this going to waste

and put it to effective use. We either turn it into alcohol and vinegar for sale to raise funds or give the best fruit away to the community at pop-up events outside our tube stations and other busy places. Tree owners who share this glut of fruit get some ciders, a garden free of rotting fruit and a warm inner glow from doing something nice. Volunteers help pick fruit, help give it away, help press and bottle apple cider and help with selling ciders at events. It is all very sociable, and may also produce a warm inner glow, especially where cider is involved! If you are not already involved or have fruit trees you cannot make use of, you should get in touch.

We have used the funds raised through cider sales to buy various bits of equipment like fruit presses, scratters (to mush the whole fruit before they hit the presses), extendable picking poles, fermenting buckets, bicycle trailers, pallets of bottles and various bottling and fermenting kit. All very handy but - along



HAPPY SHOPPERS WITH TASTY LOCAL FRUIT AT A POP-UP EVENT

with 900 bottles of cider - starting to fill quite a bit of space. We have had use of a rent-free garage from Wandsworth Council for the past couple of years but are outgrowing that. We also need some form of premises to bring the apples back to and where teams of people can do all the processing and fermenting which also requires a fair

amount of space. Perhaps we will be able to harness the biodiversity and climate change initiatives of Wandsworth Council to help find a solution in 2022. (Any Wandsworth councillors reading? Hello!)

The Southfields Grid has always been a rich source of fruit and volunteers, so please get involved by signing up, following us, and spreading the word both locally and up to the Wandsworth borough borders. Hopefully, we will see you at one of our events, or under a fruit tree very soon.

www.abundancesouthfields.com

LOCAL FACILITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

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

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
Andrew Dunley at 90
- Engadine Street**
Isabelle Lemettre at 116
- Hamilton Mews**
Charles Runcie at 17 Pirbright
- Hanford Close**
Vacancy, volunteers welcome, please contact us
- Heythorp Street**
Kyra von Schottenstein at 127
- Langton Place**
Zola du Preez at 24
- Lavenham Road**
Margaret Brett at 15 Elsenham
- Merton Road**
Tim Lynch timothyedwardlynch@yahoo.co.uk
- Pirbright Road**
Charles Runcie at 17
- Replingham Road**
Vacancy, volunteers welcome, please contact us
- Revelstoke Road**
Vacancy, volunteers welcome, please contact us
- Trentham Street**
Trevor Howes at 70
Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty at 169

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.loveforallthatredfornone.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 - 020 8721 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 020 8767 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
Swimbleton, wild swimming - www.swimbleton.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 19th July - Friends of Wimbledon Park forum, Wimbledon Park Hall, Arthur Road
Saturday 23rd July - Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Ward Panel meeting, St Barnabas, 10.30 am
Saturday 23rd July - picnic in Coronation Gardens, 12-3 pm
Tuesday 26th July - SGRA public meeting, St Barnabas, 7.45 pm
Saturday 24th September - Southfields Harvest, St Barnabas, 12-3 pm
Tuesday 27th September - SGRA public meeting, St Barnabas, 7.45 pm
Tuesday 18th October - Friends of Wimbledon Park forum, Wimbledon Park Hall, Arthur Road

The autumn 2022 issue of Grid News will be published in mid-November. Copy deadline for submissions is Friday October 21st. We'd love to hear from you!

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.