



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Making a difference
to life on the Grid



■■■ SPRING 2023 ■■■

Delivered free to every home and business in Southfields Grid

SHOP LOCAL OR RISK LOSING THEM - BUSINESS LEADER

The value of local shops and shopping was at the forefront of a task force that met recently to outline ways to help our local shops and services. Many businesses have been hard hit by the pandemic, the economy and utility price rises in recent years, overall footfall in Southfields is down, and some of our local premises remain stubbornly empty. Local MP Fleur Anderson, Cllr Guy Humphries, residents and SGRA committee members were joined by Lorinda Freint, Head of High Streets and Local Growth in Wandsworth Council's Economic Development Team.

It's her job to revitalise shopping centres like ours, and as the group toured Replingham Road visiting examples of shops which were doing well, she explained the importance of residents helping to support our local shops. "You can be the difference in whether the bakery, the greengrocer, the cycling shop down the street survives, or dies after a couple of years. The more vacant shops there are, the more difficult it becomes to find tenants for them". Lorinda outlined the main reasons for the importance of local shops:

Shopping locally is a way to create a unique neighbourhood

The Shop Local trend has many benefits, such as building relationships within the community and helping support the local economy while creating a more vibrant and unified neighbourhood. When buying



MP FLEUR HEARS VIEWS ON OUR SHOPS

from business owners you trust, shopping experiences become more enjoyable because you know where the product originates, and you know the people behind it.

Everything has a story to tell - help tell that story

Visiting local shops and choosing to spend locally allows you to network and befriend neighbours. Making connections with people and businesses that surround you encourages word-of-mouth marketing and creates the unified community we all benefit from.

'Shop Local' Benefits the Economy

Choosing to spend locally allows money to be cycled back into your community, which means you are helping boost the local economy. This means opportunities for businesses in your area to give back in ways of sponsorships and local events.

What does 'shopping local' really mean?

Shopping local means enjoying, sharing information, and supporting small businesses in your area. Sharing your recent treasures and finds on social media, using the hashtag #shoplocal connects you with other lovers of local businesses and helps grow the community surrounding this movement. There are many artisans and entrepreneurs in the Borough who rely on local businesses to keep going.

Shopping locally can extend online

Many local businesses have websites; simple changes in online shopping habits can make all the difference to the shops on your high street. It is also the perfect way to get to know people and discover new places you love. Making a point of shopping local and showing your support throughout the year will transform your community. Instead of waiting until Small Business Saturday to stop by a local business, go today to uncover your new favourite places in the area.

Lorinda and colleague Juanita Stanuel-Taitte will be talking to shop owners during the spring, and hopefully come up with one or two more ways to fill those vacant shopfronts, as well as revitalise local lobby group Southfields Business Forum. You can contact them both at the Economic Development Office via J.Stanuel-Taitte@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

END OF AN ERA FOR MARIO'S WIMBLEDON PARK CAFÉ

Wimbledon Park café owner Mario Bullani has been told by Merton Council that his lease on the premises will end on March 31st. Mario and his family have run the café for nearly 20 years, so the news shocked many who stop off for a coffee or ice cream when enjoying the park.

In an emotional post online Mario reflected "Me and my family will never forget the amount of support we have received over the years, and we thank you for being with our family in all its ups and downs."



NEW CAFÉ OWNERS FROM APRIL

Ed Savitt, owner of local coffee shop Dropshot on Wimbledon Park Road, admitted the industry was struggling at present. "It's sad

to see an independent closing down, and I hope another one will follow it. I hope a large chain doesn't come in, as that space lends itself to an independent".

A Merton Council spokesperson said: "The current lease for this popular cafe in Wimbledon Park was for 10 years to the end of March 2022. Due to works taking place on the lake in the park and to help the café recover trade post-Covid, a one-year extension was given. We would welcome the submission of a bid from the current tenants".

EDITOR'S LETTER



Charles Runcie, SGRA Chair

Hello everyone, welcome to our spring newsletter, packed with Grid stories. If you ever fancy submitting anything for a future issue, do get in touch. We'd love to tell the rest of Southfields about your story!

The SGRA is always grateful to its members for helping out, and we currently have a couple of vital roles which I hope might interest some of you. Firstly we'd like someone with admin skills to keep a record of our monthly meetings, send round agendas and meeting notes for them, and generally help out with membership queries and admin. Secondly, can someone with IT skills help us for 2/3 hours a month keeping our IT and database up to scratch and suggesting improvements?

Spring is a busy time for us at the SGRA each year. Firstly on Tuesday 28th March our next public meeting takes place at St Barnabas from 7.45 pm, and will also be available via Zoom. If you struggle to get out to St Barnabas in person for whatever reason you now have the chance to follow it online. For the link, send an email to info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk

Then on the afternoon of Sunday 7th May we'll celebrate HM's Coronation with our annual Seniors Tea Party from 3-5.30 pm at St Barnabas. With free entry to every senior resident on the Grid from 60 upwards, we promise good food from local caterer Salt + Pepper, live entertainment, games, prizes and special guests. If you know of someone who qualifies, do invite them but let us know at info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk

We now need an organiser for our annual Front Garden Awards. If you've green fingers and fancy leading our judging process in June do get in touch. It's good fun and an important Grid event.

Look forward to hearing - and seeing - you all in the coming months. Now enjoy our issue!

Charles Runcie



CARTOON BY GERARD (GERARD.SEBASTIAN@GMAIL.COM)

COUNCIL CHEERS OUR FOOD WASTE COLLECTION SCHEME

By Tom Newman, Wandsworth Council Waste Projects Officer

Staff and elected members at Wandsworth Council have taken a keen interest in hearing the views and experiences of Southfields Grid residents on their food recycling service that started back in November 2021. The Council conducted a survey on its first anniversary in December 2022, and this was completed by 190 households. It revealed positive impacts in terms of food waste reduction as well as recycling, and also highlighted reasons why some households have stopped using the service.

- Just over half of the households which responded said they have significantly reduced the amount of food that they waste. The most common approaches included choosing to buy less food, using up more leftovers and storing food better so that it lasts longer by using Tupperware or freezing, for instance.
- Nearly all households that responded (97%) would recommend it to their family and friends. By diverting recyclable food waste from general waste (black sack) collections the recycling rate in the Grid has increased from c.29% to c.41% on average since November 2021

This service was originally introduced as a trial but is now considered to be permanent. Planning is already underway to extend food recycling to a second area of low-rise housing, in Balham. It will also be done at selected flats that use large communal wheeled bins, including those located within the Southfields Grid. Residents in the Grid can also look forward to a fresh roll of compostable food caddy liners which will be delivered during the spring. We are asked to leave our brown caddy at the gate and not on the pavement.

The Council's Waste Team would like to thank everyone who took part, your responses will be used to shape future recycling services in Wandsworth!

foodwasterecycling@wandsworth.gov.uk

BIG QUIZ RETURNS TO ST BARNABAS!

It's back, the chance to have a super evening with friends, test your grey matter and raise funds for a worthy cause. St Barnabas Church on Lavenham Road will be running its hugely popular Quiz Night on the evening of Friday 12th May. Doors open at 6.30 pm, a delicious two-course supper included in the ticket price will be served from 6.45 pm, then the Quiz starts at 7.45 pm. Teams are 8 maximum, but you can be matched with others if you don't have a full team. The ticket price will be set shortly, but tables are limited, so to reserve one email stbarnabassouthfieldsoffice@gmail.com

AELTC GOLF CLUB DEVELOPMENT PLANS NEARING PLANNING DECISION

By Simon Wright

The latest estimate as to when Merton and Wandsworth Councils will finally review the planning application made by the All England Lawn Tennis Club is now expected to be in April. It seems likely that special meetings will be convened due to the size and complexity of the application. Southfields councillor Kim Caddy has agreed to present the concerns of residents to Wandsworth Council's Planning Committee on which our other councillor Guy Humphries is a member.

Interesting recent developments include articles critical of the AELTC plans appearing in the Evening Standard, Private Eye, Time &



HOW THE NEW DEVELOPMENT MIGHT LOOK?

Leisure, the Mail on Sunday and The Sunday Telegraph. Putney MP Fleur Anderson was interviewed on BBC over her concerns about the impact of the projected development on

Wimbledon Park.

AELTC will have a new chair soon in Debbie Jevans, who will take over from current chair Ian Hewitt after this year's Championships. This appointment comes after a period of change for AELTC, who have seen three main-board directors resign in recent months. The Save Wimbledon Park petition on www.change.org currently has nearly 9,000 signatures. In response, the AELTC have launched their own petition to generate support for their proposals.

If you would like to be kept up to date on the progress of the planning applications please email me at simon@ofplus.com

LOCALS GO BEHIND THE SCENES AT WIMBLEDON

Across the weekend of February 4/5th the All England Lawn Tennis Club opened its gates to over 1,000 visitors for its annual Community Open Weekend. This two-day event allowed local residents the opportunity to experience Wimbledon outside The Championships with a range of fun family-friendly activities, completely free of charge.

Guests, including the Mayor of Merton, were treated to tours of the world-famous Grounds, access to the Wimbledon Lawn



"YOUNG FANS ENJOYING THEIR VISIT"

Tennis Museum and Library, games of mini tennis and a range of craft activities as well as coffee and cakes in the Wingfield Café.

Residents were also free to browse The Wimbledon Shop and speak with our resident gardeners to learn more about the proposed plans for the Wimbledon Park Project. You can hear what residents had to say about our Community Open Weekend video by going to the News section of www.wimbledon.com

AELTC GIVES CHANCE TO WALK GOLF COURSE PLANS

The AELTC is offering a final opportunity to go on a guided tour of the proposed Park development on the last Friday and Saturday of April. This is an opportunity to get an exclusive preview of the proposed new parkland in situ and to hear from our experts on how, subject to planning permission, they plan to enhance the character of the landscape, bringing back historic lost features, increasing biodiversity and looking after nature, trees and wildlife. Tours are planned to take 75 minutes followed by a short Q&A. It is strictly on a first come first served basis. Should there be a significant amount of interest in this we will look to put on additional tours.

- When: Friday 28th and Saturday 29th April
- Tour timings: 9.30-10.45 am / 11.30 am-12.45 pm / 2.15-3.45 pm
- Where: Wimbledon Park Golf Course, access via the car park on Home Park Road
- What: A tour of the proposed southern parkland hearing about the walk around the lake and the proposed boardwalk; improvements to the landscape and protection of trees.
- Tour will take 75 minutes followed by a Q&A session.
- What to wear: the tour will take place outdoors and regardless of the weather, so please bring comfortable footwear and waterproofs if needed.
- Terrain: flat terrain on grass or gravel paths, however, it can be muddy in places so please bear that in mind in terms of footwear.
- RSVP: RSVP no later than noon on Thursday 28th April by emailing community@aeltc.com
- Everyone booked onto a tour will receive an email confirming final details.



LOCALS FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE AELTC'S PLANS

FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK NEWS

By Damaris Albarran

There are encouraging signs of spring in the Park: snowdrops in the bed below the Home Park Road entrance; daffodils in front of the railway embankment; the willows beside the Lake bursting into leaf and the birds pairing off in preparation for nesting.

Meanwhile repair work has been carried out on the newly opened sections of the brook, with the coir rolls restored and some new wooden mini weirs put in to slow the flow in the steeper part of the brook. Let's hope this will prevent erosion during heavy rain. We know that some of you miss the waterfall area below the Lake and we are asking what the plans for its future are.

There were reports that the water in the Lake looked polluted. While this may have been the beginning of the formation of some blue-green algae, largely harmless to the wildlife associated with the Lake but possibly hazardous to dogs if they enter the water, we asked for a proper investigation which Thames Water has a statutory duty to carry out. At the time of writing we await further news.

While on the subject of water we learned that drinking fountains were recently installed in Wimbledon Town Centre and Raynes Park, and think there is a need for some in the Park. Merton Council's initial response was discouraging, saying the water fountains that used to be by the sailing centre and the playground were vandalised and the cost of water safety testing is too high. The council's free tap water scheme with shops and retailers could be extended to the café when the lease is renewed shortly - see page 1.

November's tree planting was a great success, with the Friends of Wimbledon Park and the Ahmadiyya mosque female volunteers planting 300 trees and 300 acorns and yew cuttings in two days.



MP FLEUR, FOWP CHAIR NICK AND VOLUNTEER JEM TREE PLANTING

Thanks also go to Fleur Anderson MP for planting a tree and to the kind donors of a stone pine and a walnut which were planted near the volleyball courts. Volunteers to help with future plantings and maintenance are always welcome. Contact membership.fowp@gmail.com

The situation with the avian flu reported previously appears to have stabilised, and a recent bird count was the third highest January count over 35 years at 375. It's exciting to see that a small heronry is being established on the island in the Lake and that two little egrets are often down the south arm of the lake. Cormorants have also taken to roosting in the trees around the lake edge. We hope the trees all these species need to breed will be preserved in future.

www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org

HAVE A 'CUPPA WITH A COPPER' - MEET YOUR LOCAL POLICE

Wonder who polices our area? Got something to raise with them about crime and safety locally? Your local police 'Safer Neighbourhood Team' of PC Robbie Quijano Amigo and PCSO Don Lopes are holding community contact events 'CUPPA with a Copper' twice a month. The next will be on Thursday 30th March from 2-3 pm. This and their events every month are held at Caffè Nero opposite the tube station. Please come along to discuss any crime-related issues you have, or just to meet the guys for a chat over a cappuccino.

Southfields@met.police.uk

GRID BARBER CLUB IS BACK IN BUSINESS ON BROOKWOOD

The long established Grid Barber Club, formerly Chris's Hairdressers, on Brookwood Road is bucking a recent trend for shop closures. It's recently re-opened and been revitalised after being closed for a while. A family-run business since 1966, Michael Smyth has joined the owners, and they're open every day except Monday for a range of men's and women's hairdressing needs. Walk-ins are welcome, or bookings can be made via phone or app. All ages are welcome, and there's 10% off for local businesses. "I've extensive experience in the barbering trade over 50 years between us", explained Michael "and we're also re-opening our dog grooming business named Vanity Fur to cater for canine owners locally and the surrounding areas". Check out his Instagram [@mikeyonthegrid](https://www.instagram.com/mikeyonthegrid) and the dog grooming Instagram page [@vanity_fur_dog_grooming](https://www.instagram.com/vanity_fur_dog_grooming) info@thegridbarberclub.co.uk



TIME FOR A TRIM, HUMAN OR CANINE!

WINDOW WANDERLAND - A SHINING LIGHT IN OUR GRID YEAR

Organiser Samantha Traynor reflects on another massive weekend

Window Wanderland returned to Southfields for its seventh year on the last weekend of February. Organiser Samantha Traynor reflects on another massive weekend of Grid creativity. A much-loved event on the Southfields circuit, it didn't fail to brighten another dark and gloomy midwinter's night with all its magic. 165 windows were signed up, all were glorious, and from the Gruffalo to the Spice Girls there was something for everyone. Clonmore Street delighted us all with a Woodland Walk. We even had a window in Tuscany, displayed on the same weekend by an ex-Southfields resident, who loved our annual event so much she just had to take part! Another resident who has moved to Sheffield has even set up a 'Window Wanderland' in her new neighbourhood. The love for the event continues to gather pace and grow, and we look forward to it returning next year.

Special thanks to our sponsors: The Magpie Tree, Southfields Grid Residents' Association, Sutherland Grove Conservation Area Residents Association and The Gym in the Park.

Instagram: [@southfieldswindowwanderland](https://www.instagram.com/southfieldswindowwanderland)

Facebook: [Window Wanderland Southfields](https://www.facebook.com/WindowWanderlandSouthfields)

sammyt66@outlook.com

www.windowwanderland.com

Below are six favourite windows that I spotted on my travels around Southfields. I just love their ideas and artwork!



A UNIVERSAL MESSAGE ON PULBOROUGH



PLENTY OF CLUEDO QUESTIONS ON ELSENHAM



LOOK WHO'S POPPED UP ON ENGADINE!



A LITTLE BIT OF ZIG-A-ZIG-AH ON TRENTHAM



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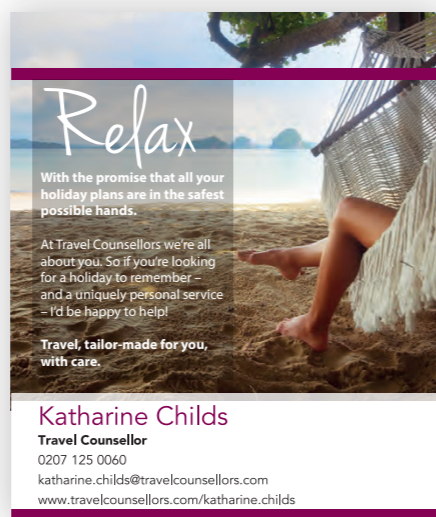
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LOCAL HISTORIC TRANSPORT SIGN IS TO BE SAVED

By Clive Williams

We ran an article in our Summer 2020 issue about the impressive mosaic on the wall behind the Shell petrol station on Merton Road. The building was owned by United Service Transport Co Ltd (UST) whom we believe commissioned the mosaic shortly after the building opened in 1931.

UST's coach operations were sold in September 1965, while their goods vehicles were acquired by Hertz UK for their UK truck rental operations in April 1966. The mosaic, which is understood to be one of the largest advertising mosaics still existing, was visible until Hertz moved away. Subsequent tenants of the building covered the mosaic with their own names until about 2005, when the mosaic was again unveiled. By 2011 both the mosaic and its frame were showing signs of damage, caused possibly by dampness behind them. Such damage has accelerated in the last twelve years.

The SGRA was alerted to the damage in 2020, and although the building is just outside our area the Executive felt we should see if the mosaic could be saved. Our Chair Charles Runcie contacted the Heritage of London Trust (HOLT) who agreed the mosaic merited restoration. A site visit was arranged involving the SGRA, representatives from HOLT, their restoration team and Jack Barclay Bentley (part of the HR Owen Group) who currently occupy the building. Unfortunately this was during the pandemic and everything came to a halt because of lockdown.

In January this year all parties reconvened for another site visit. This time Charles met with HOLT director Dr Nicola Stacey, her restoration specialists and Jake Owen from Jack Barclay Bentley. I was also invited along as a transport enthusiast and historian. As I'd been researching



DISCUSSIONS ON HOW TO SAVE THIS HISTORIC SIGN

UST's history and vehicle fleet for 50+ years I could provide more background to the company.

Inevitably the delay in repairing the mosaic has resulted in more damage, and with the increase in inflation over the last year the estimate for repair has increased by nearly £8,000. HOLT has offered a grant to help with costs, but as yet we have not heard back from the HR Owen Group. The SGRA has offered a small sum, but what is apparent is that there will probably be a shortfall in funds. We may now have to look for additional funding via grants or other sources to save this wonderful mosaic which has graced Southfields for 90+ years, and which is the only survivor of the three that UST commissioned for some of their buildings in London.

If you would like to contribute to the repairs, please contact the SGRA at info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk

CHILDREN'S ACADEMY IS MUSIC TO OUR EARS

By Lottie Parsons, World Heart Beat Music Academy

Local award-winning music academy World Heart Beat on Kimber Road once again threw open its doors to local families at its Open Day last month. It gave children and young people aged 5-25 years the chance to try out musical instruments of their choice, as well as hear first-hand about its music lessons, ensembles, and band opportunities. Aside from the plethora of talented music teachers on offer, its bursary support programme and the unique and inclusive feel of the academy, there are also plenty of opportunities to perform locally, as well as end-of-term concerts to showcase young people's music learning.

Late last year World Heart Beat was delighted to open its second venue at Embassy Gardens, a state-of-the-art music digital music education centre complete with a 200-capacity concert hall. Located in Nine Elms next door to the US Embassy, the venue offers music learning as well as an eclectic, global music programme ranging from jazz, Indian, folk, classical and Latin to contemporary music. Please come down



STUDENTS SAIM RANA AND AMAYA SANCHEZ-PADRON

and visit, as it's a short 156-bus ride from Southfields or only a few minutes walk from Nine Elms and Vauxhall stations.

For aspiring musicians and producers aged 16-25, World Heart Beat recently launched the second season of its free industry training and talent development programme EMERGE to help develop sustainable careers

in the industry. Funding via the Wandsworth Affordable Workspace also offered musicians and entrepreneurs the chance to use its recording studio and training sessions for free, really helping to support our local musicians and develop their businesses.

<https://worldheartbeat.org/whats-on/>

RUNNING FOR FUN - THAT'S THE KIDS FROM RIVERSDALE

By Xavier Faux, Riversdale School PTC

On Sunday 12th March over 45 children aged 2-11 took part in the "Community Hot Cross Fun Run" in Coronation Gardens, in support of Riversdale Primary School. Children took part in 45 minutes of running and 15 minutes of scooting, with the aim to cover as many laps as enjoyably and safely as possible. Plenty of refreshments and fruit (and stickers!) were on offer to support our young athletes. Cumulatively they completed over 1,200 laps amounting to 240km or nearly 6 marathons! Well done everyone, and thank you as well to the Friends of Coronation Gardens for their support.



ON YOUR MARKS - SCOOT!

LATEST NEWS FROM ST BARNABAS CHURCH

By Rev Ian Tattum

We have started developing the garden this year. Two grape vines have been planted already and some more native fruit trees will be planted soon. If you would like to get involved in caring for our nature and community garden our gardener Martin would be happy to see you.

The Glassdoor Night Shelter is still running until April and we are grateful for all the community support. We offer a safe place to sleep, and a nutritious hot evening meal and breakfast to 25 people per shelter each night, to support people out of homelessness.

Events

As well as all the community events that happen in the church and the halls several musical and arts events are planned:

- We have a flute concert by Charlotte Holmes at 3 pm on Saturday 22nd April raising money for those affected by

recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. It features works by Poulenc, Faure, CPE Bach and Chaminade. General admission is free, but please donate on the day.

- The Annual 'St Barnabas Quiz Night' will be on Friday 12th May - see page 2.
- 8-10th June - "Cygnet Proms: a night at the musicals". An orchestra and chorus perform songs from musical theatre through the years. Tickets via www.cygnetplayers.com and at the door.
- The very successful PERFORMATHON is happening again on 24th June, a day-long festival of music, poetry and drama.

Church Services

Our beautiful Compline service continues every last Sunday of the month at 7 pm under the skilful leadership of Greg Skidmore. Our choir has over 20 members and sings traditional choral music. New members are welcome.

Our 9.30 am family service on the first Sunday of most months is a short service particularly suitable for families with young children. The next dates are 2nd April and 7th May.

Holy Week and Easter Services

- Palm Sunday 2nd April: 9.30 am - family service. 10.30 am - Eucharist with a procession of palms starting in the hall. The entrance is via Merton Road.
- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8 pm. Said Compline.
- Maundy Thursday 6th April: 8 pm. Eucharist.
- Good Friday 7th April: 11 am Eucharist.
- Easter Eve 8th April: 7pm. Easter Vigil.
- Easter Sunday 9th April. Eucharist at 10.30 am.

You can contact me directly at iantattum@gmail.com.

OUR LOCAL NHS SERVICES - ALIVE AND KICKING!

Samuel Metcalf, Practice Manager at the Elborough Street surgery, gives an insight into working within the NHS over the winter months. Things are not sometimes how they're portrayed.

Our recent patient group meeting discussed all of the negative press that the NHS and GPs are getting at present. Whilst there are lots of serious problems in lots of parts of the NHS there are also some really good services and care being provided. We wanted to get some positive stories out there regarding 'good practice.'

We have adapted a lot during the pandemic and have changed the way that we work to incorporate telephone, video and online consultations as well as face-to-face of course. In the past few years as part of our Primary Care Network (PCN) we have recruited a lot of attached staff. Patients at Elborough Street Surgery can now access;

- Paramedics
- Pharmacists
- Physiotherapists
- A Mental health worker
- A Social prescriber (link worker)
- A Health and well-being coach
- Care Co-ordinators

In the local GP Network, we are also working hard with other neighbouring practices like the Southfields Group Practice to set up shared nursing clinics for things like asthma checks, high blood pressure checks, smears and vaccines to name but a few. We find that by GP practices working more together at scale, we can provide much-needed extra nurse appointments for patients and do more preventive medicine and well-being checks to prevent long-term health problems.

During the winter we have also spent our funds putting on more clinics for children during the Strep A scare and also more winter clinics for coughs, colds and flu checks that



DR LAURA QUINTON, PARTNER AND CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF WANDLE PCN, IN CONVERSATION WITH A PATIENT

patients need. In 2023 we plan to do more and more and are currently working on new ideas to roll out to the patients of Southfields to keep them healthy and out of hospital. We feel that offering advice and guidance closer to home is what patients are asking for. That also means that our colleagues in the hospitals can free up their space and time for more serious conditions. We share these staff and services with a few local practices including Southfields Group Practice, also on the Grid.

Every month GP practices ask a proportion of patients who have had an appointment; "How likely are you to recommend our services to friends and family if they needed similar care or treatment?" This is an anonymous questionnaire. Looking at the past 9 months of data out of a collective total of 440 patients who responded both Elborough Street Surgery AND Southfields Group Practice had 97% of their patients say they would recommend the practices to family and friends.

We work hard to evolve and improve our services to meet the ever-changing needs of our patients. We really appreciate the positive comments we receive from patients and it really helps to lift the team. Especially in the current climate when facing significant financial pressures and workload challenges.

One patient's story

"My family and I have been patients at

Elborough Street Surgery for many years. We have been grateful for the great care provided by the practice and also appreciate being able to receive treatment at St George's, Queen Mary's and other nearby facilities. Recently there has been so much negative press about the NHS because of the many issues they are having. This has also impacted GP surgeries and patients might be worried about being able to get appointments and therefore the follow-up diagnosis and treatment they require.

I recently had some symptoms that were worrying me and contacted Elborough Street Surgery via the online enquiry form. I was contacted first thing the next morning and asked to come to see the GP that afternoon. After my consultation, the GP advised me to go straight to A&E at St George's. I did wait for 5 hours, and it was obvious the department was very busy. However, the staff were calm, reassuring and doing their absolute best to help everyone. I understand that when you are a patient in A&E it can be upsetting and stressful but some of the patients were aggressive and rude to the staff which certainly didn't help.

After a blood test and a scan I saw a Doctor who gave me a prescription and booked me into a clinic the next day. I then proceeded, over the next couple of weeks, to have a biopsy, a diagnosis, further tests, 2 appointments with the Consultant, further prescription and follow-up clinic appointments booked. Every appointment, consultation, test, procedure and phone call, was conducted by highly professional, caring, friendly and efficient staff, from the reception and admin staff to the GPs, Doctors and Consultants.

So even though I have been ill I am now receiving treatment, and very grateful to the Care Navigators, GPs, Practice Manager and all staff at Elborough Street Surgery for starting me on the journey to recovery.

Debbie Stone, Elborough Street Surgery patient, January 2023

FANCY A GOOD WALK? TRY WALK WANDSWORTH

Walk Wandsworth is a free volunteer walking scheme offering a series of free walks around the borough. The Southfields one has been running for 6 years and is led by Jo, a trained walk leader. We meet every Thursday at 10.30 am on the opposite side of the road to the GP surgery at 81 Elborough Street. We then walk to and around Wimbledon Park taking in the sights and sounds of nature, dog walkers and lots of activities in the park. We're usually finished just before 11.30 am. Jo can advise and guide you towards building up your physical activity at a pace that suits you. We have a real mix of walkers and pace the walks according to who attends. What do you get out of it? A good social hour, exercise, fresh air, a change of scenery and lots of laughter. Come and join us!

Please contact activelifestyles@enablelc.org for more details.



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MEND, FIX AND REPAIR CAFÉ GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

By Serena Potter

Following successful autumn volunteer recruitment at Southfields Harvest and a soft launch at St Barnabas Christmas Fair, we held our first standalone event in January. 51 items were brought along, mostly powered such as computers, vacuum cleaners, clocks and lamps. We also repaired pieces of clothing and small furniture.

Our success rate was just over 40%, with another 41% repairable. They only needed some parts to be bought or advice given, so people were able to complete the task themselves. Only 9 items were deemed 'end of life'. You can find detailed data here: www.therestartproject.org/parties/mend-fix-repair-cafe-st-barnabas-church/

therestartproject.org/parties/mend-fix-repair-cafe-st-barnabas-church/

It was a very busy 3 hours, with a wonderfully positive community atmosphere and a lovely range of refreshments.

The Wimbledon Park Walk and Talk group popped in with some repairs, and Grid resident Toby from Crew Energy gave energy efficiency advice. The Storyteller of Southfields Hannah Need invited people to tell the story behind objects they'd brought for repair, and general memories of Southfields. More people signed up to repair next time, which is great!

Our next event is Saturday 22nd April from

12-3 pm at St Barnabas Church. As well as our usual electric/electronic/small household items we aim to have jewellery, clothes and bicycle repairers. One of our volunteers, Grid resident Emily, will advise about furniture refurbishing and upcycling. How does it work? Bring along your broken item. You'll be allocated a repairer who with you watching, taking part and learning will aim to repair it. We ask for a donation just to cover our costs.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers, not only repairers but those who manage the paperwork at the door and coordinate the refreshments. If you're interested in helping please contact Serena on restartsouthfields@gmail.com



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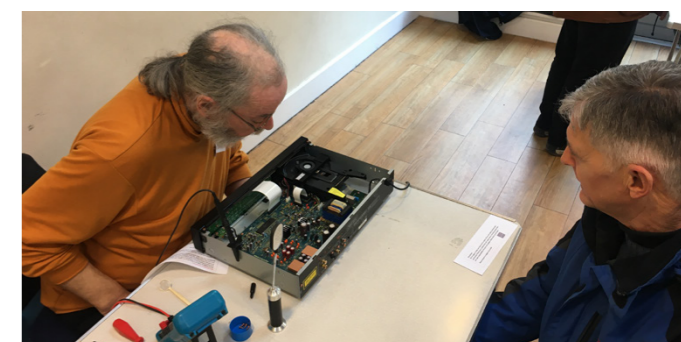
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GREEN THE GRID IS 5 - SO TAKE PART IN THE FRONT GARDEN 5!

By Karen Booth & Nina Kowalska

Green the Grid was started by a group of neighbours with a mission to turn the Grid into a Front Garden Friendly neighbourhood by people planting and not paving. Together we have much to be proud of. Not only have we greened our front gardens and planted tree bases but we've also inspired other communities to do the same.

This year Green the Grid is celebrating its fifth year of brightening up the Grid, and together there's still more we can do. Please put Saturday 17th June in your diary for an extra special 5th Anniversary Planting Day! Look out for more details on posters and our social media.

Following the heatwave we experienced last summer our planting day will include a giveaway of drought-resistant plants that can tolerate hot weather and intermittent



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GREEN THE GRID!

watering. This year we're focusing on the 'Front Garden 5' - the five benefits of greening our front gardens. Planting for drought resistance is one of them, but we'll also be looking at the benefits that plants bring to improving air quality, preventing flooding, encouraging

pollinators and improving our well-being by brightening up the neighbourhood.

We're putting together actions suitable for all levels of gardening experience, ranging from something as simple as planting a container outside your front door to taking on a more complex project involving removing non-permeable paving so you can plant directly into the soil. Look out for further details on social media and on flags and posters around the Grid closer to the day.

So take part in the 'Front Garden 5' this year and join us on Saturday 17th June to collect your plants and learn more about what you can do.

Finally we're always on the lookout for volunteer 'Grid Growers' to help us prepare plants and to help us out on the day. "It's really easy and great fun, especially for non-gardeners!". Please email us at [greenth grids w18@hotmail.com](mailto:green grids w18@hotmail.com)

FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS NEWS

By Tara Osman

While things have been quiet on the growing front over the winter, there's been loads of activity with our Gardening Club and the fountain and the long-awaited fountain restoration".

Our Gardening Club meets on the second and fourth Saturday of the month from 10-11.30 am in the far corner by the white archway. There's a large L-shaped border planted with shrubs and perennials (the "Friends Bed") along with formal rose beds, and we tend to focus on this area for gardening. Since last autumn we have planted crocus, scilla and camassia bulbs, spread large quantities of mulch over the beds - a serious workout! - and kept up with the weeding.

We also spent a very pleasant morning counting birds for the RSPB's 'Big Garden Birdwatch'. There's a 'bug hotel' in the corner of the bed which has many inhabitants by the looks of it. We are starting to make piles of wood and twigs next to it to create wildlife habitats. We make sure that we always have a tea break and chat, an essential part of any gardening activity!

My hope for the Gardening Club is that we grow into a multi-generational group of local people interested in gardening, biodiversity and our local community and that along the



OUR GARDENING CLUB HARD AT WORK, LED BY TARA OSMAN (CENTRE)

way we can swap skills, ideas and maybe inspire some future gardeners! Do stop by to have a chat at our sessions on the 8th and 22nd April, and bring some gardening gloves if you'd like to get stuck in. Email me anytime at taraosman001@gmail.com


In other news, the Edwardian fountain which has been in the gardens since it was installed in 1904 is currently being restored and should be completed by the end of March. There's now a water tap in the main border, which will mean it is much easier to access water for the plants. British Summer Time means

we shall once again be locking the gates to prevent anti-social behaviour at 9 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights over the summer, reopening them at 6 am the following morning. We had a stand at the Riversdale Fun Run event on Sunday 12th March (see page 8) Finally our AGM's at the Scout Hut on Pirbright Road on Wed 26th April at 7.30 pm. We'll review our year and have special guests, who you can meet afterwards. Interested in joining our work? Come along!

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TIM'S AMBITION - SWAP THE GRID FOR 'LE TOUR'

Grid resident for 30 years, Tim Goodman, is combining his passion for cycling in two unlikely ways. He's a helper with the Recycle More Southfields group and uses his cargo bike to pick up the pens, plastic bags, pill packets and other materials participants in the scheme drop off, taking them to the recycling centres that process them, completing the loop created by the dedication of many Southfields residents who are recycling materials the Council doesn't process.



TIM'S LIMBERING UP TO CYCLE 3,500 KMS

"I love cycling," says Tim, "and when I found out about Recycle More Southfields I offered to help. While we won't change the world by ourselves, we will help to make the economy more circular. However I've told the organisers I won't be able to help for a month from mid-June this year, when I am riding 3,500 kms over five mountain ranges one week ahead of

the main race, in the Tour de France's official UK charity Cure Leukaemia.

It funds Trials Acceleration Programmes, saving lives across the country, including in London where it funds centres at Guys and St Thomas and University College London hospitals. We aim to raise £1,000,000 from the ride. I was originally going to do it in 2020, but Covid meant the ride was postponed. I then broke my hip while training for 2021 and spent six months on crutches which meant I was not ready for 2022. So 2023 is going to be my year!"

To sponsor Tim visit his page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Tim-goodman2>

For more information on recycling visit www.recyclemoresouthfields.org.

LOCAL PLANNING AND SHOPS NOTES

By Margaret Brett

We start with two major local planning applications, first for a nursery on the Rifle Club site in Granville Road and second for the extensive redevelopment of the Golf Course by AELTC. Both remain under consideration. The Council's refusal for retrospective permission to change the shop front at 243a Wimbledon Park Road is at appeal.

The SGRA objected to the revised planning application to develop the land to the rear of 235a-237 Wimbledon Park Road. Meanwhile the freeholder is pursuing aspects of the earlier planning permission. We have also objected to the revised application to build behind 24 Replingham Road, as this is an unsympathetic development of a very small site.

The draft Wandsworth Local Plan is reaching its final stages and the changes arising from the Planning Inspectorate consideration have been subject to consultation. Of interest is the modification that any residential development should have a minimum of 10 sqm of private outside space for 1 and 2-bedroom dwellings.

The public realm works around the tube station due to end in November

2022 have not been completed. We are still waiting for the promised benches to go outside the station, and for the return of the water fountain. Some of the new surface is eroding and the relaying of this is in hand. Where a utility company does work on the street they are told of the specification of the materials needed to complete the works to an acceptable standard. They can be asked to come back and restore any defective work but are very slow to do so.

There are welcome signs of change at the old Bourne's ironmongers, the former Bulcraig's solicitors at the top of Replingham Road and the old estate agents next to Dropshot. The Costa coffee site on Wimbledon Park Road has been developed by a children's nursery.

The Council had a scheme to fine people speeding on Wimbledon Park Road, but this has been challenged and the Department of Transport deem it is not lawful. The current proposals by Merton Council to make part of Church Road near the All England Club a 24-hour 'clearway' banning all parking at any time may not help with our speeding problem.

ma_brett@hotmail.com

KIND-HEARTED RESIDENTS GIVE BOOST TO APPEAL

Last Christmas our annual SGRA Christmas Appeal was for items of spare clothing and footwear for many struggling local families, mainly those who use the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in Victoria Drive. We had a great response, and PRU Family Support Worker Donna Macarty has written to us to say:

"Dear SGRA community, I would like to thank you all for your donations of clothing for The Victoria Drive 'Community Wardrobe'. Initially our Community Wardrobe was intended for families and children of the Victoria Drive PRU. Due to the phenomenal response from our local community and especially you at the Southfields Grid Residents' Association we have been able to make a difference to many more individuals and families.

Your Grid residents have hugely contributed to this. The success of our Community Wardrobe has allowed us to extend our support to not only Wandsworth but neighbouring boroughs. Families and individuals can now refer themselves to us through local churches and food banks. Recently I was approached about linking up with a local secondary school to support families who may benefit from a visit to our community wardrobe.

I would also like to thank Access Storage in Gresham Way, Wimbledon for donating a free storage unit to us and allowing your residents access to drop off donations. The Victoria Drive Community Wardrobe wouldn't be able to provide it if it wasn't for you all, so a huge thanks to every one of you!"



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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 at 147
- 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 Lemette 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**
David Boyle at 12
- Lavenham Road**
Margaret Brett at 15 Elsenham
- Merton Road**
Tim Lynch timothyedwardlynch@yahoo.co.uk
- Pirbright Road**
Charles Runcie at 17
- Replingham Road**
Ameet Phadnis at 48
- 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 - www.naturalvoice.net/choir/southfields-sings
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
www.better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/southfields-library

Nearby Resident Associations

Gardens RA - jonathan@pinkess.com
Southfields Triangle - STRA6 info@STRA6.org.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
Mend, fix and Repair Café - restartsouthfields@gmail.com
Tree officers - trees@enablelc.org

Forthcoming local events

Tuesday 28th March - SGRA public meeting, St Barnabas, 7.45-9.30 pm
Sunday 2nd - Sunday 9th April - Easter Church services, St Barnabas
Saturday 22nd April - Police Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting, St Barnabas, 10.30 am
Saturday 22nd April - 'Mend, Fix and Repair' Café, St Barnabas, 12-3 pm
Wednesday 26th April - Friends of Coronation Gardens AGM, Scout Hut, 93 Pirbright Road, 7.30 pm
Sunday 7th May - Seniors Tea Party, St Barnabas, 3-5.30 pm
Tuesday 23rd May - SGRA Annual General Meeting, 7.45 pm
Saturday 17th June - Green the Grid 5th anniversary planting day

The summer issue of Grid News will be out in mid-July
Copy deadline for items or stories for consideration - Friday 23rd June

PLEASE JOIN THE SGRA

The SGRA's financial and membership year runs from 1st June - 31st May, 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

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