



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Making a difference
to life on the Grid

GRID NEWS

SUMMER 2023

Delivered free to every home and business in Southfields Grid

LOCAL BUTCHER TERRY GETS FREEDOM OF LONDON

Local butcher Terry Murray has been made a liveryman of the prestigious Worshipful Company of Butchers. As a result, he's been awarded the Freedom of the City of London. This prestigious honour recognises his excellent work over the years in the butchery trade, and the award included the right for Terry to drive sheep over London Bridge. The scroll and plaque are proudly displayed in the popular Village Butchers shop he and his family run at the top of Replingham Road.

The Worshipful Company of Butchers is one of the oldest of the 110 City of London livery companies, able to trace its roots back to 975 AD and is ranked 24th in order of precedence. "It's a lovely honour to have", Terry explained. "There are monthly lunches, and we do a lot of raising money for charities throughout the year".

Meanwhile the Village Butchers continues to go from strength to strength, celebrating



PROUD TERRY WITH HIS SCROLL, HANGING IN THE GRID BUTCHERS SHOP

its 20th anniversary of trading in Southfields this year. "It's a family business" explains Terry. "There's Danny my brother-in-law, who opened the shop in the first place. He's married to my sister Sue, who works here on

Sundays. My niece Nicky works here all week, and so do my nephew Jack and my son Terry. He's named after me - it's a family tradition!"

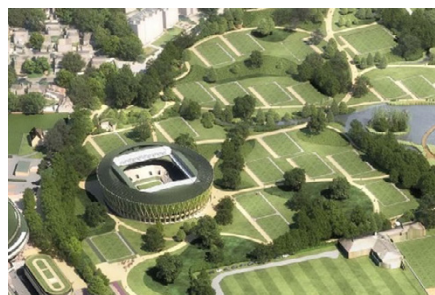
www.sw18villagebutchers.com

ALL ENGLAND CLUB'S GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT - LATEST NEWS

By Simon Wright

We have waited a very long time for Merton and Wandsworth Councils to consider the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) planning application for the former golf club in Wimbledon Park. So we were surprised that both council planning meetings scheduled for May were cancelled at short notice to be held "later in the year".

One possible explanation is the publicity around the recent 'Day vs Shropshire' case. Here the correct statutory procedure was not followed in the sale of an area of public trust land. Residents took the case to court and won, and the planning permission was quashed. The Supreme Court Judge was clear that the Court's decision had application to other public authorities beyond Shropshire. Because of the clear similarities, it's relevant to the sale of the land by Merton Council to AELTC,



FUTURE VIEW OF THE GOLF COURSE?

and also to the planning application. More information is at www.savewimbledonpark.org Our councillor Guy Humphries, who sits on the Planning Committee, has advised that even once both councils have decided on the application "AELTC can appeal any refusal, which would be adjudicated on by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. Other than that, the Mayor of London could still call

in the application, and ultimately it could be decided by the Secretary Of State".

It has also now been confirmed that Church Road will always be closed during the Championships from 9 am-11.30 pm daily, with the 493 bus being diverted via Bathgate Road. A lengthy piece in the Sunday Times of 27th May catalogued local opposition to the AELTC application. Finally, at the recent SGRA AGM it was queried why the SGRA is the only Residents' Association that does not oppose AELTC plans.

You can see the latest plans from the All England Club at www.wimbledon.com/en_GB/about_wimbledon/the_wimbledon_park_project.html

Editor's note - the new Executive Committee discussed this at its 26th June meeting, but after a vote, their position remains unchanged.

EDITOR'S LETTER



Charles Runcie, SGRA Chair

Hello and welcome to another busy issue of Grid News, where we try to reflect news and events on the Grid together with people who make a difference. We're always keen to hear if you have a story, or something you feel the rest of the Grid should know about. Don't be shy.

'Putting back' is one of those things we hear a lot about, whether volunteering, recycling or just being part of something locally. We held a successful AGM in late May, and the SGRA has a newly expanded committee of 11. Sadly though we've had to pause our popular Front Garden Awards, as our organiser Amelia has stepped down. Also Southfields Harvest in September needs more people to help, to enable it to continue into 2024. Both events deserve to continue - is there no one out there to take up the organising mantle?

It's around this time of the year we ask for your annual financial contribution to the SGRA funds for it to function, as well as help a variety of local initiatives. You should have an envelope with this issue, and there are multiple ways to pay your £5. If you've thought about it but have never done so before, please join our database of around 500 people who are part of the SGRA. Don't delay and mislay the envelope!

Finally let me invite you, if you've not been before, to our next SGRA meeting on Tuesday 25th July at St Barnabas Church from 7.45 pm. One of our speakers will be Inspector Paul James, who heads up the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams in our borough, so his thoughts on crime and safety will be interesting to hear.

Enjoy your summer holidays, and remember that the SGRA are always active on our website and social media.

Charles Runcie

Editor, Grid News

charles@charlesruncie.co.uk



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

PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY TO HELP RUN THE SGRA

By Chris Puleston, SGRA Treasurer

Included with this summer issue of 'Grid News' is our annual donation envelope. Your donations help us run the SGRA and contribute funds to several activities. This year that's included printing this newsletter to keep you informed, as well as many local initiatives such as Green the Grid projects, 'Window Wanderland', the annual Seniors Tea party and a current refresh of our website.

Last year you raised over £3,400. We're aiming to beat that this year, so please drop some cash in the envelope. We recommend a minimum of £5, but thanks to all of you who are more generous. Then return it to your street representative, whose details will be on the envelope and our back page. Please do it as soon as you can - no waiting until just before Easter 2024 as some do!

29% of you donated online last year, so if you'd like to do this again you can donate directly to our bank account: Southfields Grid Residents Association, sort code 20-90-69, account number 83500020 or via PayPal to treasurer@southfieldsgrid.org.uk Please put your street name and house number in the reference box, so we know who you are.

A major benefit of joining is being on our email database, receiving regular emails detailing SGRA meetings and minutes, and events in Southfields. To join our database you must complete the details on the envelope and tick the box, or let us know if paying online.

Many thanks - we do appreciate it.

chrispuleston@gmail.com

MEMORIAL BENCH FUNDRAISER FOR LOCAL TEACHER

By Anna Longmore

Parents at Sheringdale Primary School have launched a £2,500 fundraiser for a memorial bench in Coronation Gardens, in honour of a much-loved teacher who passed away last year. The fundraising in memory of Layla Elouazani is open to all. She was a teaching assistant at the school but also did a lot of work on the well-being side supporting kids who were struggling emotionally and academically for a variety of reasons. Layla worked at the school for many years, so worked closely with a lot of children. If you were among them, or one of the huge number of families she helped and would like to donate, please visit: [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/miss-e-memorial](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/miss-e-memorial)

SOUTHFIELDS HARVEST 2023 - SAVE THE DATE

By Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen, organiser

Southfields much-loved annual neighbourhood celebration festival returns this autumn with the usual winning mix of local food, fun and entertainment. The date for your diary is Saturday 30th September at St Barnabas Church from 12-3 pm. It will be the 9th Harvest to have taken place since its launch in 2014, as we skipped a year for COVID in 2020.

As always we'll be highlighting the people, produce and community projects that help to make Southfields so special. If you have



a locally produced, edible product you'd like Southfields to sample, a bright idea or an initiative you'd like to share with your neighbours we would love to hear from you.

Importantly, if you can spare a few hours of your time and energy to help with setting up, taking down, doing some PR or just general support please get in touch. Otherwise, this might be the last 'Harvest'.

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

www.southfieldsharvest.org.uk

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR 'BIG GREEN WEEK'

By Karen Booth

Green the Grid and the Southfields Mend, Fix & Repair Cafe were two of the many organisations taking part in Wandsworth Council's Great Big Green Week in June. There was a great turnout in the Patio Room, St Barnabas Church, with many people meeting their neighbours and making new friends.

In preparation for this year's planting day, Green the Grid's team of 'Grid Growers' grew salvia, verbena, echinacea and achillea, all chosen for their drought-resistant qualities. Over 600 plants were given away, and each of them found a good home. We look forward to seeing them in tree bases and gardens over the summer. We were also delighted to be able to support Sheringdale Primary School with plants for their new Gardening Club.

The Mend, Fix & Repair Cafe team fixed 19 items, with another 12 fixable once a part is found. Most of the items repaired were electrical, although clothing was also done. Electrical items were PAT tested for electrical safety, and the team is currently raising money for their own PAT machine for future events.

The planting and repairing day was supported by a cafe with teas, coffees and cake including homemade cake for the first time which was a great success. Thanks to all the volunteers who made the event possible, and to St Barnabas Church for hosting us!

The next Mend, Fix & Repair Cafe is on Saturday 23rd September, whilst Green the Grid will be back at this year's Southfields Harvest on Saturday 30th September. If you are interested in volunteering at a future event or just want to know more, please get in contact.

For Southfields 'Mend, Fix & Repair' Cafe email restartsouthfields@gmail.com

For Green the Grid/Grid Growers email greenhthegridSW18@hotmail.com



WOW, IT'S BEEN FIXED!



CAFE QUEENS SELINA AND DI



A BUSY 'GREEN THE GRID' STALL



FRONT GARDEN HERE WE COME!

IT'S A BUMPER SUMMER OF FUN AT SOUTHFIELDS LIBRARY

By Sucheta Sumant, Library Manager

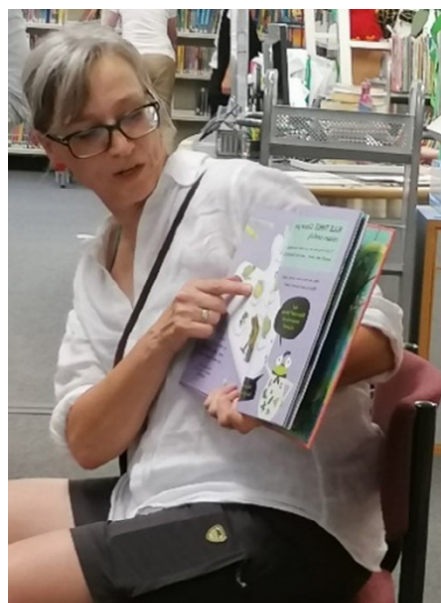
What is FREE these days, with no catch? Well, how about your friendly and local Southfields Library? All summer long we're busy with a multitude of special events and exhibitions at our Wimbledon Park Road HQ, as well as the usual service of books, audio and video lending. Here's a full list of what we're up to, with something for everyone I hope.

For little ones

- Baby Rhyme Time for under 2s; Tiny Tales and Tunes for 2-3yrs; Story Time for 3-5yrs
- Duplo Builders Club, Engaging Crafts; etc.

For older children

- Lego Club; Seasonal crafts and activities all year round such as "Making a Seed Bomb"
- Local author visits from Jane Porter, Ivy Ngeow etc



LIBRARY STAFF AT WORK

For bored kids

Weekly board games club; 'Origami Club'; 'Comics Club'; 1-2-1 reading support; a celebration of festivals and different cultures throughout the year; activities for special days such as Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, Father's Day etc.

Is anything Free for Adults? Of course!

Bestselling books - "Try before you buy"; Lots of new books; Share your reading choices and experiences with others at three different reading groups; Meet local authors; Learn Italian; Brush up on the English language; Free SIM cards for those in need; Advice on reducing energy bills; Free tea and coffee once a week; Space to work or study; Free Wi-Fi; Free Internet Access; IT help; Meet our local Police; Wandsworth Fringe events; Wandsworth Heritage events; Online resources such as Press Reader (free access to newspapers and magazines from across the world); E-books, audiobooks and much more.



LIVE MUSIC WITH ELEFThERIA



AUTHOR SARAH CLARKE VISIT, 19TH AUG

Themed Book Displays

Most importantly, coming soon is the highlight of our year, the Summer Reading Challenge. Pre-COVID over 800 children joined in to do this challenge. Numbers have picked up recently, so let's see if we can reach or beat

that 800 figure. It's an event not to be missed. The theme this year is "Sport: Ready, Steady, Read". "Kick" away the boredom, "target" at least six books and "win" rewards including a "medal" and a "certificate"! There's a special Prize Draw to win a Family ticket for the All England Club, including a tour and entrance to their museum, plus a chance to get their 2022 Annual (while stocks last) courtesy of the Wimbledon Foundation www.wimbledon.com/foundation



DISPLAY FOR FATHER'S DAY

We are hoping to start a 'Connect and Chat' group for those caring for people living with dementia. For more information please call the library on 020 8780 1945.

If you have any special skills such as sewing, speaking Spanish, or just enjoy chatting with people and have a few regular hours to spare each week, then please come and see me. I'd love you to join our team of Volunteers. We're a lovely friendly bunch of staff. Do drop by to see us and pick up our monthly newsletter, which lists all the activities and events planned each month.



DISPLAY OF DIY BOOKS

Our website is: www.better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/southfields-library

We are also on Twitter: @Better_SFLib

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=114750171916714

DOING OUR BIT BY RECYCLING MORE - UPDATES

Tom Newman, Waste Projects Officer at Wandsworth Council writes: Wandsworth Council has now confirmed that the weekly food waste recycling service on the Southfields Grid is no longer a temporary trial, it's now regarded as a permanent service. Following the success of the trial service on Southfields Grid, the Council has expanded it to include around 4,000 households in the Bedford Hill area of the borough. The Council will also be piloting food waste collections at a selection of blocks of flats and this will include all flats within the Grid that use communal wheeled bins for waste and recycling.

Thanks to the efforts of Southfields Grid residents since November 2021 over 230 tonnes of food waste has been collected and recycled. That's roughly equivalent to the weight of 13 full double-decker buses! All this waste would otherwise have been sent for incineration along with other dustbins and black sack waste. Instead, it has all been recycled to generate biogas for use in the national gas grid, as well as producing a liquid fertiliser for use in agriculture. This all helps to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and peat or chemical-based fertilizers.

The Council conducted a survey of Grid residents at the end of 2022, and nearly 200 responded. We were pleased to hear that 90% of those who completed the survey were

making good use of the food recycling service and that many felt that they are reducing the amount of food that they waste as a result. We also learned that using compostable liners was important to people. As such we recently provided an additional free roll of liners to all eligible households, to encourage people to continue or get started.



We would like to thank Southfields Grid residents for doing their bit to help make the trial such a success, and for paving the way for food waste recycling throughout the rest of Wandsworth. Please keep up the good work and continue to recycle what you can. If in doubt please check at

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling or contact me at tom.newman@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Sue Wixley at Recycle More Southfields (RMS) writes: A resourceful team of volunteers are helping to reduce waste by collecting everyday items and materials such as pill packets, dental, home and beauty products and sending them to innovative recycling company TerraCycle to be recycled. With support from 250+ households 'Recycle More Southfields' has reached a major milestone. They've saved a whopping 1,000 kilograms of products from being sent to incineration.

Dante Crowden, who hosts one of the collection points, said: "The simple act of recycling can make an enormous difference. I'm proud of what we are all achieving and of the growing ecosystem that supports the circular economy in Southfields. Since we started more supermarkets have responded to demand and started collection points of their own, and it's so great to see projects like the Mend, Fix & Repair Cafe take off."

Recycle More Southfields has two drop-off points in Trentham Street and Sutherland Grove. To find out how it works and get involved, see www.recyclemoresouthfields.org or [@recyclemore_southfields](https://www.instagram.com/recyclemore_southfields) on Instagram.

NEWS FROM ST BARNABAS CHURCH

By Rev Ian Tattum

If you have walked past or through the church garden you will have noticed that much of it is now a wildflower meadow, which in this year when insect populations have struggled provides a great habitat for insects of all kinds. It's a space we are glad to share with people who want a quiet place to sit and chat out of the burning sun. Important meadow wildflowers have appeared this year, including tormentil, red clover and self-heal. We also planted three new fruit trees and some grape vines this spring, and I'm looking forward to a harvest in due course.

Our Choral Compline service is held on the last Sunday of the month at 7 pm. Under the expert leadership of our Director of Music Greg Skidmore the choir is growing, and new members are always welcome. There will however be no Choral Compline in July or August owing to Greg's other commitments, including performing at the Proms on the last Sunday of July as part of Sir Simon Rattle's final concert as Director of the LSO. It will return in September.

Our next special service for families with young children will be on Sunday 3rd September at 9 am.

The Performathon, involving music and spoken word had a great turnout on Saturday 24th June, with many musicians of all ages and several local writers including Jane Porter, Ivy Ngeow and Catherine Yardley all contributing during the twelve-hour-long event.

We are expecting to run the GlassDoor Night Shelter again in the autumn and winter and are immensely grateful to the volunteers who continued to support us with this vital work with homeless people. This coming winter we would gratefully appreciate assistance with the cost of heating, as like all charities we have been hit by huge hikes in energy costs, which will make keeping people warm a greater challenge than usual. I am going to camp out this autumn to try to raise sponsorship funds.

Our funds for GlassDoor were boosted by our successful 'Big Quiz' night in May. It raised more than £1,100, which will help us to continue to support the local community in Southfields and carry out many outreach commitments.

We continue to run a small emergency larder to help struggling individuals and families.

www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk



THINKING CAPS ON AT OUR QUIZ

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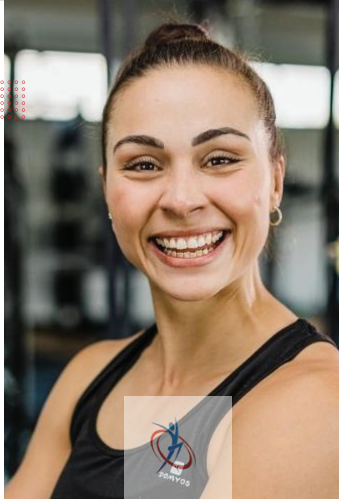
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A YOUTH ORCHESTRA - ON YOUR DOORSTEP

By *Julian Hardwick, Chairman*

Did you know that one of the UK's oldest and best youth orchestra rehearses right here in Southfields? Stoneleigh Youth Orchestra was founded in 1944 and has performed regularly ever since. It comprises two orchestras: the Main Orchestra for players who are Grade 7 and above standard, and the Training Orchestra for less experienced players who are Grade 4-6 standard. Both are full-scale orchestras, with 100 and 65 players respectively drawn from all over SW London and Surrey. We perform a wide range of classical music from the 19th and 20th centuries, including many pieces of core repertoire which players will often never have the chance to play in their school orchestras.

Both orchestras rehearse on Sunday afternoons during term time, working with professional conductors and sectional tutors. The Main Orchestra meets at St Cecilia's School in Sutherland Grove, while the Training Orchestra rehearses at St Paul's Community Centre on Inner Park Road at the top of Augustus Road. Both orchestras perform a concert at the end of each term in leading concert venues, such as Cadogan Hall, Fairfield Halls, Dorking Halls and Queen Elizabeth Hall. The Main Orchestra also undertakes a week-long trip to Europe at the end of July, performing three concerts.



A RECENT SYO CONCERT

We are always looking to add talented players to both orchestras. Our next auditions will be in early September for the start of the new season, on 10th September 2023. If you are interested in finding out more about the Stoneleigh Youth Orchestra and opportunities for participation, please visit our website www.stoneleighyouthorchestra.org.uk who can provide further information, or do contact me at chairman@stoneleighyouthorchestra.org.uk

FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK NEWS

By *Damaris Albarran*

Pub in the Park: This event in mid-May caused trouble on two fronts. For some the noise levels were excessive, particularly at a time when students were revising for exams, and many felt the state the Park was left in afterwards was unacceptable and even unsafe. While 'Pub in the Park' are responsible for paying for the repair it has seemed always to have been either too wet or too dry for them to be carried out completely. Some new soil and grass seed have been added, but the dry spell has prevented this from having a positive effect. By the time you read this, the Park will again have been damaged by the parking for the Wimbledon tennis championships. Many including Wimbledon MP Stephen Hammond believe Merton Council needs to take a more considered approach to event management in the Park so that the field is fully available for use more of the time.

Repairs and maintenance: Merton Council has been overseeing necessary work on repairs and maintenance to the Park's structures. Some of this is already complete, and the aim is for it all to be finished in time for the school summer holidays. This includes resurfacing the ever-popular Splash Pool, fencing work on the sandpit with some new equipment; work to renew the athletics track and the repair of the beach volleyball courts and new concrete paths around the courts. FOWP was not consulted on any of this work and will be raising some issues with Merton in due course.

Mario's Cafe: Following its closure, the winners of the bidding process were 'Cooks

and Partners'. They run several park cafes across London with mixed reviews. Although they signed the agreement in April, there is no news on when they will open. A quick check on their website has no mention of Wimbledon Park, whereas Boston Manor Park Cafe is described as "coming soon". Perhaps



THE PARK'S VETERAN OAK

they've bitten off more than they can chew. Meanwhile, it looks as though we will have to make do with the hot and cold drinks offered by the 'Bro Espresso' van parked in front of the building.

Water and water quality: Water quality in the Lake continues to be poor, with the heat and dry weather causing the toxic blue-

green algae to spread earlier than usual and not much pondweed growing in the water. Meanwhile, there is still no drinking water for humans and their four-footed friends in the Park, especially while the Cafe remains closed. We have created a petition to ask for water fountains - <https://tinyurl.com/56y2fks7> We hope you will all have signed by the time you read this.

Veteran Oak: The oak looks very healthy and green, protected as it is now by its enclosure. Following the wonderful display of daffodils earlier, this is now full of what many would call weeds. However, they are very good for wildlife, particularly the thistles, which have huge value for bees and pollinators; nettles, which the caterpillars of the small tortoiseshell and peacock butterflies use as foodplants; and cleavers, which can provide food for the caterpillars of many butterfly and moth species, including the impressive hummingbird hawk moth. Let us know if you see one!

Horse Close Wood: Some residents lucky enough to live in houses with gardens that back onto Horse Close Wood have complained about nature in the form of brambles invading their gardens. We are looking into what can be done about this that won't be detrimental to the natural environment in the Wood. Perhaps the dawn chorus is also a terrible nuisance!

Forum: our next is on Thursday 19th October at 7.30 pm in Wimbledon Park Hall, Arthur Road. Do come along if you're interested in our work.

www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org

REFLECTIONS ON OUR 'SOUTHFIELDS STORIES'

By *Hannah Need*

'I love Southfields!' was a very common reply when I asked some residents about living here. As we chatted they shared many memories and special stories of friendships, parks, sunflowers and even one about a broken lamp. These conversations were the backbone of 'Southfields Stories'. This was a very special evening of storytelling in front of a sell-out audience, with traditional tales spun from conversations with the residents of Southfields. Memories and traditional tales were woven together to complement each other, to show the things really important to us in the place we all live and love.

A huge thank you to Southfields Harvest, who commissioned me to develop and perform 'Southfields Stories'. The project was funded by Wandsworth Council's Grant Scheme. Most of all my thanks to the wonderful residents of Southfields, who shared their stories, hopes, fears and dreams.

If you'd like to find out more about Storytelling events please visit www.hannahneed.co.uk or email me at hannahneed@yahoo.co.uk



A LARGE AUDIENCE FOR OUR STORIES

FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS NEWS

By *Geoff Davis, FoCG committee*

It's a busy time in our well-loved Gardens. Thanks to everyone who responded to the recent second consultation about the new play area. There were over 200 responses once again, a record number, and the design team from the playground equipment firm HAGS UK are now working on a final design which will be announced this month. The good news is the play area will stay open during the summer holidays before work starts in September, and is expected to last six weeks.

The Gardening Club continues every two weeks during the summer, on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Bring gloves if possible. All welcome. We're entered in the Neighbourhood category of the 2023 'London in Bloom' awards for the first time. Judging took place on 11th July, so fingers crossed!

A design in the style of Louis Gossin, who designed the original, is being considered and would be a clothed male figurine. We're



THE ORIGINAL FOUNTAIN IN 1904

working out the cost, and how much we may have to find from various external sources.

We shall also put a plaque on the back of the fountain, where the old one was, reminding people of the Garden's origins

and recent restoration work. Did you know Coronation Gardens were designed by Fanny Wilkinson? She was the first professional woman landscape designer in Britain, and a blue plaque adorns her house in Bloomsbury.

If you love Coronation Gardens the FoCG Committee are looking for members of the community interested in getting involved. If you're interested in running events, gardening tasks or administration duties we would welcome your help. In particular, we have the following vacancies:

- Committee Secretary: organising meetings admin as well as helping with events
- Committee members: helping with events, social media and website tasks
- Vice-Chair: supporting the Chair in leading the Committee, running our admin as well as volunteering

The Committee meets 5-6 times a year, and we either hold or are involved with several events annually. If you are interested contact us at focoronationgardens@gmail.com

MP SAYS CHEERS FOR PUB REFURBISHMENTS

Recent investment in two popular local pubs has been welcomed by our local MP. The Earl Spencer and The Gardeners on Merton Road have both been refurbished inside and out. Emil is the new manager at the Earl Spencer, while Tracey the Management Partner at the Gardener's Arms. Both they and their staffs offer a very warm welcome, and love being in Southfields. Fleur Anderson MP visited both pubs recently in the company of Punch Pubs and Co-Operations Manager Ryan Bridge. "Our local pubs need our support now more than ever," she said afterwards. "They're not only important local businesses but also wonderful community spaces. Do pay them a visit this summer".



"MINE'S A PINT", SAYS FLEUR TO RYAN AND TRACEY

WHAT A CORONATION BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND THAT WAS!

It was party time in Southfields Grid over the weekend of the King's Coronation in May, with three events, in particular, all blessed with good turnouts, dodging the weather that had affected the big day on Saturday.

On Coronation Sunday the SGRA held its annual 'Seniors Tea Party' when 42 of the older residents in the Grid assembled in the Patio Room of St Barnabas for an afternoon of good food, fun bingo, music from the Cygnet Players and more. VIP visitors included MP Fleur Anderson, our local councillors and the newly installed Deputy Mayor Cllr Sarmila Varatharaj.

At the same time, the southern end of Heythorp Street struck lucky with the weather for their street party. Sausages were barbecued, delicious samosas were handed around, and there was even an eagerly contested cake competition. Much to the delight of the youngsters, once the results were announced slices were served out willy-nilly. For some of us at least the day ended happily back at home with friends, a bottle of wine, and fittingly a piece of Coronation Quiche.

Then on Bank Holiday Monday one of Wandsworth's five special park events was held in our own Coronation Gardens, appropriately! Poor weather threatened but never quite materialised, and the Gardens played host to a variety of entertainment including the Southfields Storyteller, the Latin American rhythms of Bahareque and an archery demonstration from the 8th Wandsworth Scouts.



"MUMMY, I WANT A BIG SLICE!" PICTURE: GORDON PULLENGER



LESLEY AND PCSO DON LOPES IN SENIOR STYLE



PLENTY OF CAKE FOR SENIORS!



BUSY CORONATION GARDENS



STALWART WENDY CATER ON THE FOCG STAND



BINGO! DEPUTY MAYOR CHATS TO SENIORS

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DO YOU WANT THE GRID TO BE A CONSERVATION AREA?

SGRA Executive Committee member Margaret Brett considers a proposal often raised by residents, who wish to protect the architectural themes of the Grid

A recent consultation on updating the Management Plans for existing conservation areas has prompted us to look at whether we should be considering asking the Council to designate the Grid, or parts of the Grid, as a conservation area. These are 'areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'.

If we were to become a conservation area, any works which require planning permission become subject to national policies and also the local conservation policies set out in the Wandsworth Local Plan. The Council must preserve or enhance the historic or architectural character or appearance of the conservation area. There are 46 conservation areas in Wandsworth, the closest one being in Sutherland Grove.

The Council needs to produce a Conservation Area Appraisal, to describe the special architectural and historic character of the area and those positive elements which are encouraged to be conserved. Once in place, residents must consider this when making a planning application. There is also a Management Plan where there is guidance on how positive change and good quality design within conservation areas can conserve or enhance its special character or appearance.

PLANNING RULES

The Council then has additional planning control over certain works to buildings, such as the demolition of a house or a boundary wall, and the scope of permitted development rights. Residents should seek advice from the Council when considering raising the ridge of the roof and/or expanding the size of a roof; introducing or changing cladding; installing a satellite dish, front and side extensions and rear extension of 2 storeys, outbuildings e.g. a shed at the front or side of the property, installing a dormer window: and replacing windows or doors. It is best to check on any proposed changes and this applies to shops and commercial premises also.

Although painting the exterior walls of a house is considered to be permitted development not requiring planning permission, it is not encouraged where it is out of sympathy with the surrounding houses' brickwork. Also the Council may have taken additional powers under Article 4(2) Direction to restrict such works. Planning permission is needed to paint the front of flats or a house converted to flats.

An Article 4(2) Direction restricts certain works to the exterior of single residential dwellings which would otherwise be considered permitted development. These directions are put in place to protect a conservation area from certain works which would have an impact on, and harm its appearance and character. An Article 4 Direction does not prevent the development in the area to which it has been applied. It instead, requires that planning permission is first obtained from the Council. Otherwise, it is open to residents to seek a Lawful Development Certificate as proof that the household building work is lawful.

PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT

Most of the conservation areas within the borough have traditional timber-framed sash windows or original metal-framed windows, which have a positive impact on the appearance of the area. The change of windows and doors is generally considered to be permitted development, but the materials used must be of a similar appearance to the originals used and similar in terms of glazing pattern and style. Plastic-looking windows and doors are not likely to be acceptable replacements. Retaining and repairing existing windows and doors wherever possible, is best. This is good for the environment and for the character and appearance of the area. Flats and houses converted to flats do not benefit from permitted development rights and therefore planning permission will always be needed to change doors and windows.

PLANNING PERMISSION

Those living in a conservation area where an Article 4 Direction is in place must always seek planning permission from the Council. Planning permission is required to remove a front boundary wall over 1 metre in height where it fronts the highway or footpath and this is not likely to be permitted if it is considered harmful to the character and appearance of the conservation area. Permission is also required from the Council if the works require a dropped kerb and changes to the pavement in front of the property.

TREES

Trees within conservation areas form an important part of their character and appearance and are protected as part of the designation. Anyone wishing to undertake any works to cut down or prune a tree within a conservation area (not protected by a Tree Preservation Order) is required to give the Council six weeks prior written notice. If the Council objects to the proposed works, it must make a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to extend the protection to the trees. They must respond within six weeks otherwise the planned works can proceed.

Many trees within conservation areas are also subject to a Tree Preservation Order which protects trees, groups of trees or woodlands of high amenity value. A TPO application must be submitted to the Council for any works to a tree covered by a TPO. This covers felling, pruning, and root pruning. Carrying out works to a TPO tree or trees in a conservation area without the necessary permission is a criminal offence. Please refer to the Council website for detailed guidance on Conservation Areas.

Despite these restrictions we think it would benefit our area if all, or parts, were to become designated as a conservation area. This would protect it from unsympathetic development. Although our Edwardian and Victorian terrace houses are not identical, there is a degree of consistency in architectural style which creates a sense of local distinctiveness and cohesion. We need to conserve, repair, and, where possible, reinstate our original period features, particularly where this affects boundaries, front elevations and roofs, and make sure that any new construction is consistent with our historic street scene.

Please do let 'Grid News' know your views, email info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk

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ABUNDANCE SOUTHFIELDS GEARS UP FOR ANOTHER FRUITY SUMMER

Richard Konig looks ahead to his annual collecting of spare fruit to make Southfields cider, and how you can help.

Hiya - Abundance Southfields we will be gearing up for another season of fruit picking and cider fermenting soon. Actually, the picking and fermenting generally starts in mid to late August and extends into the start of October, so we probably still have our feet up. What happens around now is we start selling last year's cider, which should be perfect for consumption on hot, long summer days like now. The 2022 Abundance Southfields ciders are sweeter than the dry ciders we have made in previous seasons, which may suit some and disappoint others. The change is largely by accident of course. We changed the stevia supplier to one that was not bulking up the stevia sweetener with sugars that ultimately also fermented to leave the cider drier, more alcoholic and sometimes violently explosive.

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 - generally 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 good use either by turning it into booze and vinegar for sale to raise funds or by giving the best fruit away to the community at pop-up events outside tube stations and other busy places.

Tree owners who share this glut of fruit get some ciders, a garden free of rotting fruit and



RICHARD COAXING SOME SPARE FRUIT DOWN

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's all very

sociable and may also produce that warm inner glow, especially where cider is involved. If you are not already involved, you should get in touch.

We have used 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 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'll be able to harness the biodiversity and climate change initiatives of Wandsworth Council to help find a solution in 2023.

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'll see you at one of our events, or under a fruit tree very soon. To stay informed about where and when we are selling follow us on Instagram **@abundancesouthfields** or sign up for our newsletter via the contact page at **www.abundancesouthfields.com**

LOCAL AHMADIYYA MOSQUE CELEBRATES KING'S CORONATION

By Tara Osman

Our own PCSO Don Lopes was one of the Safer Neighbourhood Team police officers representing the Metropolitan Police for the King's Coronation celebration lunch at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Fazl Mosque, held for their friends and neighbours. Others present included Superintendent David Bannister, the Superintendent for Neighbourhood Policing Wandsworth, PCSO Marina Minopoli from West Hill SNT and PC Maximus Muslu from Wandsworth Town SNT, plus local MP Fleur Anderson. PCSO Don spoke to members and elders of the Mosque, and invited members of the public, about crime prevention advice and updates on behalf of Southfields SNT.



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LOCAL ARTISTS ARTS EVENT IN AUTUMN

By *Slavica Struthers-Kennedy*

Southfields Artists Group are a group of creative people who used to exhibit annually as part of the Wandsworth Artists' Open House event. It's more than likely some of you were among hundreds of visitors who used to enjoy seeing our creations in our own homes.

Now after almost 20 years, Wandsworth Council have withdrawn their management support for this event. Our letters of protest about the decision and lack of consultation met with no success, so we plan to hold our own independent Southfields version this autumn.

The event will have a new name: Southfields Artists' Open Houses (SAOH). We are already seeking sponsorship to cover some of the administrative costs. There will be a modest registration fee for participants. SAOH will be open to the public on Saturdays 7/14th and Sundays 8/15th October from 11-5 pm, and everyone will be welcome to visit. This core group of Southfields Artists have considerable experience in what's involved in running an Open House event.

Right now we need more people to join this



CHRIS PAYNE, LOCAL CERAMICS ARTIST

exciting enterprise, which recognises and celebrates just how talented our community of Southfields is. So if you are a painter, upcycler, ceramist, sculptor, photographer, jeweller, illustrator, recycler, digital artist, printer or do things with textiles, mosaics, collages, multimedia, glass, or are a creator

of wonderful things, we would like to hear from you as soon as possible.

If you would like to show and sell your work from your own home, studio or shared space in Southfields, join us and register to take



MIXED MEDIA PAINTING BY SANDRA MENANT WILL FEATURE

part. Open House events provide a fantastic platform for creative people to exhibit and show off their work.

To register your interest without commitment at this stage please email a jpeg image and brief description of your work to me as soon as you can. I look forward to hearing from you.

slavica@melroseroad.net

LOCAL PLANNING AND SHOPS NEWS

By *Margaret Brett, SGRA Executive Committee*

At the end of April, Wandsworth Council refused the planning application to develop the Wimbledon Park Rifle Club range site in Granville Road. The Council also refused the revised application to build a house behind 24 Replingham Road. The new Wandsworth Local Plan is in its final stages, and should be considered and adopted by the end of the summer.

Some of the public realm works due to end in November are still outstanding. We are waiting on the benches to go outside the station and for the replacement water fountain. The new pavements are very dirty following the dry weather, and although one area of the new resin surface has been repaired, there are still other patches of erosion. Work is planned to restart after Wimbledon tennis.

Shops news - the old Bourne's ironmonger shop has reopened as Ramey Gentlemen's Grooming, and the old Starbucks site has been fitted out for Lark. Nearby Momo & Co has moved, and the old site is up for sale. Douglas and Gordon estate agents have closed, as has Lavenham DIY. The Fish Bar is to expand into the old Trieste site on

Wimbledon Park Road, and open as a tapas bar. The boarded-up site at the top of Replingham Road is finally finished. A local company is expected to move in soon. On Wimbledon Park Road a women's hairdresser is rumoured to be replacing the old Earthian organic food shop.

Penwith Road is to close from 10th July to 17th September in the easterly direction towards Earlsfield. The junctions at Acuba Road are also to close. We will still be able to come into Southfields from Earlsfield but not the other way. This is for gas works by SGN upgrading the pipe work. In addition, traffic lights will be in place at the junction with Merton Road from 7th August.

Wandsworth Council has introduced a School Streets scheme at the bottom of Pirbright Road outside Riversdale School. The northerly part of the junction has been blocked with planters to make a pedestrian space, although accessible by bikes and scooters, and the junction outside Zenith is now two-way. There is a statutory 6-month period from 12th June during which anyone may comment in writing to the Council.

HOLD TIGHT! TENNIS BUS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

By *Clive Williams*

June 25th marked the centenary of the bus service specifically for the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. The 39A started a circular service from the Prince of Wales pub in Wimbledon via the current 156 route to Replingham Road and Southfields station, returning via Wimbledon Park Road, Church Road and Wimbledon Hill. At end of play the circular route would be reversed, to pick up and return

passengers from the tennis to both stations. Withdrawn after those 1923 championships, the 39A ran again in 1924 before being renumbered 190 in 1925, then continued as an unnumbered special service from 1934. The service was split into two, with separate services from Wimbledon and Southfields stations. Although the Southfields service finished a few years ago due to traffic congestion on Wimbledon Park Road, the Wimbledon end of the service still operates as the 840.

LOCAL FACILITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

SGRA Executive Committee

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

Secretary: Ian Shaw | 07554 898538
imks11662@outlook.com

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

Committee Members: Margaret Brett, Kyle Forder, Ann Kerr, Rod Lewington, Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, Serena Potter, Ameet Phadnis, 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 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

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 - j.stanuel-taitte@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk
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 Cafe - restartsouthfields@gmail.com
Tree officers - trees@enablelc.org

PLEASE JOIN THE SGRA

The SGRA's financial and membership year runs from 1st June - 31st May, and donations are a minimum £5 annually. 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,
a/c 83500020 Southfields Grid Residents' Association

If you'd like to join our SGRA database we must have your consent for 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 Grid address as the online reference when you pay.

Forthcoming local events - all at St Barnabas Church except where listed

Saturday 22nd July - Safer Neighbourhood ward panel meeting, 10.30 am
Tuesday 25th July - SGRA public meeting, 7.45 pm
Saturday 23rd September - Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe, 12-3 pm
Tuesday 26th September - SGRA public meeting, 7.45 pm
Saturday 30th September - Southfields Harvest, 12-3 pm
Saturday 10th October - Safer Neighbourhood meeting 10.30am
7/8th and 14/15th October, 11 am-5 pm - Southfields Artists Open House (various locations)

The Autumn/Winter edition of Grid News will be published in mid-November. Items and articles for consideration should be sent to the Editor by Friday 20th October. Email them to info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk