



Southfields Grid  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Making a difference  
to life on the Grid

# GRID NEWS

■■■ Autumn/Winter 2023 ■■■

Delivered free to every home and business in Southfields Grid

## AELTC DEVELOPMENT REACHING CRITICAL STAGE

The biggest issue for years locally has burst into life. After several years, plans formulated by the All England (AELTC) to transform the former Wimbledon Park golf course into 38 grass courts and an 8,000-seater show court plus a public park, finally went before Merton and Wandsworth Councils. The Merton vote took place in late October, with Wandsworth's due on 21st November. Meanwhile the SGRA have canvassed over 500 members in a special online poll.

### Save Wimbledon Park update

By *Simon Wright*

The first of two council votes on the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) plans to develop Wimbledon Park took place last month. SGRA members were part of a capacity audience at St. Barnabas Church on Tuesday 12th September, when a public meeting was held to further publicise the proposals made by the AELTC for developing the former Wimbledon Park Golf Club. Simon Wright, Sophia Browning, Christopher Coombe, Fleur Anderson MP and Stephen Hammond MP explained the environmental impact of what is being proposed and the legal challenges facing AELTC, who did not send a speaker despite repeated invitations to do so. After a lively Q&A session a show of hands suggested that no-one in the hall supported the AELTC proposals. The presentations made on the night are available on the SGRA website. Reports of the meeting appeared in five national newspapers and on local news websites.

On Thursday 16th October the planning officers at Merton Council recommended that the AELTC plans should be permitted, a decision that was debated at their Planning Application Committee (PAC) meeting on Thursday 26th October. Councillors voted along party lines, so the plans were approved by 6 votes to 4, with Labour in support and the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Independents opposing. Before the meeting a well-attended demonstration attracted coverage from BBC TV, Sky, BBC Radio 4,



A PACKED ST BARNABAS

Daily Telegraph and the MyLondon website.

Because the AELTC's plans affect the boroughs of both Merton and Wandsworth, both their PACs must consider the application. Wandsworth are still accepting comments from anyone until their PAC meets to discuss it on Tuesday 21st November. Their planning officers have recommended that the plans be rejected. Councillors Kim Caddy (Southfields) and Daniel Ghossain, Angela Ireland and Malcolm Grimston (West Hill) have agreed to represent the views of residents. Whatever Wandsworth decides, the AELTC application will subsequently be reviewed by the Greater London Authority and the Secretary of State.

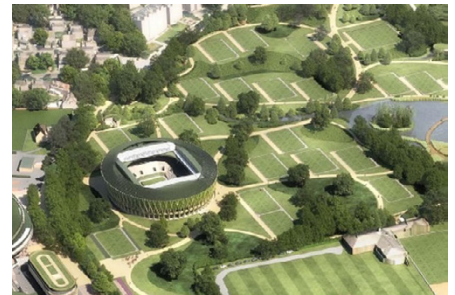
[Simon@ofplus.com](mailto:Simon@ofplus.com)

### SGRA survey - Grid residents oppose plans

The SGRA recently, and for the first time, did an online survey of our membership database to test the temperature about the AELTC's plans. Conducted from the 17-26th October, the survey was emailed to 495 people on the database. Each was asked if they supported or opposed the current proposals, were unsure, or unconcerned. We had 232 returns in total, but 24 were discounted as they came from outside the SGRA's geographical area stated on the form. That left 208, considered a high rate of return in marketing and PR circles. The results were:

Support - 51

Oppose - 135  
Unsure - 16  
Unconcerned - 6



PROPOSED AELTC DEVELOPMENT

Our survey was overseen by an independent adjudicator, experienced former Southfields councillor for 22 years and familiar face around the Grid, Terry Walsh. "I was impressed how the online survey was both conducted and explained to everyone beforehand" he said after scrutinising the results. "There was no slant, the narrative was very fair, and technically it was professionally handled".

As a result the SGRA Executive wrote a letter of objection to Wandsworth Council, giving details of the survey results and outlining residents' concerns. The results will also be on the agenda for our next SGRA public meeting, starting at 7.45pm on Tuesday 28th November at St Barnabas Church.

# EDITOR'S LETTER



*Charles Runcie, SGRA Chair*

Welcome to this Autumn/Winter issue of Grid News, which I hope reflects the many events, stories and personalities around our lovely part of SW London. I often hear people on my street moving house out of this area saying "We'll so miss this street" which is a testament to the friendliness of the people who live here. Some have done so for over 60 years – or is there someone longer?

Our summer subscription renewal, either by envelope or direct bank transfer, was once again a success. Our Joint Secretary Serena Potter reports we now have around 500 members, for which huge thanks for your cash and support, while our bank balance is a healthy £6,000. The SGRA now need a new Treasurer to take care of this budget. If you are interested, please get in touch.

News came as we went to press that Rev Ian Tattum, popular vicar of St Barnabas, had been given one of this year's Wandsworth Civic Awards. They celebrate those wonderful people who go out of their way to help others and make an outstanding contribution to their community and borough. Well deserved, Ian! We shall have more space to reflect on his career in our spring 'Grid News.'

I have been following the LTN debate with interest, and you may remember Grid resident Kit Somers was badgering the council for more to be done to stop speeding Grid traffic. She tells me following the petition and discussion with the road safety manager at Wandsworth he responded "I am pleased to say we can allocate a SID (speed indicator device/"smiley face") on the next rotation of these devices around the borough. One of the engineers will use the data and site visits to determine the best location."

Finally, our GLA Assembly Member Leonie Cooper has invited residents to a tour of our new City Hall in Docklands. It's on Thursday 11th January at 1.30pm. If you'd like to go please email me, as well as if you've a suggestion for a future 'Grid News.' See you at the Christmas Fair on the 25th or the Christmas Lights switch-on next month. Can't wait!

Charles



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

## RUBBISH NEWS FROM AROUND HERE - LITERALLY! NEWS OF TWO RECENT EVENTS

Wandsworth Council say they have recently installed the food waste recycling service that the Grid has been trialling for the blocks of flats on Elsenham and Astonville Streets. The council-managed blocks have been provided with a communal food waste bin located at, or near, their



ELSENHAM STREET BINS

communal recycling bins. An example from Elsenham Street is pictured above. Each flat has a small kitchen caddy, a starter roll of liners and an instructional leaflet like the one supplied to Grid houses. These are among the first blocks in Wandsworth to be given the service and forms the next stage of the Grid trial before rolling the service out to all properties by the end of 2024. If you have any questions, or for require further information, please email the Wandsworth Recycling Team on [foodwasterecycling@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:foodwasterecycling@wandsworth.gov.uk)

Meanwhile a SGRA group found out exactly what happens to all stuff we put out for refuse collectors each week. They visited the Western Riverside Waste Authority, at Smugglers Way by the Thames, for a tour of

their site and the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). The MRF picks up, separates and processes the tons of glass, paper, metal, plastics and card we put in recycling, and eventually compacts them into huge bails to be sent off to be recycled. Human operatives hover by conveyor belts to remove items that should not have been placed in the recycling. The MRF can process up to 84,000 tonnes of recyclables every year - it's an eye-opening process.



RUBBISH READY FOR RECYCLING

The group also saw the Rework section, where it was emphasised that repair and reuse is even more important than recycling. Then there is waste from rubbish bins. This goes to an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility in Bexley and is transported by river. When burnt the energy produced is turned into electricity for the National Grid. You can find out more at [www.wrwa.gov.uk](http://www.wrwa.gov.uk), and the SGRA hope to run another tour in early 2024.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY OLIVE GARDEN, YOU'RE 20!

By *Charles Runcie*

Southfields favourite the 'Olive Garden' restaurant marked 20 years in the Grid in September with a special event. Owner Karim invited many of his loyal customers to his Replingham Road eatery for a free celebratory meal. He wanted to thank them for what has been wonderful service to the community. As he welcomed in his clientele he reflected on 20 years running one of Southfields most popular venues.

"I worked in the food industry, but always wanted my own place, and this was already a much smaller restaurant" he remembered. "We could not open in August 2003 as the Italian equipment didn't arrive on time, but we eventually did on 12th September, and it's been busy ever since". He is lucky to have loyal staff, including manager Sabina who has been there for 18 years.



**MANAGER SABINA ABOUT TO GET BUSY**

Karim did open other premises in Garratt Lane and Raynes Park, but they didn't work. "My customers like to see me!" he joked. "We get 90% of our regulars from the Grid, with kids

who came in 2003 now returning as adults, and places from Croydon to Brighton. We even had a couple who lived in South Africa who ate here, returned the next year and said it was still just as good!"

In its 20 years the Olive Garden has embraced websites and online delivery, and it survived Covid that way. What are the favourite menu items? "Spaghetti marinara and our Olive Garden pizza" explains Karim. "We add one or new choices every year, that's why it's so big". Southfields without the "OG" is unthinkable, so has Karim any plans to retire? "No chance, I love it, and I need to keep going. My landlord eats here!". Grid residents will be happy to hear that as well. The Olive Garden is open on Tuesdays for dinner only, and on Wednesdays - Sundays for lunch and dinner.

[www.southfields.theolivegardenrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.southfields.theolivegardenrestaurant.co.uk)

## LOCAL PLANNING AND SHOPS NEWS

By *Margaret Brett*

Wandsworth Council's new Local Plan has been adopted but is already the subject of a partial review, as Wandsworth is consulting on changing its policy on housing. It is seeking a requirement that new housing developments should provide at least 50% affordable homes, and that a greater proportion should be genuinely affordable, preferably a 70/30% split in favour of social rent. It is also seeking to require more affordable housing from small sites below the current threshold of 10 or more homes.

The public realm works in the centre of Southfields are creeping towards conclusion, as works to install seating outside the station are underway. However there is no sign yet of the return of the water fountain despite numerous requests by the SGRA to the relevant council manager. She said "I have chased my colleague, who is liaising with Thames Water on the fountain, and will get back to you once we have a response".

The Olive Garden's proposed changes to its frontage was refused by the Planning Department. In other shops news Loney Miller have moved from Brookwood Road into the old Bulcraigs solicitors site, and the Momo offices have become 'Tan and Groom'. Another hairdresser 'Organic Way' has opened on Wimbledon Park Road by Swan Dry Cleaners. It looks as though a dog grooming initiative is to go into the closed 'Lavenham DIY' store in Lavenham Road. A new tapas restaurant has opened opposite the tube station, and Dropshot's second Southfields outlet has replaced DeRosier on Revelstoke Road, though they have agreed to continue to serve their hot chocolate - to the delight of many!

The council is proposing installing more electrical charging points on lamp columns in Grid streets, and the consultation on this has finished. It is also taking action to stop dockless hire bikes from blocking pavements. The Council has identified 100 locations where the bikes could be parked without causing obstructions. It is working with bike hire companies to make sure that bikes are parked in mandatory bays in busy areas.

## ABUNDANT FRUIT, BUT FUTURE HERE UNCERTAIN

By *Richard Konig*

This was a quieter year for the Abundance Southfields project. With no progress on our request for more suitable premises to store cider and equipment and to run the project from, we decided not to buy any more bottles. We have made almost no cider in 2023. We were able to use returned empties to fill up a dozen or so cases and gave the rest of the fruit we harvested away to commuters outside Southfields tube station. We did keep one or two fermentation vats of cider back to use for hot mulled cider and had a fabulous evening selling this at the Festival of the Dead on Tooting Common.



**FREE APPLES AT THE TUBE STATION**

Southfields Harvest was once again a fantastic event that gave us the opportunity to sample and sell our dry, sparkling 2022 ciders, as well as talk to as many people as we can about

the objective of the project - to reduce food waste and preserve as many of the fruit trees in the borough as possible. We have used some of the funds raised to finance start-up equipment for a new Abundance group in Tooting this year. We wish them all the best on that side of the borough! Without suitable premises the future of the project is decidedly uncertain. We have, however, picked up some support from Cllr Judi Gasser from Furzedown. She has championed our cause, and there may be light on the horizon as far as premises go. Sadly, without premises in SW18 that horizon is now quite likely to be outside Southfields.

[www.abundancesouthfields.com](http://www.abundancesouthfields.com)

# MEND, FIX & REPAIR CAFE CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR - REVIEW

By *Serena Potter*

This event is now firmly on the map on the Grid, having held five events in the past year, and is going from strength to strength. We started with a volunteer repairer recruitment drive at Southfields Harvest in September 2022, then held our first low key 'Friends and Family' repair cafe at the St Barnabas Christmas Fair in December. Would our attendance be feast or famine? Luckily it was somewhere in the middle, with 15 items brought for repair and first-time repairers breathed a sigh of relief that it went well.



THE MF&R REPAIR TEAM

January heralded our first 'proper' Mend, Fix & Repair Cafe, and there was a queue outside the door even before the opening! It was a big turnout, with 51 items brought and lots of people. At following events we've used both Patio and Mirror Halls at St Barnabas as one lovely spacious room.

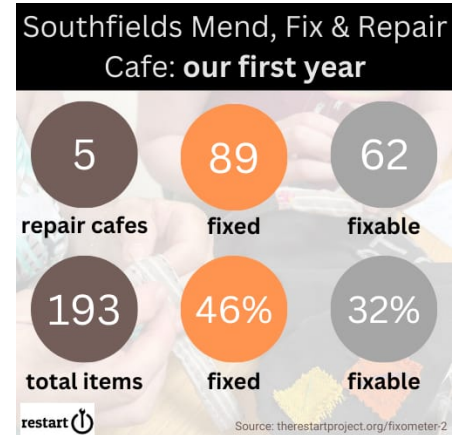
In June we joined forces with Green the Grid

to hold a joint event under the Wandsworth "Great Big Green Week" banner, introducing homemade cakes for the first time. This has been a big hit! We had more sewing repairers attending, and they are now a well-established group. Do bring them your clothes for repair, and learn how to mend them in a collaborative and fun atmosphere.

In September we held a further successful event, followed the next week by an information giving stand at Southfields Harvest, exactly one year after our first tentative one! Finally in early October we ran a stall at the first Wandsworth 'Reuse and Repair Fair' during Circular Economy Week. We were alongside the Restarters Tooting (a repair cafe), and Emily, a Grid resident who upcycles furniture (The Furniture Narrative) and does all our social media input. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet like-minded groups such as The Source (Zero Waste products), Power 2 Connect (tackling digital poverty across the borough) and the Work & Play Scrapstore. We hope to run a children's sewing workshop with them at a future event. Our local Safer Neighbourhood Team also attends most of our cafes, being on hand to give useful crime advice and answer questions.

To run our events safely we 'PAT test' all electrical equipment, which requires a mains

source. This can cause a bit of a queue and we have relied on borrowing a machine. This year two of our repairers have completed the PAT (Portable Appliance Testing) course, meaning we now have several people able to test. In addition, the SGRA have kindly donated £150 towards the cost of buying our



HOW THE NUMBERS STACK UP

own PAT machine, which should be in action from our next event on Saturday 27th January.

If you would like to help in any way - repairing, on the door, refreshments etc - please contact Serena at [restartsouthfields@gmail.com](mailto:restartsouthfields@gmail.com) and follow us on Instagram or FaceBook.

# CARS AND SAFETY IN FOCUS ON PIRBRIGHT ROAD

By *Charles Runcie*

Cars have been on the minds of Pirbright Road residents recently. Apart from general irritation at it being used as a rat run to avoid Replingham Road, two schemes have been carried out to improve the environment. Firstly, householders had the chance to see how the road looked a century ago, when resurfacing work meant it was virtually car-free for 3 days in August. Residents met in the middle of the quiet street to take pictures, compare it to snaps of 100 years ago, and wonder how nice it might be if cars were always banned!

Meanwhile at the bottom of Pirbright Road at its junction with Replingham Road where Riversdale Primary School is, a statutory consultation has been taking place about that stretch of road becoming another Wandsworth Council 'School Streets'. It's where a section of road near a school temporarily closes to become a pedestrian/cycle zone at the start and end of each school



PIRBRIGHT ROAD THEN .....



..... AND THE SAME ROAD NOW

day. In this instance the area is to be closed to traffic permanently as a pedestrian only zone. The consultation period is July-December, and council travel planners say "So far we've had only a handful of comments through the online consultation page, and all are positive. Once the public consultation ends we'll look at the feedback received and seek some final comments from Riversdale before making a recommendation to make the scheme permanent or not".

[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/schoolstreets](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/schoolstreets)

## DENISE PRING

The SGRA were saddened to hear of the death recently of Denise Pring, 84. Denise had worked for around 20 years as a nurse at our local Southfields Group Practice on Revelstoke Road. She was an immensely popular figure among both staff and patients, and had in fact only retired a few years ago. Condolences to all her family.

# BENCH TRIBUTE FOR TEACHER IN GARDENS

By Anna Longmore

October saw the installation of a new memorial bench in Coronation Gardens, after a fundraiser led by parents of Sheringdale Primary School to honour the memory of much-loved teaching assistant Layla Elouazani. In her many years at the school Layla, known to the children as Miss E, supported hundreds of Sheringdale pupils in both their day-to-day learning and in navigating emotional challenges, through her wellbeing support role. Her bench now sits near the playground, in a sunny spot alongside the areas where the children play after school and has seen a steady stream of visitors since it arrived. A year after her passing, Layla's trademark warmth, talent and kindness are sorely missed by the school community, and everyone who knew her. She will always be remembered.



THE MEMORIAL BENCH AND ITS PLAQUE

## NEWS FROM ST BARNABAS CHURCH

By Rev Ian Tattum

It's with sadness that I must report a spate of vandalism in the church garden, including attacks on small trees. As I write this the police are looking into things. I am delighted that on two recent occasions neighbours contacted me to let me know what was happening and one resident kindly intervened. We try to make the church garden a welcoming place for people and a haven for wildlife and I often get a chance to chat with visitors taking a rest on the garden bench and families playing in the garden.

We have been delighted to recently host another Southfields Harvest, and continue to offer space for various community groups, children's activities and therapeutic and arts groups in our halls. If you are looking for community space, we often do have availability.

Claire, our administrator, had to step down in the spring so we have found it more difficult to open for parties. By the time you read this we should have a new administrator and be back to normal.

The Glass Door Night Shelter opened again on Friday 10th November. We are expecting guest numbers to increase this year to pre-Covid numbers, and we continue to be grateful for all the community support we get. We continue to run a small emergency larder to help struggling individuals and families and support Earlsfield Foodbank.

Our Christmas Fair is on Saturday 25th November from 12-3pm. Note the date, a little earlier than usual. Come along for a fun family day out, featuring independent gift vendors, crafts and games, home bakes and hot drinks. If you can help, contact Jennie Allen at [jennieallen@virginmedia.com](mailto:jennieallen@virginmedia.com) or on 07720 731735.

You will often find the church open if you would like to pop in for some quiet or to pray. If you would like to arrange a specific time you are welcome to drop me a line on [iantattum@gmail.com](mailto:iantattum@gmail.com) and I will try to help. The church is always open from 8.30am - 1pm on Saturday and Sunday.

### Autumn and Christmas special Services and events

Saturday 25th November, 12-3pm. Christmas Fair

Sunday 26th November, 7pm. Sung Compline  
Sunday 3rd December, 9.30am. Family Service

Saturday 23rd December, 7pm, Carol Service  
Christmas Eve:

- 4pm. Nativity Service
- 11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, 10.30 am. Family Eucharist

[www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk](http://www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk)

## 'PLANT DON'T PAVE' SAY GREEN THE GRID

By Karen Booth

Green the Grid teamed up with local artist Jane Porter at the annual Southfields Harvest on Saturday 30th September. Over 100 people of all ages took part in creating a community collage entitled 'Plant Don't Pave'. We were delighted that our project inspired Jane to create the collage with Fee Campbell, and we're , and we're excited that it will be on display in Southfields Library, so do pop by and look. Jane is also a children's picture book author and illustrator, and has a website [www.janeporter.co.uk](http://www.janeporter.co.uk)

As autumn turns to winter now is the time to tidy up our front gardens and tree bases, and plant bulbs ready for the spring. Around 80 people dropped by to collect crocus, narcissus and grape hyacinth bulbs for spring planting. We also had a lively 'plant swap', with many plants provided by Krystals shop



JANE'S COLLAGE, START TO FINISH!

and Post Office in Replingham Road.

We enjoyed talking to everyone about their gardening plans. We're really pleased to hear there will be some new front gardens in the Grid, with residents pulling up ugly paving to plant a new garden. That's at the heart of

what we want to support. We can't wait to see the new gardens take shape.

We also raised awareness of our 'Front Garden Five' campaign, which highlights the benefits of green front gardens:

1. for community and individual wellbeing
2. for air quality
3. to prevent flooding
4. to encourage pollinating insects
5. to reduce flooding and water run-off

The campaign also marks five years of Green the Grid. It's great to see continued interest in our project, and we'd like to thank everyone that came and donated towards the project. You make it possible for us to continue. Thank you to Jane for teaming up with us on the collage and to Krystals for the donated plants which will find good homes.

[www.frontgardenfriendly.org](http://www.frontgardenfriendly.org)

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# POLICE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM UPDATE

By PCSO 7101 Don Lopes

Firstly - a Christmas message. As the festive season is almost here, we would like to remind residents to be vigilant at home and when out and about. When ordering presents online, leave special instructions when ordering so your parcels are not left unattended at your front door. Either leave at a secure spot or with a neighbour. This will help to reduce parcel theft in our area. For further burglary crime prevention advice visit [www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/](http://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/)

Good news. As you are aware there were a number of crime reports last month about tyre slashing in Southfields ward. Southfields SNT, with the help of other Putney SNT officers, conducted high visibility patrols and intel-checks into these incidents. I am happy to report a male was arrested in conjunction with these crimes, and the investigation is still ongoing. Our team continued with an increased presence in the Southfields area for reassurance.

The ward is still suffering from theft of motor vehicles, and thefts from a motor vehicle. We are still advising everyone living in the ward to make sure their vehicle does not hold



**DON CELEBRATED 20 YEARS WITH THE MET POLICE RECENTLY**

anything of value especially if it is visible for thieves to see. Residents should also use a steering wheel lock on their vehicle. To avoid relay attacks and car thefts we recommend that owners use a Faraday Box or Pouch, and keep their keyless fob away from your front door. This will make it difficult for criminals to intercept the signal and relay it to the vehicle, which can then be unlocked electronically.

Bike thefts are still a problem on the ward, and we have received numerous reports of suspects entering front gardens and looking into sheds, possibly using tools to gain access. Keep bikes locked even within the shed, use security lights, check your door cameras, and report any suspicious activity to Police.

The ward businesses are still having problems with persistent shoplifters, who are targeting some of the shops on Replingham Road and Wimbledon Park Road. We have been liaising with the shops and they have been providing Police with CCTV footage of the offences. Southfields SNT are in constant contact with these businesses, providing reassurance and crime prevention advice. Our team have consistently been recommending that the larger businesses consider using security staff if they feel that it is one of their main priorities to combat shoplifting or to report to police.

The next ward panel meeting will be on Saturday 20th January at St Barnabas Church starting at 10.30am. We are also continuing with our 'Cuppa with a copper' drop-in at Caffe Nero on Thursday afternoons from 2-3pm.

[Southfields@met.police.uk](mailto:Southfields@met.police.uk)

## PRISON - WE NEED YOUR SOCKS AGAIN!

The Chaplains at HMP Wandsworth led by Liz Bridge, the Quaker Chaplain are once again heading up a campaign to give a pair or two of socks to each prisoner for Christmas. Socks are warm, cheerful and soft, and make a good Christmas present in an environment where people don't have very much. The target is 1650, to give at least one pair to every prisoner in the days before Christmas.

As we did two years ago, when we last ran the campaign, we are looking for socks of any size (not children's) and colour, short or long,

wool, bamboo, cotton or mixed fibres etc. Please drop off your socks at the following Grid addresses:

147 Brookwood Road

78 Heythorp Street

116 Engadine Street

17 Pirbright Road

15 Elsenham Street

66 Revelstoke Road

Closing date for all contributions is Sunday 17th December to allow them to be distributed.

## UKRAINIAN CLERIC VISITS LOCAL CHURCH

The war in Ukraine came closer than ever to SW18 recently when a prominent Ukrainian priest visited a local church. Father Vitaliy Novak is Chair of charity DePaul Ukraine, created in 2007 in response to the growing numbers of homeless people there. Father Vitaliy has been leading their humanitarian response, driving trucks of aid across the country to conflict-stricken areas like Kharkiv.

During his week-long visit Father Vitaliy launched a documentary, delivered an enlightening lecture, and on 17th September joined the congregation of Christ the King Church, which many Catholics in the Grid attend. Christ the King was visited as a thank you, as it has raised more for the work of Depaul Ukraine than any other parish in the country.

Pictured (are) Ewan Day-Collins, Emergency Programme Manager (Ukraine) of DePaul International; Mark McGreevy, President, DePaul Group and Fr Vitaliy Novak, Chair of DePaul Ukraine.

For details of how to donate, visit their website [www.int.depaulcharity.org](http://www.int.depaulcharity.org)



# SOUTHFIELDS ARTISTS REVIVE OPEN HOUSE WEEKENDS

*By Slavica Struthers-Kennedy, event organiser*

After 3 years of inactivity due to Covid, Wandsworth Artists Open House (WAOH) was back. The event spanned the first two weekends of October. 27 artists exhibited their creations in 20 local venues. On display we had pottery, ceramics, paintings, textile art, quilts, jewellery, drawings, work from recycled materials, sculptures, photography, collage and much more. The weather was kind to us, the sun was shining. The exhibitors opened their homes and studios to the public, and the visitors came. We had over 2000 visitors over the two-weekend period.

Wandsworth Council organised WAOH for many years, but due to changing circumstances they decided to withdraw support. In mid-July they decided to give the artists themselves a grant so the artists could organise and run the event themselves. We, the artists, took on the challenge and a small steering group was set up.

The result? We are happy to report that the first artist-organised event

was a great success. We had more exhibitions and venues than ever before. We leafleted 10,000 homes in Southfields. We used social media, we invited friends, family, used our mailing lists and invited visitors to come and see what we had to offer. The visitors came!

Among them was our MP Fleur Anderson, the young and not so young. Our youngest visitor was a 3-week-old baby who with her dad visited most of the venues. Exhibitors and visitors alike had a great time. At the end of the event our artists were tired but happy. Everyone who came to view our work was very complimentary – some quotes:

“Amazing work!”  
“Very pleased that the Open House is back”,  
“Really great visit, Great host.”  
“I am in heaven! Wow what fantastic work”

We the artists have had a ball, and we shall be back in 2024. Thank you for your support.

[www.artistsopenhouse.co.uk/southfields](http://www.artistsopenhouse.co.uk/southfields)



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FROM NESPRESSO CAPSULES TO A DRESS

# SOUTHFIELDS REAPS ANOTHER SUPER 'HARVEST'

By *Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen*

**N**etwork with your neighbours, connect with your community!. Residents of the Grid and beyond needed little prompting to make a beeline for St Barnabas on Saturday 30th September for Southfields Harvest, our much-loved annual celebration of all things local. It's the emphasis on local, from the 'Southfields Sausage' on the BBQ to the honey on sale which makes Harvest so distinctive and special.

Enthusiastic visitors, including our MP Fleur Anderson, returned in their hundreds to enjoy another helping of Southfields amazing bounty, all grown or produced by residents.



**KING GEORGE'S PARK ALLOTMENT GROUP**

Highlights, as always, included the spectacular array of greens from King George's Park Allotment holders, which raised over £300 for the Wandsworth Food bank, and cider from Abundance Southfields.

A convivial crowd surrounded the cider press all afternoon to sample its wares and learn more about the 'Abundance' project from founder Richard König and his volunteer fruit pickers. Long queues formed to take home delectable jams, chutneys, apple juice and even granola containing local honey, the creations of entrepreneurial residents. Sue from Salt & Pepper café served up a magnificent Harvest lunch, while the parents

and children of Riversdale Primary School PTC did a roaring trade in scrumptious cakes and afternoon teas.



**CONKER FUN FOR SOME**

But it wasn't all about food. Green The Grid distributed spring bulbs and gardening advice, and in a creative collaboration with Harvest artist-in-residence Jane Porter they invited visitors to contribute to a giant collage emphasising the importance of planting not paving, of which more on Page 5.

The Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe showed off how many objects it had diverted from landfill as well as the talents of its volunteer fixers. Children were entertained with face painting, storytelling, crafts and a site-specific



**ALL GO AT GREEN THE GRID**

piece of seasonal conker art. Southfields librarian Sucheta reminded people of the rich resource that is Southfields Library, and SW18's excellent Clearvision Project promoted its library of books designed to be shared by visually impaired and sighted children. Finally, the SGRA, Friends of Coronation Gardens, Friends of Wimbledon Park and our Police Community Support Officer PCSO Don Lopes were all on hand to answer questions about all things local and explain their roles in the neighbourhood.

Thanks as always to Ian Tattum and St Barnabas for opening their doors for us again; Terry at the Village Butcher, the Plotters for supplying the music, Sue Burke for counting the money and everybody who volunteered their time and energy to make the day such a success. We are grateful to everybody who supported the Glass Door Winter Night Shelter at St Barnabas. Your donations raised £370.



**THESE DIDN'T LAST LONG!**

If you enjoyed this year's event and would like to ensure SH returns in 2024, please email us [southfieldsharvest@gmail.com](mailto:southfieldsharvest@gmail.com). There are lots of small ways to help that make a big difference.

[www.southfieldsharvest.org.uk](http://www.southfieldsharvest.org.uk)

## TRANSPORT SIGN - MORE FUNDING NEEDED

**T**he fate of the unique transport sign visible behind the Shell garage on Merton Road is still unclear. The SGRA have made efforts to ensure the century-old sign, which adorns one of former coach and lorry firm United Service Transport's London depots, has urgent repairs to its special mosaic. After 100 years it's starting to erode and fall into disrepair.

The SGRA have joined forces with the Heritage of London Trust (HOLT), a charity who rescue and restore historic monuments and buildings. We believe the mosaic is of historical importance worthy of preservation and have been raising funds to start the remedial work. Around £19,000 has been raised already, and several motoring publications have featured the story of the sign. A specialist restoration company is on standby, but there is however a shortfall which needs addressing urgently.

If you feel you can help by contributing something towards the restoration of a unique piece of industrial heritage here in Southfields, donations can be made to HOLT. Contact their projects advisor Victoria Oakley at [Projects@heritageoflondon.org](mailto:Projects@heritageoflondon.org) or ring 020 7099 0559.

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## GRID PROPERTY REVIEW - Q+A

By Maddie Miller

With the subject of house prices, both to buy and sell, never far from the minds of many Grid homeowners, how can we improve things to get as much as we can for our home if selling? How is the market if we're on the lookout in the Grid? Our local property expert Maddie Miller, of estate agents Loney Miller on Replingham Road, answers your questions:



MADDIE FROM LONEY MILLER

What's the current trend in Grid property - and prices?

Currently, buyers are still paying a premium for properties that offer the best layouts and are presented in excellent condition. This is largely due to the increased cost of building materials and works. With higher interest rates, we are noticing buyers starting to compromise as it is no longer cheap to borrow, so we are expecting that buyers will become a bit more flexible when it comes to

works. We are also finding that some buyers are making lower offers for a property, and it is taking longer to negotiate sales.

Does the Grid differ much pricewise from the rest of SW18?

The houses in SW18 are largely Victorian and Edwardian, each builder creating their own building style, typical of the age. The Grid itself offers 21 different designs, so there is quite a wide range of sizes, and the rest of SW18 is no different.

Why do people buy houses around here?

Because we have everything! Outstanding schools, lovely green spaces and a fantastic community. We are relatively well connected by tube, and overground at Earlsfield, so transport links are decent too. Why wouldn't you want to live in Southfields.

Is the housing stock in good condition, or can you still buy a bargain?

The houses that sell for the best prices are usually in excellent condition, offering a considered layout. A property in need of work will always sell for significantly less, but buyers should take into consideration the cost of building works before they commit to a big project. I always think the best one to buy are those that are extended, yet scruffy, perhaps having been rented out for several years. These houses are not immediately appealing, but often "the bones" are good, and a cosmetic refurb will make all the difference.

What things can make a difference to selling a house in the Grid - or not?

A lick of paint in a neutral colour (although avoid magnolia!), cutting back the garden, tidying up the front of the house and decluttering will all make a significant difference to how the buyers feel about your house. All this, plus a bit of added styling (house plants, cushions, vases of flowers etc) will also help.

How long do houses take to sell around here?

Anywhere from 2-6 weeks to find a buyer if the price is right now.

Does being 'on the Grid' still command a premium compared to nearby streets?

Yes, absolutely. I have worked in Southfields for 12 years now, and it has always been the most popular location in the area.

Have the AELTC development plans had any effect on Grid house prices?

Not yet, but there are mixed opinions on this. Lots of buyers coming to the area see the development as a positive as it will bring more interest and amenities with it.

Finally, how are you settling into your new offices at the top of Replingham Road?

We are loving it! It's so great to be able to wave at people. I spend most of my working day on the phone, so can't jump up to say 'hello' as much as I would like and be in the thick of it. We hope that you like the office too. We are conscious that we are yet another estate agent on the high street, but hopefully you will agree our shop front is much smarter than the hoarding was!

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## SOUTHFIELDS BUSINESS ROUND-UP

By Juanita Stanuel-Taitte, Economic Development Office, Wandsworth Council

### Plans for revival of a Southfields business organisation

The Council is working with our local businesses to discuss ways of improving the shopping streets in Southfields from their point of view. A meeting of the Southfields Business Forum was held on Tuesday 31st October. As a result, they have restructured their committee and are moved forward with engaging all businesses and building up the Forum. The businesses are actively working on the Christmas Lights event.

### Plans for Christmas

The Council, in partnership with Southfields Business Forum and the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) are organising their annual community Christmas Lights 'switch-on' once again, with family entertainment, market stalls, a Christmas Grotto, live music and carol singing from our local schools. AELTC are again funding the Christmas Lights.

This family fun event will take place on Wednesday 6th December from 4.30- 6pm on the upper section of Replingham Road. The Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Juliana Annan, will arrive at Replingham Road at 4.30pm to open the event, and the Christmas Lights will be switched on by AELTC's Chair Debbie Jevans CBE at 5pm. We hope to see you there.

### Wandsworth Enterprise Hub

All businesses, business start-ups and those who operate their business from home in Southfields can access help and advice at the Wandsworth Enterprise Hub [www.wandsworthenterprisehub.com](http://www.wandsworthenterprisehub.com). Home-based businesses who need advice can contact the Enterprise Team by e-mailing [WEH@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:WEH@wandsworth.gov.uk) High Street businesses can contact me, Juanita Stanuel-Taitte at [j.stanuel-taitte@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:j.stanuel-taitte@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

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## FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS NEWS

By *Tara Osman*

It's been an exciting time for the Friends of Coronation Gardens (FoCG) in and out of the park. On 21st September we picked up the gold award in the 'It's your neighbourhood' category of the 'London in Bloom' Awards. The judges in their report praised our efforts to improve the Gardens since 2019 and concluded "Clearly a group who take pride in their local open space, and are committed to working with others to ensure that standards are being maintained, and opportunities to improve and enhance it are identified and secured". Thanks to all our members who have supported us, we could not do it without you.

This adds to our prestigious Green Flag award we received earlier this year. A spokesman for Enable, the council's garden managers, added "Your contributions, both big and small, have made a significant difference in the lives of those around Coronation Gardens.



FOCG'S WENDY, TARA AND CHARLES

Let's continue to work together to create an even brighter and more inclusive future for everyone".

Work continues on the restoration of the original drinking fountain. A working party including the Putney School of Art and Design are planning to have a competition over the winter for entrants to design a replacement for the fountain's missing figurine, reflecting the past but nodding to the present. A panel

of judges from all stakeholders would decide the winner, with installation by Easter 2024 hopefully. Contact us for more details if you wish to enter.

Our Gardening Club continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month from 10-11.30am. We were excited in October to plant out two new varieties of perennial in the Friends Borders, namely *Salvia nemerosa* 'Caradonna' (a beautiful plant with purple spires) and *Astrantia major* 'Roma' (dusky pink pincushion-shaped flowers) the purchase of which was funded by the FoCG. We will be planting out other varieties over the next few months. We've also put in some snowdrop and grape hyacinth bulbs in the circular area by the white arch in amongst the rosemary, thyme and lavender, and have some more to be planted out at our next session in November.

[www.focoronationgardens.co.uk](http://www.focoronationgardens.co.uk)

## FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK NEWS UPDATE

By *Damaris Albarran*

The Friends of Wimbledon Park's (FoWP) main focus has been the planning submission by the AELTC, which you can read about on Page 1. Our other big initiative is to improve the appearance of the Revelstoke Road entrance, primarily by moving TFL's ugly fencing back and including more planting. An artist's impression of what we are aiming for is shown on the right, and your feedback is welcome.

Many of us have been dismayed by the absence of the cafe, especially during the hot weather and again now a warming drink is appealing. Cooks and Partners (C&P) who run cafes in other locations including Holland Park, were awarded a 15-year lease after a tender process conducted by Merton Council. This was due to be signed "shortly", with October as the target opening date, but that was several months ago. So the opening must still be some way off as parts of the building are in bad repair. C&P say on their website [www.cooksandpartners.co.uk/cooks-kitchen](http://www.cooksandpartners.co.uk/cooks-kitchen) that the cafe is "being totally redesigned and refitted to provide a homely and comfortable ambience with a modern feel with relaxed seating and free Wi-Fi. We will be redecorating in light natural colour tones to complement the cafe design and to reflect the tranquillity of the park."

The most recent post in early October on the Cooks Kitchen Instagram page says, "While we share your excitement to savour all the delights of what we have planned for you, there's still some building work that needs to be addressed by the Council before we can open. We'll keep you informed every step of the way." It sounds as though they are as frustrated as we are, and it seems we are waiting for Merton to progress this. We suggest following the Cooks Kitchen Instagram page [@cookskitchen2023](https://www.instagram.com/cookskitchen2023) for further news.

The brook flowing through the crazy golf course was created as part of the dam safety work and flood management system, and it is a necessary part of that. However some of you are concerned about the brook's steep open sides. FOWP believes the crazy golf should be moved, and the area it currently occupies should be turned into a water garden, with the brook an attractive feature. So far Merton do not seem interested in that, but the grass is now being kept short so the brook is clearly visible.

The recent rain and comparatively warm weather have meant the grass has grown well in the events areas, and they are looking green again. The annual fireworks display took place on Saturday 4th November,

As I write there are few signs of winter in the park, with the trees mostly still very green. The horse chestnut trees are brown because of the now-regular infestation by leaf-mining moth. According to the RHS "heavily affected trees can drop their leaves early, but it has been found that this has almost no effect on the growth rate or health of trees, although conkers may be slightly smaller." No need to worry!

If you have questions, comments or would like to get more involved in our work please contact [membership.fowp@gmail.com](mailto:membership.fowp@gmail.com)

[www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org](http://www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org)



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Grid resident Sally Ostrowska of 188 Elsenham Street is acting as a collection centre for an appeal for medical supplies for Ukraine. Prescription and non-prescription medicines, in or out of date, are all welcomed, and you can drop them in the box by the front door. For larger items, please knock. Full details are in the enclosed poster.

“Someone told me the Polish Club in Balham was collecting supplies for Ukraine” explained Sally. “As I had bandages, inherited walking sticks, unused pills etc. I would collect those and medication, in or out of date, open or unopened. The medics in Ukraine decide what can safely be used in a war zone.” And her name? “My surname is Polish. My father-in-law was in the Polish Air Force, came here to fight in WWII where he married and lived all his life.”



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## THANK YOU, PASSIONATE LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS!

By Silvia Brucculeri, Children’s Librarian at Southfields Library

A massive thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who give their time to keep our library in excellent shape, offering classes that otherwise would be difficult for us to provide regularly. A big thank you to Barbara and Mandy for starting the Sewing Club every Tuesday at 11.15am. Grazie mille to Amelia, who leads the Italian conversation group for children aged 6+ every Friday at 4pm. A massive thank you to our Origami master Charlie, who leads two groups for children, Board Games on Tuesdays at 4.40pm and Origami on Saturdays at 11am.

Many thanks to Molly and Christine for clearing the shelving trolleys for us so efficiently, and to Peggy for checking the conditions and relevance of our stock. In addition, we are thrilled to have so many Duke of Edinburgh students who dedicate their time to volunteer in our library. Apart from general tasks they also offer reading support sessions every Tuesday and Wednesday from 5pm, or Saturday from 12 noon. Their hard work is truly appreciated, and we are lucky to have them, you will agree with us once you get to know them!

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Silvia.Brucculeri@gll.org



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**Joint Secretary:** Ian Shaw | 07554 898538  
[imks11662@outlook.com](mailto:imks11662@outlook.com)

**Joint Secretary:** Serena Potter | 07778 419569  
[sjpotter304@gmail.com](mailto:sjpotter304@gmail.com)

**Committee Members:** Margaret Brett, Kyle Forder, Ann Kerr, Rod Lewington, Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, 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

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### Elsenham Street

Oliver Ashbee at 78

Andrew Dunley at 90

### Engadine Street

Isabelle Lemettre at 116

### Hamilton Mews

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### Heythorp Street

Kyra von Schottenstein at 127

### Langton Place

David Boyle at 12

### Lavenham Road

Margaret Brett at 15 Elsenham

### Merton Road

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### Pirbright Road

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### Replingham Road

Ameet Phadnis at 48

### Revelstoke Road

Rosie and Sam Rickman at 66

### Trentham Street

Trevor Howes at 70

Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty at 169

## Business

Southfields Business Forum - [j.stanuel-taitte@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:j.stanuel-taitte@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)  
Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce [www.wandsworthchamber.org](http://www.wandsworthchamber.org)

## Cultural

Singswell - [www.singswell.co.uk](http://www.singswell.co.uk)  
"Southfields storyteller" - [www.hannahneed.co.uk](http://www.hannahneed.co.uk)  
Sounds of Southfields - [www.soundsofsouthfields.co.uk](http://www.soundsofsouthfields.co.uk)  
Southfields Artists Group - via [slavica@melroseroad.net](mailto:slavica@melroseroad.net)  
Southfields Theatre Group - contact via [www.facebook.com/southfieldstg](http://www.facebook.com/southfieldstg)  
Southfields Sings - [www.naturalvoice.net/choir/southfields-sings](http://www.naturalvoice.net/choir/southfields-sings)  
Window Wanderland - [www.windowwanderland.com/southfields](http://www.windowwanderland.com/southfields)  
World Heartbeat Music Academy - [www.worldheartbeat.org](http://www.worldheartbeat.org)

## Faith

St Barnabas, Lavenham Road - [www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk](http://www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk)  
Everyday Church, Wimbledon Park Road - [www.everyday.org.uk/southfields](http://www.everyday.org.uk/southfields)  
Ahmadiyya Mosque, Gressenhall Road - [www.loveforallthatredfornone.org](http://www.loveforallthatredfornone.org)  
Wimbledon Mosque, Durnsford Road - [www.wimbledonmosque.org](http://www.wimbledonmosque.org)

## Interest groups

Friends of Coronation Gardens - [www.focoronationgardens.co.uk](http://www.focoronationgardens.co.uk)  
Friends of Wimbledon Park - [www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk)  
Green the Grid - [www.frontgardenfriendly.uk](http://www.frontgardenfriendly.uk)  
Grid Mummies - [erica\\_loi@hotmail.com](mailto:erica_loi@hotmail.com)  
Wandsworth Tree Wardens [www.wandsworthtreewardens.org](http://www.wandsworthtreewardens.org)  
Walk and Talk Movement, Wimbledon Park [www.walkandtalkmovement.org](http://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](http://www.better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/southfields-library)

## Nearby Resident Associations

Gardens RA - [jonathan@pinkess.com](mailto:jonathan@pinkess.com)  
Southfields Triangle - STRA6 [info@STRA6.org.uk](mailto:info@STRA6.org.uk)  
Sutherland Grove Conservation Area RA - [admin@sgcara.org.uk](mailto:admin@sgcara.org.uk)  
Wimbledon Park RA - [www.wimbledonpark.com](http://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](mailto:southfields@met.police.uk)  
Parks Police - 07500 814108 or [parkspolice@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:parkspolice@wandsworth.gov.uk)

## Senior groups

Hestia adult support - [www.hestia.org/older-people](http://www.hestia.org/older-people) or 020 8767 8426  
Monday Club, c/o St Barnabas Church - email [ma\\_brett@hotmail.com](mailto:ma_brett@hotmail.com)  
Wandsworth Older Peoples Forum - [www.wopf.org.uk](http://www.wopf.org.uk)

## Sport

All England Club - [www.wimbledon.com](http://www.wimbledon.com)  
Swimbleton, wild swimming - [www.swimbleton.co.uk](http://www.swimbleton.co.uk)  
'Tag' Rugby - [Jake.Dunley@hotmail.com](mailto:Jake.Dunley@hotmail.com)  
Wandsworth Boxing Club - [www.wandsworthboxingclub.co.uk](http://www.wandsworthboxingclub.co.uk)

## Sustainability

Abundance Southfields - [www.abundancesouthfields.com](http://www.abundancesouthfields.com)  
Recycle More Southfields - [www.recyclemoresouthfields.org](http://www.recyclemoresouthfields.org)  
Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe - [restartsouthfields@gmail.com](mailto:restartsouthfields@gmail.com)  
Tree officers - [trees@enablelc.org](mailto:trees@enablelc.org)

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

Saturday 25th November - St Barnabas Christmas Fair, 12-3pm  
Tuesday 28th November - SGRA public meeting, 7.45pm  
Christmas Church services - see page 5  
Saturday 20th January - Police SNT ward panel meeting, 10.30am  
Saturday 27th January - Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe, 12-3pm  
Tuesday 30th January - SGRA public meeting, 7.45pm  
Saturday/Sunday 24/25th February - 'Window Wanderland', 5-9pm  
Tuesday 26th March - SGRA public meeting, 7.45pm

The Spring 2024 edition of Grid News will be published in mid-March. Items and articles for consideration should be sent to the Editor by Friday 16th February. Email them to [charles@charlesruncie.co.uk](mailto:charles@charlesruncie.co.uk). We'd love to hear from you!

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:sgrasecretary@gmail.com) to confirm your payment, and our database will be updated. Please put your Grid address in the online reference box so we can add you to our email database.