



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Making a difference
to life on the Grid

GRID NEWS

Spring 2024

Delivered free to every home and business in Southfields Grid

REVIVED BUSINESS FORUM AIMS TO BRIGHTEN UP SHOPS

A local business owner in Southfields has stepped up to front a fresh new campaign to revive our Grid shopping areas via the Southfields Business Forum (SBF).

Rachel Roberts, owner of gift and lifestyle brand Wishlist shop at 41 Replingham Road, has been a Grid resident since 2010. She recently joined forces with existing locals to set about rejuvenating the SBF. The aim of the Forum is to highlight the amazing businesses around us, and enable everyone to taste, experience and benefit from a wealth of talent and professional level of service on their doorstep. Hopefully it will increase revenue and exposure in these challenging economic times.

The Forum is keen to work closely with all local organisations to ensure the focus is understanding what our residents want and need in our area, offering an exciting and varied choice to all visitors, and celebrate our shopping streets at special times of the year. It's all to emphasise why Southfields Grid is a top destination. Two meetings have already been held, and further activity is planned. Rachel also attended January's SGRA public meeting to talk about the plans.



RACHEL ROBERTS OUTSIDE WISHLIST

"It's positive news about what our SBF wants to do for residents and visitors" explains Rachel. "I'd love to hear ideas or feedback from any of them, plus local business owners working out of their home, online or on our streets. It's all exciting, I hope."

Rachel is being helped by several others. Wandsworth Council's Local Growth Officer for High Streets, Juanita Stanuel-Taitte, is in regular touch with Grid shops, and along with the All England Club organised our Christmas lights switch-on. "The feedback I've received about the Christmas lights was great. Most

liked the new positioning of where the stage was and felt there was more of a community feel to the event this year" she reflected afterwards. Popular local shop owner Michael Croner, who runs Original Fish + Chips and owns the new Sabores tapas bar opposite the tube station, has also encouraged the revival of the SBF.

Another recent initiative by Wandsworth Council has been the launch of their specially commissioned 'Ignite' scheme, a free support programme for businesses and residents. It provides an on-demand training platform, support through guidance and 1-2-1 sessions as well as business-focused events to help them expand. Organiser Ray Lavery comments: "In case businesses want to catch up, the launch event was recorded, and is now available to be viewed online at www.mygrowthpod.com/ignite. Let us know if you need anything else as we roll out the programme."

You can contact Rachel at info@wishlistshop.co.uk

VACANT GRID POSTBOX GETS 'BANKSY' TREATMENT

By 'Baldyshanks'

My family have lived on the Grid for over 50 years, and for as long as I can remember there have always been grey rusting unused Royal Mailboxes in nearly every street. You would have walked past them many times without paying them any attention. Some of them are locked and are just anonymous. The ones that are open however rust inside from the rain getting in, and become a magnet for passers-by to put rubbish in. The biggest one of these 'rust/rubbish' boxes was at the corner of Heythorp and Revelstoke Roads.

I eventually got sick of seeing it rotting away and decided to repurpose it as a community drop box as seen in the picture, where locals

can leave toys, books etc. for others to make use of. The very generous and environmentally aware residents of the Grid often leave books outside their houses, and while this is a great idea they're vulnerable to the elements. This protected drop box seemed an ideal way to make use of an existing resource for the whole community. Royal Mail have not come back to me to say if I am allowed to repurpose this box, as I would like to do the others, but sometimes in life it's better to ask forgiveness than permission when dealing with corporate giants.

After a year the box seems to be flourishing, with a constant turnover of the contents. I can paint it a different colour if you all think it is an eyesore I would be interested to know

what you think of the idea

You can contact 'Baldyshanks' at baldylongshanks@gmail.com



BEFORE AND AFTER

EDITOR'S LETTER



Charles Runcie, SGRA Chair

Welcome to another Grid News, which aims to reflect and celebrate all aspects of life on the Grid. We're a busy lot, whether recycling, walking, upcycling, front gardening, teaching, researching and so much more. All Grid life is here!

We've a new and distinctive look for our local business advertising, raising their profile to create a special section in the centre. You can pull out and keep this bit when finished with our newsletter. Do use our local businesses - they depend so much on our support in these tough times.

We've also the latest on the All England Club's controversial expansion proposals, which are now with the GLA to decide on. It seems to be taking forever, you might think, and suspect their decision either way will be far from the end of it. Whatever your view, please engage in the debate. Popping 'Wimbledon Park Golf Club' into the GLA website will produce a super overview of the process up to now, what happens next, and how you can get involved by an online comment.

We've elections on Thursday 2nd May, and our recent SGRA visit to City Hall reminded me about the hustings we have at St Barnabas on Tuesday 16h April at 7.45pm. Our GLA assembly candidates for the Merton & Wandsworth constituency will be there to outline their policies and answer audience questions. We've done hustings before, they're well-attended and useful.

Congratulations to the Friends of Coronation Gardens, who celebrate their 5th birthday this month. What an incredible transformation to the Gardens they've helped to bring about, with two awards in 2023. The new play area is a 'must' for young children and their parents.

If you've anything you'd like to see in a future issue or want to leave a comment on this or any other SGRA issue, get in touch via info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk or via our Facebook and Instagram profiles. See you at our next public meeting at St Barnabas on Tuesday 26th March at 7.45pm.

Best wishes

Charles



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

GLA TO RULE ON AELTC PLANS

By Simon Wright

You will recall that having called in the application, the Greater London Assembly (GLA) had the option of either rejecting the All England Club's plans for Wimbledon Park outright, or becoming the planning authority that reviews these plans. It has decided on the latter course of action and is now at the very start of their own planning process. This unfortunately cannot be completed before the Mayoral elections on Thursday 2nd May, so the Save Wimbledon Park group anticipate a public hearing at City Hall in the summer at the earliest, depending on other applications from boroughs ahead of it in the pipeline.

In the meantime we encourage individuals to submit their comments to the GLA planning website <https://planapps.london.gov.uk/planningapps/21-P2900>. The Save Wimbledon Park group will be combining with local Residents Associations and Societies to provide a comprehensive set of objections and submissions on the original application, amendments and topics that have arisen over the last 3 years.

Please contact simon@ofplus.com if you'd like more information.

MORE EX-GOLF COURSE TOURS

By Ulrika Hogberg

The All England Club continues to run guided tours of the former Wimbledon Park golf course. The next ones are on Friday and Saturday 22nd/23rd March and Friday and Saturday 26/27th April. It's a terrific opportunity to see the current landscape on site and hear about the AELTC's proposals in more detail. They are running three tours a day at 9.10-10.45am, 11.30-12.45pm and 2.15-3.30pm. For all the information you need and how to sign up for a tour visit. www.wimbledon.com/community

Also, on Saturday and Sunday 23rd /24th March the AELTC hosts its first Nature Weekend of 2024, with two more following in September and November. With the return of spring the Nature Weekend focuses on the importance of water to nature. Everyone can come and learn more about that issue, the



WALKING THE EX-COURSE

frog spawning season as well as enjoy arts and crafts, free hot drinks and the opportunity to chat to Wimbledon's gardening team. More information will be on the webpage above at the right time.

FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS NEWS

By Charles Runcie

It's been an amazing start to 2024 in our own local Gardens. Fresh from winning two awards in 2023 this year started with the long-promised £143,000 revamp of its play area. It was completed in a month, then a 'soft' opening to general satisfaction on Friday 16th February. "Everyone's excited about it, with interesting bits to play with such as the textures on the ground and the 'sand shaker thingy.' I'm looking forward to spending more time here in the sunshine, and CG looks great!" was one thrilled Mum's comment. A formal opening will happen once the contractors have finished topping out the site.

One of the long-term aims of the Friends of Coronation Gardens has been the restoration of the original 1904 Edwardian water fountain back to full working order, which would be a source of drinking water for visitors. It's been in a sad state for decades, especially after the bronze 'Aquarius' figurine at the front and the rear plinth were removed, presumed stolen.



THE FOUNTAIN IN 1904

We're now able to replace both – but what do we replace the bronze figurine with? By a happy co-incidence we discovered the land for Coronation Gardens was donated in 1902 by Wandsworth Mayor William Lancaster, who also co-founded the Putney School of Art and Design (PSAD). We've teamed up

with them to organise a competition for their students and local artists alike to produce a contemporary design. The winning entry will have their work turned into reality, and their figurine displayed on the fountain for we hope the next century.

Full details are available on both the FoCG and the Friends of PSAD websites:

www.focoronationgardens.co.uk

www.psadfriends.org.uk

The closing date for entries is Monday 15th April. Feel free to forward this information to anyone you think might be interested in entering a design. It will be in the Gardens for the next 100 years.

March marks the fifth birthday of the Friends of Coronation Gardens. Do come and find out about our work at our AGM. It will take place on Wednesday 17th April at 7.30pm in the Scout Hut, 93 Pirbright Road SW18 5NA.

LITTERPICKIN' GOOD! RESIDENTS ARMY AIM TO CLEAN UP

How personal frustration led to a big Southfields community initiative

Southfields resident Suzy Levy was becoming annoyed by the growing volume of rubbish on some local streets. "Litter can become a bit like wallpaper" she outlined. "If you walk by it too many times you begin not to see it anymore. I felt like our neighbourhood was getting to the wallpaper phase, where rubbish was just 'expected.' It frustrated me." So after a post on social media, she and dozens of residents banded together to start the 'KeepWimbledonParkTidy' group and completed a first community litter pick in late January.



KEEN YOUNG LITTER PICKER

On the first litter pick, 21 separate bags of recyclables and rubbish were collected from Southfields and Wimbledon Park streets. It was a wonderful day and a solid community effort. Volunteers cleaned streets on both sides of Merton Road – Acuba, Astonville, Bodmin, Clonmore, Elsenham, Engadine, Heythorp, Lavenham, Ravensbury, Revelstoke and Trentham in Wandsworth and Dawlish, Durnsford, Gordondale, Haslemere, Lucien, Melrose, Mount, Stroud and Stuart in Merton. "I often collect it on my own or with my children" adds Suzy, "but I wanted to get the community involved, to make it something we all feel pride in and responsibility for."

Another dozen volunteers banded together on the last weekend of February to remove litter once again from the neighbourhood. Many parents brought their children along, making for a great community moment despite the slow-going nature of young children with a litter-picking device.

So what can you do? Suzy says:

- If you see litter on the ground, pick it up and bin it.
- Join our litter picks, which will be held on the last weekend of every month in 2024.
- Report any fly tipping immediately via Wandsworth or Merton Council websites, or www.fixmystreet.com

- If you're in the Merton Council area, request new plastic bins with lids and return the old ones to the Council.



SUZY'S ARMED FOR ACTION

The next 'KeepWimbledonParkTidy' weekend will be over the Easter weekend on March 30th/31st. Volunteers can choose which day to help on depending on what works for them time wise. If you're interested in joining the group please email Suzy at levandsuzy@gmail.com

ST BARNABAS CHURCH NEWS

By Rev Ian Tattum

Damage to the roof of the church has necessitated some urgent repairs - you might have spotted the scaffold - but we are now busy planning for the year ahead here at St B's.

We haven't put on an Arts Festival for a few years, but between late March and early July there will once again be a programme of events, some musical and some literary. Most events celebrate individuals and groups who have long been associated with St Barnabas. Details are not yet complete, but there will be some poetry and possible Shakespearean events too. A full programme will be published at the proper time.

We are delighted that we now have a new administrator, Svenja, and the halls are being used more by local organisations and families wanting to have parties. Although our halls are remarkably busy with ballet, toddler, exercise and singing groups there are still gaps in the timetable for others wishing to use the fantastic spaces we have. Glassdoor Night Shelter are still with us and will be until April.

Work has started on the hall and church gardens to improve spaces for people to



REV IAN, A BUSY MAN

relax in and for nature to thrive. Wrens are getting increasingly plentiful, and particularly enjoy the safety of the ivy.

Our children's service, usually on the first Sunday of every month, continues to grow, and the next one is on Sunday 5th May. The

choir under Greg Skidmore, our excellent musical director and member of the Tallis Scholars, continues to thrive. Our wonderful Choral Night Prayer, also known as Compline, is usually held at 7pm on the last Sunday of each month. It is also enjoyable to meet all the couples who come to us to have their banns of marriage read, and we are getting busier with all the baptisms planned during the year.

We continue to have regular study sessions with our theological adviser, Dr Ben Wood. His many Zoom lectures on philosophy, faith and God are available on our church website <https://stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk>

On a personal note I feel privileged to still be working with Wandsworth Council on the follow-up to their Independent Cost of Living Report that I co-chaired last year. It is now being considered in many areas of council policy, helping people most affected by the recently intensifying economic challenges.

We continue to have St Barnabas open for private prayer and reflection as much as possible, particularly on Saturday and Sunday mornings. You are very welcome at any of our services on Sundays, and at any other time.

ian.tattum@gmail.com

'BIG QUIZ NIGHT 2024' IS BACK

If you're a keen quizzier or just like to spend a convivial evening with friends, then put the evening of Friday 5th July in your diary. That's the date of the annual St Barnabas 'Big Quiz Night' where you can do friendly battle against teams from across the Grid and beyond. There's a two-course supper, pay bar and raffle too. Start pulling your team of up to 8 together, and lots more information will be available nearer the time. Email jennieallen@virginmedia.com to reserve your table.

GRID FOOD BANK TARGETS HIDDEN NEEDS

Organiser Diana Chitty explains what happens to all that food you donate

We and Wandsworth Foodbank cannot thank you all enough for your donations, especially in a climate when many are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis themselves. Donations to our doorstep in the month up to Christmas exceeded an astonishing 500 kg. This included many 'Reverse Advent Calendars,' where families collected a different item on our published shopping list for each day up to Christmas Eve. Many children came with their parents to deliver them to us.

Wandsworth Foodbank provides nutritionally balanced food 3-day emergency food parcels, support and advice to local people referred in hardship. Without cold storage the food bank cannot take fresh food, but it uses people's financial gifts to buy fresh fruit and vegetables for people to choose when they visit their food bank 'welcome centres.'

We also welcome donations of essential toiletries and feminine hygiene items. Last year Wandsworth Foodbank provided more than 11,000 emergency food parcels to local people and families in hardship. Your local support directly addresses a desperate need. You can find what items are most needed each month on Wandsworth Foodbank's website (see below) and listed weekly outside 154 Elsenham Street on the blackboards generously donated by the SGRA. Every donation counts!

Find out more about making a financial donation to Wandsworth Foodbank at <https://wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk>

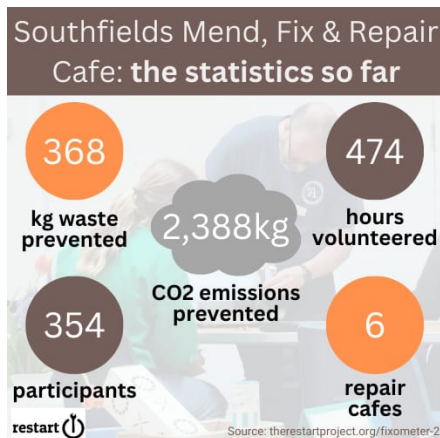


DIANA'S FOOD BANK IS UNMISSABLE

MEND, FIX & REPAIR CAFE SETS MORE RECORDS

Organiser Serena Potter reveals the stats and successes of this popular Grid fixture

We held our sixth event on Saturday 27th January at St Barnabas, with a record 64 items brought for repair. 61% were fixed and a further 20% were 'fixable', meaning advice was given to owners such as how to fix it themselves with new parts, or to return for more help at the next 'Cafe'.



Lamps, laptops and radios currently head the numbers leaderboard, and moth holes are commonly brought to our skilful darners Jo, Rosi, Pat and Claire. Jo taught brilliant methods for mending socks and holes, and Elizabeth has learnt this skill herself. Rosi

adjusted a kilt for a bagpipe player in the London Scottish Pipes and Drums – just in time for Burns Night!

Our impact to date is equivalent to the saving of the CO2 emissions from the manufacture of 24 sofas or watching TV for 4,145 days. The data from events is uploaded to Restart Project's 'Fixometer,' then converted into impact data. The Restart Project is a co-founder of the European 'Right to Repair' campaign: www.repair.eu. They launched the UK Repair and Reuse Declaration in October 'calling on the UK government to make it easier for people to repair products and pass them on to others for a second life.'

"Hat tip to Serena and her super team of helpers for another tremendous Cafe today"



one satisfied customer told me. "a record number through the door, delicious home-baked cakes to go with a cuppa, and a lovely atmosphere too". Our next events are from 12-3pm on Saturday April 20th, then Saturday 15th June during 'National Great Big Green



JO'S IN SEWING ACTION

Week'. Follow us on Instagram or Facebook to get the latest updates. We're always seeking more repairers in any field - you don't need to be an expert. Come along, see what we do, have a chat and join in the fun!

Email Serena at restartsouthfields@gmail.com

LOCAL PLANNING AND SHOPS NEWS

Margaret Brett keeps her eagle eye out for plans to change our Grid

The SGRA has submitted an objection to the planning application by the All England Club (AELTC) which is now being considered by the Greater London Assembly. It will be decided by the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe. See page 2 for more details.

The outstanding public realm works are still not finished. The bases of the block seating at the tube station have been installed, but we are still awaiting their tops. When the water fountain was finally replaced it immediately started leaking, so is out of commission at present while they work out what is wrong.

We had concerns about the recent planning applications for 75-79 Replingham Road because we considered that the proposed 3 storey extensions plus dormer were too dominant. These applications have now been withdrawn. Also the freeholder of the land by the railway in Granville Road that's leased by the Wimbledon Park Rifle Club has decided to end his plans for development, even allowing

the Club to purchase the freehold. This will give them the chance to secure their future, which is wonderful news.

Lots of shop news. It's reassuring to hear that two empty shop units beside Gail's in Wimbledon Park Road are to come back into use. The new occupier next to Gail's is The Feel Good Bakery. Interestingly this will be run by a local charity called Regenerate, for the employment of vulnerable and disadvantaged youth. We've been told that Sainsbury's old site might also be sold. The agents when called said they were "talking to someone" and were "about to sign documents" but we have not heard any more since then.

The old Yellow Print Shop site is to become Wylie's Coffee Shop, their second one in SW London, and a coffee shop El Cafetal has opened in the former milliner's site in Replingham Road. You can buy bags of their excellent Colombian coffee to take home. We have also seen the opening of Sabores Original Tapas at the traffic lights, as well as a change in offering by the owners of two old Grid favourites, Fullers Library on Replingham Road and Best One on Wimbledon Park

Road now rebranded Cloudtech. The site on Replingham Road, once a laundrette not so long ago and then Douglas & Gordon estate agents, has reopened as Carter Jonas estate agents.



BRAND NEW LAVENHAM

Finally Wandsworth Council has announced a 10-year plan for renewing the borough's roads and pavements. Lavenham Road was an early beneficiary, when it was recently resurfaced.

IT'S A FINAL WINDOW WANDERLAND FOR ORGANISER SAM

Samantha Traynor, founder and organiser of this much-loved event, reflects on years of fun and creativity

Window Wanderland returned to Southfields for its 8th year over the last weekend of February. Shining a spotlight on Southfields, 130 spectacular windows brought us all much joy and sprinkled their magic over our community once again. Your creations get better every year, and every window, simple & spectacular, had its moment. The star of the weekend however was a real life doggie in the window, Canela the golden retriever of Engadine Street. She was 'pawsome'! Some of my favourite windows this year are shown below.

So, after an amazing 8 year stint, the time has come for me to officially stand down as the organiser of Window Wanderland here in Southfields. I'd like to thank you all for your support, creativity and connection. It's been fabulous! Also thanks to the sponsors over the years, without whom the event simply couldn't operate, the SGRA, The Magpie Tree and Acer Tennis Lettings. The biggest thank you must go to the 1,462 windows that have lit up the streets of Southfields annually since 2017!

If you'd be interested in hearing more about how the event works, get in touch with me at Sammyt66@outlook.com or on WhatsApp 07725 209371. Moving forward, a team would be ideal as it's a lot to run on your own. Promise I'll be the first to sign up for 2025!

To quote one of the Girls from our window this year "I've learned you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back" - Maya Angelou. Thank you all for throwing something back!

Sam x



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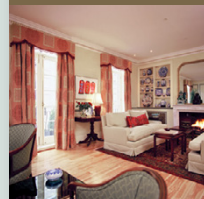
Finch Partridge have recently completed several projects on the Southfields grid, including this bespoke garden office on Trentham Street. It is fully air-conditioned, has additional garden storage and was completed in just 4 weeks. To speak to Tom or Russell for your no obligation quote, call Tom on 07706352879 or Russell on 07500854901.

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LOCAL RECYCLING GROUP BACK FOR MORE IN '24

By *Kate Shattock*

Recycle More Southfields (RMS) is back for another year, and we would love you to join in. RMS is a local initiative run by volunteers, collecting items for recycling that our Council cannot. Contact lenses, pill packets, candles, Pringle tubes - there's a thorough list of things that can be saved from incineration, and we have collected over 1000 kgs to date!

Operating on a four week schedule, different items are accepted each week. With two drop off points on the Grid, it's so easy to take part. Whether you would like to volunteer to help us sort, or just to tread more lightly on the Earth, everything you need to know is on our website www.recyclemoresouthfields.org

DIFFERENT ITEMS COLLECTED EACH WEEK
More information on the items collected is available at <http://www.recyclemoresouthfields.org>

| WEEK 1 | | WEEK 2 | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Contact Lenses | • Bakery Packaging | • Pringles | • Ferrero Rocher |
| • Pill Packets | • Razors | • Kinder Surprise | • Biscuits & Crackers |
| • Toothbrushes & Pastes | • Pens | | |
| • Dental | • Batteries | | |
| WEEK 3 | | | |
| • Candles | • Laundry | • Brita Water Filters | |
| • Beauty Products | • Disposable Gloves | • Inkjet Printer Cartridges | |
| • Make Up | • Corks | | |
| • Home | | | |

Our Facebook and Instagram pages @ **recyclemore_southfields** have regular updates and tips on how to reduce waste and recycle more. Also, don't forget to read and keep handy the flyer that comes with this issue of 'Grid News.'



RMS ARE AFTER THIS LOT!

OUR GLASS DOOR SHELTER A WELCOME HAVEN

By *Jennie Allen*

The shortage of affordable housing for rent continues to mean there are many people without secure accommodation across London and beyond. The charity Glass Door works with churches across west and southwest London to provide a hot home-cooked meal and somewhere safe and warm to sleep every night for several hundred guests, starting in late November through to early April. In Southfields both St Michael's and St Barnabas Churches are part of the Wandsworth 'circuit,' and many local people give their time and energy to help provide the evening meal. This valuable service has been running at St Barnabas every year since 2016 and is more important than ever in these financially challenging times.

Approaching the end of this current winter night shelter season, the seven churches across the Wandsworth 'circuit' have hosted over 160 guests. Most of them had been sleeping rough prior to the service opening. However many more are currently on our waiting list, hoping for a place to become available.

"We are really grateful to the many local volunteers who welcome and feed our guests at St Barnabas every Friday night" says Rev Ian Tattum, vicar of St Barnabas. He regularly cooks and serves on Shelter nights. "It was also very encouraging that so many people donated money to our Sleep Out appeal last October, to help us cover the running costs."

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help at our Glass Door Shelter at St Barnabas, they should contact stbarnabassouthfieldsoffice@gmail.com

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FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK NEWS

By *Damaris Albarran*

The Cafe - Haven't we waited a long time to have a cafe in the Park again? It seems our wait may finally be ending. Our hopes were initially raised by the Cooks & Partners (C&P) Instagram feed ([cookskitchen2023](#)) which told us about the planned refurbishment and the October 2023 target opening date. They were then dashed by rumours that C&P had been unable to reach agreement with Merton Council and pulled out, leaving us with no idea what would happen to our cafe. Requests for information from the council were met with stony silence. However, at last good news! Last month C&P Instagram page had a new message saying "Great news - finally after all the problems we're nearly there. It's full steam ahead, so keep your eyes peeled for updates over the next few weeks." We can only assume the Council wanted them to pick up the tab for more repairs than they were willing to pay for, and they had to threaten pulling out again to get more reasonable terms. Let's hope there's more good news (and even a cup of coffee!) soon.

Ivy on Trees - Recently a Park lover decided the ivy growing on some of the trees in Horse Close Wood, at the northern end of the Park, is bad for them, and caused them to fall over. This is completely contrary to the advice of charitable bodies such as the Woodland Trust, the Royal Horticultural Society and Trees for Cities. All state clearly on their websites that ivy does NOT harm healthy trees and provides valuable food and shelter for many insects, birds and bats. So please don't, as



COMING SOON - YES REALLY!

this person did, take matters into your own hands. Hacking at the ivy not only destroys a precious wildlife habitat but may also result in damage to the trees by injuring their bark.

Geese - Do you know your Greylag from your Canada goose? Can you recognise an Egyptian goose? These are the three types commonly seen in our Park. The Greylag is easily distinguished by its orange beak, the Canada goose by its black head and neck, and the Egyptian goose by its variegated brown plumage and brown eye patch. We only saw one of these the last time we visited.

Signs of spring - By the time you read this spring will have arrived. Already there are daffodils out, with many more yet to open. We also spotted a lovely clump of purple crocuses near what used to be the waterfall. Plus for galanthophiles - that's snowdrop lovers! - among you there was a very exotic snowdrop, which did however look rather lonely. We hope you will have time to enjoy this wonderful time of year.

If you have questions or comments about Wimbledon Park, or would like to get more involved in our work in the Park, please contact membership.fowp@gmail.com

SOUTHFIELDS POLICE AND CRIME NEWS

By *PC Robbie Quijano Amigo*

It's been our usual busy time for our Safer Neighbourhood Team for Southfields. One staffing change has been that PC Tiffany has now left us for another Met Police role and has been replaced by PC Nick Seccombe.

We continue to do our 'Cuppa with a copper' informal drop-in chats at Caffè Nero opposite the tube station. The next date is Tuesday 26th March from 2-3pm. Come and join us if you've something to raise.

Southfields SNT and Wandsworth Police worked extensively last month in tackling robberies in the borough. We have been conducting high visibility and plainclothes patrols in and around robbery hotspots. This has resulted in reducing the number of robberies throughout the borough.

Please see below for some useful crime prevention advice. Why not cut it out once

you have read the rest of 'Grid News'?

Finally for now, our next SNT meeting is scheduled for Saturday 27th April at 10.30am. The venue as usual will be the Parish Room of St Barnabas Church, Lavenham Road entrance. It's a chance for all Grid residents to find out more about what our police team are up to, as well as question and comment on any current police and crime issue. Do come along, you'll be very welcome.

Robbery Safety Tips

Look confident

- You are less likely to be a target if you look confident. Move with purpose and try to be aware of your surroundings.

Know where you are

- Plan your route and think about what you are taking with you.
- Keep to busy, well-lit streets which are more

likely to be covered by plenty of CCTV.

- Only take licensed taxis or minicabs booked by phone or mobile phones.

Hide it

- Keep your mobile phone and valuables well out of sight.
- When using your mobile phone, be aware of your surroundings.
- Never leave your phone, wallet or purse on the table of an outdoor café.
- Keep jewellery covered.

Finally...

If you're threatened with violence, don't risk your personal safety. Property can be replaced. You cannot!

Stay safe, remember we live in a very safe part of SW London, and do contact us anytime about any issue at southfields@met.police.uk

MORE THAN A NAME CARVED IN STONE

By Jen Cobb and Sarah Williams

Every Remembrance Day many of us stand in a respectful silence to hear the names of the fallen of the First World War read aloud. Do we ever think of the people behind each name so carefully carved in stone?

There are 201 names commemorated on the St Barnabas War memorial, standing proudly in the garden of the church. The Imperial War Museum records 204 names, but there is some duplication. All of these men had family, friends and neighbours. Most lived locally, many died incredibly young. Some families lost more than one relative. How did they cope? How did a family rebuild their future after such a loss?

Some years ago Peter Stechman, then the SGRA's vice-chair, started a project to find more information about these lost heroes. Unfortunately after his death a decade or so ago his research sadly seem to have been mislaid, so we have had to start anew. Our

aim is to discover who these men were, where in Southfields they lived, what did they do before they became soldiers, and try to find out more about each and every one of the men who gave their lives.

Our aim is to discover who these men were, where in Southfields they lived, what did they do before they became soldiers, and try to find out more about each and every one of the men who gave their lives.

Every road in the SGRA area lost someone - did any of these brave men live on your road? Could Colour Sergeant A.N. McGee (died 1915), Private W.S. Rainbow (died 1917), Second Lieutenant E A W. Weller, recipient of the Military Cross (died 1918), or maybe Corporal F.E. Smith, awarded the Military Medal (died 1918), have lived near you or even in your house?

If you have any relevant information that could be added to what we already have, please contact us at nifercobb@gmail.com



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

CALLING ANY SENIORS - COME FOR A PARTY!

The SGRA are once again running their popular annual Seniors Tea Party on Saturday 11th May from 3-5.30pm. It's an invitation for all older folk in Southfields to come along to St Barnabas Church for a super afternoon of delicious food from locals Salt & Pepper and top entertainment. As in previous years we have the Cygnet Players to

sing, a raffle and a few other surprises, plus visits are promised from many of Wandsworth's VIP's. Just turn up, especially if you've not been before. The event is FREE, and if you'd like to know more do email info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk

VISIT TO GLA HQ IS OK FOR SGRA MEMBERS

By Charles Runcie

With Mayoral and Assembly elections in May, a group of SGRA members accepted the invitation of our Assembly Member Leonie Cooper to host a tour around London's new City Hall. The GLA moved to Docklands in 2022 from its previous rented HQ, next to HMS Belfast and Tower Bridge. A former office block known as 'The Crystal' is their new home, and as the GLA own this building it saves an estimated £11 million a year. It's been adapted for use by the GLA, complete with debating chamber and committee rooms, and is set in an impressive modern part of Docklands at the end of the Royal Docks. Jets hover overhead from London City Airport, while the IFS Cloud cable cars trundle across the Thames in front of the City Hall entrance.

Leonie explained the move was not easy, with many workers having to make longer trips in, including herself. The offices seemed bright and airy, with a lot of open plan working and modern technology, including tight security even to enter the building. We saw where Leonie worked, noting that on top of her



LEONIE IN HER CITY HALL OFFICE

pile of papers was the winter issue of 'Grid News.' Such good taste! Finally into the main debating chamber to hear part of an Audit Committee session, but five minutes was quite enough! The SGRA group were all extremely impressed by both the tour and the atmosphere, before leaving for the journey back to SW London via a selection of tube, DLR and the Elizabeth Line.

"It was good to welcome the SGRA to City Hall" said Leonie afterwards. "They were as interested in the home of London-wide decision-making as I expected, given the excellent interactions I've had with the SGRA locally." It's hoped we can organise another trip in the summer - and it's to be recommended.

TENNIS STAR HARRIET VISITS LOCAL SCHOOL

Did you know the world's number 83 ranked woman tennis player is a local resident? 27 year old Harriet Dart is one of several British women doing wonderful things on the world tournament circuit these days, and she recently reached her first WTA final in Canberra in January. She's also an important part of Britain's Billie Jean Cup tennis team. Yet she's proud to call Southfields Grid her home, and loves living here. "To be able to live so close to the All England Club, especially during The Championships, is a major bonus" she told 'Grid News.' "It's a pretty area, the local people are so nice, and I have great neighbours. It's also close to where I practise, so I can minimise my commute times.

While practising at home she recently managed to fit into her schedule a morning visit to local school Ronald Ross Primary on Beaumont Road. There she talked to the school assembly about life on the road for a top tennis player, and what it took to succeed in life and work. She then ran through a few tennis 'moves' with the Year 3 class. She enjoyed meeting the pupils, and has informally 'adopted' the school, handing out lots of brand new tennis balls from Wimbledon to the excited schoolchildren.

The All England Club's head coach Dan Bloxham has promised another visit to assess the school's tennis talent. Past pupil Alisha worked at Wimbledon for 20 years as a level 3 coach after being spotted. She now coaches at St Georges Hill, Weybridge specialising in 3-8 year olds, and also starred in the Dorling Kindersley book "The Tennis School". Let Harriet has the last word. "I'm away a lot, so it's nice to have a couple of weeks at home here in Southfields!".



HARRIET AND COACH DAN CHAT TO PUPILS

JOIN READING GROUPS AT SOUTHFIELDS LIBRARY

By Hilary Vieitez, Senior Library Assistant

Did you know we host three different reading groups at Southfields Library? All of them take place in the library meeting hall, and the Library helps to provide the books for the readers. They are:

- Our Silver Circle Reading Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm. It's a relaxed gathering where members can discuss whatever they have read recently. There is no set reading list.
- Our Wednesday Reading Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 5.30pm. Recent reads have included 'Old Babes in the Wood' by Margaret Attwood and 'This is Pleasure' by Mary Gaitskill.

• We also have our Saturday Reading Group on the third Saturday of each month at 11am. They have recently been reading 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' by Anne Brontë and 'A Rising Man' by Abir Mukherjee.

We have plans to start another Reading Group for ESOL learners, those learning or who want to improve their English. Please speak to staff at the Library if you are interested or know someone who will benefit. If you would like to join one of the reading groups, please pop into the Library to get more information or borrow a copy of the latest Wednesday or Saturday Reading Group titles. We look forward to seeing you.

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

WREATH-MAKING A HIT FOR GREEN THE GRID

Nina Kowalska rounds up the latest news from our green Grid team

Last year, Green the Grid's 5th anniversary year, culminated in our first community sustainable wreath-making event hosted at the Pig and Whistle pub on Merton Road. We were overwhelmed with interest in the event, and a wonderful evening was had with over 25 friends and neighbours making wreaths together.

Much happens behind the scenes to make these events possible. At dawn a trip was taken to Covent Garden flower market to buy the greenery needed to make wreaths. On the evening we opened with a demonstration by 'green gridder' Jane, then the wreath-making began! Some people also brought greenery from their gardens to share with everyone. There were so many wonderful creations and



GOOD WREATH!

lots of fun was had. Thank you to everyone who made the evening possible, to the Pig and Whistle for kindly hosting us, and of course to everyone that came.

This year planning is now underway for our first event of the year, most likely a plant giveaway, which will take place as part of a future Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe. We enjoyed being with them so much last year we thought we should do it again! Please save the date, Saturday 15th June, and look out for details on our Instagram feed @greenthegridsw18 and around the Grid nearer the time.

Some more great news - the wonderful Front Garden Awards are back this year, so let's get busy tidying up our front gardens and tree bases. Read more from Amelia on page 15.

Please contact us if you have any gardening-related questions. One of our Green Gridders or Grid Growers is always on hand to give free, local and helpful advice. Have a happy spring, and remember - "PLANT, DON'T PAVE"! You can find us at greenthegridsw18@hotmail.com

YOUR FRONT GARDEN COULD BE AWARD WINNER!

By *Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty*

After taking a break last year we are delighted that the SGRA/Green the Grid Front Garden Awards are back!

There will be the usual two categories – Best Front Gardens and Best Street Planting. ‘Front garden’ will continue to be interpreted in the broadest sense – a window ledge, a space outside your door, pots, and containers, hanging baskets as well as conventional plots. Every frontage will be considered. The winner of the Best Front Garden Award will receive a £40 garden centre voucher, and for the two runners up a £20 garden centre voucher. With the ‘Best Street Planting’ award we are hoping people will be re-energized and start tending their street-planted bases

again, as some are looking for a trifle sad. It would be lovely to see even more tree bases adopted, so that they are brimming with flowers, herbs and small shrubs. There are some delightful examples of blooming tree bases on the Green the Grid Instagram feed @greenthegrids18. Do take a look and be inspired! The best planted tree bases in each street will be recognised and given an award.

We are in the process of determining the criteria used for judging. This will continue to incorporate aspects such as visual appeal, design, and consideration for the environment. Once the criteria have been finalised these will be shared on our SGRA website and social media channels.

Judging will take place from Friday 21st - Sunday 30th June. No-one needs to sign



2022 FRONT GARDEN WINNER

up, as everyone on the Grid is automatically included. The judges are busy preparing themselves for another great FGA celebration. So it's time to get pruning, digging, planting, gardening and attracting wildlife, as you could be a Front Garden winner!

WALKING AND TALKING IN KING GEORGE'S PARK

Fancy getting to know King George's Park better, meeting local residents along the way? Two weekly walks aim to mix fitness and friendship, and both for free.

A new 'Walk and Talk' group will be launched in King George's Park in April, adding to similar local groups including Wimbledon Common, Tooting Common, Colliers Wood, Pollards Hill and Morden Hall Park. The date is Saturday 20th April at 10.30 am at the park stand on the corner of Neville Gill Close and Buckhold Road behind Southside. It's easily accessible by the 156 and 39 bus routes, too.

"We are lucky to have so much green space

in our part of London, and we have seen so many Walk and Talk groups establishing themselves in the last few years," is the verdict of organiser Andy Adamson. "We thought it would be wonderful to make use of this large park running along the River Wandle".

You don't have to book, and anyone can come along. The group walks at whatever pace people are comfortable with and will often end up having a tea or coffee at the end. Groups generally meet up for an hour to 90 minutes, but people are free to join for all or part of the time.

Walk and Talk are also looking for volunteers

to help, so if anyone fancies joining us please contact Andy at andyadamson1@hotmail.co.uk. "We have a Facebook page, so please follow us as we get nearer to launch" he adds. "We very much look forward to walking and talking with you." www.facebook.com/groups/918505996114549

If a Saturday is inconvenient for you, our council also organise a free walk around King George's Park taking place every Monday at 9.15am, meeting at the Wandle Recreation Centre. Full details of the council initiative 'Walk Wandsworth,' with a walk also in Southfields Grid, are at <https://enablelc.org/walkwandsworth>

FAMILIAR GRID LANDMARK SET TO WORK AGAIN

A familiar sight for all Grid residents will resume work shortly, we hope! The familiar green clock above Andrews's estate agency sign that's told the time for over a century has been broken for several months. The problem for the owners has been finding specialist clock engineers to conduct repairs, both to its mechanism and the paintwork. The situation has not been helped by the presence of pigeons who rest on the clock with inevitable results. Fears the clock might be removed have been eased with the news that Andrews have found the right people to do the work, bringing it back to full working order.

Mark Anderson, manager of the Andrews estate agency branch, is delighted. "We've contacted a specialist, have submitted a budget to our Head Office and are waiting for the go-ahead to do the work. It's a real Southfields icon, and we hope it's back to work above our shop sign very soon." The



OUR GRID CLOCK

repairs will be the first since it was fully refurbished by Andrews in 2016.

For many of us glancing at it coming out of the tube station or walking up Wimbledon

Park Road it's a handy reminder of the time - or thinking up an alibi for being late! It's also part of a historic building. Built in 1899, it was the Ryan & Penfolds estate agents when Southfields Grid was being developed at the start of the 20th Century. Local historian Neil Robson writes in his book 'Roomy Villas' about the history of the Grid "They employed builders under contract to construct different sections of the various streets. Their standards were high, and they were constantly badgering the contractors about the quality of their work."

So if you live in the Grid you've a lot to thank Messrs Ryan & Penfold - and their familiar clock - for. Incidentally 'Roomy Villas,' published in 2000, is still available online for free via <https://archive.org> and in book form at Southfields Library.

www.andrewsonline.co.uk

LOCAL FACILITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

SGRA Executive Committee

Chairman: Charles Runcie | 020 8875 9565

charles@charlesruncie.co.uk

Joint Secretary: Ian Shaw | 07554 898538

imks11662@outlook.com

Joint Secretary: Serena Potter | 07778 419569

sjpotter304@gmail.com

Treasurer: David Boyle | 07936 210927

depboyle09@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

Elborough Street

Vacancy, volunteers welcome, please contact us

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

Rosie and Sam Rickman at 66

Trentham Street

Trevor Howes at 70

Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty at 169

Business

Southfields Business Forum - info@wishlist.co.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 - erica_loi@hotmail.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 - 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

Council 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. Please put your Grid address in the online reference box so we can add you to our email database.

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

Saturday/Sunday, 23/4th March: AELTC Nature Weekend, Church Road, Wimbledon

Tuesday 26th March: SGRA public meeting, Lavenham Road entrance, 7.45pm

Wednesday 17th April: Friends of Coronation Gardens AGM, Scout Hut, 93 Pirbright Road

Tuesday 16th April: GLA election hustings, 7.45pm, Lavenham Road entrance

Saturday 20th April: Mend, Fix and Repair Café, 12-3pm, Merton Road entrance

Saturday 27th April: Police ward panel meeting, 10.30am, Lavenham Road entrance

Saturday 11th May: SGRA Seniors Tea Party, 3-5.30pm, Merton Road entrance

Tuesday 21st May: SGRA AGM, 7.45pm, Lavenham Road entrance

Saturday 15th June: Mend, Fix and Repair cafe/Green the Grid joint event, 12-3pm

Friday 5th July: St Barnabas 'Big Quiz Night 2024', 7pm

Summer's Grid News will be published in mid-July. Items, articles and pictures for consideration should be sent to the Editor by Friday 21st June. Email charles@charlesruncie.co.uk, and we'd love to hear from you.