



Southfields Grid  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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to life on the Grid

# GRID NEWS

Autumn/Winter 2024

Delivered free to every home and business in Southfields Grid

## NEW VICAR FOR ST BARNABAS

By Jennie Allen, St Barnabas Churchwarden

The Bishop of Southwark has appointed the Reverend Vanessa Elston to be the Vicar of St Barnabas Southfields in succession to Ian Tattum. Vanessa is currently part-time chaplain to the Bishop of Kingston, the Rt Reverend Martin Gainsborough, and will continue in that role two days a week when she becomes Vicar of St Barnabas in February.

Reverend Vanessa Elston has a background in drama, education and community arts, as well as mission and pioneering. After studying Drama and English at Exeter University Vanessa worked with Ichthus Christian Fellowship in SE London. She then spent some years outside the church, starting an organic veg delivery business, raising her daughter Olive, becoming a secondary school drama teacher then teaching adult musicians.

Vanessa returned through studying theology at St Mellitus College and joining Moot, a new monastic missional community based at St Mary Aldermary in the City of London. She developed courses for people outside the church wishing to explore spirituality and faith, and ran a café in the church. After a spell at Diocese of Southwark while studying at St Augustine's College of Theology she assumed her current role.

"I am looking forward to getting to know the community of Southfields" Vanessa admits "to developing opportunities for partnership projects with St Barnabas, and for the Church to be a place where all feel welcome to belong and participate wherever they are on the faith journey."

We look forward to welcoming her and husband Tim to Southfields in 2025, and introducing her to our wider community once they have settled into the vicarage.



OUR NEW VICAR

## WIMBLEDON'S EXPANSION PLANS PASS GLA HURDLE

By Simon Wright, 'Save Wimbledon Park' group

At a planning hearing on Friday 27th September GLA Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe accepted his planning officer's report and approve the proposals of the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) to develop Wimbledon Park. After the hearing the new Wimbledon MP Paul Kohler, our own MP Fleur Anderson and Leonie Cooper, our GLA Assembly member, once again asked Chairman Debbie Jevans, CEO Sally Bolton and the AELTC team who were present to sit down with the Save Wimbledon Park group to discuss their plans. We remain hopeful they will respond positively.

There remains the issue of the covenants, which would prevent any building on the land if enacted by Merton Council. There are also other legal barriers which may prevent development. Save Wimbledon Park will now review the different options available, To continue our opposition to AELTC's plans. All possibilities require fundraising, and we are delighted with the offers of financial and legal support we have received already.

For more information please contact

[southfields.sw18.residents@gmail.com](mailto:southfields.sw18.residents@gmail.com)



WIMBLEDON 2035?

# EDITOR'S LETTER



Charles Runcie, SGRA Chair

Welcome to our autumn/winter edition of Grid News, with the usual mix of news, information and features on all things 'Grid.' There's an environmental tinge to this issue, with a number of articles ranging from recycling and solar power to - saving the world! Hope you enjoy the pages, and as always if you have a story or suggestion for us please get in touch.

We were talking about WhatsApp at our recent Executive Committee meeting, and how it's become such an essential part of Grid life since Covid. We counted about 8 street groups - not every street has one yet - and I wonder how hundreds of household items have been given away on those groups since the pandemic? I hope to do a feature on them all in our spring issue.

A reminder if you have not yet paid your SGRA membership for 2024-5 to do so, as we rely solely on your subs to finance all the work we do. Minimum donation is just £5 - go to our website for how to pay online or see your street rep for an envelope. I still get them though my door, would you believe, having given them out in July!

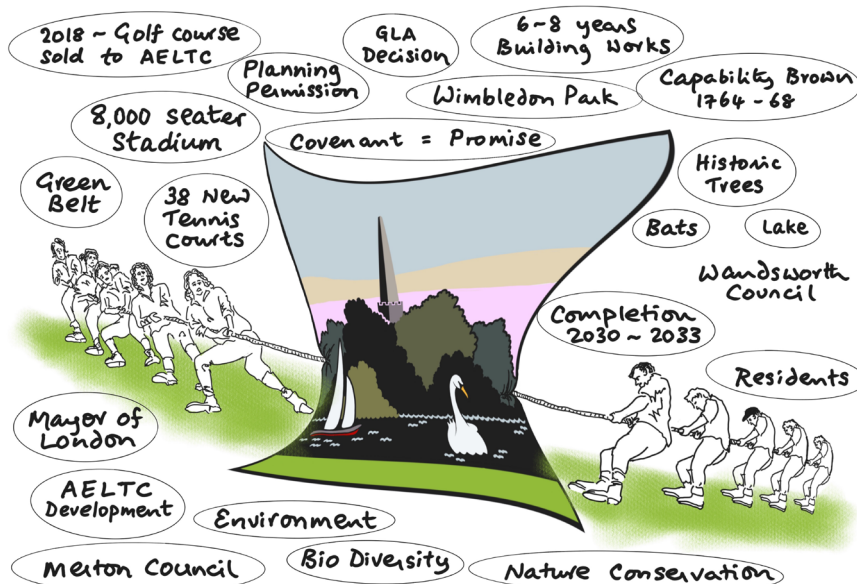
Christmas is around the corner, with the usual Southfields favourites the St Barnabas Christmas Fair, the lights switch-on, carol singing at the tube station and the like. If you can, try hard to shop locally for presents, as in these tough times they rely on your trade to keep going.

Finally I'm delighted to announce that Sue Wixley has joined our Executive Committee. She's been a Grid resident for many years, and co-opted to help in particular with our local planning scrutiny. Her experience with local government and knowledge of local issues will be invaluable to the SGRA.

Best wishes

Charles Runcie

charles@charlesruncie.co.uk



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

## LITTER PICKERS PLAN FOR 2025

Do you love it when our neighbourhood is clean, tidy and litter-free? So do we!

Inspired by local resident Suzy Levy, a group of Wimbledon Park and Southfields residents have banded together to pick litter from our streets, and work with both local councils when we need systemic help such as extra bins, better service from the council's contractors on bin days, etc.

2024 was a huge success, with monthly litter picks and lots of exciting initiatives by the group. In many cases their children who took part thought it all great fun! The last event was on the weekend of the 2/3rd November. In 2025 there will be neighbourhood 'tidy up' weekends in January, April, July and October. This is a community effort, and 'many hands make light work' as the saying goes. Remember these simple rules:

1. If you live in Wandsworth you can report excessive litter, fly-tipping or the need for a street clean here <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/street-care-and-cleaning/>
2. If you live in Merton go here [www.merton.gov.uk](http://www.merton.gov.uk)



LITTER PICKING IS FUN!

[gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/litter-fly-tipping-and-street-cleaning/overview](https://gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/litter-fly-tipping-and-street-cleaning/overview)

3. Both councils will collect and/or clean the street usually within 24 hours.

If you want to join any litter picks, contact local resident Suzy Levy at [levandsuzy@gmail.com](mailto:levandsuzy@gmail.com) for more information.

## GRID CHRISTMAS LIGHTS INVITATION

Everyone is invited along to our Southfields Christmas Fair, situated at the top end of Replingham Road, on Wednesday 4th December from 4.30pm onwards for some festive fun and shopping, with a variety of stalls for visitors to browse. They include crafts, food, gifts, a raffle, silent auction and a special visit from Father Christmas in his grotto. Many of our local businesses have donated wonderful prizes for everyone to win or bid for, and all winners will be announced on the evening.

The event will be opened by the Mayor of Wandsworth Sana Jafri, Rachel Roberts from the Southfields Business Forum and a 'surprise celebrity.' Throughout the evening there will be festive performances on the stage from local primary school choirs and dancing from the talented Gemini dance groups. If you're a local resident who would love to display your wares, contact the Business Forum via our Instagram feed @ [Southfields\\_business\\_forum](https://www.instagram.com/southfields_business_forum)

# SOUTHFIELDS HARVEST CELEBRATES A DECADE

By Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen, co-organiser

A decade from its launch Southfields Harvest is flourishing. Wandsworth Council's 'Sustainable September' initiative presented the perfect opportunity to combine this year's 10th anniversary Southfields Harvest celebrations with our brilliant Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe, to demonstrate how recycling is thriving in the Grid and encourage even more people not to junk their stuff.

66 items were brought in to either mend, fix or repair. The stats were amazing - 44 repairs (67%), 7 repairable (10%) and only 15 "end of life". This included 13 items of clothing, 8 bikes, 3 pieces of jewellery and 4 children's toys, as well as usual lamps, toasters, vacuums etc. Next event will be Saturday 18th January 2025 from 12-3pm.



**DELICIOUS LOCAL VEG**

While these items were getting a new lease of life, the rest of St Barnabas hummed with visitors stocking up on local goodies and networking with neighbours. Torrential downpours and an absence of sunshine in the preceding weeks had not stopped King George's Park allotment holders working their green magic to deliver a cornucopia of harvest vegetables by the barrowload. Heaped into a glorious still life, the veg made an impressive centrepiece to the festivities, and raised £246.23 for the Foodbank. Visitors also took home honey from our resident Grid bees, local apple juice, jams, chutneys and other goodies. All were produced in our neighbourhood.

As always there was an element of community consciousness-raising. Friends of Coronation Gardens, Friends of Wimbledon Park and the Southfields Grid Residents' Association answered everyone's questions about our local environment and your efforts to protect it. Over in the Green The Grid corner, a plant swap and spring bulb giveaway encouraged your efforts to enhance it. Tom from the Wandsworth Recycling initiative, the team behind our food waste reduction scheme, gave away a mountain of biodegradable food caddy liners to spur on the waste-saving habit in Southfields.

Riversdale PTC ensured nobody went hungry. Parents and children rose to the occasion magnificently, serving up delectable snacks and fabulous cakes all afternoon. A big thank you for all their hard work and baking. Harvest artist-in-residence, Jane Porter and young visitors created a school of fish crafted from recycled scraps. SW18 conker enthusiast Alistair Grant encouraged us all to 'Go Bonkers with

Conkers'. In a nice collaborative touch, the Repair Cafe helped to drill holes in the conkers!

Last word however must go to Abundance Southfields, the fruit sharing initiative that provided the inspiration for the first Southfields Harvest. Back in 2014 project founder Richard König turned up with a bag of locally harvested fruit and a small apple press and served up juice by the cupful. In the intervening years the juice fermented into cider, and Southfields acquired a taste for our very own local tippel. Oh, the delight of snaring a bottle of cider made with apples from your own street!



**'COMMUNITY CHAMPION' RICHARD MEETS MP FLEUR**

Despite his best efforts, Richard has been unable to find suitable premises at non-commercial rates for cider production, and sadly has now called time on the project. Apple picking and distribution in SW18 will continue, however. Fittingly Richard was the worthy recipient of the inaugural Southfields Harvest Community Champion Award presented by Fleur Anderson MP on behalf of the grateful residents of Southfields for the countless tonnes of fruit saved and cider enjoyed over the past decade.



**ALLOTMENT BARROW BOYS AND GIRLS**

Big thanks as always to St Barnabas for hosting and to Wandsworth Council for awarding us a Climate Action Micro Grant to fund the venue. Thank you to everybody who supported and publicised the event, helped in anyway big or small, and to everybody who bought a raffle ticket in aid of the Glass Door Winter Shelter at St Barnabas.

All being well Southfields Harvest will return next year - it is up to you. To get involved drop a line to [southfieldsharvest@gmail.com](mailto:southfieldsharvest@gmail.com)

# SOUTHFIELDS SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM NEWS

By PCSO Don Lopes

As Christmas is fast approaching we would like to remind all our residents to be vigilant at home and when out and about.

## Parcel Thefts

Over the past few months Southfields Ward has experienced several offences of parcel theft. The offender typically walks along with an empty shopping bag looking for parcels to steal. When ordering presents online, please give instructions that parcels must not be left at the front door unattended. If possible request they are left in a secure spot or with a neighbour. Parcels can also be delivered to local lockers and shops. This will help to reduce parcel theft. Should you notice anyone acting in a suspicious manner please call Police immediately on 999.

## Motor Thefts

We have experienced vehicle radar sensors taken from the fronts of vehicles, predominantly Volkswagens but reports indicate BMW and Mercedes are also being targeted. Please make sure vehicle does not contain anything of value, especially if visible to thieves. Residents should always use a steering wheel lock on their vehicle, preferable a full lock device. To avoid relay attacks and car thefts we advise using a Faraday Box or pouch, and to store your keyless fob away from your front door. This will make it more difficult for criminals to intercept the signal and relay it to the vehicle, which can then be unlocked electronically.

## Bike Thefts

Please continue to upgrade or maintain your level of security on your garden shed to prevent and deter bike theft. Keep bikes locked even within the shed. Use security lights and monitor your door cameras. Report any suspicious activity to the Police.

## Crime

Police conduct visible uniform foot and mobile patrols. We conduct plain clothes patrols and have also been monitoring crime trends.

Our next ward panel meeting will be at 10.30am on Saturday 25th January at the Parish Room, St. Barnabas Church.

For further burglary crime prevention advice visit [www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention](http://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention)



PCSO DON LOPES

## POET PAMELA BRINGS SMILE TO 'MONDAY CLUB'

By Margaret Brett

Move over, Pam Ayres. Southfields has its very own 'poet laureate' in the delightful work of Pamela O'Reilly.

Pamela, who wrote the poem below, was born in Trentham Street in the early 1940s and evacuated with her family to Wales. On her return she joined Riversdale School when it was located on part of what is now Southfields Academy. She then joined the Elliott Girls school, then located on the Southfields Academy site and later transferred to its current site in Putney. After doing secretarial work she married and moved away to start her family. She now lives in Battersea, but attends Monday Club here at St Barnabas Church regularly. She has enjoyed writing poetry from a young age. She reflects that Southfields was more rural when she lived here, but takes pleasure in that it has not changed very much, and enjoys returning every Monday.

Monday Club is a social group for older people that meets in the Parish Room of St Barnabas Church. It has been running for nearly 20 years, and provides an opportunity for people to meet and enjoy each other's company. For more details contact Margaret on 8874 5364.



PAMELA WRITES WITH A SMILE

### 'Where are They'

Nothing to do on a Monday?  
Lonely or looking for fun?  
Longing to chat with like-minded folk  
Where there's a buzz and a hum?

Are you up for a gossip session?  
Have you a tale of woe?  
Sympathy needed? A joke to tell?  
Monday Club is the place to go.

Do you like Bingo? Do you like to win?  
We all do but isn't it funny  
That needing one number is really the fun,  
Chocs and sweets much better than money.

If you don't turn up for a meeting or two  
Where is she/he? Everyone cries.  
So unless you've told someone to tell what's  
wrong  
They're all worried and think that you've died.

There's a humming and buzzing  
That grows really loud  
'Cos they all know at some point that they  
When given the choice of a quiz or a nag

Will gossip and chatter and laugh and moan,  
Tell all their troubles and giggle and groan,  
Exchange information, tease and torment,  
All of it friendly and lovingly meant.

Who are these happy people  
In that cosy, friendly hub?  
All that humming and buzzing  
Is from our lovely Monday Club!

By Pamela O'Reilly

# ARTISTS OPEN WEEKENDS ‘DRAW’ THE CROWDS

By Slavica Struthers-Kennedy, Southfields Artists Group

The first two weekends of October saw 31 local artists exhibiting their art over 18 venues in Southfields. They were taking part in the annual Wandsworth Artists’ Open House, with over 100 artists in the borough opening



SLAVICA AND CLLR GOVINDER

their homes and studios to the public. On display we had paintings, ceramics, textiles, jewellery, photography and much more. Our visitors were given a treat, so they came, they saw and they bought.



CLARE TRSIC'S EXHIBITION

Reaction from visitors was tremendous:

- Lovely display and art trail initiative
- Your home was vibrant with the displays of art and craft from our local artists
- Delighted with my copper bangle!
- My gratitude goes to all for producing excellent items, and giving such a warm welcome to visitors

- Nice to see where the magic happens.

Thank you to everyone who visited our show venues, and to the artists who gave up their time and space to make this another success.



ROSA'S POP-UP ARTWORK

We will start planning next year’s event shortly. If you’re an artist or maker who has a space to exhibit in Southfields please register your interest, and we shall be in touch with you with more details in due course.

Slavica@melroseroad.net

## CAN YOU CO-ORDINATE WINDOW WANDERLAND 2025?

We are looking for someone to organise this Grid fixture to take over from Samantha Traynor, one of its founders, who stepped down in the spring after eight years. The weekend, which takes place from Friday 28th February to Sunday 2nd March sees hundreds of Grid windows highly decorated, aimed at entertaining children, giving

adults food for thought and delighting everyone. It’s always been about encouraging individual inspiration and creativity – no theme is out of bounds! If you’re a fan of WW and can organise a bit of fun, why not get stuck in with a few friends? Contact Sam for a chat at sammyt66@outlook.com or 07725 209371.

## FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS NEWS

By Charles Runcie, Chair FoCG

The 2024 ‘London in Bloom awards’ saw Coronation Gardens once again selected a winner in the Small Parks category. We were awarded a Gold Medal, an outstanding result as it was Silver Gilt in 2023. It’s a satisfying reward for everyone, especially the Gardening Club team run by Tara Osman. They meet twice a month to plant, weed and generally keep the area looking extra special.

The restoration of the 120 year-old fountain in the Gardens proceeds at pace. We’ve just had our grant application to the Heritage of London Trust approved, which is wonderful news, and await news from the Drinking Fountains Association regarding our application to them. We are confident work



ANOTHER AWARD FOR US!

will be completed by May 2025.

We had a stall at September’s Southfields Harvest event, and loved the chance to interact with the local community, tell our story and sign up new members. We’ll be at the St Barnabas’ Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November, so please come to see us and say hello.

Finally, thanks go to one of our long-serving FoCG members - Suki Gibson. Each May to September Suki has unlocked the two entrance gates at 6am every weekend to allow early risers, dog walkers and fitness trainers to enter. She’s now decided to step down after 5 years. “Actually this is driven by my dog Mollie” Suki admitted. “She’s now nearly 12, and really does not want to get up early in the morning!”.

# NEW CHESS CLUB FOR SOUTHFIELDS

By Charles Runcie

Southfields has a new sports club - but you don't need a grass pitch or expensive kit to play it. The sport is chess. The newly formed Southfields Chess Club are looking for more members, and meets each Monday night from 7-9pm at the Sabores tapas bar by the main crossroads.

The club's founder, Southfields resident of 16 years Stephanie Marinosci, started the club in February with just her neighbour. Sabores owner Michael Croner, who often encourages local enterprise, offered Stephanie space to play in his restaurant on Monday nights. Now the club is 11 members strong, split equally

between men and women, even including a father-and-son combo. 9 year old son Leo is one of the most talented club members, says his dad.

What are Stephanie's long-term aims for the club? "I have an ambition to have a 'social' club, where anyone can play chess freely in a friendly and sociable atmosphere" she says. "We also want a place where people can learn the game in a fun way." Friendly rivalry even extends to her own family. "My husband's objective - to learn how to play chess, then beat me in a game!" she laughs.

At present the club are not entering any competitions, but Stephanie and 3 other members took part in the recent Artists Open



**CHESS MATES**

Weekends displaying their crafts. If you'd like to join, get along to Sabores on a Monday evening between 7-9pm. There you will find the club members happily hunched over a board or two, enjoying the great game.

# ST BARNABAS CHURCH NEWS

By Jennie Allen, Churchwarden

Many attended the Farewell party for our retiring Vicar Ian Tattum. We presented Ian and Ruth with champagne, flowers and a framed print of Katie Ault's beautiful Creation triptych, which Ian commissioned for St Barnabas not long after he joined us. The collection was £3,230 which Ian intends to put towards creating a website for his writing plus engaging a knowledgeable guide when he walks up Mount Olympus - a long-held ambition apparently! It was wonderful to give them both such a warm and appreciative send-off.

Services continue at 10.30am each Sunday morning (no 9.00am service for the time being) plus our increasingly popular Evening Compline on the last Sunday of each month at 7pm. Our wonderful 20-strong choir is

led by Music Director Greg Skidmore. There is also a short informal service at 9.30am on the first Sunday of every month in the Lady Chapel followed by refreshments, particularly designed for families with younger children.



**REV IAN'S LAST SERVICE**

We will once more be working with the homeless charity Glass Door to provide a hot

home-cooked meal and somewhere warm and dry to sleep for up to 35 homeless people on Friday nights through the winter. Contact me at [jennieallen1927@outlook.com](mailto:jennieallen1927@outlook.com) for more information, or to donate towards the costs of our running this shelter for 22 weeks over the winter.

Dates for your diary:

- Saturday 30th November, 12-3pm. St Barnabas Christmas Fair - come and stock up on gifts for Christmas and support local businesses in the process. Plus pre-loved jewellery, bric-a-brac and books, light refreshments and a raffle.
- Christmas Services: Please check [www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk](http://www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk) for full details. They will include a Nativity Service at 9.30am on Sunday 22nd December, and Midnight Mass at 11.30pm on Tuesday 24th December.

# LOCAL SHOPS AND PLANNING NEWS

By Margaret Brett

The area around the water fountain opposite the tube station has finally been restored to a matching surface following all the digging by SGN. The cladding of the bench seating at the station has been installed at last. So apart from the missing promised notice board, the public realm improvement works are finally complete. The Council started talking about it in 2015, and it was given approval in June 2018 with a start date of autumn 2018.

The frontage of 243 Wimbledon Park Road has been restored to reflect the original design. Planners had refused the retrospective planning application for the changes that had been made. There is a planning application to convert 16/18 Replingham (formerly Barclays Bank) to two shops. (2024/3445). One shop has quite extensive basement storage. The former antique shop at 43 Replingham Road is to become a Montessori nursery. Some residents of Pirbright Road were concerned about the proposed development of 75,77,79 Replingham Road, but are happier with the latest revised applications (2024/3099 and 2024/3051) They were worried about the dominance of the building

and the effect on privacy.

Wandsworth has started to review the recently introduced Local Plan. They want to strengthen the provisions for social housing. The Council are consulting on more bike hangars. The new ones in the Grid are to be located outside 156 Lavenham Road and 1 Trentham Street. Residents are being warned to be on their guard against a scam text message relating to the payment of an outstanding parking Penalty Charge Notice (PCN). They will never send you a text message asking you to pay a PCN.

The Council is asking for more information about places to be included in the Local List of Heritage Assets. They are also seeking suggestions about new sites we think could be included. They have created an interactive online map showing the current sites, allowing further information to be added as well as new sites to be nominated. Search for Wandsworth Council's News for 24th October for further details and access to the map. The consultation lasts until 28th February 2025.

Finally, great to see some of the Southfields shops joined in the fun of Hallowe'en by decorating their windows.

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## Bespoke Garden Rooms

Are you looking to add space to your home?



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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 Our Lady Queen of Heaven Primary School, Victoria Drive, SW19 6AD • 020 8788 7420  
ptaylor@olqh.net  
ourladyqueenofheaven.wandsworth.sch.uk


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Family Photography





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info@southfieldsfootcare.co.uk

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

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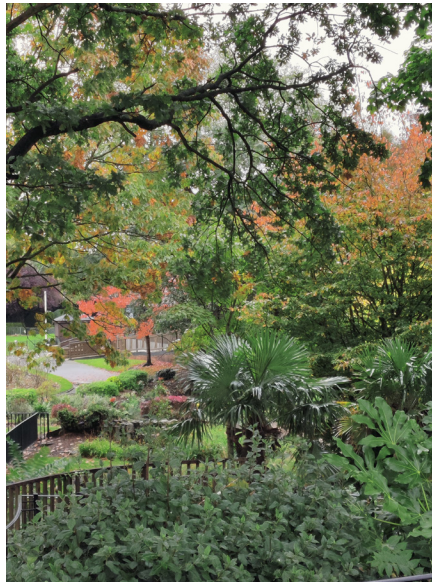
[www.wimbledonhomesb-b.co.uk](http://www.wimbledonhomesb-b.co.uk)

## FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK NEWS

By Damaris Albarran, FoWP

**C**afe - Sadly the new cafe has had some poor reviews on Facebook, saying everything is over-priced and the service is as cold as the ice cream! The manager has not responded to most of these comments, which seems like a missed opportunity to gain goodwill. According to a new paper sign outside, the hours have been cut to 8am-5pm daily. However, assuming Cooks Kitchen are in it for the long haul they have an incentive to improve, so let's hope that happens. They have recently agreed to have a Complaints Book in the cafe where you can record complaints and comments about anything and everything in the Park. Please ask for it and let us hear your views.

**Ye Olde Ash Tree** 🍃 - You can easily recognise an ash tree because its leaves are arranged like the leaf emoji shown above. This allows light to filter through and make a dappled shade beneath the tree. Sadly an ancient ash had to be cut down at the end of July because it was next to the path by the brook, and had some die-back in its crown, the first case in the Park. The trunk is now lying nearby at the bottom of the bank. According to Park expert Dave Dawson a ring count showed that it was about 175 years old, meaning it was planted around 1849 when the park was purchased



### AUTUMN COLOURS

by Beaumont, one of the area's property developers. The tree was probably part of Ashen Grove Wood, which once extended as far as the present-day bowls pavilion, the other surviving trees being at the back of the children's playground and in the Angling Club's enclosure. For more information about this and other wildlife topics, please visit Dave's blog, which is regularly updated, at <https://davegdawsonwp.blogspot.com>

**FOWP projects** - The Friends of Wimbledon Park had a stand at Southfields Harvest at St. Barnabas Church on Saturday 28th September. There was an enthusiastic reaction to our proposed improvements to the Park entrance. We're also working with the community and keeping up pressure on Merton Council on various other improvements, including to the boules court, which doesn't have a firm enough surface; the waterfall area which needs to be redesigned and refurbished; and the playground which is in a now well-publicised state of disrepair. We have heard that the long-awaited water fountains will arrive very soon, just in time for winter!

**Equip Sport** - In early September, as part of Merton's 'Big Sports Day,' Equip Sport installed various lockers containing sports equipment such as table tennis rackets and footballs in the park. Their UK partner is Decathlon, and you can access all this for free if you download the app and follow the rules. Seems like an excellent idea. Equip Sport says it has 320 stations in 9 countries including Switzerland and France.

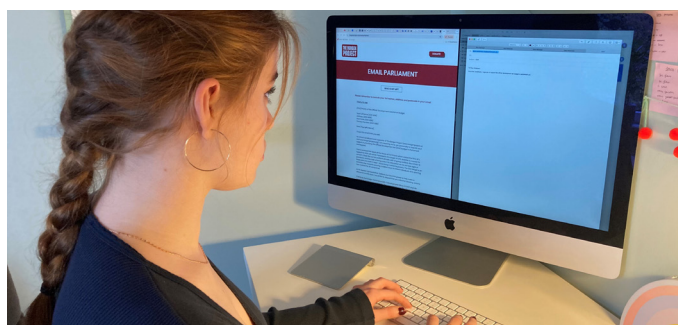
As usual, please address questions, comments or interest in being more involved in our work in the Park to [membership.fowp@gmail.com](mailto:membership.fowp@gmail.com) or leave a comment in the book in the cafe.

## GRID STUDENT MIXES STUDIES WITH GLOBAL POLITICS

By Isla Kiddie

**I**'m a Year 13 student at Esher College and live on Southfields Grid. I'm completing an internship for the Borgen Project to help me with my goal to study law. The Borgen Project is an international non-profit organisation helping alleviate world-hunger and poverty with the help of volunteers and interns like me.

Our main goals are to advocate, educate, mobilise and build awareness. As an advocate, I help raise awareness about the issues facing us



### YOUNG CAMPAIGNER ISLA SEEKS TO INFLUENCE

nationally and globally, and the ways in which we as individuals can change this, and you can too! Although it can seem overwhelming to start helping tackle big issues, especially in today's political climate, all it takes is an email.

By emailing our local MP Fleur Anderson about Official Development Assistance (ODA). It's the Government department that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries. You can help highlight the importance of issues such as global poverty to our Government representatives, which helps get legislation passed.

I also get involved in networking events to help make Local Government aware of the project, and raise funds to help keep the project running. The Borgen Project website [www.borgenproject.uk](http://www.borgenproject.uk) and our social media - [@borgenproject](https://twitter.com/borgenproject) - are great sources of information if you'd like to know more about the organisation. You can keep up to date with the latest issues we hope to tackle - and our progress! If you'd like to help me with a donation, the link to my fundraising page is just below. It would mean a lot. Thank you so much for reading this, and a special thank you to some of my close neighbours, who have already helped by emailing Fleur Anderson.

[www.paypal.com/donate?campaign\\_id=QRY86PVPV7QDY](https://www.paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=QRY86PVPV7QDY)

# COLLECTOR CHRIS UNEARTH'S RARE GRID POSTCARD

Elborough Street resident Chris Puleston has a fascinating hobby – he collects vintage postcards of our part of SW London.



ON PARADE!

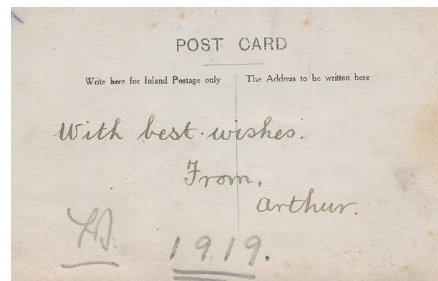
His collection of over 1000 are mostly scenes of Merton and Southfields, with familiar Grid street images taken over a century ago. Devoid of cars, the shops, people and

streetscapes are eerily caught in time. He wrote to 'Grid News' recently to say "I just bought this one. It shows our local Scout troop in 1919 on I assume Pirbright Road, with Coronation Gardens and the Frame Food Factory behind. 'X' is probably Arthur."

It had even knowledgeable Chris lost for words. "Rare I would say, yes, the only one I have ever seen. I doubt the photographer printed many. Back then they would have simply been posted and lost." Had he paid a lot for it? "No it didn't cost that much, and I bought it on a popular auction site. It had the view of the factory in the background, and because it was that period just after World War 1 when the leaders were probably soldiers. They all probably knew of someone who had been killed in the War."

A former Treasurer of the SGRA, Chris is

always on hand to advise any Grid residents who think they might have an old postcard of value. "I collect such things because I just like them. I got a good one of Coronation Gardens the other day from an angle I haven't



THE REVERSE SIDE.

seen before, looking at the school from inside the gardens." Collection of Chris Puleston. Ring 07715 05609 or email [chrispuleston@gmail.com](mailto:chrispuleston@gmail.com)

# WIMBLEDON REDEVELOPMENT - TOURS RESTART

By *Ulrika Hogberg, Head of Community, All England Club*

The AELTC is again offering the opportunity for local residents to come and see the proposed new public parkland that's an integral part of the Wimbledon Park Project by joining a guided tour. These take place on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th November, Friday 17th January and Friday 21st February.

You will get a preview of the proposed parkland, and hear from our experts on how we will be opening this previously private land to the public, enhancing the character of the landscape, bringing back historic lost features, increasing biodiversity and looking after nature, trees and wildlife.

Tours take 60-75 minutes followed by a short Q&A. Times are 9.30-10.45am, 11.30-12.45pm and 2.15-3.45pm. They take place outdoors

and regardless of the weather. We recommend wearing comfortable footwear and waterproof items if possible. The site consists of flat terrain on grass or gravel paths, with muddy patches in places.

Please email [community@aeltc.com](mailto:community@aeltc.com) no later than 5pm on the Wednesday of the week the tours taking place, letting us know:

- Your name
- Email address
- Mobile phone number in case we need to contact you on the day
- Postcode
- Which day and tour time you would like to attend

Everyone booked on to a tour slot will receive an email the day before the tour, confirming final details

# 'MYRA' LAZOU, 1945-2024



'MYRA' LAZOU 1945-2024

The Grid lost one of its long-established residents this autumn with the death of Myrofora Lazou, who has died aged 79. 'Myra' as she was always known ran her well-known women's hairdressing salon on Brookwood Road for over 45 years with devoted husband Chris. They and their family lived in the flat above it for many years, before relocating latterly to Earlsfield.

Born in 1945 in eastern Cyprus, Myra travelled to England as a teenager to train as a nurse. After marrying her long-time friend Chris in 1967 she retrained as a hairdresser so she could help at Chris's newly acquired salon on Brookwood Road. Chris' ill health often meant she was running the salon single-handed, along with bringing up their two sons. Away from work they loved travelling back to Cyprus as well as visiting other parts of the world. In 1997 Myra was treated for breast cancer. She recovered, and in 2018 the couple had one last big trip, a cruise to the Caribbean, before the cancer sadly returned in recent years.

Her funeral was held at Putney Vale Cemetery. She is survived by husband Chris, in good health and living in Earlsfield in the family home, sons Jason and George, and granddaughters Pallas and Calla. She will be much missed by her many friends in the Grid. One of her sons still runs a hairdressing business on the site of the original salon on Brookwood Road. It's now a gents barber called 'The Grid Barber Club.'

# 'GREEN THE GRID' REVIEWS THE GROWING YEAR

By *Nina Kowalski, GTG chair*

It's been another busy year for our wonderful band of Green the Gridders. Here are some of the highlights, plus a couple of requests for you:

- **June event** - We had a great event with the Repair Cafe in June where we distributed some wonderful plants thanks to a micro grant from Wandsworth Council. This is the second time we have held this event jointly with the Repair Cafe, and hope our collaboration long continues!
- **Southfields Harvest** - We had a Super September Saturday there! We gave away great bulbs, to be planted now and which will come up in the Spring for tree bases, pots and front gardens. We are also excited that we had some wonderful plants donated from friends, family and neighbours. We were also on hand as always to give planting advice.
- **December wreath making** - Back by popular demand, we are planning our second wreath making event. It will again be held at the Pig & Whistle pub on Wednesday 4th December at 7.30pm. Last year we were booked up within a day, so we hope it will be as popular an event this year. We ran the event at cost only, but this year we will be increasing the cost. Anything left over will be donated to the homeless charity Glass Door's night shelter - see church notes on page 7.
- **Seeking more Grid Growers** - we are so happy our group of green fingered neighbours continue to get involved, supporting at events and nurturing plants. Please do join us - come and see us at the Christmas Fair to talk about it.
- **Online** - we have a refreshed website [www.frontgardenfriendly.org](http://www.frontgardenfriendly.org) which we keep updated, and a new Facebook page, so we can better share info about what we're up to.

[greenhthegridSW18@hotmail.com](mailto:greenhthegridSW18@hotmail.com)



KEZ, A GTG STALWART

## FANCY A COMMUNITY SOLAR AND BATTERY INSTALLATION?

By *Glyn Goodwin, Climate Action Wandsworth*

Around 70 people including local councillors and council officers recently attended a 'Climate Action Wandsworth' event: 'Sustainable You' at St Andrews Church, just across the Wandle in Earlsfield.

Leading expert Howard Johns of OneZero explained how solar and batteries together can significantly help the individual and address the climate emergency. Southfields energy expert Toby Costin also featured, as we discovered how owner-occupied properties similar to many in Southfields Grid can be upgraded for the 21st Century with simple measures, and also OneZero's community-based offer of solar with batteries.

This has significant advantages. Delivery is via local trusted firms, benefiting the local economy. Costs are around £7,500-9,000 meaning it pays for itself in 7-9 years. This is without considering using smart tariffs, which could mean even greater savings. Howard demonstrated the first step, a free initial personal assessment obtained by expert use of Google Earth from your postcode. The results were fascinating, and clearly displayed providing all sorts of great



information, including how much money and carbon can be saved.

It seems an ideal opportunity for Southfields residents. With a funded option available soon, even if you don't have the money but are interested in saving the planet it's worth doing. If you are curious as to how much you could save, use the QR code below, pop in your postcode and they will send you the results. If there is enough interest Howard has said he will happily come to Southfields and give a talk too!

[glynkgoodwin@gmail.com](mailto:glynkgoodwin@gmail.com)



# THE MANY SUPERPOWERS OF TREES

By *Gregory Harris*

Few people would wish to see fewer trees in the Grid, but did you know all the benefits they bring? Trees provide shade, improve air quality, reduce noise pollution, enhance property values, support local wildlife, and create a more pleasant and healthy environment.

Given the low cost of trees, local authorities are increasingly recognising their environmental and social value. The London Climate Resilience Review, published in July, made 50 recommendations on how London should prepare for future climate risks. One striking risk is the increasing regularity of heatwaves. The Met Office projects that by 2050, heatwaves similar to the 40°C event in 2022 could occur every other year, likely concurrent with longer droughts. Europe is warming about twice as fast as the rest of the world, and cities are particularly vulnerable due to the urban heat effect.

Another surprising fact about trees is their heating and cooling effect. Trees near buildings can lower internal summer temperatures by 4°C



TREE-LINED REVELSTOKE ROAD

and raise winter temperatures by 6°C compared to having no trees. The London Climate Risk Map shows that areas of Southfields with higher tree canopy cover have lower mean air temperatures and lower air particulate counts.

Trees also increase the ground's ability to absorb and retain moisture by reducing compaction and holding moisture in the soil. We can also expect more flash floods following intense rainfall, especially at the start of autumn when the ground is still dry. The review above shows that the permeable fraction of urban areas in London has decreased by 10% over the past 20 years, exacerbating the problem.

While it's not possible to place trees next to every house, other low-cost solutions can address these issues: insulation and heavy blinds can help regulate temperature; planters beneath downpipes can slow rainwater; and

there are many ways to encourage healthy soil. However if you know of an opportunity to plant a tree, email the Wandsworth Tree Wardens at [trees@enablelc.org](mailto:trees@enablelc.org) to help make it a reality.

## SOUTHFIELDS LIBRARY NEWS

By *Sucheta Sumant, Librarian*

The leaves are changing as autumn has rolled into Southfields. The library saw a very busy summer in both the adult and children's library. We had some great events, from author visits to our wonderful monthly reading groups.

Our busy Summer Reading Challenge saw 362 children joining the scheme with 209 completing the challenge. Southfields Library took part in Wandsworth Council's 'Sustainable September' initiative by hosting a special 'Collage Night.' Library customers donated tons of used and old magazines that we then recycled into beautiful and unique works of art.

Jane Porter, our local illustrator and supporter, came and spoke to children from our neighbouring schools as part of Green Libraries Week. We hosted local authors Aliyah Ali-Afzal and Sarah Clarke as they read from their new releases. We celebrated Black History Month by hosting a special Storytime session with Victoria Afante.

Looking forward to the next few months, we have lots of events planned. Pick up our newsletter each month to stay updated. There will be lots of activities over the Christmas holidays, and a Carrom Board club for young adults on Saturdays. We will be holding a taster session soon – look out for our posters.

Come to our library and pick up the latest bestsellers; learn Italian; meet your local councillors; maybe do a puzzle or two with a friend whilst having a warm drink and biscuits every Tuesday morning. We also have our new children's Librarian, Catherine Setchfield, who will be running lots of book-related events for the young ones.

Still confused by all things online? Age UK Wandsworth will run a drop-in Digital Inclusion Support session here on Wednesday 27th November from 10.30-12.



(L-R) SUCHETA, JANE AND CATHERINE.

Support your local library, pop in and say hello to our friendly team. We look forward to welcoming you to our favourite place. For opening hours and other event times visit [www.better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/southfields-library](http://www.better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/southfields-library)

# RECYCLE MORE SOUTHFIELDS GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE LIVING

By Marina Calland, RMS co-ordinator

Recycle More Southfields is a local initiative helping everyone in the area with recycling their hard-to-recycle waste. Together we collected and recycled over 1200kg of plastic waste. We collect hard-to-recycle items such as Pringles tubes, make-up packaging, toothpaste tubes and electric toothbrush heads, blister packages from contact lenses and pills, and now also Sistema style bottles and food storage containers, as well as many more things - see our website for details.

We also have two WhatsApp groups. The 'chatty one' has weekly reminders of which type of packaging/items we are collecting that week as well as ideas, advice and inspiration on where to recycle things we don't accept, how to reuse or repurpose many items we usually throw away. Members ask each other questions and give away pre-loved items. If that's too much for you, choose the 'lite group' which keeps the chat to a minimum and only keeps you updated with our collection schedule.

We've been recycling together like this since 2021, and we quickly learned that recycling alone won't help with the growing single-use

plastics problem. So here is a quick guide of how to cut your plastic and other waste in the first place:



- Borrow big items such as hedge trimmers, pressure washers, steam cleaners, from the Wandsworth Library of Things, located in Southside Shopping Centre. Why not create a tools list with your neighbours, so you can borrow from each other?
- Refill your washing up liquid, all-purpose cleaning liquid, hand soap, body wash, shampoo, laundry liquid and fabric conditioner at the St Michael's Church refill station located

in their cafe, Wimbledon Park and Granville Road junctions.

- Bring your own coffee cup to coffee shops. These businesses offer discounts or benefits to everyone with their own coffee cup: Brookwood Garden, Cafe Nero, Drop Shot Coffee, El Cafetal, Gail's, Greggs, Wylie's, and the Cavan Bakery in Wimbledon Park.
- Bring your broken/faulty items to Southfields' very own Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe. They hold regular events in St Barnabas Church on Lavenham Road, and even fix bikes, clothes and jewellery!
- Don't forget our weekly Wimbledon Park Farmers Market on Havana Road each Saturday morning, where you can buy a lot of produce that's packaging free. Polski Sklep, the Polish Shop opposite Southfields tube station sells unpackaged fruit and veg. Bring your own bags, though.

To join our recycling efforts and for more info on how to recycle as well as sustainable living inspiration: visit our website [www.recyclemoresouthfields.org](http://www.recyclemoresouthfields.org), follow us on Instagram [@recyclemore\\_southfields](https://www.instagram.com/recyclemore_southfields) and on Facebook [@RecycleMore Southfields](https://www.facebook.com/RecycleMoreSouthfields). Do get in touch on [recyclemoresouthfields@gmail.com](mailto:recyclemoresouthfields@gmail.com).

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**Can't see what you're looking for then please ask!**  
**Our friendly Team looks forward to welcoming you soon!**

# LOCAL FACILITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

## SGRA Executive Committee

**Chairman:** Charles Runcie | 020 8875 9565

[charles@charlesruncie.co.uk](mailto:charles@charlesruncie.co.uk)

**Secretary:** Ian Shaw | 07554 898538

[imks11662@outlook.com](mailto:imks11662@outlook.com)

**Members Sec:** Serena Potter | 07778 419569

[sgrasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:sgrasecretary@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Ameet Phadnis | 07540 646564

[ameet.phadnis@icloud.com](mailto:ameet.phadnis@icloud.com)

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

## 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

Peter Smith at 42

### 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](mailto:timothyedwardlynch@yahoo.co.uk)

### Pirbright Road

Charles Runcie at 17

### Replingham Road

Vacancy, volunteers welcome, please contact us

### Revelstoke Road

Rosie and Sam Rickman at 66

### Trentham Street

Trevor Howes at 70

Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty at 169

## Business

Southfields Business Forum - [www.southfieldsbusinessforum.org.uk](http://www.southfieldsbusinessforum.org.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.soundsouthfields.co.uk](http://www.soundsouthfields.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)

Southfields Chess Club - via [Saboresinfo@originaltapas-sabores.com](mailto:Saboresinfo@originaltapas-sabores.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 - [info@stra6.org.uk](mailto:info@stra6.org.uk)

Sutherland Grove Conservation Area RA - [admin@sagara.org.uk](mailto:admin@sagara.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)

Council tree officers - [trees@enablelc.org](mailto: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](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.

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

Saturday 30th November, 12-3pm - St Barnabas Christmas Fair

Christmas services - see article on Page 6

Tuesday 24th December, 11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Saturday 18th January, 12-3pm - Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe

Saturday 25th January, 10.30am - Police 'Safer Neighbourhood Team' Ward panel meeting

Tuesday 28th January, 7.45pm - SGRA public meeting

Friday 28th February to Sunday 2nd March - 'Window Wanderland'

**The spring 2025 issue of Grid News will be published in mid-March. Articles, features and information for consideration should be sent to the Editor by Monday 17th February. Email them to [info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk](mailto:info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk), and we'd love to hear your stories and comments.**