

GRID NEWS

■■■ SPRING 2025 ■■■

Delivered free to every home and business in Southfields Grid

Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Making a difference to life on the Grid

CONGRATULATIONS, CATHY! REVELSTOKE RESIDENT IS 100

By Charles Runcie

Revelstoke Road resident Cathy Jarman celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday 9th March. Cathy has lived at the same Grid address for over 80 years, firstly in its upstairs flat and then when it became a house in the mid-1950s.

Born in Gloucester, Cathy grew up with her family up to the age of 18. "Country living was hard. For instance if you didn't say "Good morning" to the squire you got a whip across your head." In 1941 aged 16 she met John, who was in the army. They caught the bus to their wedding, but then he was posted away, so she moved to Earlsfield to lodge with her parents-in-law.

Living in wartime London was not easy. "You never knew if you were going to live the next day, you minded your own business. Rationing was a devil, but we put up with it. We were lucky, as we did get some food from our old family home in Gloucestershire where we had a little land, including vegetables and the odd rabbit."

At the end of the War John was demobbed and the family moved to Revelstoke Road, as by then son John and daughter Marlene had arrived on the scene. In those days Southfields was a quiet place, everyone kept themselves to themselves, but it was a happy time. "We had



OUR 100TH BIRTHDAY GIRL

lots of shops close to us - Lucas the butcher, Wise the fishmonger, Fernwell Furniture, a newsagents and a Co-op. Even Brookwood Road had Cook's the Chemist and a good fish 'n' chip shop. I went shopping most days. People used to say "they've got liver at the butchers, they've got rabbit too" as they were off the ration. So I'd put Marlene in the pram and we rushed down the street. You could then queue all day!"

There were only 3 cars in Revelstoke Road

then. "My husband was determined to get one, as he liked technology. We also bought a TV in time for the Coronation in June 1953, and all the children came in to watch it with us".

Cathy did a variety of jobs in her working life, including working in the laundrette on the corner of Elborough Street and Revelstoke Road for many years. She eventually retired in 1977 aged 60. "The street has not changed much, but while there's never been any trouble you don't know the next door neighbours as well as we did. They're busy, out to work, earning a living. Wimbledon Park is very nice, too." En route to the park she pays regular visits to McCluskey's grocers. Their family, especially Eamon, have been great friends with Cathy's since they moved into the area in the 1960s.

"I always say a little prayer at night, even though I'm not very religious":

***Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
If I should die before
I wakel pray the Lord my soul to take.***

"As long as my home's tidy I'm happy, and I enjoy living in Southfields. I even got a prize in the SGRA Front Garden awards. This is my home - and I love it."

Long may you stay there, Cathy. Many Happy Returns from all of us on the Grid.

AELTC - FROM TENNIS COURTS TO LEGAL COURTS

*By Simon Wright,
Save Wimbledon Park group*

At the last SGRA meeting I explained that Save Wimbledon Park Ltd (SWP) had started proceedings in the High Court for a Judicial Review of the GLA's decision to grant planning permission for the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) scheme, citing three grounds of legal significance. The Court has just now issued an order confirming that SWP may proceed, stating: "The Claimant has raised arguable grounds

which merit consideration at a full hearing." This is a significant milestone as SWP seeks to encourage the AELTC to think again and comply with legal policies and obligations.

AELTC say it is the "correct thing to do" to apply to court to resolve the Statutory Trust issue about which they wrote to SWP in December 2024. We drew this point to their attention as long ago as April 2023, but they have still not started their proposed proceedings. When AELTC start their own litigation there could be two court cases running at the same time. SWP repeats its

request that AELTC should talk to SWP.

This legal action is going to be very expensive, and SWP will be crowdfunding. Find out how you can help at two public meetings being held in Southfields on Wednesday 26th March and Wimbledon on Monday 31st March.

If you know someone willing to make a significant pledge towards legal costs please contact SWP via company.secretary@savewimbledonpark.co.uk

Full information at www.savewimbledonpark.org

EDITOR'S LETTER



Charles Runcie, SGRA Chair

Hello and welcome to the first Grid News of 2025. I hope you enjoy the familiar mix of news, features and information about our lovely little part of SW London. Do get in touch with any comments or suggestions you have for a future issue.

It's not just our front page birthday girl Cathy celebrating - it's a rather historic year for us at SGRA as we celebrate our 50th birthday. You'll notice our special golden jubilee logo atop our front page. Formed initially to fight the then-council's plans to demolish parts of the Grid for multi-storey tower blocks (can you imagine that today?) the SGRA has since become a familiar and respected voice in our community, with regular meetings, events and activities helping bring our front page motto 'Making a difference to life on the Grid' to life. If you're not yet a member, find out how to join on the back page of this issue. We've a busy year ahead. The Art Festival is already a recent memory, and the Front Garden awards and even a Quiz in the autumn are still to come.

To complete the birthday wishes, well-known Grid family; McCluskeys celebrate 50 years since moving here and establishing their marvellous grocers shop on Revelstoke Road. All of this and much will be reflected in a special souvenir edition of 'Grid News' in mid-May, out in time for our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 20th May. We'll have articles, features, pictures and memories of Grid life from 1975 to the present day. If you'd like to contribute a memory, a photo or anything else please get in touch.

Finally, I hope to see as many of you as possible at our next couple of SGRA public meetings. The first is on Tuesday 25th March, when we aim to have a guest speaker from the council to talk all things rubbish collections and recycling, while our AGM on Tuesday 20th May will have a 50th anniversary feel. Both start at 7.45pm, and you're all welcome.

Best wishes
Charles Runcie
charles@charlesruncie.co.uk



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

AELTC TOURS + NATURE WEEKEND

By Ulrika Hogberg, Head of Community Strategy, AELTC

The All England Club continues to run guided tours of the former Wimbledon Park Golf Course. The next are on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th March, then Friday 25th April. It's an opportunity to see the landscape and hear about their proposals in more detail. There are 3 tours a day at 9.30-10.45am, 11.30-12:45pm and 2.15-3.30pm.

On the weekend of Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th March the AELTC hosts a Nature Weekend, with two more following in September and November on the southern part of the former Wimbledon Park Golf Course. We'll be exploring the power of



EXPLORE NATURE WITH AELTC

water, and how important water is for wildlife and nature to thrive.

You can find more details and how to sign up to both events at www.wimbledon.com/community

BENCH TO HONOUR MIKE CASWELL

A new memorial bench has been created in Coronation Gardens, in memory of stalwart Grid resident and former SGRA Chair Mike Caswell. Funded from the proceeds of the retiring collection taken at Mike's funeral last July, it was installed in November. Chosen by Mike's family, it's in the central part of the Gardens where there are four benches in a circle, facing away from the road, and looks diagonally at the building with the domes. Mrs Val Caswell, with her back to Pirbright Road, is pictured sitting on it.



CASWELL BENCH

OBITUARY: PETER JACKSON 1947 - 2024

By Charles Runcie

Well-known Grid resident Peter Jackson died peacefully on 17th November aged 77. Known to many as 'Skip,' he was very well-known in our community for his work as both a local scout leader and a stalwart of St Barnabas Church.

Peter, remarkably, lived his entire life in Elborough Street. His grandparents lived in the same street, and there were other relatives close by. He went to Riversdale School when it was on the Southfields Academy site, then to Wandsworth Boys School which was in Sutherland Grove. He trained as a draughtsman, and was employed by homebuilders Wimpey on their supply side. Because he could read plans he visited sites to ensure they had the correct materials needed for the various construction phases.

Peter became a Scout Leader at 19, and spent many thousands of hours providing young people with opportunities to develop new skills, learn about the world and give back to their community. He held a variety of roles with the Scouts, including Leader at 8th Wandsworth Group in Southfields for 40 years, where he ran weekly meetings and several camps each year. He also volunteered as District Special Educational Needs Advisor for Wandsworth, Putney and Roehampton, using his scouting skills when volunteering at a camp each year for young people with disabilities. He was a regular volunteer at



PETER JACKSON

Linden Lodge School for sensory-impaired children for many years.

Peter not only worked to bring self-confidence and self-reliance to young people, but he also helped older people to come together and socialise via the 'Monday Club' for over-50s at St Barnabas Church. He provided his delicious home baking every week, ran Bingo sessions, helped with the catering and was bingo caller for the SGRA's annual party for senior citizens. He was a member of the team that hosted up to 35 people every Friday night in winter at St Barnabas, part of the Glass Door charity's work to support

the homeless in Wandsworth.

Peter was an active member of St Barnabas Church for many years. From 2009 to 2012 he was Church Warden, and assisted Rev. Ian Tattum in carrying out the construction of new halls, kitchens and toilet facilities which has provided Southfields with a popular community hub. Retiring early, for a long period Peter combined all this volunteering work with caring for his mother who lived with dementia.

Tributes were led by Peter Haggood, Lead Volunteer for Wandsworth Scouts. "Peter helped thousands of young people embrace learning, overcome challenges, and become valuable members of society. He provided guidance on running a successful section, and tips and tricks for keeping children happy (and full) on camp." Reverend Ian Tattum added "Peter never made a fuss about his contribution to the community, just quietly got on with his responsibilities and always delivered on his promises."

A memorial service was held at St Barnabas Church on the afternoon of Thursday 12th December following a private family funeral that morning at Putney Vale Cemetery.

In commemoration of all his work at St Barnabas Church over many decades, a crab apple tree is going to be planted in the church garden in Peter's memory. A photo and more details about this will appear in the summer issue of 'Grid News'.

OBITUARY: GLORIA PHILLIP 1938-2024

By Lisa Burton

Just before Christmas the Grid lost one of its long-established residents with the death of Gloria Phillip. She had lived in the same house in Elborough Street since 1965.

Gloria was born in Trinidad & Tobago in 1938, and came to England in 1957 to study fashion design. While in London she met Oswald Phillip, known to all as Ossie, and they married in 1959. Having started a family, Gloria left college to be a mother to Curtis, Janice, Rodney and Heather. She also worked as a part-time seamstress, and went back to studying part time.

Gloria worked hard for her family. She learned fast, and became an exceptional

fashion designer and dress maker. She also got much enjoyment from making children's clothes for her neighbours.

Gloria will be remembered for her kind-hearted gestures, her cheeky smile and her great sense of humour. She was treasured for her loving nature by her family, friends and neighbours who all attended her funeral at Lambeth Crematorium on Friday 24th January.

Gloria is survived by Ossie, Curtis, Janice, Heather and grand-daughter Rebecca. She will be greatly missed by her many friends in the Grid. Her philosophical words give us all pause for thought - "I have lived, so if it is my time, so be it".



GLORIA PHILLIP

HUNDREDS FLOCK TO ART FESTIVAL

By Ian Shaw, SGRA Secretary

To kick off our 50th Anniversary celebrations, the SGRA was proud to sponsor the first Southfields Art Festival on Saturday 8th March in St Barnabas Church. In conjunction with Slavica Struthers-Kennedy and the Southfields Artists Group, 22 local artists exhibited and

sold their works. On display were paintings, drawings, ceramics, pottery, jewellery, art from found objects, textile art, sculptures and much more. There were hundreds of visitors to the Festival all day, with a few coming from as far away as Bolton, Chelsea and Sidcup. As a thank you to the community, the artists made a charitable donation to the Royal Hospital

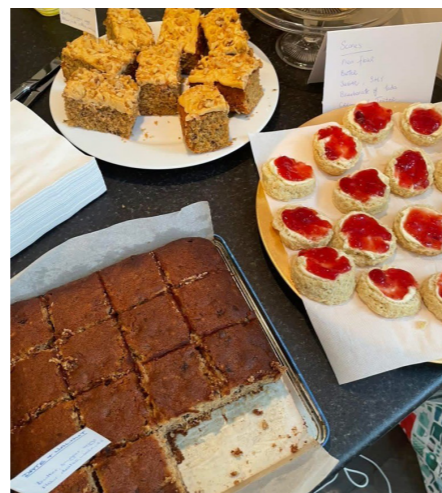
for Neuro-disability in Putney. Including sales from refreshments, £680 was raised. Judging by the feedback received from both artists and visitors everyone had a great time, and it's hoped there will be more such festivals in the future.



BUSY EXHIBITION SPACE



FLEUR MEETS SLAVICA



DELICIOUS HOME BAKING!

Diary date: Wandsworth Artists' Open House is coming to the area on the weekends of 4-5th and 11-12th October. If you're a local artist and would like to exhibit at the WAOH event email our local contact Slavica@melroseroad.net

WHY IS EXERCISE SO GOOD FOR OUR MENTAL HEALTH?

In the first of three articles, Southfields-based personal trainer Maddie Freeman examines the link between exercise and mental health

We all know exercise is good for our bodies, but did you know it's one of the most powerful tools for our minds too? Here's why.

First of all exercise floods our brains with feel-good chemicals. You've probably heard of endorphins, but moving our bodies also releases other chemicals, including endocannabinoids, serotonin and dopamine. These chemicals boost feelings of pleasure and give us that post-workout buzz! On a psychological level, exercise provides us with a sense of achievement. This is because we've done something positive for our health and perhaps made progress with a skill (e.g. lifted a heavier weight). Exercise is also an opportunity for some precious time-out from our daily routines. This can give us headspace and help us to feel refreshed.

Exercise can also be a sociable experience, and social interaction is crucial to mental health. We might play a team sport or attend yoga classes. Even if we prefer to train solo, just being around other people in the gym or on a run can give us a mental boost. It gets us out of our own heads and makes us feel more connected with the world. Finally, exercise can influence our mental health through the healthy habits it encourages. When we exercise regularly we often sleep better and make healthier food choices, both of which are key to good mental health.

If you need support with your exercise routine from a coach who cares just as much about your mental health as your physical health, I'd love to help. You can work with me at The Gym Group Southfields or online. Find me on Instagram (@maddie_freeman_fitness) or email me at maddiefreemanfitness@gmail.com I also have a podcast and Substack, both called Chasing Highs, if you enjoyed this article and want to hear more about exercise, psychology and mental health. In summer's

'Grid News' I'll explain how to stay consistent with exercise if you live with a mental health issue.

www.maddiefreemanfitness.com



MADDIE FREEMAN

VANESSA'S WELCOME MESSAGE TO THE GRID

By Rev Vanessa Elston

Thank you to everyone who came to my collation and induction service as the new Vicar of St Barnabas by the Bishop of Kingston, Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough. I feel inspired by this unique community of 'The Grid' in which I have landed.

The first few weeks have been busy, but I am well supported by two amazing Church Wardens, Jennie Allen and Krista Ovist, and our brilliant parish administrator Svenja Taylor. The church community have been very welcoming, as well as the wider community, and I am enjoying meeting some of the incredible people who volunteer and serve in various roles across Southfields.

Alongside being Vicar of St Barnabas I am working two days, Wednesday and Friday, for Bishop Martin as his Chaplain, helping him to realise various projects across the Kingston Episcopal Area. Saturday, Sunday,

Monday and Tuesday the days I am focused on the parish, with Thursday my day off! There is some overlap in my two roles, and it means I am plugged into the centre of things in the Kingston Area of the Diocese of Southwark.

My vision for St Barnabas is that we grow as a church for all ages. We have a friendly, thriving children's 9.30am service on the first Sunday of the month, a beautiful sung Compline once a month, as well as the regular 9am and 10.30am parish Eucharist services. We are a church that aspires to do traditional worship in meaningful and creative ways, to offer a space for all who want to explore the spiritual journey and life that Christ offers us.

We are not a dogmatic community with all the answers, we are seeking the way together. I am here for the pastoral needs of the wider community, for those searching with questions or seeking inner peace. I will have a dedicated phone number soon, but for now please contact me on vanessa.elston@southwark.anglican.org

RECYCLE MORE SOUTHFIELDS ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

By Marina Calland, RMS member

Recycle More Southfields is here to help you cut your plastic waste, by increasing recycling and avoiding single-use plastics in the first place. The initiative was set up by a small group of local residents in 2021 with support from the SGRA to kickstart the initiative. It is designed to complement rather than duplicate our Council's recycling scheme by taking items which Wandsworth don't already collect through the orange recycling sacks or via the Smuggler's Way waste and recycling centre.

In less than four years, we have succeeded in collecting and recycling over 1,300kg of hard-to-recycle plastic waste. That's the equivalent weight of a small car -- a lot of toothpaste tubes and pill packets! By sending this waste to specialist recycling companies instead of into household rubbish, which is sent for incineration, we have reduced the need for new plastics to be created which cuts climate-changing emissions when new plastic is made. Please join in, as together we can achieve great things! Here are some of the most common questions we get asked about recycling:

Q: What types of hard-to-recycle items do we take?

A: We take a range of items -- from make-up and beauty packaging through to corks and Brita water filters. Please see our website for a detailed list. We have two collection points: on Trentham St and on Sutherland Grove. We run a weekly schedule of the plastic waste we collect, to make it easier for our fabulous volunteers to sort through the items.

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, or which plastic-free alternatives are available. Members ask each other questions and give away pre-loved items on the group. 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.

Q: Can I recycle trigger spray bottle mechanisms and pumps?

A: Yes, as long as they're attached to the plastic bottles. It's best to reuse them by refilling the bottles. There are many brands available that offer household cleaner refills. Our favourites are:

NeatClean - has concentrated small refill bottles of both bathroom and kitchen cleaners. These can be bought in supermarkets (Sainsbury's and Waitrose stock them) as well as online. Cif also does refills, but they only work with the Cif original bottles.

Ocean Saver and Homethings - they have a variety of refill products from concentrates to dilutable tablets for most cleaning needs. These are 100% plastic free. Online and refill shops only. There are many, many more!

You can also refill your home cleaning and personal hygiene bottles at St Michael's Church Cafe, 71 Wimbledon Park Road, which has a refill station.

Q: Can I recycle my plastic toothbrushes and/or electric toothbrush heads?

A: Not anymore. We used to accept both of these in our hard-to-recycle waste collections. They were then sent to TerraCycle recycling specialists for recycling. This free recycling programme has unfortunately now been closed. Buy bamboo manual toothbrushes and interdental products instead: TruthBrush, The Humble Co, Georganics make a great selection of bamboo/no plastic products



mainly sold online. More mainstream brands such as Colgate and Wisdom make them too - those are often available in Boots and bigger supermarkets. For electric toothbrush heads our members recommend using Brushd or Booheds. Those can be recycled directly with the manufacturers.

Q: Can I recycle soft plastics - such as crisps and snacks, bubble wrap, petfood pouches, yoghurt and soft fruit lids, etc?

A: Yes! Pretty much all clean and dry soft plastics are accepted in most supermarkets. Local to the Grid you can recycle them at M&S Southfields and the Co-op in Wimbledon Park, as well as the huge Sainsbury's opposite the Southside shopping centre.

We would like to thank all the Recycle More Southfields volunteers, who organise, sort, store and transport all the items received, as well as everyone who has joined this initiative.

Have a recycling question?

Visit our website: www.recyclemoresouthfields.org, follow us on Instagram @recyclemore_southfields and on Facebook @RecycleMore Southfields. Do get in touch on recyclemoresouthfields@gmail.com



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Against
Poop**

Southfields Chapter
Established 2025

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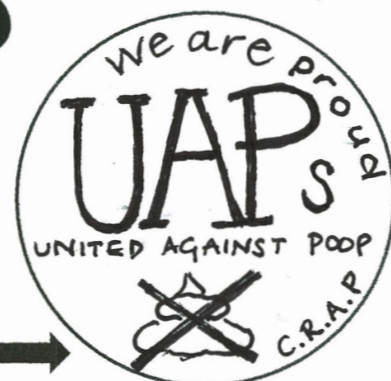
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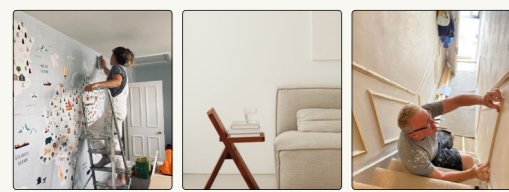
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SGRA'S KYRA SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE STREET LIFE

By Kyra von Schottenstein

As the SGRA's Heythorp Street rep I am always aware of issues that affect not only my street but the Grid in general. I would like to bring to your attention two subjects that hopefully many of you will find helpful.

WhatsApp groups - I know many of you already belong to a street WhatsApp group. If you have not yet signed up to the one on your road, could we encourage you to do so? The advantages are many. In addition to being informed about local events taking place across Southfields, a street WhatsApp group can inform you of the following:

- If you have left your car window open. A neighbour may have spotted this, and will post it so that you become aware.

- If someone has received a package and there's no one at home to receive it, a neighbour will keep it safe for you

- If you need a local babysitter, a music teacher or a recommended cleaner

- If you are having a clear out, and looking to give things away

- Problems with lost pets

- If you are contemplating having building work done, and need some recommendations

- the sharing of information about street security.

The benefits are endless, and of course belonging to a local WhatsApp Street Group enlarges our sense of community and camaraderie amongst neighbours. It's easy to join. Just get in touch with your local Street

Rep (see back of issue) and they will include you with other neighbours.

Litter - Many of us have seen an increase of rubbish bags torn open by foxes, empty alcohol bottles, crisp bags and plastic bags clinging to the tree bases. Southfields Grid is a special place to live, and we are lucky enough to have neighbours that contribute to our civic pride by being engaged in our community and keeping it that way. However, it's a big area for a handful of litter picking people to cover. Could we ask you to make your own small contribution and pick up any rubbish left in front of your home and dispose of it in your bin? Rubbish begets rubbish, so if we all do our part our lovely neighbourhood will set an example for others.

kyralaertis@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK NEWS

By Beth McKillop, secretary

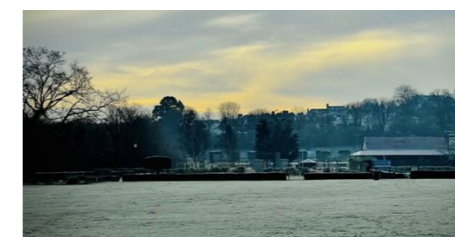
After 12 years as a community-based organisation the Friends of Wimbledon Park recently registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Officially now, the Friends are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The Friends aim to conserve, promote and enhance Wimbledon Park for the public benefit as a place of recreation in the interests of social welfare.

The Park is listed by Historic England as having special historic interest. In 2016 Historic England added the Park to its 'at risk' register, and assessed it as in generally unsatisfactory condition with major localised problems. The Park's precious landscapes, biodiversity and habitats for nature are all important. Our volunteers have been planting trees and raising awareness of the Park's unique history.

The Park we know today is the remnant of a

larger landscape designed in 1765 by Lancelot Brown, better known as Capability Brown. Greatly changed since that time, Wimbledon Park today is designated 'Metropolitan Open Land' and is treasured by visitors from far and wide. There are three freeholders, with the All England Lawn Tennis Club owning the largest part, the London Borough of Merton owning the lake and public park, and the Wimbledon Club owning a smaller area.

This year we are actively fundraising and planning for various improvements. We want to



LOVELY SUNRISE IN THE PARK

upgrade the Revelstoke Road entrance. When completed this project will deliver a safer, more enjoyable gateway to all that the Park offers. We are also waiting for a meeting with Merton Council to discuss the future of the Waterfall Garden which has been closed for several years.

Nick Steiner, the chairman of Friends of Wimbledon Park is leading monthly weekend tours of the Park, which are advertised on our website below. It also has a wealth of information about Park history, events, meetings, and volunteering opportunities.

Friends of Wimbledon Park warmly welcomes new members. Please contact membership.fowp@gmail.com and follow us on social media bsky.app/profile/friendsofwp.bsky.social. Please use our website contact form www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org/contact to send questions or comments.

www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org

LOCAL PLANNING AND SHOPS NEWS

By Margaret Brett

The planning application to convert 16/18 Replingham Road, formerly Barclays Bank, to two shops has been approved. Work is continuing further down at 43 Replingham Road, which is to become a Montessori nursery. The development of 75,77,79 Replingham Road to provide seven flats is underway. There's planning permission for 3 houses at 91 Pirbright Road to replace the earlier industrial premises which recently was a squat. There is an application for remedial cladding works at Mill Court, 432 Merton Road.

Wandsworth Council's consultation on its partial review of the Local Plan ended on 24th February. The proposed changes affect the policies on affordable housing, housing mix, purpose built student accommodation, housing with shared facilities, build to rent and

specialist housing for vulnerable people and older people. There is greater focus on the provision of affordable and social housing.

The Council is concerned about carbon emissions from people's homes, and this year intends focusing on supporting residents to retrofit their homes to ensure energy efficiency. Retrofit refers to any improvement work on existing buildings to make them more energy efficient. This should help cut the cost of energy bills. They aim to provide correct information and to offer schemes to help make homes more efficient.

The Council is maintaining weekly rubbish collections, and is now offering two free bulky waste collections a year. Each free collection can be for up to four items, and they will take things like mattresses, furniture, washing machines, fridges and freezers. Bulky waste is collected on the usual rubbish collection day, and you should not need to wait longer than a week for it to be done.

FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS UPDATE

By Geoff Davis, FoCG Committee

It's a very busy period for us! Our committee meet every couple of months in the appropriately named 'Gardeners' pub. Over a pint or glass of merlot we check planting progress, meet the council managers Enable plc, and generally work out how we make the Gardens even better. We could do with another member with a bit of energy to join our group, It's good fun, we've a real sense of purpose, and you don't need Monty Don levels of gardening knowledge! Get in touch if you're interested.

Our 6th AGM will take place on Wednesday 23rd April from 7.30-9pm at the 8th Wandsworth Scout Hut at the bottom of Pirbright Road. We have a special guest speaker, representatives from the Parks Police and Enable plc, and there are refreshments afterwards. If you're curious about Coronation Gardens, why not come along?

Popular not-for-profit theatre company 'Shakespeare in the Squares' will be performing in the Gardens this summer for the first time. They will be celebrating their 8th anniversary with an open air production of The Taming of the Shrew, Shakespeare's comedy battle of wits, wills and wild romance complete with toe-tapping pop classics. This will be part of Wandsworth Council's 2025 'London Borough of Culture' activities.

'Shakespeare in the Squares' stages a

Shakespeare play in London gardens every summer. Their minimal sets transform gardens into magical settings without the use of artificial lighting, intrusive rigs or amplification.

The Taming of the Shrew will take place on Sunday 15th June in Coronation Gardens. The organisers hope the audience will bring a family picnic to enjoy from 1.30pm. The performance will then begin at 3pm, and with an interval will end at 5pm. Tickets are on sale now, and you can take advantage of the 'early



GARDENING CLUB'S GEOFF, TARA AND MARIAN

bird' adult ticket rate which runs until Monday 21st April. You can book tickets and find further information about Shakespeare in the Squares at www.shakespeareinthesquares.co.uk

We hope you will bring friends and family to see what's sure to be an excellent production, and a historic first for Southfields.

Preparatory work continues on the restoration

of our granite heritage fountain. Sculptor Gillian Brett is modelling a bronze replacement figurine, a model of Fanny Wilkinson the designer of the Gardens. Our contractors are planning the detailed works, which will start on Monday 12th May for about 3-5 weeks. This will bring the fountain back to its original 1904 condition. We plan a formal rededication on Saturday 19th July as part of an exciting - and free - 'Coronation Gardens Community Day'.

Our Gardening Club had a short break over Christmas, resuming at the end of January with a very productive planning meeting. We are currently a small friendly group of committed volunteers, and meet every 2nd and 4th Saturday morning from 10-11.30am. No previous experience of gardening is even necessary! Just turn up. This year we are also hoping to recruit some new Duke of Edinburgh students from our two nearest secondary schools. Please get in touch if you know anyone who might be interested.

We have pruned and pruned the verbena bonariensis that do so well, the espaliered apple trees, the hydrangeas, the buddleia which grew so large last year, and the climbing roses on the white arch which we think will really take off this year. We're planning to meet the council managers Enable to look at extending the 'Friends Beds' along the back wall of the gardens parallel to the Nourish and Flourish building.

www.focoronationgardens.co.uk

SOUTHFIELDS LIBRARY SPRING UPDATE

By Sucheta Samant

January featured Dr. Momotaj Islam's compelling author talk on "Coping With Menopause: Psychological tools for navigating the transition and living a balanced life", which sparked meaningful conversations about psychological health and personal transitions. This has led to the introduction of sessions on Wellbeing in the library. It's still in the planning phase so look out for posters in the library. We also had a lovely traditional dance performance by one of our volunteers to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

February celebrated LGBT+ Month through thoughtful, age-appropriate programming. Children took part in Rainbow Craft Activities and we had a special visit from the ever popular Mama G promoting understanding and inclusivity. A curated adult display highlighted Activism and Social Change, displaying influential activists' stories and contributions.

Children's programs are still a library highlight. The Arts and Crafts Club develop creativity,

while Duplo/Lego Builders, Origami and Board Games Club provide interactive experiences. Family-friendly sessions like Baby Rhyme Time, Tiny Tales and Tunes and Story Time continue to draw enthusiastic participants. Adult-focused initiatives address digital literacy and community support. Free sessions led by Digital Champion volunteers



'COMPLETE A PUZZLE' IS FUN

offer Power2Connect Digital Drop-ins, helping individuals navigate technological challenges. Age UK Wandsworth's Digital Inclusion Programme provides free added support for those experiencing digital difficulties. Our newly introduced 'Complete a puzzle' seems to attract all age groups, with new puzzles

now a weekly feature. Health and wellness receive special attention through monthly collaboration with Spectra and Kunsaka. Their programme promotes positive wellbeing in the community. In February they conducted the event "HIV testing & free condom", while in the spring they will be running a trans healthcare advocacy drop in for asylum claimants.

We have taken on a lot of Duke of Edinburgh and work experience Students to share their skills with the young ones, whether it is offering an Italian story time, running a Teenage Reading Group or introducing the game of Carrom. We also have a wide range of new Teen stock to choose from and are always open to suggestions for new authors.

Soon to come - Easter crafts, Fathers' Day, Wandsworth Heritage Month, Wandsworth Arts Fringe Festival and the Summer Reading Challenge for Children. Come on in and meet the friendly staff, join in one of those activities - or just borrow a book!

sucheta.samant@gll.org

FOOD BANK CELEBRATE 5 YEARS OF HELP

By Diana Chitty



DIANA, LINDA AND ROGER

It's 5 years since we started collecting donations for Trussell Trust Foodbanks at our house in Elsenham Street. That was at the start of lockdown in March 2020, when our volunteers and staff were unable to use our local centres to distribute food, as everybody was confined to their homes. Emergency food deliveries had to be made by car, and many donation points were closed. So at 154 Elsenham Street we put up handmade posters in our front windows inviting people to drop in food with us, probably during their one-hour-only daily walk!

This proved to be the start of a constant wave of generosity from those living on Southfields Grid and its surrounding areas, and donations have never stopped arriving on our doorstep. Pictured are Grid residents Roger and Linda, who have donated every single week since the start. They add additional items to their online shop after noting our current Foodbank needs, which we post on our blackboard easels (provided by the SGRA) in front of our house.

Linda has regularly arrived, sometimes accompanied by her enthusiastic grandchildren, with chocolate treats she's hand made for Easter, and at Christmas "from Santa" for local children in need. Roger and Linda are one example of the community spirit and kindness we have seen on the Southfields Grid. It is a privilege to live here, and to meet the many Foodbank donors who stop to chat at our door.

In the last 6 months we have seen an 8% increase in the number of emergency food parcels distributed in Wandsworth compared to last year, and an 85% increase against 2019. 1 in 3 of our supply packages this year were for local children. So it was particularly helpful to receive so many "Reverse Advent Calendars". This Christmas project involves collecting one item a day for the 24 days of Advent from a list we publish on social media and outside our house. This has proved very popular with families, and boosted our stocks tremendously.

A huge thank you to all those who took part over Christmas, and everyone who kindly donates. Everything given meets critical needs, and is greatly appreciated. Remember you can drop off food, essential toiletries, nappies and household cleaning items at 154 Elsenham Street. Donations of money can be made online at wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk/donate

diana.chitty@btinternet.com

ST BARNABAS CHURCH NEWS

By Jennie Allen, Church Warden

Now that Rev. Vanessa Elston is in post our 9.00am Sunday Eucharist service has been reinstated. Our 10.30 am Sunday Eucharist continues as usual, plus we have a family service particularly suitable for small children on the 1st Sunday of the month at 9.30am followed by refreshments. Our inspiring Sung Compline, featuring the excellent St Barnabas choir led by Greg Skidmore, continues once a month on the following Sundays at 7pm. All are very welcome.

- **Sunday 23rd March**
- **Sunday, 27th April**
- **Sunday, 18th May**
- **Sunday, 15th June**

Special services coming up are as follows:

- **30th March Mothering Sunday - flower posies and simnel cake!**
- **13th April Palm Sunday and the start of Holy Week**
- **17th April Maundy Thursday**
- **18th April Good Friday 11am**
- **20th April Easter Sunday**

Please check our website for service timings at

www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk

Our halls can be also booked via our website above. Call our administrator Svenja Taylor on 020 8480 2290 each Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday morning from 8.30-12.30pm if you have any questions. There are lots of fitness classes being offered, including adult ballet. Our 'Monday Club' social club for the over 50s meets in the Parish Room (entrance on Lavenham Road) every Monday from 2-3.30pm.

St Barnabas' garden, specifically managed to encourage bird and insect life, has had its hedges and shrubs trimmed back well before the sparrows even think of starting to nest. Ivy climbing up the church walls has been cut through at the bottom, so that it will die off naturally over time and not damage our brickwork. Our Winter Cherry tree is in blossom.

stbarnabassouthfieldsoffice@gmail.com



VANESSA'S INDUCTION SERVICE

THE MEND, FIX AND REPAIR CAFE REVOLUTION

By Emily Slaven, The Furniture Narrative and MFR Cafe volunteer

What would you do with a 20-year-old pair of jeans, torn and frayed? Toss them? At the Southfields Mend, Fix & Repair Cafe they were saved thanks to some skilled volunteers. Residents can bring a broken item to the cafe free of charge, where a volunteer will attempt to fix it. The best part? The owner watches the repair process, learning how to fix it themselves in the future. Lamps, followed by toasters and vacuums, have been the cafe's most common broken item. The modest repair cafe in its 2 years has made some incredible achievements:

- 1,031 kg of waste prevented
- 5,426 kg of CO₂ prevented
- Over 270 successful repairs
- 837 hours volunteered

Source: therestartproject.org/fixometer-2



FIXING IT FOR ONE FAMILY

Why is this important? With every repair we reduce waste and take a step towards a more circular economy. Small fixes, like tightening a wobbly chair leg, prevent unnecessary purchases and keep good items out of landfill.

Serena Potter, who co-ordinates the MFR Cafe project, says those statistics also have a wider purpose. "By uploading repair data to the 'Fixometer' we're contributing to the Restart Project's work on advocacy for more repairable products with manufacturers, and repair policies. The Southfields team were represented at a Parliamentary Repair Cafe in 2024, where MPs were invited to sign up to the 'Repair and Reuse Declaration' and support the implementation of key policies. Our own MP Fleur Anderson was an early signatory." You can find out more at www.therestartproject.org

There's more. At the Repair Cafe a cup of coffee is more than a refreshment, it's time to connect and maybe share stories of cherished belongings. Delicious homemade cakes are offered at intentionally low prices, ensuring cost is never a barrier to joining. And in a world where loneliness is common, gatherings like this offer a sense of belonging. That's why spaces like this matter, not just for sustainability but for wellbeing too.

Our Repair Cafe isn't just about mending broken items. It's about building a more connected community. Whether you go to

January repair cafe stats!



RESULTS FROM LAST CAFE

fix something, learn a new skill or simply enjoy a chat over a cup of tea, you'll find a truly welcoming space. So next time you need something repaired, or just fancy a friendly conversation and a slice of cake, do stop by. The Repair Cafe will be there, ready with tools, tea, and a friendly face. The next couple of dates are:

- Saturday 26th April, 12-3pm
- Saturday 14th June, 12-3pm, during the council's 'Great Big Green Week'.

New repairers and volunteers are always welcome. Do get in touch with us via restartsouthfields@gmail.com

SOUTHFIELDS GRID SPRING PROPERTY MARKET REVIEW

By Maddie Miller, Loney Miller estate agents

2025 has started with a bang in the Southfields property sales market. This is a huge relief given that the end of 2024 was frankly pretty dull, with the build-up to, and after-effects of, the Autumn Budget resulting in limited stock levels.

Stock levels are up, once buyers are able to see and understand the variety of properties available in Southfields, and appreciate the 21 different designs of house on "The Grid". Although this may be interpreted as more stock = more competition, therefore prices coming down a bit, in fact we find the availability of stock helps to reassure buyers they are buying the right property for them, because they have seen a wider section of the market.

Buyers are still paying a huge premium for the real "box-tickers." For houses this means fully extended homes which have been finished and styled to a good standard, and include extras such as:

- a utility room
- a downstairs WC
- an extended kitchen
- an island or peninsula, and plenty of space to entertain
- 4/5 bedrooms
- 2+ bathrooms



MADDIE MILLER

For these types of properties houses can reach £1.6 - £1.65 million. For flats, beautifully styled accommodation with good proportions and a well-considered layout will range from £600-£900k depending on size, number of bedrooms etc. Contact me for the full list!

In lettings, we are seeing a similar market to this time last year. The number of homes being let has been identical, as have the prices agreed, no doubt a welcome change for tenants considering the drastic price hikes of the past few years. However there is lower tenant activity, indicative of a slight softening of the lettings market. This means for landlords it's vital to price accurately, to get the highest level of interest and find the right tenant.

Please get in touch if you are thinking of selling now or in the future, or if you need advice on extending/refurbishing with resale in mind, or styling for sale. I am always happy to discuss, call 020 8945 7555 or mmiller@loneymiller.co.uk

FRONT GARDEN AWARDS RETURN IN JUNE

By Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, FGA organiser

I know we're only just into spring, but I'm thinking about this summer and specifically our annual Front Garden Awards. This year we are commemorating the SGRA's 50th anniversary, so what better way to celebrate than having plant and flower infused front gardens and street bases?

This year, as in previous years, we'll be handing out awards for 'Best Front Gardens' and 'Best Street Planting.' Judging for both categories will take place between 20-29th June. A reminder that a 'front garden' can be a window ledge, a space outside your door, pots, containers, hanging baskets as well as a more conventional plot. You don't need to sign up, as everyone living on the Grid is included.

So let us, the Grid community, start pruning, digging, planting, attracting wildlife and gardening. Green spaces are so incredibly special - let us make the most of them.



LAST YEAR'S WINNER

FLUTE CONCERT AT ST BARNABAS

'Flute music through the centuries' will be the featured theme when the very talented young flautist and Grid resident Charlotte Holmes plays a concert at St Barnabas Church on Saturday 26th April starting at 7pm in a concert entitled 'Souvenirs from Europe: A journey through time'. The flute and piano recital will feature works by Mozart, Widor, Debussy and Martin". She will be accompanied by Lydia Newlands.

Charlotte Holmes studies at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff

with Sarah Bennington, Elizabeth May and Jonathan Burgess. Charlotte was locally educated at St Cecilia's Southfields and, when not studying, lives with her family on the Grid. Lydia Newlands studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Philip Jenkin and Geoffrey Pratley.

Admission to the concert will be free, but donations in aid of the St Barnabas/Glass Door night shelter for homeless people will be gratefully accepted.



CHARLOTTE HOLMES

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For more information: www.corefocusphysiopilates.com

Few remaining spaces for Pre-School and Reception 2025

Book a School Tour

DONHEAD PREPARATORY SCHOOL
A Coeducational Independent School welcoming 3-11 year old pupils

LOCAL FACILITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

SGRA Executive Committee

Chairman: Charles Runcie | 020 8875 9565

charles@charlesruncie.co.uk

Secretary: Ian Shaw | 07554 898538

imks11662@outlook.com

Members Sec: Serena Potter | 07778 419569

sgrasecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Ameet Phadnis | 07540 646564

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

Pirbright Road

Charles Runcie at 17

Replingham Road

Sue Gunn at 51

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
Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce www.wandsworthchamber.org

Cultural

Singswell - www.singswell.co.uk

"Southfields storyteller" - www.hannahneed.co.uk

Sounds of Southfields - www.soundsouthfields.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.loveforallhatredfornone.org

Wimbledon Mosque, Durnsford Road - www.wimbledonmosque.org

Interest groups

Friends of Coronation Gardens - www.focoronationgardens.co.uk

Friends of Wimbledon Park - www.friendsfowimbledonpark.org.uk

Green the Grid - www.frontgardenfriendly.uk

Grid Mummies - erica_loi@hotmail.com

Southfields Chess Club - via Sabores_southfieldschess@gmail.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

U3a - further education www.wandsworth.u3a.org.uk

Sport

All England Club - www.wimbledon.com

Wimbledon, 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

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

Tuesday 25th March, 7.45pm - SGRA public meeting

Wednesday 26th March, 2-3pm - 'Cuppa with a Copper', Caffe Nero

Sunday 13th April - Palm Sunday, start of Easter Week. See page 13 for full listings.

Wednesday 23rd April, 7.30-9pm - Friends of Coronation Gardens AGM, Scout Hut, Replingham Road

Saturday 12th April, 10.30am - Police SNT Ward Panel Meeting

Saturday 26th April, 12-3pm - Mend, Fix, Repair Cafe

Tuesday 20th May, 7.45pm - SGRA AGM

Saturday 14th June, 12-3pm - Mend, Fix, Repair Cafe

Sunday 15th June, 3pm - 'The Taming of the Shrew', Coronation Gardens, Pirbright Road

Sunday 19th July, 12-3pm - Coronation Gardens community open day, Pirbright Road

The summer 2025 issue of Grid News will be published in mid-July. Articles, features and information for consideration should be sent to the Editor by Monday 16th June. Email them to info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk, and we'd love to hear your stories and comments.

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.