

GRID NEWS

AUTUMN/WINTER 2025/6

Delivered free to every home and business in Southfields Grid

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

MP'S RECEPTION AND QUIZ ARE BIRTHDAY HIGHLIGHTS

By Charles Runcie

Two recent events marked the SGRA's 50th birthday in style. From Westminster to our local church, our residents and local organisations were all involved.

Monday 14th July was a red letter day (or rather a buff envelope one) as around 70 people from Southfields travelled to the Palace of Westminster. They had been invited to a special early evening reception in the Jubilee Room hosted by local MP Fleur Anderson to mark the 50th anniversary of the SGRA having been founded in May 1975. "I am delighted to welcome the SGRA committee, members, friends and many other community figures from the Grid here to celebrate this milestone", Fleur announced. Many had never met each other, but mingled happily and shared their stories of 'Grid' life. Fleur added "Founded by local residents, the SGRA has been a voice for Southfields for half a century. Happy birthday!"

One of those early committee members, Dr Nick Steiner, was in attendance. Founding



OUR SGRA BIRTHDAY PARTY

chairman Tina Thompson, whose pioneering work was featured in the summer edition of 'Grid News', sent good wishes from her home in Stoneleigh but sadly was unable to attend. Another notable guest who spoke was our former MP from 2005-19 Justine Greening. Commemorative glass tumblers were given to the current SGRA office bearers for their work, and the delicious tea of sandwiches and cakes rapidly disappeared! Following the reception many guests were lucky enough to be given a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster by Fleur.

Then on Friday 10th October around 90 packed into St Barnabas Church for our Golden Anniversary 'SGRA Big Quiz'. This event had a special Southfields flavour to it, with a couple of rounds containing some clever questions leading to local shops and landmarks. A record 11 tables of residents were kept on their toes by question master Adrian Redgers through 10 rounds, with 'Elborough & Co' emerging as the eventual winners after a tiebreaker with 'The Arctic Rolls'. The pre-quiz meal supplied by local caterer 'Food for Thought' was delicious, and the bar kept busy too, with profits going towards Church funds. The quiz turned a net profit of £546, which will go towards local charities.

Our 50th anniversary events have now concluded, and the Committee would like to say a big thank you all those who have organised or attended these and other events. With membership at a record level and new initiatives on the way there is plenty to look forward to as the SGRA enters its next half century.

POSSIBLE PARKING CHANGES TO GRID - COUNCIL SURVEY

Wandsworth Council plan to undertake an imminent review of the CPZ controls operating in the northernmost part of Southfields Grid. They have added a CPZ review of the Southfields S2 sub-zone to their workload programme for 2025/26 following a successful petition by residents in the northern part of two Grid streets.

There has been increasing concern at the current parking pressures on residents at the top ends of Heythorp and Elsenham streets near Replingham Road. "We believe extending the current restrictions, by lengthening the hours of enforcement particularly on Mondays to Fridays, would alleviate these problems and make the streets safer and more convenient for residents" explained Ellie Polhill, one of the petition organisers. "Changes would not only improve local traffic flow, but also help reduce the environmental impact caused by

congestion".

Steve Lane, Senior Parking Policy Officer at Wandsworth Council, confirmed the move to 'Grid News'. "We intend to undertake an Operational Review, to include a consultation with residents and businesses within the S2 sub-zone, following the petition submitted seeking a review of the parking arrangements at the top end (northernmost) of Heythorp Street and Elsenham Street". He added: "We are yet to finalise a start date for this project, but it is expected to start in early October, with the consultation hopefully starting in November 2025".

Mr Lane had also attended the September SGRA public meeting, when in a lively session he outlined the current situation and what was planned. The consultation process would involve a questionnaire, then considering

options. A report would be submitted to the current Cabinet member for Transport Jennie Yates, followed by later approval at Cabinet level.

Issues raised at the meeting included why those in Zone S3 were not being consulted at the same time, as any changes in Zone S2 would have implications for Zone S3. Mr Lane said that no such petition had been submitted from Zone S3, but confirmed that before any changes suggested for Zone S2 were implemented residents in Zone 3 would be consulted.

The Council has decided to swap the position of the ebike bay in Elsenham Street with the Car Club bay. An additional 'No Entry' sign will be installed, and an in-App message from Lime Bikes will remind users starting/ending their journey that the street is one-way from south to north.

EDITOR'S LETTER



Hello - welcome to another bumper issue of 'Grid News'.

We've 20 pages of good stuff - there has been so much happening recently I was tempted to make it 30! Our aim is always to reflect all aspects of life on the Grid, so hope you enjoy the variety of articles and features. Our busy 50th Anniversary Year is almost over, and I think we have done plenty to raise the SGRA's profile and the work we do.

Our last big event of 2025 is a first - the launch of 'Grid Kids'. It has been championed by our energetic new Executive Committee member Will Smart. His idea, first mooted at our AGM in May, was to do something exciting for our junior Grid Residents. You can see how he did on page 7. More new happenings are reflected - a first ever 'Yard Trail Sale' and our new Wandle Primary Care Network (PCN) to improve our health.

I am pleased our SGRA Treasurer Ameet Phadnis will pen a regular article on our financial position, which I am pleased to say is in healthy shape. It means we can help good causes aimed at improving life on the Grid to get going. It also provides organisational transparency regarding where the money given each year via your subs goes. Not paid yet - please do. We have no other source of income. Details are on the back page.

Christmas will soon be upon us! Do not forget the Lights Switch On, taking place from 4pm on Wednesday 3rd December and promising to be better than ever. There is the busy activity at St Barnabas Church, from the Christmas Fair on Saturday 29th November to their week of services reflecting the true meaning of Christmas. Do give Rev Vanessa Elston a warm welcome on her very first 'Southfields Christmas'.

Hopefully see you at our next public meeting on Tuesday 25th November.

Best wishes!
Charles Runcie
Chair, SGRA
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CARTOON BY GERARD



CONTACT GERARD AT GGERARD.SEBASTIAN@GMAIL.COM

SGRA FINANCE UPDATE 2025-26

By Ameet Phadnis, Treasurer

Here is a quick update on our finances, as we are now over half-way through our financial year. We have a healthy cash balance, boosted by your valuable subscription contributions which are still being tallied as we go to print, and support from our local advertisers. We have historically carried a positive balance in our account, the result of careful management of funds over the years from subscriptions and advertising. This has averaged around £4,000 annually, which we agreed to put to good use this year.

In our 50th anniversary year we have a strong list of community activities we have budgeted to support. These included:

- **Front Garden Awards (£270)**
- **Green the Grid (£400)**

- **Parliamentary Reception to celebrate the 50th (£800)**
- **Art Festival (£250)**
- **Southfields Business Forum (£500)**
- **Grid Kids (£500)**

In addition our Executive Committee agreed to support the Friends of Coronation Gardens Heritage Drinking Fountain restoration (£2,000) as an important contribution to local causes.

Our budget this year is planned to support more local activities than last year, but we remain cautious and prudent as an Executive Committee. There will be a budget update at our next public meeting November 27th, and more information on all the items above are available online at the SGRA website. Thanks for your support!

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SOUTHFIELDS POPPY APPEAL RAISES £000'S

This year's local Poppy Appeal centred around our tube station raised more than ever. The card reader alone took nearly £7000.

The collection was organised by former Mayor of Wandsworth and familiar local face Jane Cooper, asked at late notice by the Royal British Legion after the Ahmadiyya Mosque on Gressenhall Road pulled out.

The withdrawal of the mosque team was disappointing, as in previous year's they had raised impressive amounts. PR at the mosque Dr Sardar Ahmad said it was "very sad indeed". Their management explained

"We are currently supporting many charities in the UK. Our auxiliary organisation's resources that support the Poppy Appeal are fully committed elsewhere, hence unable to resource volunteers. They shall review the circumstances in the future. We remain fully committed as loyal citizens."

Mrs Cooper said this year's role was a temporary one. "I am hoping we can find an organiser in good time for 2026 from somewhere on the Grid. I am responsible for other locations, so would prefer to concentrate on them". If you would like to help in any capacity, please contact Jane at jane@poppy-appeal.com

AELTC NEWS SPECIAL - ON AND OFF THE COURTS

Waiting goes on for AELTC expansion plans appeal

By Simon Wright, "Save Wimbledon Park"

Save Wimbledon Park (SWP) are still waiting to hear whether we can appeal against the Judicial Review of the GLA's decision to grant the All England Lawn Tennis

Club (AELTC) permission to build on the former Wimbledon Park golf course. SWP are also preparing for another court case against AELTC, to be held in January 2026. This case is designed to establish whether the land was sold correctly by Merton back in 1993. On November 3rd AELTC attempted to subvert this legal action by getting Lord Gus O'Donnell to propose an amendment to the Government's Planning and Infrastructure Bill as it made its way through the House of Lords.

O'Donnell is a Director of AELTC, and AELTC would directly benefit from his amendment. Both local MP's, Fleur Anderson and Paul Kohler, have condemned this behaviour as 'scandalous'. Peers of all political persuasion spoke against O'Donnell's amendment, and it was not passed.

Updates will be posted at www.savewimbledon.org

Free community nature events at Wimbledon

By Ulrika Hogberg, Head of Community Strategy, AELTC

On Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th March 2026 the All England Club will be hosting their regular nature weekend. As spring returns, the Nature Weekend celebrates the importance of water for wildlife and marks



EXPLORING OUR SURROUNDINGS

the start of frog spawning season.

As always the event will be held at the former Wimbledon Park Golf Course clubhouse, and it free to come along. You will also find plenty of arts and crafts activities. There will be free tea and coffee plus squash, and the opening times are 10am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm both days.

On the same two days the AELTC will be running their regular monthly guided tours of the southern part of the former Wimbledon Park golf course, giving local residents a chance to hear more about the proposals for that piece of land.

There are three guided walks a day each day, at the following times:

- 9.30 - 10.45am
- 11.30 - 12.45pm
- 2.15 - 3.30pm

Panel to tackle complaints for 2026

By Ian Shaw, SGRA Secretary

Fleur Anderson chaired a Round Table at St Barnabas Church on Wednesday 24th September, to discuss the considerable feedback from residents raised at our SGRA Public Meeting on Tuesday 22nd July. That feedback mainly focussed on how the queue was managed in Wimbledon Park during the Championships fortnight. 21 people were invited from all sections of the area, including the SGRA, AELTC, Merton Council, nearby residents' associations, Southfields Business Forum and regular users of Wimbledon Park.

Most of the issues discussed concerned:

1. **the inadequate provision of toilets, both permanent and temporary**
2. **the non-enforcement of byelaws in Wimbledon Park, to ensure correct behaviour of those in the queues**
3. **the lack of confidence in the ability of security guards, contractors and stewards to enforce the rules established by the AELTC and/or even set in the byelaws**
4. **the lack of effective means of contacting, or making complaints, to AELTC/Merton Council**
5. **working with AELTC to ensure local businesses can, on a timeslot basis, have**

Upcoming 2026 dates are:

- **16th January**
- **20th February**
- **28th March**
- **29th March**
- **24th April**

For more information about the nature weekend and how to register your interest in attending, or to book a spot for one of the guided walks, please visit www.wimbledon.com/community



EXPLORING OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS

a presence in Wimbledon Park

One of the underlying questions underpinning the above was - who was responsible for what? Fleur Anderson suggested setting up a Community Panel to take forward work. It would be a good vehicle for all interested groups to work together, agree who does what and make necessary arrangements in time for the 2026 Championships. The intention would be resolving, as best as possible, the issues raised above. Membership could be based on the attendees of the Round Table.

Both the AELTC's Chair Debbie Jevans and Merton Council would be asked to provide a stats report on progress at the SGRA public meeting on Tuesday 31st March.

SOUTHFIELDS A POPULAR VENUE FOR 'OPEN HOUSE' WEEKENDS

By Slavica Struthers-Kennedy

The first two weekends of October saw local artists open their homes and studios to welcome visitors in. This was the third artist-led Open House event, organised by three volunteers and sponsored by Wandsworth Council, London's 'Borough of Culture' for 2025.

Over 150 artists exhibited in Wandsworth. This year Southfields increased the number of exhibitors from 31 to 46 of that total, and the number of venues from 18 to 29. Best year ever! On display we had paintings, ceramics, textiles, jewellery, photography and much, much more. Our visitors were given a treat - they came, they saw and they bought. Three featured artists were:

Mary Newstead - a keen collector of old and interesting artefacts and curios, she is always on the lookout for anything that can be used to enhance her pottery like old coral, shells & ancient ammonites, some of which are millions of years old. When impressed into damp clay they add texture to her work, and by re-purposing old finds in this way the marks they leave add a sense of history while also giving the relics a new lease of life in the decoration. She will be selling at St. Michael's Church Christmas

Fair on Friday 28th November, and will have a table at the Southfields Christmas Lights Switch On Wednesday 3rd December. Mary can be contacted at www.solylunalondon.com or email solylunalondon@yahoo.com



MARY NEWSTEAD'S WORK

Rosi Garcia del Rio and Sarah Donlan - they chose to highlight protection of the environment and recycling practices via painting, mixed media, textiles and jewellery. "We had a wonderful exhibition, and many people came and enjoyed our works and were so appreciative" reflected Sarah. "We are so happy to see so much talent in Southfields, an

extremely positive and rewarding experience". "It was nice to see people come from far and wide to do our Southfields art trail" added Rosi. "We really enjoyed hearing the beautiful comments about our creations, Thanks to all who visited our show". You can contact them at sdonlan1@gmail.com or rosigarcia delrio@hotmail.com



SARAH, JANE COOPER + ROSI

We will start planning next year's Southfields Art Festival shortly. It will be held on Saturday 7th March in St Barnabas Church. If you are a local artist who has a space to exhibit please register your interest. We shall be in touch with you with more details in due course.

Slavica@melroseroad.net

Follow us on Instagram: [@ArtistsOpenHouse](https://www.instagram.com/ArtistsOpenHouse)

Website www.artistsopenhouse.co.uk

SOUTHFIELDS LIBRARY AUTUMN NEWS ROUNDUP

By Sucheta Sumant, Manager

I thought it would be nice for once to go through what has been happening at our library over the past few weeks, so residents can see what they might have missed if they have not visited us recently. Apart from a super selection of books and tapes to borrow, plus a sizeable children's section, we have a number of weekly events that take place in our building, from a sewing circle to origami folding! Three of the weekly events are:

• **Tuesdays, 11am-1pm: Coffee Morning.** Come in for a free cup of tea or coffee every week and enjoy reading a daily newspaper too.

• **Wednesdays, 2-4pm: Power2Connect's 'Digital Drop-ins'.** Free sessions to get expert advice from our Digital Champion volunteers. No booking is required.

• **Fridays, 11-11:30am: Story Time.** Take a break, and listen to some stories with your child (aged 3-5yrs) read by us.

We have also had special one-off events. Two in October were:

• **Wednesday 15th, 10am-12.30pm. Oral health clinic.** Run by a friendly oral health professional, this was a lively, informative morning to discover useful tips to keep your teeth healthy. For the whole family!

• **Wednesday 29th, Halloween Craft 3.30-4.30pm. A special Halloween-themed arts and crafts session for those aged 3+.**

We were delighted to be invited and able to participate in this year's Southfields Harvest at St Barnabas Church. It was a fantastic opportunity to engage with the community and highlight our services such as our Home Delivery Library Service, and our on-site activities including those Halloween themed arts, crafts for children and our book clubs.

During the event we promoted library



FOYER FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

membership, and successfully welcomed six new members including Rev Vanessa, into our library family. We distributed our latest newsletter, handed out badges to children, and took the opportunity to ask visitors what kind of activities they would like to see offered at the library. We had substantial interest in running book folding workshops, and it was suggested we include yoga sessions to our portfolio. It was also good to note that many attendees were already Library members, and many mentioned how valued our services were, such as the Children's Library and our Italian Conversation class.

Our council's 'Libraries First' strategy, developed with local people, aims to ensure our libraries continue to serve every resident. Whether it is a child discovering books for the first time, a jobseeker accessing digital tools or a family looking for a warm, welcoming space, there is something for everyone on the Grid. We have a lot of activities planned over the winter months which will be listed in our free monthly newsletter which is available at the library anytime.

Learn more about this and all that Southfields Library can offer by emailing me at Sucheta.Samant@GLL.ORG or ring me at 020 8780 1945.

ST BARNABAS CHURCH NEWS UPDATE

By Jennie Allen

Help our Garden Grow - St Barnabas hosted several events in the summer that promoted sustainability in the face of climate change, including a Green Gathering, the quarterly Repair Cafe and Southfields Harvest 2025. We have also recently formed a Gardening Group, and would be delighted to include anyone locally who enjoys working outside, whether you are an experienced gardener or not.



OUR LOVELY CRAB APPLE TREE

We plan to continue supporting insect and bird life via our outdoor spaces, in keeping with our Bronze Eco Church Award. We also want to make the garden more accessible and colourful with spring bulbs, a wildflower section and more flowering shrubs. We had a healthy crop of crab apples on the tree we planted in memory of Peter Jackson.

We are also in the process of cleaning and repairing our War Memorial. St Barnabas is for hire. We have several halls as well as the upstairs room, which is suitable for smaller meetings, The Church itself is often used for concerts or big events, such as election hustings, the Christmas Fair and our annual 'Big Quiz'.

Our website <https://stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk> gives full details of our regular calendar of classes and activities. These include Pilates, light exercise for older people, a social club for over-50s with quizzes and refreshments on Monday afternoons, plus many different sessions for children that offer ballet, tennis, singing, movement and play.

The Southfields Sings choir and the amateur drama group Cygnet Players rehearse at St Barnabas, the latter group sometimes staging productions in the Church itself. If you are thinking of starting up a class, or wish to book the halls as a one-off, do contact Svenja on the number below.

If you would like to join us please email stbarnabssouthfieldsoffice@gmail.com or call our administrator Svenja Taylor in the office on 020 8480 2290.

Advent and Christmas events and services:

• **Saturday 29th November - St Barnabas Christmas Fair from 12-3pm, a chance to support local makers and businesses, plus children's activities, refreshments and a gift raffle. Entrance £2, free for children.**

• **Saturday 6th December, 10.30-2pm - Advent Spirituality. An introduction to what this season offers, with a 'bring and share' lunch.**

• **Friday 19th December, 6.30-8pm, Street Carol Singing ending in a local pub. Meet from 6.15pm at the Lavenham Rd entrance.**

• **Sunday 21st December, 10.30am - All-age Family Service, with dressing up for children. 7pm - Nine Lessons and Carols, followed by refreshments.**

• **Wednesday 24th December, 4pm - Crib Service with the St Barnabas Band.**

• **Wednesday 24th, December, 11:30pm - Midnight Mass.**

• **Thursday 25th, December 10.30am - Family Service.**

SOUTHFIELDS BUSINESS FORUM NEWS UPDATE

By Maddie Miller, SBF co-chair

Our active Southfields Business Forum has been continuing to grow our work, to promote and highlight the range of terrific businesses both shops and home-based. We meet regularly, three new members have joined us recently, and we welcome any others who would like to be involved.

We had an exciting community event in October - our first ever Halloween "Pumpkin Trail" which took place in and around Southfields streets. Participants followed a fun trail map, going from business to business, finding beautifully decorated windows and pumpkins with the all-important clues to solve. Those that answered the main question had the chance to win some amazing prizes donated by our local businesses. The event ran over the autumn half term week from Saturday 25th October, with "spooky" dressing up and prizes for the best dressed.

The Forum is also in touch with all our Southfields shops, asking about their current concerns regarding shoplifting and crime.

We shall then collate the findings and discuss the results with our local police.

Save the date for one of the stand-out events of the year on the Grid! It is our wonderful Southfields Christmas Lights switch-on, promoted by the SBF in association with Wandsworth Council and the All England Club at Wimbledon. It will be held from 4pm onwards on Wednesday 3rd December. After the huge success of last year, we will have lots more stalls selling fantastic festive treats and gifts. We hope to see some tennis and AFC Wimbledon players, maybe a Womble, and of course good old Santa will be busy in his grotto. Good fun guaranteed!

As part of this, to help create a bigger and better event than ever before, we will be running an online auction to raise funds for the Forum to invest in the community. The auction will be live from 12th November to 12th December, and we are reaching out to businesses and retailers in the Grid area and asking for donations to auction on the day and the weeks preceding. This could be anything from an item, a voucher or a

service, and everything in between! Anything that you would be willing to offer would be gratefully received.

Use the QR code to see details and current auction items, and thank you for your consideration. Our website is www.southfieldsbusinessforum.org.uk



SBF QR CODE

FIVE WAYS TO CHANGE RECYCLING FOR THE BETTER

By Marina Calland, RMS coordinator

The autumn has been a busy season so far for Recycle More Southfields. We held two public events, firstly a stall at the Yard Sale Trail and then a series of mini talks at 'Southfields Harvest'. Recycle More Southfields is a local initiative which helps local residents cut their plastic waste through recycling and choosing plastic-free alternatives. At both events we ran a short recycling quiz, for recycled prizes of course. This highlighted some gaps in knowledge, as we all struggle to keep up to date with what can be recycled locally and how. Here we distil key information from the quiz and the talks, to help you improve your recycling.

1. Check what our council accepts

It sounds obvious, but our council recycling is improving all the time. Most of us check what is accepted when we move to our homes, then never check the list again. But the list of what is accepted does change and expand. For example, did you know what Wandsworth Council accepts both trigger spray and pump mechanisms, as long as they are attached to the bottles they came with? This is a relatively new thing - a couple of years ago trigger sprays were not accepted.

The same goes for all the plastic lids - reattach them to the bottles they came with, whether milk, water, cleaning products, shampoos etc., and recycle them together. It is all in the small print. See the latest at

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling

2. Do not "wish cycle"

Putting the wrong items into your recycling

may cause more harm than good. Items not accepted by the council can clog up the sorting machinery, and as a result your whole load can be rejected. Oily pizza boxes are not accepted. Nor is shredded paper. Put both of those into your black bags. It is better to recycle fewer things, but the right ones.

3. Find out what to do with rubbish your council does not accept

Lots of items can be recycled with specialist recyclers, but you need to know where to take them. Soft plastics such as bubble wrap, shrink wrap, crisps and snacks packets and those thin lids from the fruit punnets can all be recycled at larger supermarkets. For Southfields, nearby supermarkets that accept plastics are Marks & Spencer in Southfields, the Co-op in Wimbledon Park, and Sainsbury's and Waitrose in Wandsworth.

A lot of other hard-to-recycle items can be recycled with us at Recycle More Southfields: medicine blister packs, contact lenses packaging, pens, plastic tooth brushes and much more. Everything needs to be pre-sorted, and we collect at two locations on the Grid, as per weekly schedule. See our website www.recyclenoresouthfields.org

4. Organise!

The recycling scene is complex and may sound a bit intimidating. Also, where do we store all these items at home? We recommend you have a bag for your council recycling, another bag for the soft plastics and a shoe box for all other hard-to-recycle items. If you empty them regularly that is all you need to do to dramatically improve your home recycling.

5. Share your recycling knowledge with family and neighbours



MARINA INSPIRES SOUTHFIELDS HARVEST CROWD

This will multiply the impact! Plus, it is always better to do it together. We have a very good resources page on our website

www.recyclenoresouthfields.org/post/recycle-more-southfields-resources



RMS QR CODE

Follow us on Instagram: [@recyclemore_southfields](https://www.instagram.com/recyclemore_southfields).

Our email address is recyclenoresouthfields@gmail.com or scan the above QR code.

GRID PHYSIOTHERAPIST MARKS A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

By Gwen Brits-Peenz

Many Grid residents will know Irene Albertson, who this year celebrates 20 years as a physiotherapist here in Southfields. Irene first began practising locally in the summer of 2005, setting up at 'Cure by Nature' on Replingham Road - with her daughter Leora just four months old at the time.

As her client base grew, Irene moved into her own premises next door to my salon, 'Transform Hair and Beauty', and we soon became friends as well as neighbours. Fifteen years later she is the proud owner of 'Southfields Physio' at 138 Replingham Road with no less than 38 staff members. The Pilates classes are now in St Barnabas Church,

where the team are continuing to serve the community with the same professionalism and



PHYSIO IRENE

care she is known for.

Her parents, family and children have been her greatest supporters throughout this time, and her dedication and drive are an inspiration to all. Many of them, along with valued patients, staff and friends, attended

a special party held in her honour to celebrate her two decades of work. This was held on the 18th July at the Hotel Du Vin in Wimbledon.

In addition to her busy Southfields clinic, Irene and her team also provide physiotherapy services to the All England Lawn Tennis Club. "The AELTC approached me to tender for the provision of physio services while I was stuck in South Africa during COVID, recalls Irene. "It was an exciting and challenging process, but we won the contract in 2021. It has since been renewed for another three years".

Congratulations to Irene and everyone at Southfields Physio on two decades of service to our Grid community from your neighbour Gwen. Here is to many more successful years ahead!

TONS OF FUN FOR FAMILIES AS THE SGRA LAUNCHES 'GRID KIDS'

By Will Smart

In this our 50th year of the SGRA we have set up a junior SGRA, or 'Grid Kids'. The aim is to continue our legacy through focusing on families across the Grid, to meet and participate in activities and events with a focus on community involvement, and having fun together with our Grid neighbours.

'Grid Kids' welcomed families for its inaugural event on Saturday 8th November at St Barnabas Church. There were in excess of 50 families in attendance, and it was fabulous to see everyone having a great time meeting neighbours from across the Grid, getting stuck in with the activities - and enjoying the mountains of cake!

The most popular events in the main hall were Crafts with the fantastic Planet Art team, who put on a lantern-making activity to highlight the changing clocks and darker evenings. The Wacky Racers Lego speed ramp was also a huge hit, from younger Grid members to Parents, and our very own

Committee member Sue who was running the stand. Some fantastic creations and dubious times were recorded on our 'Top Gear' - inspired leaderboards but a lot of fun was had!

Away from the main room, the younger children enjoyed a Teddy Bear themed story telling time, kindly read by Julia from Seahorse Nursery. We have never seen a group of children sit so attentively!

It had such a lovely atmosphere, and was such a fabulous way to spend a Saturday afternoon" said one delighted parent afterwards. "I feel really lucky to be part of such a great community".

Suggestion boards provided the opportunity for everyone to contribute their ideas for the future of 'Grid Kids' which we will endeavour to support as the initiative grows over the coming years. We had some fantastic responses to the statement "Why I love the Grid" with a common theme being Community and People. We also had a good

level of interest from children wanting to help direct the future of 'Grid Kids' by joining our Junior/Fun Committee.

We would like to thank all the families who came and supported our first event, with special mentions to Amelia, Serena, Sara, Caroline, Janani, Tom, Holly, Julia and James.

We hope 'Grid Kids' will continue to grow and become an integral part of the SGRA, but for us to offer more events we need your support.

• You can make donations to the SGRA directly, with the text "Grid Kids" - see back page for account details

• Volunteer to help with future events by emailing gridkidssouthfields@gmail.com

What is next? We would love everyone to contribute to our next event 'Light the Grid' by adopting and illuminating a tree on their street, and make the Grid a magical Winter Wonderland to walk in this Christmas.

williamsmart@btinternet.com



LOTS OF INTERACTION



DRIVERS PRE-RACE MEETING



EVENT IS IN FULL SWING



PARISH ROOMS FIRST MOON LANDING



THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENGINEERS



STORY TIME FOR MANY

STEVE STEPS DOWN FROM THE ROOF AFTER 40 YEARS

By Charles Runcie

After a lifetime shinning up and down ladders through wind, rain and snow, popular local roofer Steve Burrage has decided to retire. His firm R&S Roofing has now ceased trading. Steve has lived and worked on the Grid for over 40 years serving the residents of Southfields and beyond. Steve's fleet of vans, painted royal blue and white as a nod to his beloved Chelsea FC, have been a mainstay of Southfields life.

Steve was always on hand to help when needed, fixing repairs and stopping leaks across SW18's houses, flats, small businesses, even St Barnabas Church which of course he did free of charge. Those that remember the famous hurricane in 1987 will attest to when he was so busy he had

to unplug his answering machine, and even turn off his pager. Remember those?



STEVE BURRAGE

Steve was naturally excited and sad to be retiring. "Thanks to everyone for your patronage over the last 40 years" he told 'Grid News'. "Southfields has seen many positive changes, and the kindness of the residents is what I will miss the most".

He has now moved away from Southfields, but sends his love and thanks for everyone's

patronage, wishing former clients and residents all the best.

Son Adam added "Dad lived on Revelstoke Road, Astonville Street and Brookwood Road, where his office and fleet of vehicles were parked for many years. His Mum, Dad and Nan lived on nearby Elborough Street for two decades, a real 'Grid family'.

He is now looking forward to tending to his garden, walking the dog and being kept busy by his three grandchildren. There will always be a soft spot in his heart for Southfields though. "The Grid holds so many wonderful memories of five generations of my family who have lived here, so it will always be like home to me".

budge79@me.com

OUR WANDLE PRIMARY CARE NETWORK - EXPLAINED

By Sarah Elliott, Wandle PCN operational manager

Primary care networks (PCNs) are groups of GP practices that work together, and with other health and care providers, to share resources and expertise to deliver a wider range of services locally that might not be possible within an individual practice.

The primary care network for the Southfields Grid and surrounding areas is the Wandle PCN. Formed in 2019 as an alliance between the Earlsfield Practice, Elborough Street Surgery, Southfields Group Practice, Triangle Surgery, and Wandsworth Medical Centre, it is led by founding Clinical Director Dr Laura Quinton. It serves a patient population of approximately 58,000 - small enough to deliver personalised care, yet able to leverage its size to achieve greater impact through collaborative efforts.

Over the past six years, Wandle PCN has enhanced patient services through a diversified, multidisciplinary team of physiotherapists, pharmacists, paramedics, social prescribers etc, prioritizing equitable and accessible care to reduce health inequalities. The PCN's focus on proactive, personalized care drives innovation, moving beyond reactive treatments to address health needs preventatively.

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WANDLE WELLBEING HUB

- **Paramedics: Community-based assessment and treatment visits at patients' homes.**

- **Social Prescribers: Connecting patients with local community services, social support, and activities to improve wellbeing.**

- **Care Coordinators: Overseeing personalised**

care for patients with complex needs, ensuring continuity and comprehensive support.

Introducing the Wandle Wellbeing Hub

Alongside these key services we have recently launched a new community initiative - the Wandle Wellbeing Hub. This collaboration with Surrey Physio Group offers a new dimension of support through social activities, events and expert-led sessions.

With contributions from key partners in voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations e.g. Age UK, Healthwatch, Macmillan, Citizens Advice, the programme is headed by our Social Prescriber Lynne Capocciama, and designed to provide holistic support to patients and carers.

The Hub hosts free, bi-weekly drop-in sessions for our practice patients at Brathway Hall, Brathway Road, London SW18 4BE. It operates every Monday from 10am-1pm and Wednesday from 1:30pm-3:30pm. Complimentary tea and coffee are always available!

Commitment to patients

Collective values of innovation, collaboration, sustainability, and compassion inform every decision and action the team takes. Wandle PCN's guiding principle is to deliver the right services, by the right professionals, at the right time - closer to home, with an unwavering focus on improving the health and wellbeing of its community.

wandlepcn.admin@nhs.net

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PHOTOGRAPHY

WHAT A SEPTEMBER FOR 'SUSTAINABLE SOUTHFIELDS' EVENTS

Three events were held in the Grid in September alone, all coming under the general banner of 'Sustainable Southfields', to coincide with Wandsworth Council's initiative. We look back on them all below.

Mend, Fix & Repair Cafe, Saturday 27th September

By Serena Potter, event organiser

Our 13th Mend, Fix & Repair Cafe reached new heights when we joined with 'Southfields Harvest' for a bumper 'Sustainable Southfields' celebration. We had a record number of 96 items brought through the door, with 56% fixed, plenty more given advice & 'fixable', and just 17 declared 'end of life'. We also had the greatest number of repairers ever, 19, made up of 11 general/electrical & IT, 6 sewing, and bike & jewellery repairers. Plus of course our amazing homemade cakes! Highlights this time were the children's toys and beloved soft friends. There were some incredibly happy under 8s!

We held another event, our 14th, on Saturday 15th November. Details were not available regarding success rates as we went to press. The first event of 2026 will be on Saturday 17th January. As well as 5 regular events next



GUY MAKES JUDITH'S DAY!

year we are looking forward to holding our first Repair Cafe for children and their toys, helping them and their parents learn some new skills. Watch this space, and look out for further information via Grid Kids, the SGRA and our own socials.

As always a huge thank you to all our local volunteers. They dedicate their time and skills freely, and with such enthusiasm. Follow us on Instagram or Facebook, and contact Serena at restartsouthfields@gmail.com



ILGI REPAIRS A BUNNY'S NOSE

First ever Yard Sale Trail is a record breaker

By Gwendolyn Owen, event organiser

Well our 'YST' on the 6/7th September was a massive success. Remember our goal? It was to encourage neighbours to get involved, pitch up tables, and either sell or give away items they may be holding on to but have not got use for. It keeps things out of landfill, and encourages people to enter into dialogue about our culture disposability, and how sharing can be community building.

With over 160 local households signed up to take part we are fairly sure our event was the largest ever Yard Sale Trail to take place in London.

We had great feedback from the Southfields community, particularly about it bringing neighbours together and the opportunities it created for older children and teens to gain confidence and grow entrepreneurial and people skills. We had local MPs and councillors coming down to take part, and even got a selfie with our MP Fleur Anderson. A few residents told me they have made a few hundred pounds, which is great!

We have already had local businesses and another local church reach out, wanting to be involved next year. We will be back in 2026 for sure, once again under the 'Sustainable September' umbrella. Thanks again for your amazing support.



A SUPER STALL ON CLONMORE

12th annual Southfields Harvest serves up delights

By Jennie Allen, event co-founder

The last Saturday in September always means the return of that popular neighbourhood festival 'Southfields Harvest'. Hosted as usual by St Barnabas Church and running alongside the quarterly Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe, this annual festival brings together community groups, growers, makers and bakers who all have a mission to make Southfields a brighter,



VEGETABLE FUN FOR EVERYONE

greener and - dare we say it - happier place.

This year Marina Calland of RecycleMoreSouthfields gave talks on how to reduce, re-use and recycle, 'Green the Grid' gave away plants and bulbs, the King George's allotment holders put on a fabulous display of home-grown flowers, fruit and veg, and Riversdale Primary School PTA provided delicious refreshments. With locally made jam, cider, honey, cakes and bread on sale, plus music from the St Barnabas Band and the Allotment Band, it was a delightful way to spend an autumn afternoon.

STAY SAFE! SOME WINTER TIPS FROM OUR LOCAL POLICE

By PC Robbie Quijano Amigo, Southfields Police

It is that wintry time of the year again, and before we know it the festive season will be upon us. Below is a list of crime prevention advice tips for Grid residents to consider during the coming winter months.

Light up your entrances

Any form of outdoor lighting can be used, from motion sensor to security lights dressed up as evergreens. This can help light up the exterior, removing the cover of darkness that criminals love

Be mindful of your recycling bin

If you cannot take your packages to a recycling centre, only put your rubbish out the day before the collection. Fold boxes inside out to prevent advertising any new contents of your home to criminals.

Do not advertise your plans

For criminals, social media can be used to scout potential targets. Think twice before

you publish your whereabouts if you are away during the holiday season. It is always worth double checking your privacy settings on social media, and where possible keeping your profile private.

Check your doors and windows for weak spots

Keep windows locked with keys or sash bolts, and consider locking your doors even if only going out for a few minutes or even while inside.

Keep your curtains and blinds closed at night

If you are going out for the evening, consider using a plug-in timer on your lights to give the illusion of someone being at home.

Deterring thieves

Using window stickers to highlight your possessions are security marked, or if your home has a CCTV security camera installed, will help deter criminals targeting your home.

Away for the festive season?

Plan ahead! Be sure you cancel any deliveries. Arrange for a trusted neighbour to park in your drive to look as though someone is at home.

Secure garage and sheds

Make sure ladders and tools are not lying around, as criminals will use them to gain entry to your property.

Use alarms if you have them

Use your house alarm at all times even if you are only out for a few minutes.

Do not forget to protect your gifts on www.immobilise.com

Most electrical items will have a serial number which can be registered. Mobile phones have an IMEI number, which can be found by dialling *#06#.

I hope the above crime prevention advice will be helpful. You can meet us all at our next Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting at St Barnabas on Saturday 24th January from 10.30 am.

Finally, news that our colleague PC Nicholas Seccombe has left the Met Police in pursuit of his Masters in Spanish, in South America. Lucky for some!

southfields.met.police.uk

POEM - 'SUMMER'S END' BY PAMELA O'REILLY

Come autumn, blow away the leaves.

The weary trees need them no more

And we will crunch and kick and toss

Their colours on the forest floor.

The sun is sinking lower now

Taking its heat elsewhere.

They will be fishing out their sunscreen

We will find warmer clothes to wear.

The garden must be tidied,

The paddling pool put away,

The bats and balls and sandpit tools

There is no-one wants to play.

Now, stand and look around at you

At the changes you can see,

The fading flowers, the last

Remaining apple on the tree.

There is a certain beauty

In this dying and decay.

It is nature's time to slumber,

To rise renewed one sunny day.



PAMELA O'REILLY

Pamela will contribute more poems in future editions of 'Grid News'. "I was born in Southfields during the war, and went to Riversdale Primary School" she explained. "St Barnabas was my childhood church. I lived at home until I married, but I have not moved far. I enjoy writing poetry. It is something I have always done, and hope to continue to do". moomintrolls@live.co.uk

FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK AUTUMN NEWS

By Beth McKillop, Secretary

The Friends of Wimbledon Park was formed as a voluntary organisation in 2012 to promote collaboration and offer a forum for discussion between the various owners, leaseholders, residents and park visitors. We became a charity (CIO) in January 2025. We are working to promote improvements to the park, with the Revelstoke Road entrance and the Waterfall area our two priority areas, but both depend on funding.

In recent meetings with Merton Council we have raised concerns about plans to build a boardwalk on the lake. We believe that the covenant for a public lakeside walk once golf ceased to be played should be honoured. A boardwalk will interrupt and damage historic views of the lake, which was designed as

a flowing landscape framed by trees. A boardwalk will also harm biodiversity and will reduce the area of the lake, harming the interests of anglers and sailors.

We have also been concerned about a proposal to construct Padel courts in the athletics track. We believe the proposal goes against Merton's published plan to consider all development proposals in the park in light of long term management and maintenance. Padel courts in the proposed location would harm the landscape, and would reduce greenspace and thus lead to a biodiversity loss. We urge Merton to act on their published policy for Wimbledon Park.

This year's Wimbledon tennis fortnight was challenging for regular park visitors. Friends of Wimbledon Park have gathered comments and views and published these on our website www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org. We hope

readers will take time to read our report and we will follow up to the best of our ability. We do not have sight of the commercial agreement between the AELTC and Merton Council, but cannot understand why byelaws mandating actions or prohibitions in designated areas imposing penalties for non-compliance have not been displayed or enforced this year.

Car parking in the public park continues during Wimbledon despite AELTC having vacant possession of land nearby. This is extremely unpopular with the local community. The Friends renew our request for car parking in the public park to cease forthwith.

We welcome new and returning members at this crucial time for the future of Wimbledon Park. Please visit our website, join us, and get involved in our activities.

www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org

GREEN THE GRID - LET'S KEEP GROWING TOGETHER

By Nina Kowalska

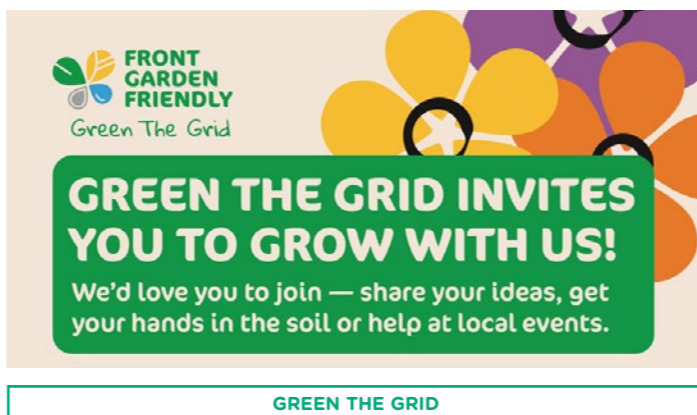
Green the Grid is now six years old, and together we have transformed our streets, planting tree bases and front gardens that so many of us tend and nurture. There is still more to do, and we cannot do it alone.

At a recent meet-up at Brookwood Garden Cafe on Brookwood Road - thanks for hosting us! - neighbours shared ideas on how to keep our patch of Southfields blooming. We have already launched a monthly 'Gardening Hour' and there will be more open meetings coming soon. You can keep up to date via our WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram sites or our website www.frontgardenfriendly.uk

Planting, not paving, has never been more important. A new RHS report shows more than half of Britain's front gardens and a third of back gardens are paved over, plus 7.5 million square metres are now covered in artificial lawns. This is bad news for wildlife, flood risk and the environment. The experts' advice? Keep it green with robust planting and permeable paving. Our local estate agent Loney Miller agrees. Writing recently, they said swapping paving for plants and using permeable surfaces not only boosts kerb appeal but also allows rainwater to soak away naturally, reducing surface run-off and protecting homes from flooding.

This year alone Green the Grid has given away hundreds of plants, herbs and bulbs at our spring and autumn events. We will round off the year with our Sustainable Christmas Wreath Workshop on Wednesday 3rd December at the Pig & Whistle pub, starting at 7pm.

We would love you to get involved, either sharing ideas, digging in or helping out at events. To stay in the loop, email your mobile number to greenhthegridsw18@hotmail.com and we shall add you to our WhatsApp group. Let us keep making the Grid greener - one garden at a time!



GREEN THE GRID

LOCAL PLANNING NEWS UPDATE

By Sue Wixley, SGRA Executive Committee

In recent months planning applications to convert 10 Elsenham Street into a house in multiple occupation (HMO) sparked significant concern among many residents. HMOs are properties occupied by three or more unrelated tenants sharing facilities. They provide affordable housing for students and young professionals, but can also raise concerns about parking pressures, waste management and the changing character of family neighbourhoods.

In July a developer applied for a 'Lawful Development Certificate' to convert the property from a family home into a six-person HMO. Despite over 100 objections the Council granted the application, explaining it was

permitted development under regulations and refusal would risk legal challenge.



PLANNING CHANGES ON THE WAY?

In September the developer submitted a second application, to expand to an eight-person HMO by adding two exceedingly small bedrooms. This led to over 150 objections from residents. After consulting with the SGRA Executive Committee I submitted

objections to both applications in line with our aims as a residents' association to monitor planning applications and address any negative impacts.

On 23rd November the Council published its decision to refuse the second application, citing loss of a family home in contravention of the Wandsworth Local Plan and the fact it would result in "substandard accommodation". While the refusal is welcome, the original six-person HMO is still permitted, which I know will be disappointing for many. The SGRA will continue monitoring planning applications and keep you informed of developments.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit comments - it is important the Council hears our views.

swixley@gmail.com

JAN AND SERENA FLY HIGH IN LOCAL COUNCIL AWARDS

Keen gardener Jan Parker, who lives in Hanford Close, won the 'Best Front Garden' category in the 2025 Wandsworth in Bloom Front Garden Awards. Her front garden is always lovely, and she has won an 'Outstanding' award from our own SGRA Awards many times, although never been an overall winner or runner up. The category was Judged by Charles Shi from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and the event sponsor was Neal's Nurseries, so high praise. Sadly Jan couldn't attend the competition finale - she was on holiday in Spain!

Meanwhile, three cheers for our 'Mend Fix and Repair Cafe' founder Serena Potter. She was a finalist in the Environmental Champion category of Wandsworth Council's 2025 Civic Awards. Serena is now recognised on the Mayor's Honour Roll, with her original idea now a firm favourite with residents in the Grid - and beyond. The next one takes place on Saturday 17th January 2026 from 12-3pm at St Barnabas.



JAN AND SERENA, LOCAL HEROES

FRUIT PICKINGS BOOM FOR ABUNDANCE SOUTHFIELDS

By Fran Stewart, organiser

The fruit picking has ended, and with the good weather what a season it has been for Abundance Southfields. After taking a break for a year in 2024, we returned to action this summer, working with local homeowners whose trees produce lots of tasty fruit to collect their surplus or windfall.

We picked a whopping total of 1370 kg of fruit. 1160kg has been distributed to 10 community kitchens and food banks, whilst the remaining 210 kg is with new-age craft cider maker Against the Grain. It will be processed for next year's apple and pear cider. A huge thank you to all our army of pickers, who have all contributed to this amazing effort.

The majority of fruit picked was apples, but quince, figs, grapes and passion fruit also featured, the latter two fruits thanks to picker Alistair Grant. We picked or received fruit picked by owners from 30 properties in the Southfields area, as well as 2 other houses in

Furzedown and near Clapham Common.

At our stall at Southfields Harvest a net figure of £351.07 was generated from the sale of the last of the cider produced in 2023. This was allowing for a contribution to our venue St Barnabas Church, paying for the 'sale of alcohol' licence and other expenses such as tasting cups and ice. Thanks go to the Rev Vanessa and the helpers at our venue on the day.



THE ABUNDANCE TEAM

After discussions within the group we agreed to donate £150 between the following 5

community kitchens and food banks - Ace of Clubs, Food cycle Wandsworth Road, St Michael's community lunch, St Paul's pantry and the community canteen in Tooting. The remaining £201.07 will be held to cover any costs arising from producing the 2025 cider, which will be available at the 2026 Southfields Harvest, and any other incidental expenses such as new picking baskets. Once such costs are known we shall donate any remaining funds to local community kitchens and food banks.

Some fruit was also given away free outside Southfields tube station, at Southfields Harvest, over the weekend of the Yard Trail Sale and the Wandsworth Park Eco Fest, while the Dons Action team took some apples for their Food Banks. Thanks again until next summer, and picking time again.

If you would like more details about the Abundance Southfields team, or volunteer a little time to join our pickers in 2026, please contact us via www.abundancesouthfields.com or Instagram.

FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS UPDATE

By Tim Oswin, FoCG committee

I think we can all agree—those who remember seeing Coronation Gardens just a few years ago compared to now—that its transformation has been quite spectacular. From the freshly renovated historic drinking fountain with the new statue of the Gardens' designer Fanny Wilkinson, to the newly refurbished playground which, as a parent of 6- and 8-year-old girls, I can say is the best in the area, the Gardens have truly come alive.

It is the overall condition of the park, with its well-laid-out flower beds and bushes, which gives us a little haven in our very own Southfields. This is thanks in no small part to the Gardening Club, run by FoCG Committee members Tara Osman and Geoff

Davis. The Gardening Club works with council contractors Enable to plan, sustain and develop the area.

Major developments this year include a new flower bed on the new 'Nourish and Flourish' bed, featuring some vibrant red blooms in the form of Salvia 'Royal Bumble' shrubs. We have also planted some allium bulbs for next summer, and planted 120 tulip bulbs in November in various shades of pink and coral. This is all in addition to the pruning, planting, and rubbish collecting around the existing flower beds, to maintain that special community garden we all enjoy.

Alongside Tara and Geoff we've our longstanding helpers Gillian, Marian, Dominic, Cathie, Anna and our youngest members -

Isabel and Sophie! Everyone who helped is hugely appreciated. It really is a great way to support our community and get involved, not to mention keeping active. Please come and join us every two weeks on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at 10am. There will even be tea and biscuits for you!

Finally thanks to the SGRA for their donation of £2,000 towards our recent drinking water fountain restoration. If you are also interested in contributing, the FoCG would welcome your financial support. Donate whatever amount you can via the FoCG's Barclays Bank account - sort code 20-90-74, account number 03573605, putting 'Fountain' as the reference. www.focoronationgardens.co.uk

WHATSAPP WANTED FOR GRID STREET

One of the successes over the past few years since the pandemic has been the growth of WhatsApp groups serving many of our Grid streets, or even parts of them, and how particularly useful they can be. From offers of items for sale to warnings about crime and safety, these street groups have dozens of members and provide a really useful local service and in many cases friendship.

Among those streets with active groups are Heythorp Street and Pirbright Road, and many

streets enjoy their interaction. Now Brookwood Road resident Emma Waddell is keen to establish one on her street. She has sent us the enclosed QR code, so hopefully if you live on that street you can use it and sign up.

emma@waddellcommunications.co.uk



BROOKWOOD RD QR CODE

GRID KID KIT SNAPS UP A PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

By Charles Runcie

17 year old Kit Piercy, who lives with his family in the Grid's Brookwood Road, was one of five finalists in a major photography competition recently.



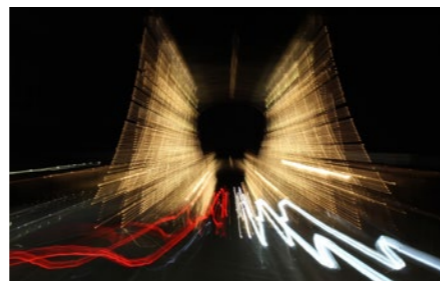
KIT, JUDGE AND PICTURE

He was one of over 300 who had originally entered the Battersea Society's annual Photography Award, held in conjunction with the Royal College of Art and held last month. The theme for the competition was 'Connections and Community', and all photographs had to be taken in Battersea. His two photographs entered were of Battersea Park in the summer, and Albert Bridge at night. A 10 second long exposure, he stood on the central reservation and used a tripod.

Kit firstly found out that he had reached the final 30, whose work would be exhibited in a private view at the RCA. However a few days before the exhibition opened, Kit was then informed that he had finished in the top 5. Proud mother Cissy told Grid News: "He is following his passion for film and photography, which he started aged about 14/15. He always has a camera nearby, just

in case!"

Kit was delighted, as you can imagine, as his father Barney Piercy works in a similar field as a film camera operator. Kit is currently in his second year studying film and photography at the London Screen Academy, a state-funded sixth form that specialises in film, television and the creative industries. He hopes to make it his career after graduating.



ALBERT BRIDGE

RESIDENTS LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR GRID STREET TREES ON WALK

By Serena Potter

Following a sociable 'coffee & croissants' gathering the second 'Street Tree Walk' around the Grid was held on Tuesday 14th October. Once again the council's Arboricultural Manager Liam Hutton and Arboricultural Officer Bradley Coleman led it. Our group numbered around 15, and were hugely impressed by the detailed and specialised knowledge of the team. In turn we heard Grid residents are seen as 'the most engaged' group around!

Many questions were asked and detailed discussions ensued. Topics included the changing choice of trees planted to cope with the changing climate, diseases, and how the team maintain and survey the street trees. This year all the street trees across the Grid were surveyed. 9 have had to be removed, and these will be replaced in the winter planting period. Another walk is planned for spring 2026.

If you have any questions to do with street trees, you can contact the team directly at trees.wandsworth@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk



A HEALTHY GRID TREE

'SURPRISED' CHARLES RECEIVES 2025 COMMUNITY AWARD

By Alistair Grant

SGRA chair Charles Runcie has been named Southfields Community Champion for 2025. Charles, a Grid resident since 1998, claimed the award at Southfields Harvest which took place at St Barnabas Church on Saturday 27th September. The 67 year-old was chosen for recognition by the event organisers, who cited his volunteering and enthusiasm for activities benefiting our Grid community.

As well as chairing the SGRA for nearly a decade Charles has also been Chair of the Friends of Coronation Gardens since its formation in 1999, a school Governor at Ronald Ross Primary for 19 years, and a Committee Member/Trustee of the Wandsworth Older People's Forum for 5



CHARLES (LEFT) WITH MP FLEUR AND ALISTAIR

years. MP Fleur Anderson presented Charles with a certificate and a painting of Southfields tube station by local artist Rouhi Peck as a mark of the organisers' appreciation.

Charles said: "I was surprised but delighted

to receive the Award. It is a tribute to the many other people who give their time to volunteer for community groups I am involved with. The one single thing I am probably most proud of is the regeneration of our local Coronation Gardens into a much-loved community space. Helping others is motivating and satisfying, and I'd encourage anyone interested in volunteering to find local opportunities in Wandsworth."

The Southfields Community Champion Award began in 2024, when Richard Konig was the winner. He stepped down after running the Abundance Southfields fruit-picking group for 11 years. It distributes unwanted excess fruit from local trees among the community, turning some of it into cider for selling at Southfields Harvest.

MADDIE - WHY MY APPROACH TO EXERCISE IS DIFFERENT

In her final article, local fitness trainer Maddie Freeman explains four things that make her approach to exercise worth reading about.

Care about your mental health as much as your physical health

The fitness industry often makes us believe that the most important measures of health are physical, such as how much you can lift or what you weigh. But physical health is just one part of the picture. My approach gives equal importance to other aspects of health, including mental and social health. This is why I care about how you are feeling, how well you manage stress and your weekend plans just as much as more 'traditional' physical measures of health.

I use psychology

I draw on my background in psychology to help you become more active. I know that shouting at you or telling you to 'be more disciplined' is rarely helpful. Instead, I use evidence-based behaviour change science to help you actually stick with an exercise routine (and hopefully enjoy it too!).

I am inclusive

Exercise is often marketed using images of young, slim models wearing expensive clothing. This can make you feel like exercise is not for you. But the reality is, exercise is for everyone. No matter your age, ability or

health condition I will help you find a way to move that works for you. Few things feel better than when your back pain disappears, or you feel more confident, or better able to tackle a hectic week, because of exercise.

I am human

I know how it feels to not want to wake up at 6am and go for a run, or squeeze in a workout when you have a thousand other things to do. I am not a fitness robot and often I do not feel motivated to exercise, just like you. But I usually do it because I know that the benefits are too good to ignore!

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



MADDIE WITH A CLIENT

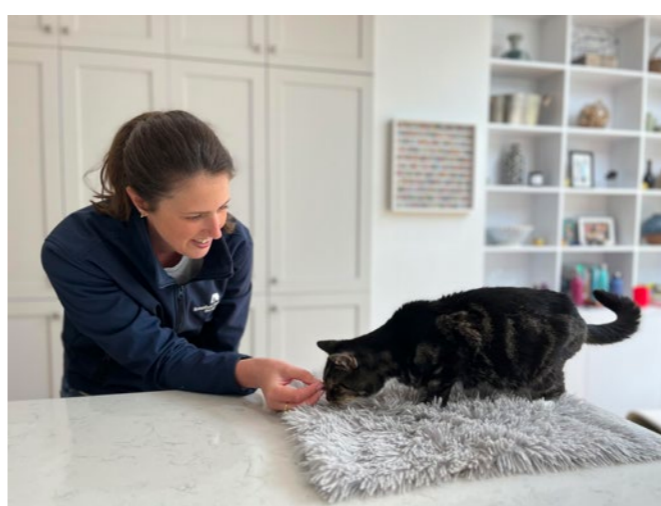
PAWS ON THE PAVEMENT - PET ADVICE FROM GRID VET

By Dr Kathryn Scourfield BVSc MRCVS

Southfields Grid is a wonderful place for pets, but this invariably leads to certain concerns arising amongst residents. One of the most common is that people fail to clean up after their dog. Beyond being unpleasant, dog fouling poses a public health risk due to the parasite Toxocara which can be passed

to humans, with children particularly at risk. If you spot dog fouling, you should report it to the council online or by phone. Try to report where possible, to encourage our Council to act. Owners beware - failing to pick up after your dog can earn a fine of up to £2,500.

Cats present a different kind of challenge. If you see a cat and are unsure if it has an owner, watch before intervening, as many cats roam widely but belong to loving homes.



DOING A VET CHECK

Look for a collar and take note of its general condition. A friendly, clean cat of a normal weight has a home. Printable paper collars are available from the Cats Protection website to allow communication with the owner. If you remain uncertain, see if you can get them checked for a microchip. Avoid feeding the cat unless it appears thin or unwell, as this may stop it returning home.

Many local owners are concerned about

keeping their pets healthy, especially as the colder months are upon us, but dread a trip to the vets. Did you know that as a Southfields Grid resident you can access veterinary care at home? No busy commutes or waiting rooms, perfect for anxious or elderly pets, or busy owners. Scourfield Veterinary Services is a fully mobile clinic, bringing personalized, compassionate care straight to your doorstep.

Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns about your pet's health or local pet issues.

www.scourfieldvetservices.co.uk

JOBS NEWS

ST BARNABAS CHURCH IS LOOKING FOR A PART TIME PARISH ADMINISTRATOR WITH EXCELLENT PEOPLE AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS. YOU WILL WORK WITH THE VICAR AND CHURCHWARDENS TO ENABLE THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF THE PARISH HALLS AND CHURCH OFFICE. THE JOB IS CURRENTLY 12 HOURS A WEEK WITH OPTIONS FOR HOME WORKING, AND FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS AROUND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. FOR MORE DETAILS AND A JOB DESCRIPTION VISIT STBARNABAS-SOUTHFIELDS.ORG.UK CLOSING DATE IS SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER.

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: Kyle Forder, Ann Kerr, Rod Lewington, Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, Will Smart, Clive Williams, Sue Wixley

Ex Officio: Margaret Brett

Street Representatives

Astonville Street

Lesley McCaul at 109

Kyle Forder at 31a

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

Hanford Close

Michele Clarke at 20

Heythorp Street

Kyra von Schottenstein at 127

Langton Place

David Boyle at 12

Lavenham Road

Ayesha Hasan at 25

Maureen Mills at 32

Merton Road

Tim Lynch timothyedwardlynch@yahoo.co.uk

Pirbright Road

Charles Runcie at 17

Replingham Road

Sue Gunn at 51

Roz at 85

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.loveforallthatredfornone.org

Wimbledon Mosque, Durnsford Road - www.wimbledonmosque.org

Interest groups

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

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

Green the Grid - www.frontgardenfriendly.uk

Grid Mummies - erica_loi@hotmail.com

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.u3asite.uk

Sport

All England Club - www.wimbledon.com

Swimbleton, wild swimming - www.swimbleton.co.uk

'Tag' Rugby - Jake.Dunley@hotmail.com

Wandsworth Boxing Club - www.wandsworthboxingclub.co.uk

AFC Wimbledon - afcwimbledon.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.wandsworth@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

or fill in a 'Make a tree enquiry' form on the Wandsworth Council's website

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

Tuesday 25th November - SGRA public meeting, 7.30pm

Saturday 29th November - Christmas Fair, 12-3pm

Tuesday 16th December - St Michael's 'Carols on tour' around Grid streets, from 5pm

Thursday 18th December - St Barnabas 'Street carols' around Grid streets, from 6.30pm

See page 5 for full list of Christmas services

Saturday 17th January - Mend, Fix, Repair cafe, 12-3pm

Saturday 24th January - Police SNT Ward Panel Public Meeting

The spring 2026 issue of Grid News will be published in mid-March. Articles, features and information for consideration should be sent to the Editor by Friday 20th February at info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk. We love to get your stories, pictures and comments from and about the Grid.

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 mailing list 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.