

# GRID NEWS

■■■ SPRING 2026 ■■■

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

**Delivered free to every home and business in Southfields Grid**

## WIMBLEDON EXPANSION GETS HIGH COURT BOOST

*By Simon Wright,  
Save Wimbledon Park*



**PLANS ONE STEP CLOSER?**

The result of the recent court case the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC)

brought against themselves was announced on 19th March. Mr Justice Thompsell decided that there is no statutory trust that covers the former Wimbledon Golf Club. Campaign group Save Wimbledon Park (SWP) had argued a statutory trust existed under the Public Health Act meaning the land had to be kept as a public space. Club lawyers said when the AELTC purchased the freehold in 1993 any trust no longer applied. SWP have applied for permission to appeal against the decision.

In addition AELTC have been using the House of Lords to remove opposition to their plans via an amendment added to the English Devolution Bill. This amendment was originally introduced by Lord Gus O'Donnell, a Director of AELTC.

Two other legal obstacles still remain in the path

of AELTC regarding their expansion plans. Firstly SWP have been given leave to appeal against the decision made by the GLA that the AELTC plans can proceed. SWP have been told they have a "real prospect of success". Secondly restrictive covenants on the land remain. These were created when the land was sold by Merton Council in 1993 specifically to prevent development of the type now proposed.

The ruling Labour majority on Merton Council has always refused to enact (enforce) these covenants, but any change in the balance of power following May's local council elections could result in a different approach. Wandsworth Council leader Simon Hogg has also recently released a statement highly critical of AELTC's plans.

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

## TICK TOCK! OUR CENTURY-OLD ANDREWS CLOCK IS SAVED

*By Charles Runcie*

The well-known clock above Andrews Estate Agents, a symbol of Southfields for over a century, is finally working again after many months of inactivity. The clock has been a familiar fixture for many who glance at it when coming out of the tube station, realising they are perhaps running late for dinner or the big match. Installed in 1910, it serves not only as a practical timekeeper but a dignified reminder of our area's heritage.

The clock itself is a fine Victorian-era piece, crafted by Benson of Ludgate Hill, one of the most respected horologists of the 19th Century. The firm was renowned for both precision and elegance, producing timepieces that combined technical excellence with refined design. Its reputation was such that they became known as clockmaker to Queen Victoria and Prince Edward of Wales, an endorsement that spoke volumes about the quality of its workmanship.

The clock's face retains the understated grandeur typical of the Victorian period - clear numerals, balanced proportions and craftsmanship built to endure, a link to a time when precision engineering met artistic pride, when even a public clock was made to stand the test of centuries.



**THE RIGHT TIME AT LAST**

However the effects of Old Father Time had sadly taken its toll, and as Andrews business manager Mark Anderson outlines, restoration proved far more challenging than anticipated. "The restoration was a two-fold project. The first was sourcing a specialist company capable of refurbishing and restoring it to its former glory" he explained. Two separate companies attempted to carry out the repair, but unfortunately neither was able to. In the end Alex Jeffrey of The Clock Company Ltd saved the day, installing a completely new mechanism and then restoring the clock to

full working order. "This involved carefully repainting the clock face and applying gold leaf to the hands to ensure an authentic and high-quality finish".

Andrews have enjoyed being part of our Grid community since 2004 when they occupied the Southfields premises, taking over from fellow estate agents Bells, who were before them was 'HV Bragg', and originally Ryan & Penfold. The historic building is the oldest commercial premises in Southfields, being the original estate office for the new 'Grid' homes being built in the early 20th Century. Over the decades Andrews has helped millions move, and had a legacy of 'giving back,' supporting charities at home and abroad as well as in local communities.

For Anderson, the clock repair is part of that 'giving back' ethos. "The successful repair and restoration of the clock is a source of considerable pride for us as a company. We believe the clock holds significant historical value within the local community, and it continues to serve as a well-known landmark that many residents rely upon and recognise".

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

## EDITOR'S LETTER

Hello and welcome to another packed 'Grid News'. Thanks for the lovely comments about our newsletter. It always amazes me how one small community can produce so much interesting material.

There is a bit of a 'taking part' flavour to this 20 page issue, with the recent revival of 'Window Wanderland' and the 2nd Southfields Arts Festival still both lovely memories. We've a page devoted to each of them. We preview some big spring and early summer events in the Grid as well, so get your diaries out. I do not want you to miss anything!

I am keen to mention the SGRA's Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 19th May at 7.30pm. It is the SGRA's most important meeting, when the past year's activities are reviewed, our finances scrutinised and a new Committee is elected. If you are a SGRA member (see the back page to join if you are not!) it is really important you know what we are up to, so do come along to the AGM and take part, even suggesting new things we should get involved with. We shall have a special guest speaker plus one or two other surprises.

We are always looking for people to join the SGRA Committee in some form. We have a couple of vacancies, so if you live on the Grid and would like to help the SGRA in any form, from a Committee post to simply helping on meeting nights, please contact me. It is good fun, and you learn a lot about how Southfields really ticks.

Some Committee news, Ian Shaw is stepping down as our industrious SGRA Secretary after a number of years to pursue other community interests. While he wishes to remain on the Committee, he has done a terrific job in the Secretary's hot seat. His organisation, wise counsel and wonderful minutes will be sorely missed, and not least by me. If you would like to succeed him in this important role please contact me.

A word about our advertisers on pages 9-13. They're local, so we like to promote them. If you contact them, please mention 'Grid News'.

See you at our next SGRA public meeting on Tuesday 31st March at 7.30pm. It is at the usual venue, the Parish Room of St Barnabas Church, and the Chair of the All England Club Debbie Jevans CBE will be our special guest.

Hope you have a lovely Easter holiday, and let me know if there is anything 'Grid News' should be writing about.

Best wishes!  
Charles Runcie  
Chair, SGRA  
[charles@charlesruncie.co.uk](mailto:charles@charlesruncie.co.uk)

## CARTOON BY GERARD



CONTACT GERARD AT [GGERARD.SEBASTIAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GGERARD.SEBASTIAN@GMAIL.COM)

## SGRA FINANCE UPDATE

By Ameeet Phadnis, Treasurer

We are almost at the end of our financial year. To align with the changes to the Constitution agreed at the September Special General Meeting, the SGRA financial year is now the same as the fiscal financial year which begins on 6th April. So the subscription rate agreed at the forthcoming AGM on 19th May should be collected on or by 5th April 2027.

We have been tracking closely to the initial budget we put together at the start of the year. As we agreed, we are investing more in community projects and initiatives this year to maximise the use of the generous subscriptions and advertising support we receive.

We expect to report about £3,800 of subscriptions and £4,900 of advertising at the end of the financial year. We delivered on the support to all the promised initiatives this year, plus a few additional items, and expect

that total costs will be in line with our budget.

Our 50th anniversary community highlights included:

- Southfields Art Festival (£250)
- Friends of Coronation Gardens' fountain restoration (£2,000)
- Front Garden Awards (£270)
- Green the Grid (£400)
- Grid Kids (£560)
- Parliamentary reception for our 50th anniversary (£800)
- Southfields Business Forum (£500)
- Window Wanderland 2026 (£300)

The income and expenditure totals will be finalised by the AGM on Tuesday 19th May. I am looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible, to both take you through the details and share our 2026/27 budget. Thanks for your support.

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

## STEVEN IS NEW RIVERSDALE HEAD TEACHER



STEVEN SOUSA

Following the retirement of Amy Roberts in December last year, Steven Sousa has been appointed as the new Headteacher of Riversdale Primary School. Steven has been teaching at the Southfields primary

school since 2015, and is currently the Interim Head.

Steven's ambition is to build on the school's many strengths as a place where academic achievement and inclusion go hand in hand.

He is committed to ensuring every child feels a strong sense of belonging, and is supported to thrive and reach their full potential. He looks forward to working closely with pupils, parents, staff and the wider Southfields community, and to welcoming prospective parents on school tours.

The Governing Board and the whole school community are delighted with his appointment and wish him every success in his new role. Steven takes up his post with immediate effect.

For more information about the school or to arrange a visit please visit

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

## WINDOW WANDERLAND RETURNS TO GRID HOMES - WHAT A SHOW!

By Will Smart, event co-ordinator

After a year's rest 'Window Wanderland' celebrated its 9th Anniversary over the weekend of 28th February and 1st March, with households and business owners across Southfields decorating their windows for a magical weekend showcasing the area's unique community spirit.

We had over 100 windows taking part across the Grid, with many inspired creations on view. Highlights this year included beautiful nature themed windows, 'squishmellows', a dog disguised as an astronaut and several homages to the Winter Olympics.

For those new to the event, Window Wanderland started in Bristol with the idea of helping to combat loneliness during the dark winter nights by leaving a light on and a window to look in.

It was wonderful to hear the excited voices of children out around the Grid when they caught glimpses of another window. It was also lovely to see some of our older residents out admiring the windows on an evening stroll. Some of the best of them are shown below - captions by a young enthusiast, 10 year-old Leo Grant.

Southfields was the only SW London-based Window Wanderland, proof as if we needed it, that we really do live in the best community in the area!

We would love to continue the event, make it bigger, better and brighter in the years ahead. Our plans for next year include a detailed how-to guide, workshop and a Grid Kids trail and quiz. Please contact me at the email address below if you would like to help in any way.

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



XIN NIÁN KUÀI LÈ! THE YEAR OF THE HORSE



"WE AGREE WITH YOU!"



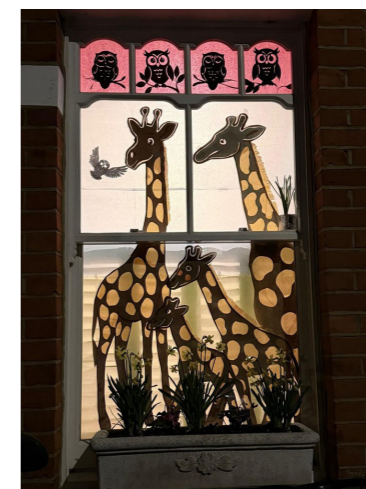
INSPIRING PEOPLE TO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND



KIDS ARE BETTER THAN ADULTS AT EVERYTHING



HOW MANY SPORTS CAN YOU SEE?



WONDERFUL SW18 WILDLIFE



LOVELY LAUNCH POSTER

# COUNCIL KERBSIDE RECYCLING - WHAT TO AVOID

By Marina Calland, Recycle More Southfields co-ordinator

Recycle More Southfields is here to make recycling and cutting waste easier. Here are some common kerbside recycling mistakes to avoid:

### 'Wishcycling'

- Do not put non-accepted items into orange recycling sacks hoping they will be recycled.

- Follow the council's list of recyclable items—packaging labels can be misleading.

### Items that do not belong in our orange recycling sacks:

- Soft plastics – crisps/sweets packaging, frozen food bags, fruit punnet lids, bubble wrap, etc. Recycle these at supermarket collection points: Marks & Spencer Southfields, Sainsbury's and Waitrose in Southside, or the Co-op in Wimbledon Park.

- Pizza boxes – oil/fat-stained boxes contaminate other recycling. Put in black bins or compost.



- Council Kerbside Recycling: What to avoid
- Shredded paper – too small to be recycled. It clogs the machinery. Put in black bins or compost.
  - Garden waste – take it to Smugglers Way or compost at home.

- Single-use coffee cups and lids – very hard to recycle. Put them in your black bin or use reusable cups.

- Loose plastic lids, trigger spray mechanisms or pumps – only accepted if they are still attached to their plastic bottles.

### New additions to recycling

Wandsworth Council have announced new additions to the list of accepted kerbside recycling items. From 31st March residents can add to their orange recycling sacks:

- plastic tubes (toothpaste, hand cream conditioners, etc),
- aluminium foil and trays (clean),
- aluminium tubes (tomato paste)
- empty aerosols

Please check Wandsworth Council's website regularly: it is important to stay up to date.

Follow us on Instagram: @recyclemore\_southfields or on Facebook: Recycle More Southfields. Our website if you want to join us: [www.recyclemoresouthfields.org](http://www.recyclemoresouthfields.org)

# ST BARNABAS CHURCH NEWS UPDATE

By Rev Vanessa Elston, Vicar

Those of you who attended one of our Christmas services may have noticed the presence of one or two feathered friends flying overhead in the rafters. As a result we had to install scaffolding in January in order to evict the pigeons that had taken up residence in the bell tower, then re-seal it to make it pigeon proof. Having the scaffolding up enabled us to get structural engineers to assess the safety of the large hanging cross and re-hang it with discreet steel wires, which means all is now safe for those who stand and minister under the Cross!

St Barnabas is about to launch a campaign to increase our income via regular giving from members and supporters, specifically online monthly payments. We are growing as a church and our halls are well used, but we need to raise an additional £15,000 a year to secure our financial future and enable forward planning. This campaign is aimed at both our regular worshippers and friends of St Barnabas in the wider community. If you are able to make a small regular monthly donation (£20 - £50) this would really help us. Please email me at [Vanessa.Elston@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:Vanessa.Elston@southwark.anglican.org) for more information. We are really grateful for all the support we get from the community of Southfields and want St Barnabas to be here to serve the area for years to come.

There will a fund-raising concert of chamber music taking place on Saturday 30th May at 7:30pm. It has been organised by local clarinettist Thomas Knollys, who will be the soloist.



CHURCH UNDER REPAIR

As spring arrives volunteers are welcome to join our gardening team, which is overseen by Jennie Allen.

People can sponsor a lily in memory of a loved one who has died in the previous year and have the person's name added to the memorial list on Easter Sunday.

Finally, a big thank you to the volunteers from the Grid and beyond who have been helping us to run the homeless Glass Door night shelter on Friday nights throughout the winter. We could not do this without you!

### Special services at St Barnabas - everyone is welcome:

- Compline - with St Barnabas Choir, Sunday 26th April, 7pm
- Children's Service - parents also welcome, Sundays 3rd May and 7th June, 9.30am

### Services during Holy Week:

- Maundy Thursday 2nd April, 8pm followed by vigil
- Good Friday 3rd April, 11am
- Easter Sunday – 5th April all-age service, 10.30am
- Pentecost All Age Service - Sunday 24th May, 10.30am

Finally, and not to be missed, the annual St Barnabas Patronal Festival with band and BBQ takes place on Sunday 14th June at 10.30am.

<https://stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk>

# FAMILY MEMORIES REKINDLED AT ST BARNABAS

By Charles Runcie

The annual St Barnabas Christmas Fair on Saturday 29th November 2025 was a super community event as always, but not just for stallholders or residents who attended. For Lisa Jewers, her daughter Danielle and grandson Ronnie, their visit to Southfields was the end result of a fascinating family tale. They had in fact come from their home in Tadley, Hampshire on an important family mission – to visit the church where her beloved parents had married.

"Mum died in 2024", explained Lisa. "When the family were going through her personal effects recently we found various items from her 1966 wedding at St Barnabas. They included photos, invitations and other memorabilia. So we decided to come to Southfields, to find out what the church was like all these years later. It was a bit of a family pilgrimage if you like".



PARENTS' WEDDING DETAILS

Lisa's mother Pauline Sullivan grew up at 274 Merton Road, near the junction with Longfield Street, in a house which was a fishmonger's shop at the front rather than a flat. She lived

there with her parents and brother Robert up until her wedding day. They enjoyed life in Southfields, with Pauline going to the local schools, and she met Ron whilst both were working at the Ministry of Aviation on The Strand. After the wedding at St Barnabas, both moved to Southampton, as Ron had secured a job as a Customs Officer at the docks. He worked in many locations including Heathrow and Dover.

On her visit to St Barnabas the Jewers family spent the afternoon looking around the building, talking to residents on the SGRA's stand, and were then introduced to the current Vicar, Rev Vanessa Elston. It had been a lovely day out, she admitted. "Mum was really keen to visit St Barnabas and see some of her old haunts in Southfields, but she sadly never managed it", an emotional Lisa later reflected. "I feel that with us coming here for the day, we are doing it for her".

# THE 2026 SGRA FRONT GARDEN AWARDS

By Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, Chair of FGA judges

Southfields Grid Residents' Association (SGRA) and Green the Grid (GTG) Front Garden Awards (FGA) will once again be returning this year

As before we shall be handing out awards for 'Best Front Gardens' and 'Best Planted Tree Pits'. Judging for both categories will take place between 19-28th June. In the Front Gardens Awards we shall be continuing with the two categories of 'Delightful' and 'Outstanding' as we have done over the past few years. The winner of the FGA will receive a £50 garden centre voucher with the two runners up receiving a £30 garden centre voucher. The winner will also be the proud possessor of a silver salver with their name engraved on it for a year.

Our interpretation of front gardens is wide. It can be a window ledge, a space outside your door, pots, and containers, hanging baskets as well as a more conventional plot. No signing up is needed – everyone is included.

Over the years we have been fortunate to see and reward so many beautiful front gardens that both enhance local diversity and foster a stronger sense of community. Nationally there is an ever growing awareness of the importance of front gardens in managing surface water flooding, reducing urban heat and supporting biodiversity, especially as surface water flooding becomes more common and harder for councils to manage alone.

It would be so lovely and beneficial for us all if

we could see even more planted front gardens this year. If your garden is paved over, please consider potted plants, vertical gardening (using walls or fences for climbing plants), planting low maintenance, hardy or perennial plants in corners or along the edge of a path. Even removing one slab, for instance a corner slab to create a small planting bed, will help. Making your front garden greener is a simple but powerful tool to combat climate change.

Here are our criteria for judging front gardens this year - Visual Appeal, Design, and Consideration for the Environment and Sustainability.



2026 FGA CONTENDER

### Visual Appeal

- A 'pleasing garden' which promotes a sense of wellbeing
- A strong impact, with a variety of plants shrubs, flowers, trees (textures, colours, height)
- A well-tended, healthy garden

### Design and Layout

- Creative use of available space

### Consideration for the Environment and Sustainability

- Provision of a habitat to attract pollinators, support wildlife e.g. bird boxes, bug hotels, etc. and encourage and support biodiversity
- Inclusion of drought resistant planting e.g. Achillea, Lavender, Mexican Fleabane, Salvia etc
- Green roof on shed or similar examples, e.g. paving slabs lifted to absorb run-off
- Water butt to capture rainfall for dry periods

### Planted Tree Pits

We have seen fabulous, planted tree pits, and we hope this will be replicated this year. An award is given to the best planted tree pit in each Grid street.

Please adhere to Wandsworth Council guidelines when planting your tree pit. They 'welcome... tree pits with flowers, small shrubs and plants' but raised edging is more problematic. Over the last year we have had a few instances of edgings being removed by the council for being a 'trip hazard'.

For more information visit [www.wandsworth.gov.uk](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk) and search for 'tree pits'.

There is lots more information available about how to plant your front garden and tree pit on the GTG website [www.frontgardenfriendly.org](http://www.frontgardenfriendly.org)

We invite all Grid residents to be part of this green celebration. Help us in our quest to reward the efforts that more and more residents invest in their outdoor spaces.

If you own a garden, you own one part of the solution to creating liveable and sustainable cities. Dr. Christensen-Dalsgaard, MacEwan University.

# HOMESHARING MAKES LIFE BETTER FOR AHMAD

By Sarah Swain

An elderly Grid resident is thriving in a community-based living arrangement that has also sparked an intergenerational friendship.

Ahmad Latif (88) has been 'homesharing' for more than a year with Pratibha Dudani (33) enabling him to live independently, thrive in his own home and create a unique intergenerational friendship. The two were matched by London-based Share and Care Homeshare, the largest Homeshare organisation in the UK. Homeshare is a community-based living experience that matches older people who require - and would benefit from - a little help to live independently in their own home, with people who are looking for an affordable home to live in and can provide up to 15 hours of practical help, support and companionship each week in exchange for the low-cost accommodation.

Tanya Latif, Ahmad's daughter said, "When my Mum died Dad was on his own in the house. Moving into a care home or having a live-in carer just was not the right choice for my Dad. I thought there must be an option in between, and there was. Homeshare!"

Over the past year Ahmad and Pratibha have developed a strong, lifelong friendship which has resulted in many special memories. Pratibha has become a valued member of the family; the practical support and companionship she gives has helped to support Ahmad to remain living independently in his own home. Pratibha and Tanya have also built a close connection, with Prathibha viewing Tanya as her second mum.

The vigorous vetting procedure and interview process undertaken by Share and Care Homeshare ensured that Ahmad was matched with a younger person with similar interests. Ahmad and Pratibha enjoy watching football together, going for walks and sitting down having a chat. Pratibha also regularly cooks meals for Ahmad which they share together, and even helps with the cleaning and laundry.

Ahmad has been far happier since Homesharing. As Tanya explains, "When Dad was alone I was worried about him, but Homeshare has provided reassurance, peace of mind and security. Since Pratibha has moved in it all feels more relaxed for everyone, Pratibha fits in perfectly as part of the family. She supports Dad, and in turn she has a base to call home from which she can also explore London. Homeshare is positive all round."

Ahmad and Pratibha pay Share and Care Homeshare just £150 each per month for the arrangement, a fee considerably cheaper for Pratibha than if she was paying rent, and equally for Ahmad, significantly cheaper than live-in or residential care.



PRATIBHA AND AHMAD

"Homeshares in London are on the rise because they are a low cost, alternative, community-based living

experience that is making life better for older people" says Caroline Cooke, founder, Share and Care Homeshare. "Having the reassurance, overnight presence and companionship of a younger person, together with an extra pair of hands for help with shopping or cooking a nutritious meal, makes a significant difference to older people and their loved ones".

For more information visit [www.shareandcare.co.uk](http://www.shareandcare.co.uk) or call 020 3865 3398.

## LOCAL PLANNING AND SHOP NOTES

By Margaret Brett

There has recently been an increase in the number and size of front garden sheds in the Grid. The UK's national planning policy is that residents should not erect sheds in front of the principal elevation or in front of the house itself. Wandsworth Council takes a more relaxed approach for bike stores in front gardens. Planning permission is required for these front garden stores, though, and they will be considered provided they are the minimum size necessary. They need to be located to minimise visual impact on the street and are generally not acceptable in very small front gardens. Many of the front garden sheds here on the Grid do not seem to have planning permission. The rules about building in front of the principal elevation also apply to shops.

Wandsworth Council's Planning Enforcement team have made a further check on 10 Elsenham Street, which was refused planning permission for an additional two rooms for the already permitted House in Multiple Occupation. There was no evidence that the

further two rooms have been converted.

The council has also announced plans for a scheme to install electrical charging channels across pavements, so that residents can use a cable to legally charge their electric cars from home. Subsequently there will be a rental agreement for these installations. There is limited funding to start the scheme.

The application for a determination about permitted development for a residential conversion at Heritage Dry Cleaners in Brookwood Road is still under consideration. (2026/0080) There are several objections that we would lose an important community resource, but unfortunately under the UK's current national planning policy framework these are not matters for planners to consider.

There was an application last summer to build an additional classroom block at Riversdale School. The original design has now been revised so that it is more sympathetic to the main Victorian building, which is Grade 2 listed. (2025/2288)

Work on the old Barclays Bank site is nearly

complete. Popular deli Chanteroy is moving from their current narrow shop around the corner into one of the units (see cartoon, page 2) but the fate of the other site is still unknown.

The tennis accessory shop next to Sainsbury's has new owners and a new name, All things Tennis. Moves at the bottom of Replingham Road see a new shop called The Studio, a space for photoshoots, content creation, workshops and pop-ups. The Biryani Centre Indian restaurant meanwhile has moved next door and become Chapter 2.

Finally Lime Bikes are colonising the vacant Car Club space at the end of Elsenham Street. At least it has helped getting their bikes off the pavement!



THE OLD BARCLAYS BANK

# 2ND SOUTHFIELDS ART FESTIVAL IS BIGGER AND BETTER

By Ian Shaw, SAF co-ordinator

To continue its support of local artistic talent, the SGRA was proud to sponsor the second Southfields Art Festival which took place on Saturday 7th March at St Barnabas Church. SGRA had sponsored the inaugural Art Festival last year. A team consisting of Slavica Struthers-Kennedy, Amelia Obertelli-Moriarity, Ann Kerr and I invited 40 local artists to take part.

24 artists accepted the invitation to exhibit and sell a variety of their visual artworks. Including sales from refreshments, a total of £918 was raised for local causes. It was a great pleasure to see artists and visitors enjoy all the fabulous art on display.



ILKE USLUCA



DEREK ABBOTT, STEPHANIE MARINOSCI



MILLICENT EVANS



CHARLES BROOKING



CLARE TRSIC



REV VANESSA AND MP FLEUR VISIT



CHRISTELLE ESCOFFIER



MARTIN LORE



CLIFF AND JUDITH PEARCEY

## APRIL 21ST - LOCAL ELECTION HUSTINGS IN GRID

The SGRA will hold an election hustings on Tuesday 21st April at St Barnabas Church, starting at 7.30pm. All candidates in the local council elections on Thursday 7th May and standing in Southfields Ward will be invited to attend. The hustings format allows time to explain what their policies are, and why they deserve our vote. They will also be able to answer questions on local issues submitted in advance. Parties or individuals have until Thursday 9th April to submit their nominations to the local authorities.

If you have a specific question for any candidate on a local issue then email it before 5pm on Monday 20th April to [info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk](mailto:info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk)

# 'POETRY IN MOTION' - A MOMENT OF CALM IN A BUSY WORLD

By Kate Bodel, local writer and illustrator

It all began in lockdown. As life slowed, it became apparent to me that the ordinary is actually the extraordinary and the small stuff is actually the big, important stuff. My world had shrunk but my heart had expanded. I found myself writing poetry. So I created a little treasury of poems called 'The Blanket Book'.

The poems which I described as 'words of warmth to wrap yourself up in' seemed to strike a chord. I left copies in a London park, and when someone messaged me to say my words had changed their life, I thought "I wonder if I could somehow write bespoke poems for passers-by?". I wanted to spread a little light in an all too furious and frenzied world. The idea

for POETRY in MOTION was born.

I leave postcards in quiet places, places where strangers might stop to rest and reflect. In a serendipitous turn of events, a dear friend of mine happened to be going on the adventure of a lifetime. We met in Rome and she took a bundle of postcards. With an easy access form, personalised poems were posted for people in Norway, Denmark, France, New York, Texas and Australia.

I am still leaving postcards all over the place. If a stranger sits for a moment and shares what is on their mind, I will write them a poem, offering a moment of kindness and connection. You know what they say: a problem shared is a problem halved. I am now leaving them in Coronation Gardens, in a dispenser on the



'POETRY IN MOTION' LOGO

front of the Friends noticeboard opposite the children's play area at the Pirbright Road entrance. Find one, fill it in, and I hope to give you a little hope.

katebodel@me.com

## POEM - 'SPRING' BY PAMELA O'REILLY

*I think, I think that spring is here  
I think so because of the birdsong I hear  
Twittering and fluttering and looking their best  
There's a new bird I've spotted- a little goldcrest.  
The dog fox is barking, he woke me again  
The vixen's been screaming as if she's in pain  
Their nightly chorus can't end too soon  
I'd love to shout down to them "Please get a room!"  
The squirrels are leaping and bounding about  
Raking my pots out, they do not move when I shout.*

*Just stop, look up and say, "What's your beef?"  
Then cart off my bulbs - the little grey thief.  
I've no doubt the small stuff is stirring below  
Weevils and beetles, all ready to go.  
As soon as the first leaves appear on the twigs  
The armies will come - caterpillars, aphids.  
The blights are amassing, the fungus, the rust,  
But that's all for later, right now I just  
Rejoice! Knowing new life will burst on the scene  
Full of colour and perfume and glorious spring green.*

This is another seasonal poem by former Grid resident and keen poet Pamela O'Reilly. You can contact her at [moomintrolls@live.co.uk](mailto:moomintrolls@live.co.uk) another poem will appear in our Summer issue in July.

## GRID'S GABRIELLA, WILLIAM MORRIS DEVOTEE

By Clonmore Street resident Gabriella Esser, Director of the William Morris Society Museum, Shop and Garden.



GABRIELLA ESSER

On the banks of the Thames at Hammersmith opposite the Dove pub you'll find a hidden gem, a small museum dedicated to William Morris. He was one of the great figures of the Victorian era and a pioneer of the Arts and Crafts movement. The William Morris Society celebrates the life and work of Morris (1834-1896), artist, designer, writer, socialist and environmental thinker. He believed art and beauty should be part of everyday life, that good design and social justice went hand in hand. His ideas still feel surprisingly relevant today.

The Society celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2025. Kelmescott House, Morris's London home for his last 18 years was where he lived, worked, debated politics and welcomed fellow artists and thinkers. Inside you'll find original wallpapers, textiles, furniture, books and personal objects as well as the original printing press from 1835, which we still demonstrate regularly.

We also celebrate the work of May Morris, William's daughter and an important designer and activist in her own right. Throughout the year we run talks, workshops and events for all ages, alongside open days and school visits, all helping new audiences discover Morris's work in a hands-on way. Members of the Society also receive our magazine three times a year, plus the Journal of William Morris Studies twice annually.

The museum and its beautiful garden can also be hired for special occasions. This summer

we'll be hosting weddings and civil ceremonies for the first time, as well as an Arts and Crafts Fair. Get in touch if you're looking for a unique local venue for a celebration.

The museum is easy to get to from Southfields on the District line. You can enjoy a lovely riverside walk from Hammersmith, with lifts handy for prams, or hop off at Ravenscourt Park which is the closest tube stop. We are family-friendly with baby change, children's activities including our popular 'Hunt the Strawberry' trail, plus a dress-up and activity area. It's a great way to fill a few hours and introduce younger visitors to Morris's wonderful designs.

Speaking of designs, you may have noticed William Morris patterns making a real comeback recently. Take a look around local homes and shop windows and you're bound to spot a 'Strawberry Thief' print somewhere nearby. We're always delighted to welcome new visitors and members. Next time you're walking along the river in Hammersmith, do pop in and see us!

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

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## THE GRID'S 'LITTLE BOOK STOP' INSPIRES SOPHIE

By Charles Runcie

Walk along Engadine Street and you'll see what looks like a lending library in an old post box. In fact it's a 'Little Book Stop', also known as community bookshelves. They are book exchange spots that live in gardens of residential houses. Designed and installed by Penguin, there are 10 in London. Each one is looked after by a volunteer steward who keeps the space tidy and well stocked with exciting books for all ages.

Our Grid one was installed in September last year in the front garden of steward Sophie Lucas. "I have always wanted to have a 'little library, and thought the Grid was a perfect place for one" explains Sophie. "Since then people on the Grid have been swapping books, taking a book and leaving a book".

Penguin regularly send books from new authors, and sometimes local authors drop by to sign copies. The celebrated children's author and illustrator Kim Hillyard visited the Little Book Stop and signed some copies of her picture books. "At Christmas, someone left books as presents, wrapped in festive tissue paper, which was wonderful!". Penguin designed and installed the Little Book Stop, and sent a box of popular titles to get the book stop going.

Sophie is passionate about the importance of reading for children. "I thought it would be a good inspiration for my own little ones to have a mini library at home. It is lovely to be one of the Little Book Stop stewards". It's inspired her, too. "If there are any local authors who would like to contribute, or illustrators with postcards, I would love to do a collaboration with them".

Instagram [@southfieldsgrid\\_littlebookstop](https://www.instagram.com/southfieldsgrid_littlebookstop)



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## WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF TIM'S BODY-BUILDING

By Ian Shaw

Have you wondered what it is like to be a body builder? Do you have what it takes to be one? Speaking to Clonmore Street resident Tim Oswin made me appreciate the strength of character and psychological strength needed to undertake this formidable commitment.

Tim, married with two daughters, works as a consultant in the aeronautical engineering sector. Tim is active locally: being a member of the Friends of Coronation Gardens Committee, many of you will have seen him helping keep the gardens looking pristine. He has also, over time, taken up serious body building including taking part in contests.

What got Tim into body building? His interest was first influenced by professional bodybuilders like Arnold Schwarzenegger and Dorian Yates, a former Mr Olympia Champion.

After he started to take control of his life and his health he undertook to build up his body, recognising that what he was, and still is, undertaking is a lifetime of disciplined commitment. This meant accepting life-



OSWIN IN ACTION

style changes in terms of what he would eat and drink, becoming more self-aware, and being better informed of how the body works, recognising that there are no quick fixes. More importantly, Tim had to have a vision. How did he want to look/feel in 5-10 years' time? Also what steps could he take to future-proof against the physical ailments of old age by strengthening his body.

If anyone is interested in building up their body, in a nutshell, what are Tim's key points of advice to them?

1. Be active and keep moving, and do so consistently and regularly
2. Learn more about how your body works
3. Have a vision of between 5 to 10 years
4. Identify some quick wins to keep you motivated
5. Find a mentor with whom you can work closely with.

If you would like to learn more, please contact Tim at [t\\_oswin@hotmail.com](mailto:t_oswin@hotmail.com)

## GREEN THE GRID'S BLOOMING READY FOR SUMMER

By Karen Booth

Last year was a busy one for Green the Grid, with highlights including our big herb giveaway in June as part of 'Great Big Green Week'. We gave away over 500 herbs, with almost half the plants grown here in the Grid. In autumn we had our usual stall at Southfields Harvest, to give away bulbs for planting in tree bases and front gardens. We also hosted an Open Evening and a number of gardening hours on Sunday mornings throughout the autumn. We finished off 2025 with our ever-popular sustainable Christmas wreath-making event in early December at the 'Pig and Whistle', raising over £300 for local homelessness charity Glass Door.

Work for this year's programme of events is already underway. We will be taking to the streets in early summer with a focus on what we can do to support pollinators and our local wildlife. We have something a little different in store this year, and will have further details shortly, so keep your eyes peeled!

There's another of our popular Tree Walks on Wednesday 13th May. Enable's Arboricultural Officers Liam Hutton and Bradley Coleman will guide us around the Grid for an hour, pointing out what types of trees we have and how best to take care of them. We gather for coffee and croissants at 10am, so email [sjpotter304@gmail.com](mailto:sjpotter304@gmail.com) to book your spot.

We are always looking for volunteers to get involved, whether that is helping us set up our events, suggesting new ideas for grid gardening and all points in between. We are particularly looking for a Social Media Gardener, to look after our Instagram and Facebook activity. Get in touch by emailing us at [greenhthegridsw18@hotmail.com](mailto:greenhthegridsw18@hotmail.com)

Finally we would like to thank our partners including the SGRA, the Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe, St Barnabas Church, Southfields Harvest, the Pig and Whistle, all our volunteers, and of course all of you who do your bit however small to make the Grid that little bit greener.

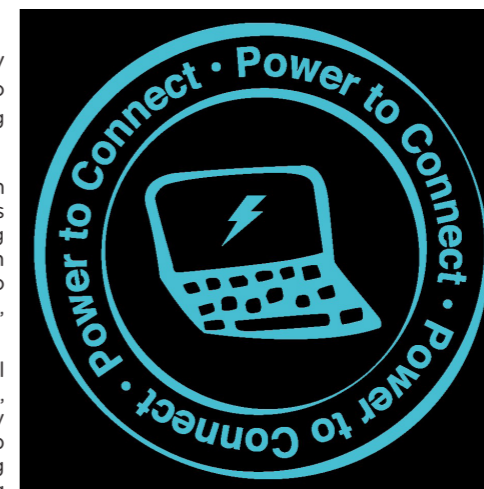
## BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN SOUTHFIELDS

By Emily McMahon

Power to Connect is a local charity supporting Wandsworth residents who are digitally excluded or lack confidence using everyday technology.

As more essential services move online, from GP appointments and school communications to benefits, banking, and job applications, being digitally excluded can make daily life much harder. Power to Connect exists to ensure no one is left behind because they lack the skills, access or support to get online.

The charity delivers free, welcoming digital drop-in sessions in libraries across the borough, including Southfields Library from 2-4pm every Wednesday. Residents can get one-to-one help with things like setting up email, recovering passwords, completing online forms, installing apps and staying safe online. No booking is required and support is tailored to each person.



POWER TO CONNECT LOGO

Each year the charity helps hundreds of residents stay connected and included in an increasingly digital society. Alongside drop-ins, Power to Connect runs free digital skills courses and a tech donation programme that refurbishes laptops and tablets for families, schools and community groups, helping people access the digital world and reducing e-waste. More than 1,500,000kg of CO2 has been saved since we started 6 years ago.

There are lots of ways local residents and organisations can get involved. You can support Power to Connect by donating funds, donating surplus laptops, phones or tablets, or just volunteering your time to help others build digital confidence. If you or someone you know could benefit from free, friendly digital support, you are warmly encouraged to come along to a digital drop-in session at Southfields library.

To get involved or find out more, contact [hello@powertoconnect.co.uk](mailto:hello@powertoconnect.co.uk) or visit our website at [www.powertoconnect.co.uk](http://www.powertoconnect.co.uk)

## FRIENDS OF WIMBLEDON PARK SPRING UPDATE

By Beth McKillop, Secretary

Firstly, we reported last year about an application to build Padel courts inside the athletics track, and explained why we were objecting to the plan. We are disappointed that our objections were not accepted, because we really hoped that Merton would consult and confirm a plan to coordinate the long-term future of the park.

We are very aware that our Park remains on the Historic England 'at risk' register. The way forward is for the three owners (All England Club (AELTC), The Wimbledon Club and the London Borough of Merton) to work together with input from the community to rectify this problem. This is the long-awaited 'Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan'. It is very clear that without it then piecemeal, scattergun interventions around Wimbledon Park will continue.

In February FoWP volunteers planted and mulched 60 trees and 1000 daffodils at Horse Close Wood.

Merton Council plans to repair and restore the much-loved Waterfall Garden near the lake and the cafe, which has been closed for several years now. We are expecting good news soon.

We have been discussing the Revelstoke Road

entrance improvements, and AELTC's plan to improve toilet provision in the car park during Wimbledon Fortnight. It is also great to hear that graffiti is being removed from the Revelstoke Road railway bridge.

Now to two important diary dates. Firstly, the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Wimbledon Park takes place on Saturday 28th March starting at 10am. It will be our second one as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Spaces. The purpose is simple: to demonstrate, visibly and collectively, that people everywhere care deeply about the natural world and want to see it protected and restored. FoWP are taking part by putting on an afternoon talk and tour, 'Capability Brown and Wimbledon Park: A History Lesson.' Please look out for more details soon.

We have planned bat walks on 26th April at 8.15 pm and 26th September at 6.50pm. This

is a fantastic opportunity to learn how modern electronic kit can detect bat calls, and see Common and Soprano Pipistrelles, as well as hopefully other species. We will also organise morning walks to watch and listen to birds on the following dates: 12th April, 3rd May and 14th June starting at 8.30am at the Home Park Road entrance.

There will be a wonderful opportunity to see the great variety of trees in the park with Dave Dawson on Sunday 26th April at 2pm, meeting again at the Home Park Road entrance. This is a special time of year when trees have fresh leaves and flowers.



WORKING HARD IN HORSE CLOSE WOOD

The venue is the Bowlers Room, Bowling Pavilion, Wimbledon Park. All are welcome to attend, though only FoWP members may vote.

Secondly, on Saturday 18th April groups and communities across the UK will be taking part in a Day of Action for Nature, Parks and Green

FoWP warmly welcomes you to join us as we work to conserve and enhance the park. Please visit our informative website [www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org/join-us](http://www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org/join-us) to become a member.

## RAIN DOES NOT STOP PLAY AT AELTC OPEN WEEKEND

By Johnny Perkins AELTC Community Department

- making arts and crafts
  - learning how to construct and maintain your grass tennis court
- Much needed buns and hot drinks kept everybody in good spirits!
- Our next community event was the Nature Weekend on 28/9th March from 10am-1pm and 2-4pm both days. We teamed up with the London Wildlife Trust to celebrate the arrival of spring and the importance of water for wildlife. It also marked the start of the frog spawning season.
- There are more tours of the proposed southern parkland on Friday 24th April from 9.15-10.45am, 11.30am-12.45pm and 2.15-3.30pm. To learn more about these free to attend events and book a place/register your interest, visit [www.wimbledon.com/community](http://www.wimbledon.com/community)

As well as some biblical weather conditions around 1,200 locals flooded into the All England Club's grounds to attend the Community Weekend in early February. Rufus the hawk was on hand to welcome visitors and perform some of his trademark aerobatics. Elsewhere the entertainment included:

- the opportunity to visit Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum and its new exhibition 'Slice of History, nearly 150 years of food and drink at The Championships'
- the Library, the world's largest collection of tennis books and publications
- keeping active by playing mini-tennis and mini-croquet

## SOUTHFIELDS BUSINESS FORUM NEWS UPDATE

By Maddie Miller, Loney Miller Estate Agents

The Southfields Business Forum has been busy as ever, and we are excited to welcome 5 new members already in 2026.

We have lots of exciting new projects afoot as we continue with our mission to "Build a thriving, connected, local business community - where businesses support each other, grow together and collectively make Southfields a better place to live and work".

Following feedback from residents after the Wimbledon Tennis Championships last year, our Chair, Rachel (Wishlist) made an ambitious pitch to AELTC to include local people in the marshalling team for the 2026 event. Happily the pitch was successful, and the recruitment process is complete, so please look out for our helpful local marshals when you are navigating the busy junction by the tube station during the fortnight. This, along with our initiative to "Feed the Queue" spearheaded by Andy (Feel Good), means that Southfields residents and businesses will be more involved than ever when the tennis comes to town.

We are all excited to see a couple of moves for popular shops. The wonderful French deli Chanteroy opens in their new location on Replingham Road, taking half of the old Barclays Bank. We are also working hard to find a space to regularly host our 'Makers Market', which is a brilliant way for all to shop local, and we have so many talented artists and designers in our midst.

The next important dates for your diary include our members' meeting on 26th March at 7pm, and another fabulous Masterclass for our member businesses on 23rd April - this one hosted by the lovely Alex from Light by Lexi.

Our most recent members meeting was on Thursday 26th March. The next important date for us will be on Thursday 23rd April, another fabulous Masterclass for our member businesses. This one focussed on 'Photographing your business', and will be hosted by Alex Vanotti from local firm 'Light by Lexi'.

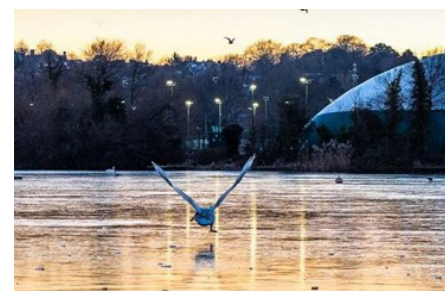


BANNERS IN WIMBLEDON PARK

## REDISCOVERING MAGIC ON MY DOORSTEP VIA A LENS

By Isabelle Lemettre-Doyle, SGRA street rep and keen photographer

A swan lifting off the ice at dusk. A fox emerging from a neighbour's front garden on bin day. Here are moments from our everyday life, right here in our neighbourhood.



I thought I knew this area like the back of my hand, and yet over the past months I have been rediscovering it with fresh eyes. Slowing down, observing and wandering through Wimbledon Park and our surrounding Grid streets has revealed a world full of quiet surprises, everyday beauty and unexpected encounters.

Photography has also given me the chance to meet and connect with so many people in our area. Conversations and shared smiles have become just as precious as the photographs themselves.

While my recent Instagram posts mostly reflect these small local adventures in Wimbledon Park, my work also includes family celebrations, parties, portraits, and helping small businesses create images for



their websites and communication. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank the many of you who have already trusted me along the way.

If you would like to follow these daily discoveries, you can find me on Instagram at [@isabellejphotography](https://www.instagram.com/isabellejphotography). You can also send any enquiries to me at [info@isabelle-jlemettre.com](mailto:info@isabelle-jlemettre.com)

## POLICE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM UPDATE

By Clive Williams, Chair of Southfields Police Ward Panel

We are very lucky in Southfields that our Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Officers are often willing and able to write something for 'Grid News' to update us on local police matters, like the article below. As Chair of the Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Panel, an official Met Police body, I thought I would also give you an update.

I was not surprised the other week, just before 'Grid News' went to press, when an official sounding knock on my front door heralded the arrival of two Police Constables and a Police Community Support Officer together with a marked Police Car. I am getting used to this when our SNT come to visit - although I do get some funny looks from people passing in the street. I am sure they think I am either a victim of crime, or are about to be 'nicked', but this visit was in fact to introduce another new officer to their team.

Since the beginning of this year our two well-established SNT officers, PC Robbie Quijano Amigo and PCSO Don Lopes, both thankfully returned from sick leave, have been joined by a new colleague, PC Emmanuel Fahmi. Now in March another constable, PC Simon Carson-Jones, has arrived in Southfields from Safer Transport in Kingston. Another recent arrival is their boss, PS Sam Simmons, who has moved from Wimbledon to Wandsworth to look after Southfields, West Hill and Wandsworth Town Wards. Welcome to you all.

As many 'Grid News' readers know, Wandsworth has the lowest crime rate in Central London, Southfields Ward has the lowest crime rate in Wandsworth, and the central Grid area has the lowest crime rate in Southfields. Although this means that residents cannot be complacent, the best we can ask for is that no crimes be committed in our area. In December 2025 a total of 57 crimes were reported to the police for Southfields Ward, of which 35 were in roads not on the Grid, whereas only 22 took place in Grid roads.



OUT AND ABOUT WITH SPEED GUN

Recent figures will be available on the SGRA website, but if you cannot wait do visit [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) where you can check crime figures for your road for the past three years.

Other Police news is that two of the new members of the Southfields Police team were involved in the arrest of a drug dealer in Merton Road in February (see below) and two Hyundai Ioniq cars have been stolen recently from the Grid.

A Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting was held on Saturday 28th March at St Barnabas Church. This was one of 4 quarterly public meetings with the police to outline their recent and current work and answer any questions from the public. It's a good chance to meet the police informally, and the next one is scheduled for Saturday 11th July.

## SOUTHFIELDS POLICE - A TYPICAL SUCCESS STORY

By PC Robbie Quijano Amigo, Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Team

I wanted to provide you with a success story regarding drug dealing and drug use, which people around the Grid have highlighted as an issue of concern on the recent priority survey.

In mid-February PC Fahmi of Southfields SNT and PS Simmons were conducting an initiative-taking patrol on Merton Road when they observed what they believed to be a drug deal in progress involving a moped. With quick reactions they apprehended the suspect and conducted a drug search, where a large quantity of Class A, B and C drugs worth over £4000 was discovered in a secret hiding compartment in the moped back box. The rider was arrested and drugs were taken off our street and out of our community. An investigation is still ongoing.



Great work from our amazing officers - well done.

Southfields SNT are committed to tackling drug dealing wherever we find it. We shall keep you updated on our efforts to do this in and around the Grid, but if you have any

concerns or evidence it is really important you report this as soon as possible. If you ever experience this issue, or have information regarding an incident, please report it using our online reporting tools at [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk) or speak to an operator in our Force Communications Room via our online web chat or call the non-emergency number 101. If you prefer you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or via their untraceable online form at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>

We hold regular 'Cuppa with a Copper' sessions in local cafes, where our team are happy to chat over crime and safety issues in the Grid to get your comments and suggestions. Keep an eye out for the next date in April on our police or local social media channels. You can also email us anytime at [southfields@met.police.uk](mailto:southfields@met.police.uk)

## HOME-START LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Melissa Pike, Home-Start Communications Manager

week can make a world of difference to a family going through tough times. Home-Start Wandsworth is looking for compassionate

needs. They help parents regain confidence, connect with other support services, and engage with the wider community to reduce isolation. A listening ear, a helping hand, and a kind word - this simple support can be a lifeline for a family in need.

All Home-Start Wandsworth volunteers receive training and ongoing support from a dedicated staff team. The next volunteer training course begins on Thursday 7th May and runs every Thursday for 8 weeks excluding 28th May. You do not need formal qualifications - just empathy, reliability, and a willingness to help, along with a little time.

Why volunteer? People volunteer with Home-Start Wandsworth for many reasons: to give back to their community, make a tangible difference in a local family's life, or develop new skills and experience.

"The support we received from our Home-Start volunteer was invaluable. She was kind, thoughtful and always made us feel comfortable. Often in our circumstances you can feel like you are living on the edge of society unseen, but our volunteer welcomed us and made us feel heard and seen".

For more information, visit:

[www.homestartwandsworth.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.homestartwandsworth.org.uk/volunteer)



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Being a parent has never been easy. All parents face challenges at times, but for some the pressures of isolation, financial hardship, disability, or poor mental health can feel overwhelming. Just 2-4 hours a

individuals to join their network of volunteers.

Home-Start Wandsworth volunteers work alongside families to provide non-judgmental, confidential support tailored to each family's

## FRIENDS OF CORONATION GARDENS SPRING UPDATE

By Geoff Davis, FoCG Committee

It was a quiet winter for our gardens, with us taking stock after all the activity we had in 2025.

Things have got busier in recent weeks, though. Our Gardening Club had its first meeting of the year on Saturday 7th February. The work plans for 2026 was discussed along with everything from compiling a list of tools needed to organising a visit to a nice garden shop in Marylebone!

The new Heads of Parks at Wandsworth Council, Valerie Selby, was a welcome recent visitor for a walk around the Gardens with committee members. Hedges, bins, a possible water feature and a bird feeder were all discussed.

Our 7th AGM will be held in the scout hut adjacent to the Gardens and children's play area from 7.30-9pm on Thursday 30th April. As well as a review of our past year and our finances, the committee are up for re-election and there will be a special guest speaker. We

will end with a 'social' over wine and nibbles. If you love Coronation Gardens do come and join in, as you're very welcome.

After last year's success, Shakespeare in the Squares LIVE returns on Sunday 14th June when they perform 'Love's Labour's Lost' starting at 3pm. Tickets are on sale, with an early bird adult rate until Monday 6th April. Visit <https://events.humanitix.com/loves-labours-lost-coronation-gardens>

Please get in touch regarding any aspect of the Gardens and its management at [focoronationgardens@gmail.com](mailto:focoronationgardens@gmail.com)

If you would like to become a member, and at only £10 a year it is a wonderful bargain, go to our website to sign up [www.focoronationgardens.co.uk](http://www.focoronationgardens.co.uk)

Finally.... our restored heritage water fountain with its beautiful stature of the Gardens' designer Fanny Wilkinson as its centrepiece, has attracted much praise since being unveiled last summer. One kind person went even further recently, adding a lovely touch to it as you can see in the picture.

I am sure Fanny would have been delighted by their kind gesture!



FLOWERS FROM AN ADMIRER?

## THERE'S ALWAYS LOADS GOING ON AT THE LIBRARY

By Chris Arnby, Operations Manager, Wandsworth Libraries & Heritage Service

The Children's Library has regular weekly activities for children of all ages. For the very youngest there is Baby Rhyme time (Wednesday, 9.30-10am), and for slightly older children, we have Tiny Tales and Tunes (Friday, 9.30-10am) with a mixture of stories and songs for children aged 2-4 years. There is also Story Time (Friday 11-11.30am) for children aged up to five years.



SOUTHFIELDS LIBRARY

After school there is a Board Games club (Tuesday, 4.30-5.30pm) and a Lego Club (Tuesday, 4-5pm). On Wednesdays (3.30-4.30pm) there is an Arts and Crafts session, and there is another chance to get creative on Saturdays with an Origami session (11am-12pm). Through the year we also have one-off events which are advertised in the Children's Library.

We also offer volunteering opportunities to Duke of Edinburgh Award and Work experience students, so they can share their skills. Until July we have a Swedish Conversation group for children aged 5 and

up (Saturday, 11.30am-12pm). Children under 5 can also receive free books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a programme to inspire a love of reading by gifting free books every month for every child in Wandsworth from birth to their fifth birthday. For more information call 020 8871 6000 or email [imaginationlibrary@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:imaginationlibrary@wandsworth.gov.uk)

Adults are well catered for as well! We have three book groups:

- the Silver Circle who meet on the first Tuesday of the month (2-3pm)
- the Saturday Reading Group on the 3rd Saturday of the month (11am-12pm)
- the Zillennial\* Reading Group, that's Generation Z and millennials, on the last Tuesday of the month (5.45-6.45pm).

Speak to staff if you would like any more information.

If you need computer help quickly visit Power to Connect who offer expert advice from digital champions (Wednesday during term time, 2-4pm - see page 15). Once a month Age UK Wandsworth also offer computer help for older people with their Digital Inclusion Sessions. This normally takes place on a Wednesday towards the end of the month from 10.30am-12pm.

We will also have one-off events from now until the start of July - Celebrating Easter, Father's Day, the Wandsworth Heritage Festival and more. We will have activities for the summer holidays, and the 'Summer Reading Challenge'.

The Library will be closed on 3rd April for the Good Friday Bank Holiday.

Come on in to meet the friendly staff, join in one of the activities, and do not forget to borrow loads of books. Or just one. But ideally, loads! For more information come in and pick up our monthly newsletter, and follow us on Instagram [@southfields.library](https://www.instagram.com/southfields.library)

## GRID ARTIST GERARD SELECTED FOR TOP ART EXHIBITION

By Charles Runcie

Southfields Grid resident Gerard Sebastian was selected for the prestigious ING Discerning Eye Exhibition at the Mall Galleries last November, an achievement made all the more notable by the scale of competition. More than 6,500 works were submitted, with only a carefully chosen 500 or so making it to the gallery walls.

Gerard's work, entitled 'Kotiya - Leopard' depicts a Sri Lankan leopard. 'Panthera pardus kotiya' is the scientific word for leopards found in Sri Lanka, a powerful and culturally resonant symbol there, where the animal represents both beauty and authority in the wild. The painting captures the poised intensity of the leopard's gaze, combining technical precision with atmospheric restraint. Executed in Gerard's contemporary digital style, the work reflects his ongoing engagement with wildlife portraiture and themes of presence, stillness and latent power.

The Discerning Eye, founded in 1999, is widely regarded as one of the UK's most dynamic open exhibitions. Its distinctive format appoints six

independent selectors - typically artists, critics and collectors - who each curate their own section. All works are judged anonymously, ensuring decisions are based purely on artistic merit.



GERARD'S ARTWORK

A Southfields resident for over 20 years, Gerard has been an active member of the Southfields Grid Residents Association, serving for several years as Vice Chairman. He contributes to neighbourhood initiatives and civic engagement, and draws a cartoon

for each issue of Grid News - see page 2. The selection of his artwork for this exhibition was recognised by local MP Fleur Anderson, who wrote to congratulate him. She noted that being selected from more than 6,500 entries is "a real achievement and a testament to the quality of your work".

He is also proud to see the next generation of artistic talent emerging within his own family. His daughter Alice Sebastian is a Fine Art honours graduate, and developing her own practice and representing Southfields alongside other talented local artists. In this sense he is delighted that the creative mantle is being carried forward, a continuation of artistic commitment rooted firmly within the community.

For Southfields, the recognition of one of its long-standing residents on a national stage is both a personal success story and a reminder of the depth of creative talent within the area.

You can see more of this father-daughter duo's artistic work on Instagram:

[@gerardsebastian](https://www.instagram.com/gerardsebastian)

[@alice.sebastian\\_fineart](https://www.instagram.com/alice.sebastian_fineart)

# LOCAL FACILITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

## SGRA Executive Committee

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

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

**Secretary:** Ian Shaw | 07554 898538

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

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

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

**Treasurer:** Ameet Phadnis | 07540 646564

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

**Committee Members:** Kyle Forder, Ann Kerr, Rod Lewington, Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty, Will Smart, Clive Williams

**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

### Elsenhams Street

Oliver Ashbee at 78

Andrew Dunley at 90

### Engadine Street

Isabelle Lemettre at 116

### Hanford Close

Michele Clarke at 20

### Heythorpe 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](mailto: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](http://www.southfieldsbusinessforum.org.uk)

Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce [www.wandsworthchamber.org](http://www.wandsworthchamber.org)

## Cultural

Singswell - [www.singswell.co.uk](http://www.singswell.co.uk)

"Southfields storyteller" - [www.hannahneed.co.uk](http://www.hannahneed.co.uk)

Sounds of Southfields - [www.soundsofsouthfields.co.uk](http://www.soundsofsouthfields.co.uk)

Southfields Artists Group - via [slavica@melroseroad.net](mailto:slavica@melroseroad.net)

Southfields Sings - [www.naturalvoice.net/choir/southfields-sings](http://www.naturalvoice.net/choir/southfields-sings)

Window Wanderland - [www.windowwanderland.com/southfields](http://www.windowwanderland.com/southfields)

## Faith

St Barnabas, Lavenham Road - [www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk](http://www.stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk)

Everyday Church, Wimbledon Park Road - [www.everyday.org.uk/southfields](http://www.everyday.org.uk/southfields)

Ahmadiyya Mosque, Gressenhall Road - [www.loveforallthatredfornone.org](http://www.loveforallthatredfornone.org)

Wimbledon Mosque, Durnsford Road - [www.wimbledonmosque.org](http://www.wimbledonmosque.org)

## Interest groups

Friends of Coronation Gardens - [www.focoronationgardens.co.uk](http://www.focoronationgardens.co.uk)

Friends of Wimbledon Park - [www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk)

Green the Grid - [www.frontgardenfriendly.uk](http://www.frontgardenfriendly.uk)

Grid Mummies - [erica\\_loi@hotmail.com](mailto:erica_loi@hotmail.com)

Southfields Chess Club - [southfieldschess@gmail.com](mailto:southfieldschess@gmail.com)

Wandsworth Tree Wardens [www.wandsworthtreewardens.org](http://www.wandsworthtreewardens.org)

Walk and Talk Movement, Wimbledon Park [www.walkandtalkmovement.org](http://www.walkandtalkmovement.org)

## Library

Southfields Library, Wimbledon Park Road - open Tuesdays & Wednesdays

9-7pm, Friday 9-5pm, Saturday 10-2.30pm

## Nearby Resident Associations

Gardens RA - [sophia.browning@gmail.com](mailto:sophia.browning@gmail.com)

Southfields Triangle - [info@stra6.org.uk](mailto:info@stra6.org.uk)

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

Wimbledon Park RA - [www.wimbledonpark.com](http://www.wimbledonpark.com)

## Police

Southfields - 020 8721 2434 or [southfields@met.police.uk](mailto:southfields@met.police.uk)

Parks Police - 07500 814108 or [parkspolice@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:parkspolice@wandsworth.gov.uk)

## Senior groups

Hestia adult support - [www.hestia.org/older-people](http://www.hestia.org/older-people) or 020 8767 8426

Monday Club, c/o St Barnabas Church - email [ma\\_brett@hotmail.com](mailto:ma_brett@hotmail.com)

Wandsworth Older Peoples Forum - [www.wopf.org.uk](http://www.wopf.org.uk)

U3a - further education [www.wandsworth.u3asite.uk](http://www.wandsworth.u3asite.uk)

## Sport

All England Club - [www.wimbledon.com](http://www.wimbledon.com)

Swimbleton, wild swimming - [www.swimbleton.co.uk](http://www.swimbleton.co.uk)

'Tag' Rugby - [Jake.Dunley@hotmail.com](mailto:Jake.Dunley@hotmail.com)

Wandsworth Boxing Club - [www.wandsworthboxingclub.co.uk](http://www.wandsworthboxingclub.co.uk)

AFC Wimbledon - [afcwimbledon.co.uk](http://afcwimbledon.co.uk)

## Sustainability

Abundance Southfields - [www.abundancesouthfields.com](http://www.abundancesouthfields.com)

Recycle More Southfields - [www.recyclemoresouthfields.org](http://www.recyclemoresouthfields.org)

Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe - [www.therestartproject.org/groups/restart-southfields/](http://www.therestartproject.org/groups/restart-southfields/)

Council tree officers - [trees.wandsworth@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:trees.wandsworth@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

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

## PLEASE JOIN THE SGRA

The SGRA financial and membership year runs from 6th April 2026 - 5th April 2027, and our annual subscription is a minimum £5. You may wish to contribute more. There are several easy ways to pay:

• Cash to your street representative, list above

• PayPal - Log in to your PayPal account:

[treasurer@southfieldsgrid.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@southfieldsgrid.org.uk)

• BACS - our details are Barclays Bank, sort code 20-90-69, a/c 83500020 Southfields Grid Residents' Association

If you'd like to join our SGRA mailing list we must have your consent for GDPR regulations. You can do this by emailing [sgrasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:sgrasecretary@gmail.com) to confirm your payment, and our database will be updated. Please put your Grid address in the online reference box so we can add you to our email database.

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

Tuesday 31st March - SGRA public meeting, 7.30pm

Tuesday 21st April - Local election hustings, 7.30pm

Saturday 25th April - Mend, Fix, Repair cafe, 12-3pm

Thursday 30th April - Friends of Coronation Gardens AGM, 93 Pirbright Road, 7.30pm

Wednesday 13th May - Grid Tree Walk by warden. 78 Heythorpe Street, 10am

Tuesday 19th May - SGRA AGM, 7.30pm

Saturday 13th June - Mend, Fix, Repair cafe, 12-3pm

Sunday 14th June - Love's Labour's Lost, Coronation Gardens, 3pm

Saturday 11th July - Police SNT Ward Panel public meeting, 10.30am

**The summer edition of Grid News will be out in mid-July. Items for consideration should be sent to the Editor by Friday 19th June at [info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk](mailto:info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk) We love getting your Grid stories and pictures!**