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SGRA  
The Newsletter of the Southfields Grid Residents' Association

Winter 2010

**SOUTHfields**

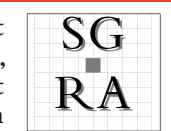
Edited by: Lesley Cresswell Making a difference to life on the Grid.

**YOUR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION WANTS TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!**  
by Zarir Vakil

Earlier this year the current Chairman of the SGRA, Mike Caswell, decided that he would like to step down in time for a new Chairman to be appointed by the AGM in 2011. The SGRA committee agreed that this would be a good time to review the role, remit, priorities and organisation of the SGRA, to ensure that it continues to have a relevant and practical role in the local community.

Mike Caswell asked me, as the new Deputy Chair of the SGRA, to lead a volunteer Working Party to undertake this review. I would like the review to be inclusive of all opinion, build on the fine legacy of the SGRA and prepare it for the future.

The Working Party has now held two initial meetings, in August and September, to create the framework review agenda. Given the importance of making the review relevant to local residents,



the Working Party concluded that they would firstly undertake a Grid-wide consultation. This would survey residents' thoughts and opinions about the relevance, objectives, structure and operation of the SGRA, including issues of importance to residents, membership and funding, and engagement within the community. It is anticipated that the survey will be conducted early in the New Year.

Having analysed residents' responses, the Working Party plans to meet as required, in whole or in part, to work on specific identified and agreed areas for review/change. Proposals for development/change will be put to the SGRA committee before the AGM in 2011, such that any resolutions for change can be proposed at the AGM itself. Please contact me directly if you have any comments to make or ideas to put forward regarding the Working Party review.

Zarir Vakil zarir.vakil@btopenworld.com

*Dates for your Diary...*

**Sat 4 Dec, 10.30am-2.30pm: Christmas Fair** at St Barnabas Church, Lavenham Road.

**Fri 10 Dec: Christmas Fayre** at St Michael's School, Granville Road.

**Fri 10 Dec-Sun 16 Jan: Peter Pan** at the Wimbledon Theatre. Tickets: 0844 871 7646 or www.ambassadorickets.com/wimbledon

**Fri 10 Dec-Sun 16 Jan: Sleeping Beauty** at Richmond Theatre. Tickets: 0870 060 6651 or www.ambassadorickets.com/richmond

**Sat 11 Dec: Southfields Business Forum Open Day** on the Grid – Father Christmas & presents for the kids plus Christmas ideas for all!

**Sat 18 Dec, 7.00pm: Carols for Choir and Audience**, with the Wimbledon Choral Society at St Paul's Church, Augustus Road. Tickets: £13 8605 2266 or from wimbledon-choral.org.uk/tickets

**Sun 19 Dec, 5.00pm: Carol Service** at St Barnabas Church.

**Tues 21 December, 5.30pm: SGRA Carol Singing** in the concourse at Southfields Station, raising funds for St George's Hospital, Tooting. ALL VOICES WELCOME!

**Fri 24 Dec, 4.00pm: Nativity Service** – children welcome to come as shepherds or angels and bring cuddly toys! St Barnabas Church.

**Fri 24 Dec, 11.30pm: Midnight Mass** - Traditional candlelit service with carols at St Barnabas Church.

**Sat 25 Dec, 10.30 am: Christmas Day Family Eucharist** at St Barnabas Church.  
**From now until 30 Jan 2011: Cinderella** at the Colour House Theatre, Merton Abbey Mills. Tickets: 8542 5511  
www.colourhousetheatre.co.uk

**From now until 5 Feb 2011: The Snow Queen** for ages 6-11, at the Polka Theatre. Tickets: weekends £16, weekdays £14, special £10 rates on some dates. 8543 4888 or www.polkatheatre.com

**SAVE THE DATE! Sat 16 April 2011, 3.00pm-6.00pm: the Golden Oldies Party** at St Barnabas Church. The SGRA's annual party for the senior members of our community, with lots of entertainment and refreshments, all free of charge so please come along! Call 8874 6715 nearer the date for further details.

**WHAT IS THE SGRA?**  
The Southfields Grid Residents Association (SGRA) is a voluntary, self funding association that exists to preserve, maintain and enhance life on the Grid. We hold regular meetings with residents, local councillors and our MP when we discuss local issues such as schools, planning, transport, crime and local events. The SGRA also produces a Newsletter three times a year and delivers it to every house on the Grid. If you are interested in local issues or want to help run a Grid social event such as Soft Ball or a Quiz, please come along to a meeting at 8.00pm on the last Tuesday of the month at St Barnabas Church Hall, Lavenham Road.

**SGRA committee...**

Chair:  
Mike Caswell 020 8874 6715

Deputy Chair:  
Zarir Vakil 07801 035 611

Secretary:  
Carly Powell 07547 120129

Treasurer:  
Carol Gray 020 8870 5706

**Street Representatives.**

Astonville Street  
Carly Powell at 32

Brookwood Road  
Vacant – volunteers welcome

Clonmore Street  
Nick Steiner at 116

Elborough Street  
Mike Caswell at 96

Elsenhaw Street  
Kitty Alderson at 9

Engadine Street  
Carol Gray at 33

Hanford Close  
Connie Bish

Heythorp Street  
Vacant – volunteers welcome

Langton Place  
Zarir Vakil at 10

Lavenham Road  
Eddie Lewis at 4

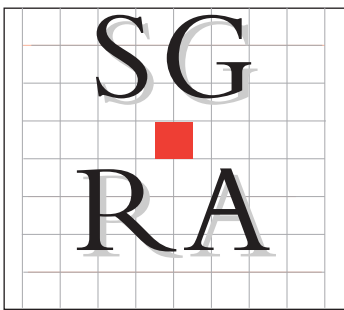
Merton Road  
Maria Beckett

Replingham Road  
Mrs Becker at 136

Revelstoke Road  
Chris Wright at 190

Trentham Street  
Peter Stechman





### BOOK CLUB by Angela Rowan

Following the last Newsletter, a number of residents have come forward and expressed an interest in joining a book club. A meeting has been set up to discuss how to progress. Angela Rowan [angelarowan@btconnect.com](mailto:angelarowan@btconnect.com)

### Editorial

Well it's that time of year again when we are all rushing around, with too much to do and too little time to do it. Why is it that every year we vow not to get carried along by all the commercialism, yet somehow can't stop ourselves? And why is it that once we have bought all the presents and stocked up the fridge and freezer, it never seems enough? Even though Christmas itself is only the equivalent of a weekend and the shops are often open on Boxing Day, we sometimes behave as if they will never open again!

One thing I hope we will all find time to do in the New Year is take part in the SGRA survey - please see the article by Zarir Vakil, on the front page of this Newsletter. Also on the front page you will see a small piece headed *What is the SGRA?* It is more than just the Newsletter that comes through your door three times a year. The SGRA is your residents' association, run on a voluntary basis by people just like yourselves - people who live, work and play here, people who want to help make life better for all of us. But to make this happen, you will need to tell us what you want - for you, your family, your home and community. The SGRA will function better and you will benefit more if we know what it is you like about living here on the Grid and what it is that you think could be changed or improved to make life better for us all. We want to hear from you, whether you have lived here for a number of years, or if you are a relatively new resident. So please don't be shy, we want to hear what you have to say. And once all the survey responses have been analysed, we will report back to you. If you would like to take part in the SGRA residents' survey online, please email me with your name, house number and street and we will send you the link to the URL as soon as it becomes available. We also aim to provide a hard copy version of the survey - and look forward to hearing back from you in the New Year..... and in the meantime "Season's Greetings to us all!"

**Lesley Cresswell**  
[lesley\\_cresswell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lesley_cresswell@yahoo.co.uk)

### GRID GARDENERS' CLUB by Malcolm Brereton

The inaugural meeting of the Grid Gardeners' Club was held on 21st October when, with a view to a launch in early Spring 2011, various ideas were enthusiastically discussed. These included the sharing of plant cuttings and excess bulbs; help and ideas on suitable plants and designs for your garden; encouraging pond and other wildlife; re-energising the Grid tree warden scheme; increasing composting facilities and re-cycling opportunities; a possible 'open day' for visiting local gardens; helping in other local non-residential gardens (Southfields Station?); providing topical tips in the Newsletter; and perhaps rather over enthusiastically, the sharing of any surplus vegetables and fruits! Anyone in the Grid is welcome to participate - please contact Malcolm Brereton at 133 Heythorp [m.brereton@btconnect.com](mailto:m.brereton@btconnect.com)

### BRAIN OF BRITAIN (WELL, SOUTHFIELDS) by William Haigh

On Tuesday 16th November eighty brain boxes from Southfields took on Derek Barrett's fiendish SGRA Quiz, which was held in St Barnabas Church Hall. The eventual winners were University Challenged, who took victory by a small margin. The evening was a great success and the SGRA would like to thank Derek for setting the Quiz, St Barnabas for hosting the event, the Olive Garden for the prize vouchers and everyone who took part for their support. The SGRA is looking to hold another Quiz in the Spring. If you are interested in hearing more please email [Theoriginalkit@gmail.com](mailto:Theoriginalkit@gmail.com)



The SGRA Quiz

### ANYONE FOR A SAFARI PARTY? by Kate Elliott

Strange things have been happening in Clonmore Street. They started in the summer of 2007, when several neighbours in the first block - numbers 1-43 - had a Safari Party. The idea is to set an itinerary for the evening and invite everyone to bring a contribution of drink and food to each venue. Then you enjoy your safari! Initially it was started by Kate Elliott at number 34, with a flyer through the door to set up an email list, which made communication and organisation much easier.

We have held three more Safari Parties - usually we have started with aperitifs/nibbles at the Old Sweet Shop on the corner of Heythorp Street and Brookwood Road. Not strictly speaking Clonmore Street but owned and run by Joe and Adrian at number 32. The evening has usually finished at number 34 for puddings, with various other neighbours generously providing their houses as the venue for the main course. Each of our Safari Parties has been a wonderful opportunity to catch up with the neighbours, meet new friends, eat fantastic meals (there's always an enormous quantity and diversity of foods) and generally have a great evening.

Why not try it in your part of the Grid? If you'd like any further information on how to run a Safari Party of your own, do get in touch with Kate, on [ksaelliott@gmail.com](mailto:ksaelliott@gmail.com) ..... And next summer, why not try closing your section of street to join in with The Big Lunch, like we did in July? It was a fantastic day of sunshine, with a surprisingly wide street, once it was emptied of cars. We created one long table for us all to have lunch together and children and adults played rather competitive cricket before and afterwards. There was also roller-blading, skate-boarding, dancing, music, a group photo and some rather continental sitting around drinking wine on the pavements. The children still talk about the day they played out in the road with no fear of being run over.....

### INTRODUCING YOUR COUNCILLORS by Lucy Allan

The SGRA has for many years made a strong contribution to the area, helping to create a real sense of community. As Councillors we want to encourage that community spirit and work with residents to help them in their efforts to contribute to their community.



Lucy Allan

We know people often feel that there are a host of obstacles in their way when it comes to making a contribution: whether it is organising a Street Party, putting up Christmas lights or just clearing snow from their pavements. Often something, which seems as if it should be quite natural and achievable, can fall at the first hurdle of red tape and bureaucracy. Yet it is these small acts that make us feel we belong, that show we are part of a community and create a better place to live. For many it is a natural and neighbourly way of life.

Your councillors are committed to working with both residents and the Council towards achieving what we call a

'Can Do Council' - put simply a Council that actively seeks to enable residents to make those contributions large or small that create a genuine community. A 'Can Do' Council makes it easier for you to play a part rather than holding back active communities. For example, this winter, grit will be available from the Council to enable you to grit your own front path or pavement outside your house, if you want to do that. It's about enabling people to get involved.

Southfields three councillors, Lucy Allan, Guy Humphries and Terry Walsh are committed to working with you to help make Southfields a strong community and great place to live. That's why we wanted to become Councillors. We are committed to working with the Council to remove those unnecessary obstacles, which inhibit or prevent you from being neighbourly. And, yes, if we do get snow this year you can clear your part of the street without interference, if you want to do that.

[Lallan@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Lallan@wandsworth.gov.uk)  
[Ghumphries@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Ghumphries@wandsworth.gov.uk)  
[Twalsh@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Twalsh@wandsworth.gov.uk)

### SGRA CAROL SINGING - not to be missed!

Come along and join fellow Grid residents, your local Deputy Mayor and MP for SGRA Carol Singing on Tuesday 21 December from 5.30pm-7.00pm. We'll be singing in the concourse at Southfields Station, by kind permission of London Underground, raising funds for St George's Hospital, Tooting. ALL VOICES WELCOME so why not come along and join in the fun?

### PARK LIFE by Emma Helbert

**The Waterfall Garden**  
The lake in the park was designed by Capability Brown in 1765. It was created by dredging out the land and building a dam, which today provides a lovely promenade for park users. In the 1950s a waterfall was added but sadly this fell into neglect. Thanks to the Wimbledon Park Heritage Group (WPHG) the lake and waterfall have been reconnected and a large garden is being created complete with a bridge, seating area and walkways around the garden and waterfall. The garden is the creation of local designer and Ashen Grove resident Mathew Childs.

#### Other News:

• Last July Wimbledon Park Golf Club carried out a cull of Canada Geese that resulted in a number of birds being badly wounded. Although the cull happened when the park was closed, the SGRA, Wimbledon Park Residents Association and Wimbledon Park Heritage Group have all written to the Golf Club to express deep concern at the use of firearms in the park and have sought reassurance that this will not happen again. The matter is under police investigation.

• The extension of the car park at the Revelstoke Road entrance may please some, but many residents feel that the London Borough of Merton should not encourage more cars into the park, but persuade people to cycle, walk or use public transport. There have also been complaints that it makes the entrance unattractive and more dangerous for pedestrians. As there are plans to make the extended parking a permanent feature, the SGRA has contacted Merton Council to request that residents on the Wandsworth side of the park are consulted.

• Residents have alerted the SGRA to the problem of anti-social behaviour in the park after the gates are closed. Merton Council has been contacted for reassurance as to how to they are working with the police to tackle this problem. An update will follow in the next newsletter.

### ELSENHAM STREET TRAFFIC SPEED SURVEY

Following requests from Elsenham Street residents, a traffic speed survey was conducted in the street during the third week in September. The criteria used by the Council to help determine whether measures need to be considered is speed exceeding 31mph and traffic volumes in excess of 300 vehicles per hour. Kevin Power from the Technical Services Dept has reported that the mean traffic speed in Elsenham Street at that time was 22mph and peak volumes were 160 vehicles per hour. Also the traffic accident statistics for Elsenham Street show there have been no personal injury traffic accidents in the latest 3 year study period to warrant further investigation. Mr Power states that, "Whilst I appreciate the concerns you have regarding traffic conditions in Elsenham Street, traffic management cannot currently be justified."

### COMPOST BIN UPDATE by Lesley Cresswell

My compost bin is proving to be a great investment - I've reduced my dustbin waste by at least 50% and I'm looking forward to having lots of free compost to use in my garden next Spring. Composting is much easier than I originally thought - why not take a look at [www.wandsworth.getcomposting.com/](http://www.wandsworth.getcomposting.com/) where you will find useful information on composting and about the special offer on reduced price compost bins.



### FACE TO FACE..... Gerry Skeens in conversation with Mayda Narvey, Southfields' Belle Cellist

Canadian born Mayda Narvey is well-known on the Grid as piano and cello teacher to many local children and adults. Her musical life began at the age of five when she started piano lessons, taking up the cello three years later. Having completed her Masters at the State University of New York, her first job was playing cello in the prestigious National Arts Centre Orchestra of Canada.



Mayda Narvey

Mayda emigrated here with husband, David, in 1984, settling in Pirbright Road in '87, where her sons, Sam (23) and Joe (20) were born. She became a bona fide 'Gridian' in 2007 when she moved to Brookwood Road, where she now lives with her children and Bob the cat. A very proud mum, Mayda tells me that Sam is a recent Classics graduate from Edinburgh, while Joe is lead guitarist with the 'Savage Nomads'. Signed by Alaska Records, their EP is out next month!

When the children were young, Mayda taught at home and in secondary schools. She currently teaches classes linking composers with authors (e.g. T.S. Eliot and Beethoven), string quartets and cello at the City Lit; and piano and cello to lawyers and bankers in the City. Both instruments are taught to Diploma level.

Playing cello is her passion, though. She returned to performing in 2004 and 18 months ago 'Ismena Collective' was conceived, a trio

comprising pianist, cellist and singer. She co-wrote their recent show *Glitter* at the Baron's Court Theatre. They are performing three French music recitals in December. Future plans include a recital based around Scottish ballads, commissioned from composer, Daryl Runswick.

A lady of many parts, Mayda also writes music and has penned a novel, *Chopin's Widow*, a fictional memoir of Chopin's student, Jane Stirling.

Mayda loves life on the Grid. She enjoys the community feel, the closeness of friends, the safe environment, the lovely green spaces and the proximity to the centre of London with its huge array of arts and entertainment. You can find out more about this talented, witty, warm lady on her website: [www.maydanarvey.co.uk](http://www.maydanarvey.co.uk)

**FACT FILE**  
**Fav composer:** Ravel.  
**Fav books:** *Sense & Sensibility*, *Crime & Punishment*.  
**Inspired by:** Nadia Boulanger, famous teacher of composition.  
**Laughs most with:** Sam.  
**Most proud of:** Her sons.  
**Major vice:** Woody Allen style worrying!

### ST BARNABAS NEWS from Ian Tattum

The first Southfields Arts Festival went off well. There was good turn-out for the evening with Ruth Padel and a full house for the one with Tracy Chevalier. Both writers read beautifully from their works and were gracious in the way they answered questions, including those asked by the children and young people present. About a hundred people attended the concert in Church on the 27th October, put on by students from Southfields Community College. They entertained us brilliantly with

a repertoire of Gospel, Rock and Soul music and are very keen to return early next summer! The artwork celebrating creatures of the prehistoric past and the present, produced by Riversdale and Sheringdale schools, are currently on display in Church.

The SGRA very kindly contributed to the costs of the garden development project, which we began in earnest this autumn and hope to complete by the spring. Access to the war memorial has been made easier and safer by the laying of a new lawn, bulbs have been planted to provide early spring cover and a row of olive trees have been planted - many thanks to Martin Whittaker, of Wimbledon Gardener for his help! [www.st-b.info](http://www.st-b.info)

### HAVE YOUR SAY! by Sam Jennings, Manager of The Grid Inn

Members of the SGRA are being invited to have their say about their perceptions of The Grid Inn, good or bad, and to offer suggestions for the kind of events that they would like to see happening in this local, community pub.

Manager Sam Jennings has asked the SGRA to pass a comments book around at the next Committee meeting in the hope that she can gather some honest feedback about the perceptions of The Grid Inn over the years.

Sam wants to know why we do or don't use the pub and what we as the local community want to see happening there in terms of future events and community involvement.

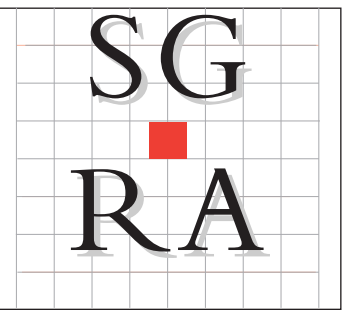
At a recent residents' meeting at the Grid Inn, Sam remarked, "A local pub should be the heart of the community; it should be its front

room where everyone feels welcome to pop in for a coffee and a quiet read of the paper or for celebratory drinks with friends. We can only make The Grid Inn a place that local residents are proud to use, and be part of, if we know exactly how the pub is or has been perceived and exactly what the local community wants it to deliver!"



The Grid Inn

Sam has been invited to join us at the SGRA Committee meeting in January 2011 and is looking forward to meeting residents, listening to what we have to say and responding to any comments that have been made. Editor.



### Council Numbers

**Council Tax**  
020 8871 8081  
[counciltax@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:counciltax@wandsworth.gov.uk)  
**Education**  
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[edadmin@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:edadmin@wandsworth.gov.uk)  
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[planningapplications@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:planningapplications@wandsworth.gov.uk)

### THE SGRA WINTER NEWSLETTER - Credits

Thanks go to members of the Committee, the volunteer Newsletter Team (Angela Rowan, Emma Helbert, Fiona Downes & Gerry Skeens) and Grid residents for Newsletter contributions; to the Street Representatives for delivering the Newsletter; and to Grid residents for donations to the SGRA, which help fund this Newsletter.

Contributions of articles (200 words maximum please), with news about Grid activities of interest to residents are welcome, together with photographs (high resolution). Contact the editor [lesley\\_cresswell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lesley_cresswell@yahoo.co.uk)

