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SGRA  
The Newsletter  
of the  
SOUTHFIELDS GRID RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2011

**SOUTHfields**

Edited by: Lynn Harvey

Making a difference to life on the Grid.

**GOODBYE TO THE GRID INN**

It was a surprise both to the staff and the customers when  
Wetherspoons recently announced the closure of the Grid Inn, so  
they could sell it to Tesco's. The Grid Inn had become more popular  
recently, following the arrival of a new manager, and its closure is a  
sad loss for its many loyal regulars.

One of the features of Southfields is the number of independent outlets  
that we have, so we must remember the old adage, either use it or lose it.



**SGRA committee...**

- Chairman:  
Tina Thompson 020 8879 0347
- Vice-Chair:  
Peter Stechman at 147 Tientham St.
- Secretary:  
Liz Becker 020 8870 0307
- Treasurer:  
Carol Gray 020 8870 5706

**FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION REVIVAL**

Once upon a time many years ago, in fact only as far back as 1979, a group of keen gardeners walked round the Grid twice a year and looked at the front gardens.

They then decided which was the best and a silver platter was awarded.

It was held for one year and then the whole process began again.

This silver platter was 'dug up' and 'unearthed' recently after being buried in a loft. It is quite a splendid platter and we would like to reintroduce the best front garden competition again.



**Planning Rules**  
Meanwhile as the number of sheds in front gardens on the Grid is on the increase Cllr Guy Humphries explains what is and what is not permissible re front gardens and home extensions.

In the first instance if you have queries about whether planning permission is required, a great starting place is the Planning portal web site:  
<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/permission/>

**Plant roses.** Now is a good time to buy bare-root roses direct from the supplier – much cheaper than buying them in containers. Roses make a wonderful hedge if you choose the right variety such as *Queen of Sweden* and *Harlow Carr* both highly fragrant and repeat flowering. The species *Rosa rugosa* 'Alba' is also fragrant and has the added bonus of orange hips in autumn/winter. Go to [www.davidautinroses.com](http://www.davidautinroses.com) for more choice.

It's still not too late to plant bulbs for a window box or container display. Try [www.sarahraven.com](http://www.sarahraven.com) for a fabulous choice of tulips and alliums. Although a little more expensive, you can buy bulbs already growing in the 'green' next spring from garden centres.

As judging time approaches, last minute jobs would be to add a top-dressing of compost to beds to show off plants, freshen up shingle by adding more and keep vigilant for weeds. If you already have a hedge, a gentle trim a few weeks in advance will allow it time to settle into its new haircut before judging. Window boxes and containers may need replanting and shingle on top of the soil will really set off the plants.

This has a number of the most common projects and covers many of the types of work we see in the Grid.

You can also ring, email or see a planning officer at Wandsworth Town Hall. The more information you provide the planners, the more accurate the advice they can provide.

**Outbuildings/Sheds**  
Sheds in front gardens do need planning permission and this includes bicycle boxes. The rules for outbuildings in the rear garden are more complex and the planning portal web site again is a good starting point.

**Walls**  
You will need to apply for planning permission if you wish to erect or add to a fence, wall or gate and, for a front boundary wall (ie next to the road) depending on the height.

**Paving of front gardens**  
You will not need planning permission if a new or replacement paving of any size uses permeable (or porous) surfacing which allows water to drain through, such as gravel, permeable concrete block paving or porous asphalt, or if the rainwater is directed to a lawn or border to drain naturally unless the surface is more than five square metres.

**Extensions**  
The Grid is not in a conservation area, unlike Sutherland Grove for instance, so this makes some common types of extension a little easier.

As can be seen, this whole area is fairly complex, so the general advice has to be: if in doubt, ask. The Planning Department at Wandsworth Town Hall are a pretty helpful team, so please refer to them with your queries. General enquiries: 020 8871 6636  
Email: [planningapplications@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:planningapplications@wandsworth.gov.uk)

**St Barnabas Christmas Eucharist**  
– Sunday 25th December 10.30am  
**8.00pm 31st January** St Barnabas Church, SGRA meeting.  
**Golden Oldies** – Saturday 31st March, St Barnabas Church 3pm-6pm. Entertainment includes a quiz, bingo, Putney Cygnets and guests Eddie Byles and Eddie Lewis.

- Elborough Street  
Mike Caswell at 96
- Elsenham Street  
Kitty Alderson at 9
- Heythorp Street  
Vacant – volunteers welcome
- Lavenham Road  
Eddie Lewis at 4
- Merton Road  
Maria Beckett at 468
- Replingham Road  
Liz Becker at 136

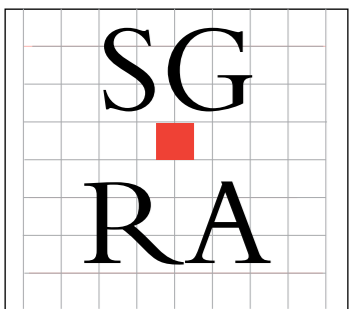
**Dates for your Diary...**

**St Barnabas Carol Service** – Sunday 18th December 5pm  
**5.30pm Tuesday 20th December** – SGRA Carol singing with the Mayor in attendance at- Southfields Tube station

courtesy of London Underground and in aid of Trinity Hospice.  
**St Barnabas Nativity Service for children** – Saturday 24th December 4pm

- Revelstoke Road  
Tina Thompson at 208
- Trentham Street  
Peter Stechman at 147





## URBAN FOX MENACE

Many Southfields residents are becoming increasingly worried about the numbers of foxes often seen roaming the area.

While Wandsworth Council don't track the fox population they do keep a record of the level of complaints and a spokesman has confirmed that these have risen in 2011. Only 74 complaints were received in 2010 and over 100 complaints had been received in the first ten months of 2011.



They say this is partly due to an increased fear of foxes following recent media reports about attacks on children in the Hackney area, leading to residents being more inclined to report seeing foxes close to their homes, rather than a substantial increase in the fox population.

And they emphasise that the council will not deal with foxes. As with any pest, responsibility for dealing with foxes lies with the landowner and householders are advised to contact a professional pest control company if the problem is severe.

However it is stressed that residents can do a lot themselves to deter foxes and includes:

- housing domestic pets & poultry in fox-proof accommodation.
- refrain from feeding household pets in the garden.
- ensure that meat and household waste is not put on compost heaps.
- store refuse in containers or dustbins. Do not leave outside in plastic bags. Preferably do not put refuse out until the day of collection.

do not leave food out for foxes as this will only increase the number of foxes the area will sustain.

Foxes can also be deterred by clearing undergrowth and thick vegetation from gardens so that they do not have shelter but the simplest way to reduce the population is to limit their food supply and ensure that back garden fences are in a good state of repair into order to physically keep foxes out.

## WIMBLEDON PARK UPDATE NOVEMBER 2011

The Wimbledon Park sub committee recently met Cllr Stephen Alambritis, the leader of Merton Council, for a friendly walk around Wimbledon Park. Cllr Terry Walsh accompanied the group and brought greetings from Cllr Ravi Govindia, leader of Wandsworth Council. The walk took about two hours and much was discussed and seen. Cllr Alambritis also received unprompted but relevant comments from a couple of passers by. Pat Sheerin took the opportunity to resubmit a petition on speeding cyclists supported by 175 signatures. As a result we hope progress will be made on getting a proper consultative process under way.

At this time we also became aware of Merton's application for planning permission for a Winter Wonderland event over Christmas and New Year, incorporating an ice rink, refreshments and child fun fair rides from Saturday 3rd December to Sunday 15th January.

At the time of writing there are already a number of objections on Merton's planning website where there are more details. The date for considering this application is on the 8th December!

TFL are to take over a significant part of the park by the railway line so that work can be undertaken on the embankment. This should be finished around March time when the site will be returned to its muddy state.

Despite asking we haven't received any information about the date of planning application for the seasonal car park at Revelstoke Road car park. Many residents will want to comment on this and we will try to get the details of the planning number and proposal circulated in a timely manner.

We have set up a group called Residents Around Wimbledon Park (RAWP) mainly between ourselves and Wimbledon Park Residents Association (WPRRA). We hope this will be the forerunner to enabling constructive dialogue between residents, park users and park owners and may lead to a 'Friends of Wimbledon Park'.

**Nick Steiner**  
SGRA WP Subcommittee

## RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS COURSE

A new rhythmic gymnastics course is due to start at the Aspire Centre, Southfields Community College on Wednesdays from 25th January 2012.

It involves elements of gymnastics, dance and apparatus manipulation. Individuals or teams work to music using a rope, hoop, ball, clubs and ribbon to create beautiful gymnastic routines.

The 10 week course is open to beginners and experienced gymnasts with ages 7 to 9 at 4.30pm and age 10 and above at 5.30pm.

Course fees are £50 for members of Aspire and £60 for non-members. To book contact the Aspire Centre on [info@aspirecentre.com](mailto:info@aspirecentre.com) or tel: **020 8875 2603**. For more information: [www.rhythmicgymnastics.org.uk](http://www.rhythmicgymnastics.org.uk)



## GRID PARKING

The subject of car parking on the Grid was raised at the last Grid meeting.

The cost of a permit for residents has increased a great deal in the last three years.

In most zones, we get one hour's protection for £120 a year but there are exceptions. On the opposite side of Revelstoke road, there are meters and different hours of parking restrictions.

There is more than one Zone and now we also have the car club spaces. The Grid is heavily parked with those living near to Replingham road particularly affected and I am sure other streets have their own problems.

Two petitions have been presented to the Wandsworth Borough Council about parking in Revelstoke Road and the problems residents there experience.

Unfortunately, Wandsworth Borough Council was not prepared to do anything until the car parking in Wimbledon Park had been resolved.

The second petition requested a disabled parking bay for the doctors' surgery at the bottom of Revelstoke Road. This petition met with success and the parking bay is now in place.

I would like to know any issues you have about parking in the area and your views in general.

We have requested a review of the Grid Zone but to no avail.

I would welcome your comments

[LENTIN47@aol.com](mailto:LENTIN47@aol.com) (please state parking)

020 8879 0347

## REVISED THAMES TUNNEL PLANS

Thames Tunnel have now identified the brownfield site at Carnworth Road in Hammersmith, rather than the greenfield site at Barn Elms, as their preferred construction site for the drive shaft for the new tunnel under the Thames for the new 'super sewer'. We must applaud the efforts of the Stop the Shaft Campaign that led the opposition to the use of the playing fields in this way.

Thames Tunnel have also produced more details of their plans for the construction works in King Georges' Park. They need to intercept the combined sewer overflow that discharges storm water and sewage into the River Wandle under Southside, and link it to a new connection tunnel to their works in Dormay Road. These include reducing the proposed area of the site and moving the construction works to the north east corner of the park. Their consultation document is not consistent about the amount of land they need to use and we will be seeking clarification. In addition, it is not transparent about whether they intend to use or acquire the land. As this is Metropolitan Open Space we will oppose any question of transfer of ownership, particularly to a foreign owned company.

During construction the effect on the community will be the loss of access to this part of the park for 2 1/2 years, the nuisance of construction between 8 and 6 daily throughout this period, between 5 and 8 daily lorry movements into Buckhold Road, more restricted parking in Neville Gill Close, and the felling of a dozen trees.

The long term effect will be a slightly raised hard standing area with some seating in most of this part of the park, the planting of 18 trees, a new pathway, and a wild flower area. The current 19 storm overflow discharges of sewage a year that go through the Wandle to the Thames should reduce to one event a year. Thames Tunnel will require access, to maintain the shaft and the remaining equipment, via new sliding gates in Neville Gill Close. The equipment includes two ventilation shafts of up to 6 m high and an electrical and control kiosk about 2.5m high and 5m long, which will be built near or alongside the fence of the park.

Justine Greening MP is holding a public meeting for local residents and Thames Water at St Mary's Church Putney on 8th December from 7.30pm to discuss this. You can have your say on the Thames Tunnel consultation website at [www.thamestunnelconsultation.co.uk](http://www.thamestunnelconsultation.co.uk). In the meantime the SGRA will be seeking to ensure that there continues to be full access to the park and that any disruption to footpaths is kept to a minimum.

## QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Plans for the June 2012 Queens Diamond Jubilee Trentham Street Party [QDJTSP] kicked off with the first meeting of organizers at the end of November. A working sheet was sketched out and tasks allotted and the group plans to meet again in December. Flyers will be posted and information gathered from other previous street party organisers.

Anyone in Trentham who wants to be involved or just wants to attend, please contact Peter Stechman with a brief message [peter.stechman@btopenworld.com](mailto:peter.stechman@btopenworld.com) and he will pass on the details.

If other residents are keen to hold a street party or would be keen to help organize a joint Grid event then please come along to the next residents' meeting at 8.00pm, 31st January, St Barnabas Church to discuss.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Pupils from Southfields Community College Sixth Form attended a small service at St Barnabas on Friday 11th November to remember L/Cpr James Cartwright. James was a former student who was killed in Iraq aged 21. Cllr Guy Humphries, Jane Cooper, His Worship Mayor of Wandsworth and many others paid their respects.



This event was followed by a Remembrance Day service on Sunday when Gary Forde spoke of Arthur Rhodes of 6 Engadine Street who was killed at the Somme in November 1916 aged 20. Gary had visited the grave in France and laid a wreath in Arthur's memory. Visitors to St Barnabas can see a commemorative plaque to Arthur Rhodes inside the church.



## CINEMA CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Many of you will know that the Riley's Snooker Hall building has now been sold to Gresham Pensions Trustees Limited who outbid the Southfields Plaza Group. Gresham has appointed a planning specialist, Indigo, to take through a planning application which they describe as a mixed use, residential-led development.

Indigo arranged an open exhibition in late September to invite the views of local people on the redevelopment of the site and provide an opportunity to ask questions directly to the project team, including the architects, planning and transport consultants. The details of the exhibition and a summary of the feedback can be seen on the website at <http://formerrileysnookerhallsouthfields.com>. The exhibition was attended by over three hundred people.

Despite losing the bid, the Plaza Group have approached the present owner's representatives and consulted with Wandsworth Council planning officers and local ward councillors to ensure community benefits are included.

Rob Richman, a spokesman for the cinema group said "we are doing our best to persuade the present owners to work with us commercially to incorporate a cinema, theatre and café into the new development while at the same time we will be drumming up support from local people to ensure that the D2 use of the site is maintained as required under the planning regulations."

## UNIQUE PHOTO BUSINESS LAUNCHED

Those that know Gail Macfarlane, resident on Elborough Street for some 17 years, know that her camera is never far from her side – she confesses that she rarely leaves home without it and gets great pleasure in photographing the unexpected as well as slightly more predictable family moments.

Her two children, now 12 and 14 provided the inspiration for her venture into starting up Photogenie, a unique mix of great photography, a knack with the wriggliest of children and the genius of photo editing allowing unique portraits of children to be created playing on fantasies such as dinosaurs, motorbikes, fairies etc.

"When Harry was seven he told me he wished he could ride a T Rex and it occurred to me that with careful positioning and some photo trickery I could grant him his wish, at least in part!" says Gail.

She is open to any idea you may have for a photo; babies, toddlers, family groups, dogs "Girl-band style photo shoots, inspired by the X Factor are this season's big request." So, not just for little ones.

Aware that budgets are tight Gail charges only £35 which includes the photo sitting in the client's home and a very unique 16x12 inch print. Gail knows that The Grid is bursting with potential clients and will happily offer anyone quoting the SGRA Newsletter an extra copy free of charge for Granny's Christmas present for bookings before 10 December. You can contact Gail on 07740 865434 or by email [gail@gailmac.com](mailto:gail@gailmac.com)



## £1 OR MORE

The Southfields Grid is an easily recognised area, bounded by Replingham Road in the North, Revelstoke Road to the South, Merton Road to the East and Elsenham Street to the West. Over the years this area has significantly increased in popularity primarily because of its location (to be maintained) but also due to a tremendous community spirit (to be retained).

The Committee of the Southfields Grid Residents Association (SGRA) exists to preserve and improve our assets in several ways such as

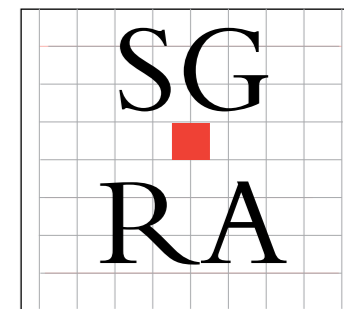
meeting regularly with our local councillors and MP, discussing crime with the police, keeping an eye on the infrastructure (eg pavements and trees), monitoring Wimbledon Park (run by Merton Council), checking local transport and compiling and delivering the SGRA newsletter three times a year (Spring, Autumn and Winter). This keeps residents abreast of current local issues, changes and developments.

A yearly collection of a £1 or more from each household helps to cover the cost of the newsletter and other activities. This is carried out between May and August each year when the evenings are light (a good start time is 19.30 hours during weekdays). This is not an onerous task and is more than

compensated for by meeting Grid residents once a year and providing that essential contact between the Committee and the residents.

We need additional help in collecting the subscription. Collectors historically have been responsible for whole streets or roads but there is no reason why these couldn't be broken down into smaller sections such as North block of Engadine Street. If you can assist next May please contact the Chairman Tina Thompson email: [Lentin47@aol.com](mailto:Lentin47@aol.com)

We meet once a month (except August & December) on the last Tuesday in the month at 20.00 hours in St Barnabas Church Hall and residents are welcome to attend. Volunteers are also needed from time to time to help as street



signage to warn would be "cold callers" about the zone. The more residents who display the scheme sticker in a front window or door, and take part in the scheme, the more effective it is likely to be.

Further information contact Community Safety on 020 8871 6584.

## BANISH COLD CALLERS

Between 5pm and 8pm seems to be the witching hours for Cold Callers. Just when we have shut our doors for the evening, are cooking the dinner - eating it perhaps, supervising (or trying to understand) homework, bathing the baby or enjoying well earned glass of wine on the sofa – whatever it is we are doing, most of us don't want to be bothered by unsolicited knocks at the door.

Many of these callers represent good causes such as charities and churches (and of course the Grid Street representatives collecting subs!) Many are desperately encouraging us to change our energy supplier – very tempting as we all want to make cost savings at the moment. Some are youth opportunity youngsters selling dusters and homeware. Then there's the fish salesmen, double-glazers, wall surveyors, local artists – it goes on and on.

It can feel awkward or uncomfortable – just shutting the door in their faces. Some of us get sucked in to listen to the spiel and then politely try to say no thanks – the persistent ones take a while to get the message. Some of us get hooked and sign up for something we didn't plan on and then feel bad later. Perhaps many simply

don't open the door, you may say the right solution. In the spirit of being neighbourly, and always thinking it might just be somebody locked out or in need of a favour, I usually open the door having done a visual assessment through the glass and deciding if this person warrants the security chain going on before I open! Either way, it's all very tiring and on the increase. Elderly residents especially feel very threatened and vulnerable having constant knocks at their doors and are wary of rogue traders.

An evening a month or so ago I had six callers in the space of three hours and obviously the sixth one got a short shift (but was probably the only one that was a worthy cause and I felt very guilty afterwards). Having seen a NO COLD CALLERS ZONE in another part of Southfields, I wondered if The Grid could also be a part of this scheme. 70% of residents in another Wandsworth area fed back that they felt cold callers had reduced by 69% and 80% said they felt safer and felt more confident as saying 'no' to anyone who did ignore the signs and knock anyway.

With this newsletter it is an information pack about the scheme and the Council will be erecting

signage to warn would be "cold callers" about the zone. The more residents who display the scheme sticker in a front window or door, and take part in the scheme, the more effective it is likely to be.

Further information contact Community Safety on 020 8871 6584.

## Car for sale

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**Putney Tandoori Restaurant** is offering readers of the Southfields Grid Newsletter a 10% discount on their bill with a free bottle of wine for parties of four or more by showing a copy of the newsletter. This is valid at all times but the restaurant has requested that diners on Friday and at the weekend should book in advance via [mozir@putneytandoori.com](mailto:mozir@putneytandoori.com) or [www.putneytandoori.com](http://www.putneytandoori.com) to take advantage of the offer.

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Mobile: 0752 567 1387 / 0758 624 9225  
Email: [gfcarpentryjoinery@yahoo.com](mailto:gfcarpentryjoinery@yahoo.com)

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