

SUPPORT SOUTHFIELDS SHOPS THIS CHRISTMAS

By Emma Helbert

The notion of Christmas being a time of peace and goodwill can rapidly evaporate as we find ourselves queuing for car parks, fighting our way through hoards of shoppers or being elbowed out of the way for the last bag of Brussels sprouts at the supermarket.

Well, maybe this year we should all improve our environmental credentials by leaving the car at home and buying our festive goodies locally. It will undoubtedly be far less stressful and be a great show of support to our local shopkeepers in this difficult economic climate.

Replingham Road and Wimbledon Park Road have a fantastic range of shops, many of which are independent, making

a welcome change from the identikit high streets of so many areas. Whether you are looking for a sparkly outfit for the office party, last minute gifts, a Norwegian Spruce or festive foodie

treats it can all be found in Southfields. So let's give our local businesses a reason to be jolly this yuletide and for once enjoy a relaxed run up to the big day.



SGRA committee...

Chair:

Mike Caswell 020 8874 6715

Deputy Chair:

Emma Helbert 020 8874 9785

Secretary:

William Haigh 020 8874 3118

Treasurer:

Carol Gray 020 8870 5706

Street Representatives.

Astonville Street

Guy Humphries at 139

Brookwood Road

William Haigh at 125

Clonmore Street

Nick Steiner at 116

Elborough Street

Mike Caswell at 96

Elsenham Street

Ursula Monaghan at 138 and

Elizabeth Lloyd-Owen at 145

Engadine Street

Doreen Gray and Carol Gray at 33

Hanford Close Connie Bish

Heythorp Street

Angela Rowan at 133

Langton Place

Zarir Vakil at 10

Lavenham Road

Eddie Lewis at 4

Merton Road Maria Beckitt

Replingham Road

Mrs Becker at 136

Revelstoke Road

Chris Wright at 190

Trentham Street

David & Caroline Crowther at 101

TRINITY HOSPICE – OUR CHOSEN GOOD CAUSE

By Angela Rowan

Our Carol Singing on 16th Dec will raise money for Trinity Hospice.

Trinity Hospice was founded in 1891 and is the oldest hospice in the UK; we are a registered charity and offer our services to people in central and south-west London. Our catchment area stretches from Putney in the West, northwards encompassing Hammersmith, Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and all of central London up to Hyde Park Corner including Westminster and then south as far as Wandsworth, Clapham and Streatham.

Last year Trinity cared for over 2,000 patients who have an advanced illness providing medical, emotional and practical support either on the wards, at the day centre or in their own homes. We believe people who are facing the end of their life deserve to live every moment of their lives in the way they choose: cared for and treated with respect and dignity. We work with each person, their families and those who are close to them, to meet their physical, psychological, spiritual or social needs; our aim is to enable them to make decisions that achieve the best possible quality of life whilst they receive the treatment and support

they require from our specialists, for however long is needed, absolutely free of charge.

All money raised through the carol singing will go towards the costs of providing these vital services to our community.

Dates for your Diary...

12th December – Sheringdale Primary School Christmas Fair

3pm Sunday 14th December – Christingle service: a candlelit service suitable for children and raising money for 'The Children's Society'

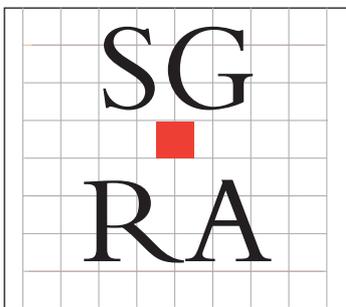
5pm 16th December – SGRA Carol Singing outside Southfields Station. Please support us in our efforts to raise money for Trinity Hospice.

5pm Sunday 21st December – Carol Service: readings and music.

4pm Wednesday 24th December – (Christmas Eve) Crib Service with Nativity Play.

11.30pm Wednesday 24th December – (Christmas Eve) Midnight Mass.

10.30am Christmas morning – Eucharist.



Editorial



It is a sign of how little crime there is on the Grid, that when our home on Replingham Road was burgled in November, it took us an hour to notice. It wasn't even in our minds that someone had been in the house in the wee small hours as we slept upstairs. When we couldn't find various items that morning, including our son's school coat, we assumed they'd been lost or moved. The door chain, expertly sliced in two with bolt-cutters, should have been a clue. But when we couldn't find jackets, coats, wallets, handbags we realised someone had broken in. They'd also taken my wife's Skoda keys, and taken her car (presumably to carry off all the loot).

What did we learn from the experience? One, never leave valuables such as wallets and handbags in the downstairs rooms. Two, we got Oakley locksmiths (highly recommended) out that morning to fit extra locks, bolts and chains onto the front door. Three, the local Wandsworth police were fantastic: there within an hour. And four, there is some justice in the world, as the police have recovered our car, and made an arrest, all within a fortnight. The case is currently in the courts, but perhaps there'll be some news for the next edition.

Burglary, as with most crimes, remains rare in Southfields. But it can happen to anyone, even on a busy street like Replingham Road, under the street light, with the residents at home. So remember to lock those doors, hide those Christmas presents away from passers-by, and as Shaw Taylor used to say 'keep 'em peeled'.

Happy Christmas to all our readers.

Paul Richards

paul.richards@orange.net

HAVE YOUR SAY ON HEALTHCARE IN WANDSWORTH

Wandsworth Primary Care Trust (PCT) wants to know what you think about health services in South Wandsworth. The PCT is the local NHS.



What do you think about local healthcare facilities, including GP practices and health centres, opticians, pharmacies and dental services? Have your say by completing the 'Let's Talk Health in South Wandsworth' survey.

Go to www.wandsworth.nhs.uk/southwandsworth

It will only take a few minutes to complete and there's a chance to win one of three £100 shopping vouchers, but be quick the closing date is 12th December 2008.

Top Tips for Tackling Crime

Motor Vehicles

- Take belongings with you and leave nothing on display in your car especially overnight (and if possible remove sat nav, telephones, and stereos)
- Check all doors, windows and sunroof are locked
- Empty glove compartment and leave open overnight (you may have to remove internal bulb if your car has an automatic internal light).

Your Home

Don't leave your keys near to the letter box able to being 'fished' out by a hook/magnet on a pole.

- Fit a specialist anti-crime letter box.
- Install double locks on all front and back doors and always double lock when going out
- Install window locks, and a burglar alarm if possible
- Make a note of the serial number of all of your electronic equipment in particular your mobile's IMEI number. This number is both on the box supplied and in the mobile, often under the battery
- Photograph your valuable items of property
- Postcode all of your property (ring 8247 6567 to get the ultra violet marker pen).
- For your bike, use the UV pen to 'postcode' the frame.

Useful Numbers

- Non emergency help at any time – 0300 123 1212
- Confidential reporting of crime – **Crimestoppers** 0800 555 111
- Advice on personal security – 8871 6567
- Wandsworth Safer Neighbourhoods Office 8247 8760 (not 24 hours)
- record serial numbers and register at www.immobilise.com

Southfields Theatre Group

Presents

"Cinderella"

Friday Jan 9th 2009 at 7.30pm

Saturday Jan 10th 2009 at
3.00pm & 7.00pm

Running time: 1 hour approx.

Venue: Albemarle School,
Princes Way SW18

**Tickets: Adults £4.
Kids & Concs £2,
Family £10**



**Contact: Barry Jones:
020 8780 9841 for info
and tickets.**

Come and support your local group in their first-ever production. Fun & frolics for all the family!

Face to Face with....

Welcome to Face to Face, a new feature for the newsletter containing a few facts about fellow resident or local personalities, and what makes them tick.

In each issue you will be introduced to one of our stellar Southfielders and by the next millennium you'll know just about everyone on the Grid. Honest!

Where better to start than with the Chair of the Southfield Grid Residents' Association Mike Caswell MBE?

For those who don't know (and I didn't), sports-mad Mike has been involved with the SGRA for 20 years and its Chair for the last 12.

Born in 1932, Michael Joseph Henry Caswell was brought up in Dorset and educated at Weymouth Grammar. He left at 15 to join the Civil Service for a career that spanned 49 years, bringing him, and his family, (wife, Valerie and children, Mark and Tracey) to Elborough Street in 1970 and a post as Administration Officer at HMP Wandsworth, 'the most rewarding job' of his lengthy service.

Retiring in 1997 as House of Commons Personnel Officer, he was awarded an MBE in 1998, of which he is justly very proud.

Sport has been a cornerstone of Mike's evident enjoyment of life.

Called to National Service at 21 - something, he thinks, wouldn't harm today's feckless youth - he spent two years at RAF Benson ostensibly servicing aircraft, but, in fact, mainly playing cricket and soccer, and excelling at both (his sporting genes clearly inherited from his father, Arthur, an England U21 & Millwall player).

He was a 'lively' left-hand bowler, taking an award-winning 1,500 wickets during his cricketing career, and has captained, umpired and run various teams, including the BBC Soccer Vets. He hung up his boots at 64, finally heeding his knees' pleas for mercy.

Not one to sit still in retirement, apart from chairing the SGRA, he is also London co-ordinator of the Retired & Senior Volunteer Programme, encouraging his 'grey army' to 'put something back' by assisting in schools, befriending and more. His motto to everyone, however, is 'enjoy it!'

96, Elborough Street, (bought for £5,000) remains the Caswell family home and Mike, now 76, is as happy living here today as in the 1970s.

'The atmosphere hasn't changed a bit' he says. 'It's as relaxed and friendly as ever'.

And that's a pretty good description of the man himself with his understated British sense of humour, twinkly eyes and welcoming manner.

Dependable and unshowy, Mike Caswell is a fine example of those, whose untiring and, often, unlauded work helps keep the wheels on our rickety old society just about turning.

Gerry Skeens.

gerryskeens@waitrose.com

Poetry corner

And is it true? And is it true?
The most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissue'd fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant.

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives to-day in Bread and Wine.



**From Christmas,
by John Betjeman**

Get yourself heard

There are plenty of ways to get your views across and to report problems you experience in the local community. The local residents' association holds regular, well attended meetings where a wide range of issues are raised from dog fouling to policing. Councillors and Southfields neighbourhood team officers attend.

But it doesn't stop there. All three of your councillors are willing to take up individual issues where you have experienced difficulties with council services and have been unable to resolve them. We also take up and pursue 'community causes,' which affect the area a whole from tree planting to school places.

By speaking up and reporting local issues you are doing your bit for the neighbourhood. Be it graffiti, disorder, or dog fouling, by reporting the issue you help enhance the quality of life in our area so please continue to do so.

Some vital Council hotline numbers are set out below to report specific issues. If the issues are not addressed promptly please tell your Councillors. Our email addresses are given below. Make your neighbourhood a better place to live.



Abandoned Vehicles

020 88871 6709

abandonedvehicles@wandsworth.gov.uk

Dog control

and dangerous dog hotline -
020 8871 7606

Graffiti Services

020 8871 7049 (24 hours)

graffiti@wandsworth.gov.uk

Noise (Private Housing)

020 8871 6170 (during office hours)

020 8871 7869 (at other times)

Parks Police

020 8871 6789/7532

Refuse & Recycling

020 8871 8558

Street defects

Report on line at

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/streetdefects

Email: dtsonstreetservice@wandsworth.co.uk

Planning

020 8871 6636 or email boroughplanner@wandsworth.gov.uk

Fly-tips and hazards

Street Care team on 020 8871 6396

Wandsworth Council Switchboard

020 8871 6000

SNT

020 8247 8760

Southfields.snt@met.police.uk

Councillors

Lucy Allan

lallan@wandsworth.gov.uk

Jenny Nickels jnickels@wandsworth.gov.uk

Paul Reeve

preeve@wandsworth.gov.uk

SG
RA

Useful

**council numbers –
cut out and keep**

Council tax

020 8871 8081

counciltax@wandsworth.gov.uk

Education

020 8871 8013

edadmin@wandsworth.gov.uk

Environmental Services

020 8871 6127

Leisure Services

020 8871 8787

sportsservice@wandsworth.gov.uk

Libraries

020 8871 7269

libraries@wandsworth.gov.uk

Noise Complaints

[private properties]

020 8871 7869

esd@wandsworth.gov.uk

Parking Helpline

020 8871 8871

parking@wandsworth.gov.uk

Pavement and road defects

020 8871 6708

highways@wandsworth.gov.uk

Rubbish, recycling and litter

020 8871 8558

wasteservices@wandsworth.gov.uk

Planning Applications

0208 8871 8871

planningapplications@wandsworth.gov.uk

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Alexander Irving BSc (Hons) Ost

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SOUTHFIELDS DECORATING SERVICES

I am a local painter and decorator based in the Southfields Grid, providing an efficient and quality service to local residents at reasonable prices.

Excellent references available. To discuss your decorating requirements, interior or exterior, and to arrange a free quotation, please call **Nigel Plumbe:**

(H) 020 8871 9687 (M) 07939 310292
60 Engadine Street, Southfields, London SW18 5DA

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366 Merton Road. Open daily 10am to 6pm.**

sgraSudoku (a grid from the grid)

No.4 (Hard)

5	6		1					9
		2						
9	7	8		6				2
		5			4			
	3		2		8		1	
			6			3		
4				2		8	9	1
						6		
8				1			2	7

In this logic puzzle, each 3x3 box, each column and each row must contain all the numbers 1 to 9.

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www.visioninsport.co.uk**

3	2	8	4	1	5	7	9	6
7	9	4	6	2	8	3	1	5
1	6	5	3	9	7	8	2	4
2	4	7	5	6	1	9	8	3
6	1	3	9	8	4	5	7	2
8	5	9	7	3	2	4	6	1
5	7	1	8	4	6	2	3	9
4	3	2	1	7	9	6	5	8
9	8	6	2	5	3	1	4	7

sgraSudoku

Solution for Puzzle No.3