

TRANSPORT UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT AT YOUR LOCAL AGM

Do you use the tube?

**Have you an idea to improve
the station or the service?**

**Want to know where the new
lift is?**

Southfields tube station and the District Line service on the Wimbledon branch will come under scrutiny at the Southfields Grid Residents' Association annual general meeting (AGM) on 22nd May, at 7.30pm at St Barnabas Church Hall on Lavenham Road. Local residents will have the chance to meet Bob Thorogood, the general manager of the District Line, and quiz him on the tube service for Southfields.

We will also hear from Christina Piombo, the headteacher of Riversdale School, our local Member of Parliament Justine Greening, Sgt Gary Taylor from the Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team, plus our local councillors.

If have any views you'd like to share, complaints or praise about our local services and our neighbourhood, then come along and take part in this important community event.

**AGM 7.30pm Tuesday 22nd May 2007 St Barnabas Church Hall.
All welcome. Refreshments provided.**

Dates for your Diary...

**Saturday 7th July at 11.00am to
2.30pm**

**Southfields Community College
Summer Fete. All welcome.**

**Saturday 28th July at 2.00pm
The Grid Softball Tournament at
Wimbledon Park**

This is the third year of the Grid softball tournament. Last year 100 people watched the Southfields Sloggers narrowly beat the previous champions, the Clonmore Tigers. This year's tournament will be held in Wimbledon Park on 28th July, followed by a barbeque at St Barnabas Church Hall.

Each team requires nine players. Entries can be made from anything from full teams to



individuals looking to join other players from their street.

As those who have taken part in past tournaments know, no previous softball experience is required.

This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbours and make friends on the Grid.

**If you would like to take part or
find out more details, contact
David Crowther on 020 8877 0932.**

The Grid Pub Quiz Coming soon...

The first Grid pub quiz was held at the Earl Spencer in February this year. Around 100 people took part and Elsenham Street's 'Universally Challenged' were the winners. A meal for the winning team was provided by The Earl Spencer. Similar nights are planned in future.

SGRA committee...

Chair:

Mike Caswell

Deputy Chair:

Vacant

Secretary:

Gill Watmough

Treasurer:

Carol Gray

Street Representatives.

Astonville Street

Maurice at 478 Merton Road

Brookwood Road vacant

Clonmore Street

Nick Steiner at 116

Elborough Street

Mike Caswell at 96

Elsenham Street

Eddie Lewis at 4 Lavenham Road

Engadine Street

Doreen Gray at 33

Hanford Close vacant

Heythorp Street

Neil Robson at 119

Langton Place

Zarir Vakil at 10 Langton Place

Lavenham Road

Mark Davie at 155 Clonmore Street

Merton Road Maria Beckitt

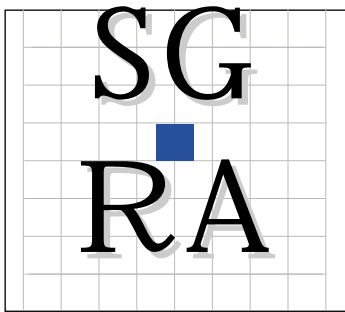
Replingham Road vacant

Revelstoke Road

Chris Wright at 190

Trentham Street

David & Caroline Crowther at
101 Trentham Street



Editorial



In Praise of Southfields

It is often said that London is not a city, but a collection of villages, each with its own character and history. Nowhere exemplifies this better than Southfields. It is one of the few parts of the country left with its own butchers, bakers and candlestick makers, not to mention three delicatessens, a fishmongers, a post office, a fish & chip shop, two florists, two art galleries, a Thai restaurant, two Indian restaurants, a great trattoria, a cake shop, two hardware shops, a snooker hall and a tube station, all within ten minutes' walk.

People from other parts of London are often unfamiliar with Southfields. They may know it as the tube stop for the tennis, or somewhere on the way to Putney. I always take delight in showing people round, because most are impressed by what we have to offer. Southfields is not just a place, it is a community.

Small wonder that so many people, especially families, choose to make Southfields their home. Just think how many thousands of tomorrow's citizens will be able to say they grew up in Southfields, played in the parks, and went to local nurseries and schools. You can see hundreds of buggies and prams every day on Replingham Road, each containing a little Southfielder. Every one of them is a vote of confidence in the future of our very own London village.

Paul Richards

GOT A LOCAL STORY TO TELL?

Your local newsletter wants to hear from you. Get in touch: paul.richards@orange.net. Short news items and photographs will be considered.

Jack Gray 1916-2006: an appreciation 'Loyal, reliable, consistent'

The death of a friend is always a sad affair, doubly so when that person is especially blessed with admirable qualities. Such was the case with local resident Jack Gray, who died at the age of ninety towards the end of last year. The contribution that Jack made to the life of our community, and indeed our country, was enormous. A soldier in the Second World War, he saw active service in a number of campaigns, and experienced the bitter fighting in North Africa and in Italy. In the 1950s, he moved with his family into Engadine Street where he remained for practically half a century, and for over thirty of those years, he was an active member on the SGRA's committee. Loyal, reliable, consistent - that's how his colleagues remember him. A source of wise comment and committed to the future well-being of the area - those are other memories.

In a way, Jack represented a lifestyle that has gone out of fashion, in the sense that we have become a more mobile society, less frequently staying in one spot for more than a few years. Yet we can all draw a lesson from his steadfast qualities of commitment to the community in which he lived. May his inspiring example act as his memorial.

Neil Robson

MONDAY CLUB AT ST BARNABAS

This social group for over 50s meets from 2.00pm on Mondays in the small hall of St Barnabas Parish Centre on Lavenham Road.

We have become well established over the past two years but still welcome new members. We chiefly enjoy our own company, the home baked cakes and the diabolical quizzes. We also have bingo, parties, the occasional visiting speaker and outing, and after Christmas hosted a travelling pantomime when we were joined by children from Riversdale School.

Channel 4 News dropped by recently but we cannot promise a return visit.

For further details speak to Margaret Brett on 020 8870 5364.

IMPROVEMENTS AT THE GRID'S LOCAL SCHOOL

Parents, pupils and visitors to Riversdale will notice a lot of improvements. The most important of these is the new kitchen and dining room, which has taken over a year to complete. The rebuilt annex, near the vehicle entrance on Replingham Road, is now connected by a new covered corridor to the main school building.

Riversdale passed its OFSTED inspection last October with a 'satisfactory' rating that we are very pleased with. The OFSTED report is available; please telephone the school office on 020 8874 6904.

We are just as pleased with the results of the key stage 2 tests, published by the government in December, which show the percentages of pupils in Year 6 who reach a certain level in three key subjects in their final term at primary school. The improvement in these scores from 2005 - 6 at Riversdale was amongst the highest for all 55 primary schools in Wandsworth.

Equally important is the 'contextual value added'

(CVA) score, which measures the amount of progress by pupils between the ages of 7 and 11. We are extremely proud that our CVA score in 2006 was the seventh highest in Wandsworth, and in the top 5% in the country.

Riversdale, with its distinctive building on the edge of the Grid has prepared thousands of local children for their secondary education and for adulthood since 1895. Prospective parents and others can be given a tour of the school on any Thursday morning during term time from 9.30am onwards.

We pride ourselves on running a very 'child-friendly' school in a caring environment with a strong sense of inclusion. We set high standards of behaviour and expect high levels of attainment by our pupils, based on a strong work ethic.

Our high staff to pupil ratio gives children the chance to excel in a variety of fields. All pupils are introduced to a foreign language in their final

Sedition in Southfields



Tom Mann: one of Southfields' original residents

You don't associate sleepy Southfields with mutiny and a sensational trail for sedition. But in 1912, the police raided a house on the grid in a dramatic dawn swoop, and arrested a Southfields resident for calling on the army to refuse to obey orders.

The radical trade union leader Tom Mann lived at 23 Engadine Street, just a few years after the houses on the grid were completed. He had led the 1889 Great Dock Strike,

and in January 1912 published a newspaper The Syndicalist which included an 'open letter to British soliders', asking them not to fire on striking workers.

The so-called 'Don't Shoot Manifesto' landed Tom Mann in Strangeways prison after a trial for 'inciting to mutiny.' After two months he was released, and came home to Engadine Street.

Paul Richards

year with us, and we offer drama, football, music and African drumming. We also have a safe, all-weather playing surface.

Christina Piombo

Head Teacher of Riversdale Primary School



Christina Piombo as seen by a pupil!

CRIME REPORT FOR SOUTHFIELDS

From 1st November 2006 to 21st March 2007, these crimes were reported:

Astonville Street Brookwood Road

- two attempted residential burglaries, one criminal damage to a motor vehicle.
- one attempted residential burglary, one residential burglary, one theft of a motor vehicle, one theft from a motor vehicle.

Clonmore Street Elborough Street Elsenham Street

- one residential burglary, one criminal damage to a motor vehicle, one chequecard fraud.
- four thefts from motor vehicles, one theft, one criminal damage.
- one criminal damage, one criminal damage to a motor vehicle, one residential burglary, one theft of a bicycle.

Engadine Street Heythorp Street Lavenham Road

- one criminal damage to a motor vehicle, one residential burglary.
- one residential burglary, one criminal damage to property.
- one theft of motor vehicle, one criminal damage, one 'malicious telephone calls', one chequecard fraud.

Replingham Road

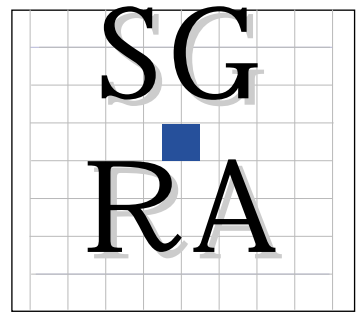
- one common assault, two thefts, five shoplifting, three non-residential burglary, one breach of ASBO, one ABH, one theft of a bicycle.

Revelstoke Road

- one theft of a moped.

In an emergency always dial 999. To contact the local police phone 0208 247 8957 or 079720 233931, or email: southfields.SNT@met.police.uk

Space to Think at St Barnabas



Three noted thinkers will give talks this year exploring contemporary themes, including religion, science, nationalism and faith. If you enjoy stretching your mind and good conversation, come along and take part in the debates.



- * On 6th June we welcome Tom Butler, Bishop of Southwark - a regular on Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' - on the relationship between science and faith.
- * On 5th September our speaker is Dr Eric Kaufmann - Senior lecturer at Birkbeck College in Politics and Sociology on 'Villains of the peace. Nationalism and Religion and their role in world conflict'.
- * On 8th October you can hear Andrew Mien - Tutor in Old Testament and Hebrew at Westcott Cambridge - on 'Is the Old Testament bad for you?'.

Each event starts at 8.00pm at St Barnabas, Lavenham Road.

All free and open to anyone.

NEWS FROM THE TOWN HALL

Grid Inn Application: The Planning Inspectorate has turned down the application for late night opening for the Grid Inn. It was refused because Southfields is a mostly residential local centre (not a town centre). It was agreed that the additional late-night noise would erode the quality of life for residents. This is an excellent outcome for Grid residents after so much campaigning and lobbying.

Let's hope that this is taken into account when the Garage pub's application for outdoor seating is considered and when the Grid's trial period for outdoor seating comes up for renewal.

Extra primary school places at St Michael's: Wandsworth Council is consulting on plans to add an extra 15 places at St Michael's Church of England School to help to meet the growing demand from parents from September 2007.

The birth rate in Southfields is the second highest of any ward in the borough and most of the new housing which is likely to produce additional demand is around St Michael's. In the Autumn of 2006 Southfields and the surrounding area was short on reception class places and an extra classroom was made available at Swaffield School.

St Michael's currently admits 45 pupils into its reception year. The changes will make it a two-form entry school with 60 new pupils in each year.

St Michael's is a successful school, with 22 pupils on the waiting list for a reception class place and there is an expected demand for places to rise by around 10 per cent over the next five years.

New Southfields crime prevention scheme: A Southfields alleyway that was a magnet for antisocial behaviour has now been made safe. The council's community safety team has transformed the area in Replingham Road, SW18. The alleyway served the rear of a parade of shops as well as offering access to residents living in the flats above.

The council devised and installed a crime prevention gating scheme to stop undesirables such as drug takers, burglars, and people using the alley as a public convenience.

The new gating scheme, including gates, railings and fencing, has now secured the area and no further burglaries have taken place since it was built.

Please do contact your local councillors with any concerns you may have on local issues. We will do our best to help. You can write to use at The Members' Room, Wandsworth Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, London SW18 2PU or send an email:

Lucy Allan
Jenny Nickels
Paul Reeve

lallan@wandsworth.gov.uk
jnickels@wandsworth.gov.uk
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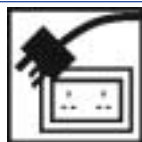
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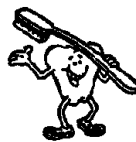
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