

The SGRA AGM

The following is a very brief synopsis of what proved to be an extremely successful AGM, attended by over 60 Grid residents.

Following the Chairman's welcome, the Mayor, Councillor John Dawe, in his last official engagement as Mayor, praised the many local groups working for the community and stressed the importance of voluntary work.

The Mayor was followed by Jackie Valin, Head Teacher of Southfields Community College. Jackie commented that the College had grown to 1,300 pupils with great improvements in educational standards in recent years. Jackie kindly brought along 4 key members of her teaching staff: Dave Holt, Director of Sport, commented that as a specialist sports college, both students of the college and local primary schools (who have free use of the facilities) benefited and will continue to do so with the £1.6m sports facility currently being built. Gary Hipple, (Wandsworth City Learning Centre Manager) reported that his department ran IT courses across the Borough and there had been a considerable expansion of IT adult community programmes with over 60s groups and "drop-ins" for IT problems on Thursday mornings and evenings and Saturday mornings. Carole Dale (Adult and Community Learning Manager) reported on the success of the adult courses (see Carol's article in this

newsletter for further details). Alison Gerard (Deputy Head Teacher) reported on many initiatives including the "Gifted and talented" programme for students with higher IQ/sports abilities, the anti-bullying campaign and a young citizens club for pupils.

Tony Colman, MP for Putney, kindly praised Southfields for being such a neighbourly area. Tony reported that he was aware of the erratic nature of the postal service. He stated that there was a new manager, Ian Stocker, at the Twilley Street depot and hoped that the service would improve. Tony wants to know from individuals if the service has failed. Amongst other things, Tony reported that he was pushing David Blunket to increase police numbers in Wandsworth, that he was campaigning for easier access, via lifts, to the District Line and would be happy to deal with any concerns regarding St Georges Hospital.

PC Stephen Rogers, the Southfields Ward Beat Officer, kindly explained the changes being made to policing in the Borough and that he was now a member of the Community Action Team and that crime in Southfields was relatively low. In solving crime in the Metropolitan area, Wandsworth Borough was first for solving burglaries, fourth for street crime, eighteenth for auto crime and fifth overall.

Our local Councillors, Jan Leigh, Richard Vivian and Simon Roberts then kindly

reported to us on local issues. Jan reported that she had been working closely with Southfields Community College and local businesses on anti-social behaviour of juveniles. Richard Vivian reported that a pedestrian crossing on Merton Road near the junction with Lavenham Road is being considered and that traffic congestion at the top of Replingham Road is due to large delivery vans parking on double yellow lines before 10am. Parking contractors have been instructed to concentrate on this area early in the morning to deter such parking violations. Simon reported that a survey showed that certain Grid roads and particularly Brookwood Road was being used as a high speed rat-run and he is currently looking into ways of stopping this practice.

Mike Caswell, SGRA Chairman, thanked and praised Neil Robson for his work over the last 7 years as Deputy Chairman and for his extremely interesting book "Roomy Villas" a history of the Grid. Mark Davie kindly finished the meeting with future plans for Wimbledon Park (see Wimbledon Park article).

The SGRA and Grid residents would like to thank all who contributed to such a successful evening and also thanks to Deborah Gill and Richard Williams from Wandsworth Council who set up a stand covering topics such as recycling, composting and waste.

Dates for your Diary...

Tuesday 21st December

SGRA carol singing at Southfields Underground Station.

Collection on behalf of St George's Hospital Special Appeal.

SGRA committee...

Chair:
Mike Caswell
Deputy Chair:
Mark Page
Secretary:
Gill Watmough
Treasurer:
Carol Gray

Street Representatives.

Astonville Street
Maurice at 478 Merton Road

Brookwood Road
James & Mark at 91

Clonmore Street
Nick Steiner at 116

Elborough Street
Mike Caswell at 96

Elsenham Street
Eddie Lewis at 4 Lavenham Road

Engadine Street
Jack & Doreen Gray at 33

Hanford Close vacant

Heythorp Street
Neil Robson at 119

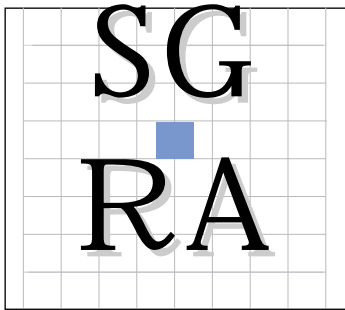
Lavenham Road
Mark Davie at 155 Clonmore Street

Merton Road vacant

Replingham Road
Annie Gossard at 67

Revelstoke Road
Chris Wright at 190

Trentham Street
Mark Page at 133



Social Events

Over the last few years SGRA has staged numerous social events for residents of the Grid including wine tasting, cheese tasting, line dancing, old time music hall evening etc. We are now looking for more input from residents of the Grid. We would welcome suggestions and are willing to sponsor and help organise your events. If you have any ideas please contact your street rep or a committee member.

Letters to the editor - Blooming Grid

One of the things I love best about living in Southfields Grid is the wonderfully well kept front gardens which add splashes of brilliant colour and break the mould of living in a typical London borough. What better way to unwind after a hard day of stress in the city than to go for a leisurely walk taking in the floral worlds created in tiny front spaces.

Of particular note is the ongoing transformation of the old shopping parade side of Brookwood road. The latest creation is a compact garden with plants grown in blue pots with a sort of Mediterranean holiday / old England chic feel (go for a walk along Brookwood Rd and see if you can spot this garden - well worth a look) - the central theme is simplicity with an emphasis on low-maintenance, easy gardening.

Other innovative ideas of note that I've seen on walks in the grid are a driftwood seat surrounded by the scent of thyme and lavender. Topiary trees and bamboos at the front of the garden with an eclectic mix of pots and planters containing a treasured collection of exotic plants with strong colour combinations. I wonder how much of all this is to do with the Kew Gardener?

Whenever friends come for dinner I always encourage them to join me for an after dinner walk around the grid, the gardens never fail to impress.

Mel T
(Proud Southfields Grid Resident)

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mark Robinson (Head Chef) and Jonathan Cox (Landlord) of local gastro pub - The Earl of Spencer - who have won the prestigious Evening Standard "Pub of the Year Award 2004". This Merton Road situated pub re-opened on 15th January 2003, after nearly six months of re-furbishment. The owners claim the aim of the pub is to provide a friendly local which offers very good, freshly prepared food, together with a comprehensive range of wines and beers.

Lunch and dinner menus change daily and there are no pool tables, gaming machines or loud music. There are however, newspapers, fresh flowers, board games and a woman and family friendly environment, in which people can talk without shouting, meet and enjoy one and others company. They have recently completed two further building projects and now have an attractive patio area to the front of the building and a well appointed, self contained, function room on the first floor.

Both the Earl of Spencer and the multi-award winning Indian restaurant - "Sarkhels" have considerably raised the profile of Southfields and we are lucky to have establishments of such high repute on our doorsteps.

Interested in a career in teaching?

Southfields Community College is running the Student Associate Scheme for the 2nd year. The SAS is a scheme run on behalf of the Teacher Training Agency for undergraduate students who may wish to go into teaching as a career and who want to spend 10 days on work experience during their Easter or Summer break at Southfields. The students get paid £40 per day whilst they are with us. If you are an undergraduate interested in the scheme for next year or the parent of an undergraduate who is interested in finding out more about the scheme for your son or daughter then please get in touch with **Mrs Alison Jerrard on 0208 875 2600**.

Wandsworth Artists' Open House Weekend Saturday and Sunday 6th - 7th November 11am - 6pm

Following last year's success across Wandsworth when the Artists' Open Houses Weekend was initiated, the event is to be repeated this November.

It is managed by the Department of Leisure and Amenity Services and is timed to coincide with the start of the 3 week long Wandsworth Festival of Arts. Wandsworth provides

the publicity for the open houses, which includes attractive pamphlets showing a map of the borough and locations of the various artists, together with an example of their work. These information leaflets are available from the council offices, libraries or participants.

Last year Penny Smith and Pauline Cattle

exhibited a lively variety of paintings, drawings and stitched mixed media pieces in Penny's home in Clonmore Street. They were the only artists on the Grid who took part and they hope that there may be more open houses this year to excite an even greater turnout of Grid visitors. Unfortunately this newsletter post-dates the closing registration date but are there any artists

out there who are interested in joining in but didn't know about it in time? It's good fun and a great way to meet neighbours and perhaps buy a few Christmas presents at very reasonable prices.

If you'd like a leaflet or more information, please feel free to call **Penny on 020 8870 8979** or **Pauline on 020 8946 1590**.

Adult Education at Southfields Community College/Wandsworth City Learning Centre

From Carol Dale (Adult and Community Learning Manager)

We have now completed our first year of the re-launched Adult and Community Learning service and have learned a lot from the residents of Southfields as to what courses they would like to participate in at the college. The arts and leisure courses have been very popular while learning basic ICT skills and web type courses have shown that most of us now have PCs at home and want to learn how to keep in touch with family and friends by email. In September, courses for family learning have also been added, so that parents/carers can learn a new skill with their children such as creative crafts and pottery. We also run children's swimming classes in our newly refurbished pool.

We have had lots of positive feedback about having adult learning in the locality and welcome helpful comments and suggestions for new courses. Enrolment starts on 6th September.

For a programme of courses look out for the brochure entitled 'A course to your taste'.

Southfields Community College/Wandsworth City Learning Centre,
337 Merton Road, Wandsworth SW18 5JU.
Tel: 020 8870 6474

e-mail acl@southfields.wandsworth.sch.uk
website: wandsworthclc.org/pages/adult_courses.htm

Wimbledon Park developments

Many thanks to the Wimbledon Park Heritage Group who cleared rubbish from Horseclose Wood, the area adjacent to Southdean Gardens, and created a new path. The poplars around the athletics stadium are very old and considered unstable. There are plans to remove these trees and over a three year period, replace them with more native species such as hazel, birch and maple. The paddling pool for children has been reinstated with a rota system of volunteers supervising the area. The Heritage Group are also applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £1 million plus to dredge the lake and utilise the mud to re-landscape a small part of the park.

Supporting the Community

Senior Staff at Southfields are working with a local group of shopkeepers on Merton Road to ensure that students leave for home on the buses in an appropriate manner. Staff at the school have agreed to do additional duties outside the shops to carry out this role. We work closely with the Police as there are occasions where groups of unknown youths have congregated outside the College and at the shops intent on causing a disturbance.

Pooling resources

The SGRA, on behalf of residents on the Grid, have contributed £50-00 towards the costs of reinstating and running the paddling pool in Wimbledon Park, which is extensively used by Grid families.

Thank You

Thanks to the All England Lawn Tennis Club and Southfields Underground Station for their usual magnificent display of flowers and hanging baskets during the Wimbledon fortnight.

A big thank you to Philip Watson, the Cheesemonger, for his very enjoyable and informative cheese tasting evening on Saturday 19th June. Philip sells his cheese from his mobile shop on Friday evenings on the Grid and can be contacted on 020 8395 6082.

From Elsenham To Elsenham

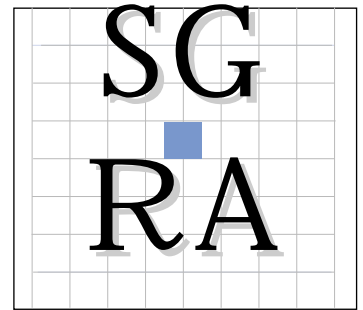
Several residents from Elsenham Street are taking a coach trip to the village of Elsenham in Essex on Saturday 4th September. The SGRA is pleased to part-sponsor the trip and you will be able to read about this novel day out in the next newsletter.

Hedge your bets

We have been asked by various people to remind residents on the Grid to kindly cut their hedges, especially this time of year when the foliage grows very quickly. Overgrown hedges cause problems for the blind, handicapped and parents with large prams. Thank you.

Crime on the Grid

from the Editor



The following are the crime figures, kindly supplied by PC Stephen Rogers, for the period 1st April 2004 to 25th July 2004. We are informed that Southfields Grid has a relatively low incidence of crime.

Astonville Street - Burglary (2), Criminal damage (2).

Brookwood Road - Theft (2), Burglary (1).

Clonmore Street - Theft from motor vehicle (1).

Elborough Street - Theft from motor vehicle (1), Criminal damage to motor vehicle (1), Theft (2).

Elsenham Street - Criminal damage to motor vehicle (1), Criminal damage (1).

Engadine Street - Theft from motor vehicle (2), Burglary (1).

Hanford Close - Drug arrest (1).

Lavenham Road - Burglary (3), Criminal damage (1).

Replingham Road - Theft of motor vehicle (1), Burglary (1), Criminal damage (2), Shoplifting (1), Theft (8).

Let the Council know!

A message from the Councillors for Southfields Ward: Jan Leigh, Simon Roberts and Richard Vivian

Residents sometimes complain to us that, for example, a street light near their home has been out of action for a month, or there has been a pothole in the road since Christmas, and Wandsworth Council has done nothing about it. To which we feel bound to reply: But have you reported it to the Council?

Residents are easily the Council's best source of information about the little things that go amiss on our streets and pavements: broken street lights, potholes, wonky paving stones, abandoned cars, graffiti, fly tipping and damaged bollards, to name the most common complaints. The Council welcomes residents to report anything like this by telephone, by e-mail or by post, using the special report cards stocked at Southfields Library.

Here are some telephone numbers and e-mail addresses that you may find useful:

Abandoned cars	020 8871 6709	abandonedvehicles@wandsworth.gov.uk
Fly tipping	020 8871 8558	flytipping@wandsworth.gov.uk
Graffiti	020 8871 7049	graffiti@wandsworth.gov.uk
Pavement defects	020 8871 8710	highways@wandsworth.gov.uk
Road defects	020 8871 6708	highways@wandsworth.gov.uk
Street lights	020 8871 6718	highways@wandsworth.gov.uk

Residents sometimes complain to us that the Council has not taken action even after they have reported something. If this happens, please let one of us know!

jleigh@wandsworth.gov.uk simonroberts@wandsworth.gov.uk rvivian@wandsworth.gov.uk

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