

SOUTHFIELDS SAYS:



A Grid youngster makes his point.

Residents have voiced their concerns over the speed of motorists on the busy streets of Southfields. The July meeting of the SGRA was addressed by Cllr Guy Senior, Cabinet Member for Transport at Wandsworth Council. This was as part of an ongoing discussion between residents and the council about the best way to tackle traffic problems on the Grid. The discussion mainly focused on ways to reduce the speed of traffic through the Grid roads.

The council was asked to look at traffic calming, which might include a 20mph zone, chicanes, speed bumps, or more warning signs. They have responded by considering traffic calming measures for Brookwood and Lavenham Roads, thanks to campaigning by Southfields residents. One Brookwood Road resident, a mother of two, said 'Some drivers go far too fast for a residential area with so many children. I hope the council acts before it is too late.'

Road safety will be on the agenda at the next meeting of Southfields Grid Residents Association on 25th September.

Dates for your Diary...

18th December 2007

Carol singing outside the tube

5.30pm to 7pm. We will be raising money for St George's hospital. All welcome, regardless of singing ability!

22nd November starting at 8pm

Night at the races

No, not Plough Lane, but the Earl Spencer. Following the success of the pub quiz, we will be holding a night at the races in the function room of the Earl Spencer. A pre-recorded DVD of horse races will be played and people bet (monopoly money) on each race. The winner on the night will receive a meal for

two voucher for the Earl Spencer. If you would like to take part, or would like to find out more, please contact **David Crowther** on 020 8877 0932.

Thanks

Our Golden Oldies event was a great success. The following local businesses provided raffle prizes, and we are very grateful: **Chris Hairdressers, Lavenham Mini Market, McCluskey's, Southfields Foot Clinic, Southfields Fruit & Veg, Suzelles, and The Family Butcher.**

Thanks too to the **All-England Tennis Club** for their support for the hanging baskets during Wimbledon fortnight, and to **London Underground** for allowing carol singing outside Southfields tube.

SGRA committee...

Chair:

Mike Caswell

Deputy Chair:

Emma Helbert

Secretary:

Claire Belderbos

Treasurer:

Carol Gray

Street Representatives.

Astonville Street

Guy Humphreys 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*

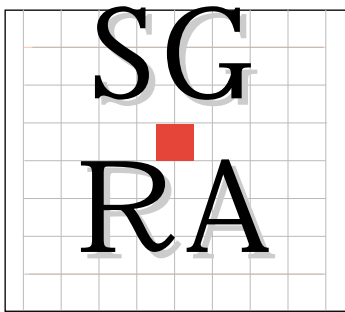
Replingham Road *vacant*

Revelstoke Road

Chris Wright at 190

Trentham Street

David & Caroline Crowther at 101



Editorial



Building Southfields

There can't be many lofts left unconverted in Southfields, nor kitchens unextended. Across the grid, you can see the evidence of residents building upwards and outwards: skips, scaffolding, and eastern European workers improving the handiwork of their Edwardian forebears.

The other day I even saw the first evidence of a new phenomenon: building downwards. After all the building up, and out, the only way left to go is down, into the foundations and under the garden. Having a cellar room is no cheap option. Prices start at a hundred grand. But it's another way to get more space, without moving further away.

It's understandable. People want more space, to improve the value of their property, and most of all to stay in Southfields. It's not just the cost of moving house that persuades people to stay put, it's also that people who live here value the quality of life, the safe streets, good shops, and nearness of central London.

But there must be some limits to all this building. The planning laws are there to protect what little green space there is in Southfields. It's all about what the planners call 'urban density.' Gardens must stay as gardens, parks as parks. The rising pressure for new homes should not mean that people sell off their gardens to squeeze in houses. Extensions, conversions and basements must be sympathetic to the original designs, and must not encroach on the neighbours. No-one wants a concrete jungle in Southfields. Now that really would be dense.

Paul Richards

Support your local Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market movement provides fresh fruit, veg and other produce to city dwellers, and supports Britain's farms and growers. Our local farmers' market is held every Saturday between 9am and 1pm at Wimbledon Park primary school in Havana Road (off Merton Road). There are about 20 stalls every week, with a mouth-watering variety of fruit, vegetables, cheeses, meats, eggs, fish, game, honey, bread, cakes, pickles, jams, juice, plants and flowers.

This farmers' market was started by Southfields resident Kate Van Orden in May 2000 with just eight stalls, and it has grown in size and popularity since then. One regular stall-holder is March House Farm, run by Mike and Heather Belcher and their son Daniel. Their team bring lamb, beef and pork from Leicestershire, and sell hand-made burgers.

Southfields was close to several farms in the early part of the last century, but for most of us these days the closest we come to agriculture is The Archers. Farmers' Markets are a great way to connect urbanites with the countryside, to allow the expertise and knowledge of the producers to come directly to the buyer, and to cut down on 'food miles'. As farmers recover from the latest outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Surrey, we wish farmers' markets every success.

TRENTHAM STREET ARE SOFTBALL CHAMPS!

The third annual Southfields Grid softball competition took place in Wimbledon Park on 28th July. This year's winners were 'Trentham Street Grid Irons' and once again our local MP Justine Greening was there to play and present the trophy. The day was blessed with sunshine in between the frequent showers of this summer and was very well attended with six teams taking part and over 100 people playing or supporting.

There was a wide range of ages and abilities which added to the fun nature of the day. Afterwards there was a BBQ at St Barnabas, where people enjoyed a few well earned burgers and drinks.

The success of the day is sure to make this a regular event in the SGRA calendar.

DON'T DUMP AT OXFAM

Oxfam relies on the generosity of people giving their clothes, books, pictures and ornaments to help to raise money for developing countries. But despite clear signs in the window, people are still dumping their unwanted items in the doorway when the shop is closed. Clothes often get strewn down Replingham Road, and end up in the bin.

One resident said: 'It's a mess. You see people dumping their stuff on a Sunday, and half an hour later it's been picked over and spread down the street.' So you may think you're helping Oxfam by leaving things outside, but actually you're just illegally fly-tipping on a busy shopping street. **Donate, don't dump!**



Southfields GP practice– have your say

The Southfields Group Practice at 7 Revelstoke Road provides the grid with its GPs and practice nurses. Any member of the practice may come along to the patients' 'focus group' to voice their opinions about the services provided, suggest improvements,

and quiz the GPs and practice managers about the running of the practice. The next meeting is on Monday 15th October at 1pm at the practice. Please phone Chris Sewell on 020 8875 5429 a week before the meeting if you want to attend.

CRIME ON THE GRID

Remember – crime in this part of London is far lower than the average for the city, but we can all do more to prevent crimes in Southfields.

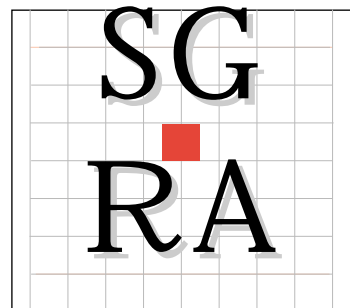
The police crime report for the past few months is:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Clonmore Street | - domestic incident. |
| Elborough Street | - theft from a motor vehicle, burglary; public order offence. |
| Elsenhaw Street | - Criminal damage to building. |
| Engadine Street | - theft from a motor vehicle (2); Communications Act offences; theft from motor vehicles. |
| Heythorp Street | - theft from a motor vehicle; theft of unattended property. |
| Lavenham Road | - ABH. |
| Replingham Road | - theft of personal property; interference with a motor vehicle; criminal damage to building; theft (not classified). |

In an emergency always dial 999. To contact the local police phone 020 8721 2429 or 07920 233931, or email: southfields.SNT@met.police.uk

Changing Southfields

Peter Stechman



I have lived in Southfields for over 30 years, moving from Islington in 1975 with my wife and two daughters and in that time have seen many changes in the features of properties on the Southfields Grid.

One such noticeable change was the loss of many small specialised shops. I recall a boot menders shop on the corner of Trentham and Lavenham, which retained for several years the boot menders signs. These consisted of the Kiwi & Cherry Blossom Polish logos with the bespectacled man holding a hobbing foot and hammer. These small businesses survived two world wars and the depression but were defeated by the march of the supermarkets and now, especially in Brookwood Road, they are rapidly disappearing with the change into residential use.

A walk around the Grid streets will show the diverse assortment of frontages, windows, brickwork and gables, leaded lights, colours and street doors, very different from the uniform style when they were built. As you come down from Elsingham through to Astonville several still have individual names above the street door in white enamel set in leaded light. There is a run of them in the middle section of Elborough Street with names such as 'Sunnyside', 'Little Sutton', 'Hinton', 'Dunkeld', 'Belle View', 'St. Margarets', 'Alverstone' and 'Haslemere'.

One particular feature that has intrigued me was what appeared to be little stumps of metal sticking up on many of the remaining original knee high brick walls. The metal stumps are all that remain of the metal railings that were removed during the 1939-45 war, the metal being melted down and used for munitions and I often wondered what the original railings had looked like. I had seen a number of photos of 'old Southfields' streets but these did not show significant detail until I spoke to Reginald Channon (Reg)

who with his father Fred lived at 24 Astonville Street. Reg gave me several photos of him taken in 1923 when he was three outside 24 Astonville.

The photos show Fred in his railwayman's waistcoat, trousers and boots and the photo of Reg gives good detail in the background of the railings and finials. Reg told me that most grid houses had the same low walls and railings but after the 39-45 war people altered them to their own taste. I have noticed that residents are now installing metal railings and gates as a feature.



Fred moved his family to Trentham Street in 1938, was born in 1881 he lived to be 96. Reg will be 87 this December and still lives on Trentham Street. During the 39-45 War he was in the Signals narrowly being killed when a bullet thudded into the wall next to where he was standing. His brother was not so lucky and was killed in the London Blitz.

Do you have photos of the grid in days gone by? Why not share them with Newsletter readers?

NEWS FROM THE TOWN HALL

Grid Inn Application

The Grid Inn and the Old Garage pub on Replingham Road have gained permission to use their frontage as outdoor seating areas for a one year limited period. At the end of 2006 after pressure from local residents and your local councillors, Wandsworth Council refused an application by the Old Garage for outdoor seating. This was on the grounds that it would cause public nuisance.

The Old Garage appealed and the Planning Inspectorate overruled Wandsworth's decision. We urge residents to contact the council's environmental protection team if the outdoor seating causes problems. This will help the council to review the situation at the end of the year and hopefully prevent local opinion being overruled again.

Mobile phone masts

Residents have expressed concern over the number of mobile phone mast planning applications in Southfields. The most recent application is for a mast to be erected on Viewfield Road outside the entrance to St Michael's playing fields.

There are currently a number of objections many focusing on health & safety issues given the number of children using the playing fields. If you wish to view this or any other application and related objections go to:

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/Home/EnvironmentandTransport/Planning

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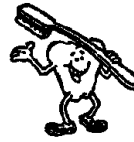
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