

CHRISTMAS '56 - A CONFLICT OF EMOTIONS

Neil Robson

Tensions in the political world were enough to send anyone into gloom, that Christmas fifty years ago. Public opinion was outraged over the ruthless crushing of the anti-Communist uprising in Budapest, and 'a spontaneous wave of sympathy for Hungarian refugees (swept) the country like wild-fire.' That was how the Vicar of St Barnabas Church described the reaction in his parish magazine, and residents in Southfields contributed generously to the Lord Mayor of London's fund for those fleeing to freedom. The repercussions of the woeful Suez Crisis affected everyone directly, too. Petrol rationing was introduced on 17 December, car owners were allowed a mere six gallons a month, and bus services such as the no. 39, which ran along Replingham Road in those days, were more or less withdrawn after 7 p.m.

Yet, against the odds, confidence was high, and there was no shortage of money. Albert Cleverly on Replingham Road, for instance, was advertising television sets at a hefty 73 guineas, which is over £3,000 in today's terms, and things were primed for a bumper Christmas. The editor of the

main local paper reflected that confidence when he praised the integrity and boldness of the Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden. Echoing the view widely held at the time, he wrote of his deep conviction that the PM had taken the right course in Suez, and that Eden's 'timely action' had averted a major war in the Middle East.

How past events have the capacity to resonate down to the present day. As the year drew to a close, the Plaza Cinema on Wimbledon Park Road (now Riley's Snooker Club) showed the feature film *Bandido* starring Robert Mitchum. A reviewer praised Mitchum for his 'zestful performance' and expressed admiration for the 'tart dialogue'. The plot, wrote the critic, was one of an American soldier giving support to a group of 'Mexican rebels fighting to make Mexico safe for democracy.' You'd never hear that sort of remark nowadays, would you?

Source: *Wandsworth Borough News* / Wandsworth Local History Service, Battersea Library (020 8871 7753)

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 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 Beckett

Replingham Road vacant

Revelstoke Road

Chris Wright at 190

Trentham Street

David & Caroline Crowther at 101 Trentham Street

Dates for your Diary...

Tuesday 19th December 2006

Christmas carol singing

From 5:30, the SGRA choir will be singing Christmas Carols outside Southfields Underground Station. We will be collecting money for Trinity Hospice so please give generously.

Saturday 31st March 2007

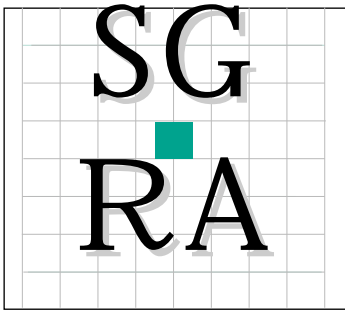
Golden Oldies Party, St Barnabas Church Hall

From 3pm to 6pm there will be live entertainment and refreshments.

Thursday 8th February 2007

Grid Pub Quiz

8pm at the Earl Spencer, see article in this newsletter for further information.



GRID PUB QUIZ

Clonmore Street have proved themselves able on the sports field, but who are the intellectual heavyweights on the Grid? A pub quiz has been organised to answer this question. It will take place in the upstairs room of the Earl Spencer at 8pm on 8th February 2007. The quiz will mainly be general knowledge, with

a few questions thrown in to test your local knowledge. Each team can have up to 8 members. Feel free to enter either full teams, individuals, or any where in between as teams will be made up nearer the time. If you would like to join in or have any questions please contact **David Crowther (020 8877 0932)**.

£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 increased in popularity because of its location (to be maintained) and the 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 (e.g. 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). The last important task keeps residents abreast of current local issues, changes and developments.

We also make a yearly collection of £1 or more from each household to help 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 1930 hours during weekdays). Although this task can be regarded as a chore it is more than compensated for by meeting Grid residents once a year providing that essential contact between the Committee and the residents. We need

help with 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 Mike Caswell.

We meet once a month (except August & December) on the last Tuesday in the month @ 2000 hours in St Barnabas Church Hall and residents are welcome to attend. Volunteers are also needed from time to time to help as street reps, or delivering newsletters, and, of course, to bring in new ideas and enthusiasm.

In return, the SGRA Committee is always very keen to hear about any group initiatives in this area, such as children's outings or a street party, and it would look favourably on making a financial contribution towards such a project.

LAVENHAM MINIMARKET

Mr and Mrs Asser would like to thank everyone for their good luck wishes when it looked they would be moving on and selling their shop to new owners. Alas it was not to be and Mr and Mrs Asser are looking forward to continuing to live and work on the Grid.

AN EDWARDIAN NOVELIST'S VIEW OF SOUTHFIELDS

Neil Robson

In 1913, the author, May Sinclair, published a novel called *The Combined Maze*, in which she set much of the action in Southfields, an area she sarcastically referred to as a 'Paradise of Little Clerks'. You can read her fascinating, opinionated description of the diminutive houses, 'so indistinguishably, so maddeningly alike', in the latest issue of the *Wandsworth Historian*, the journal of the Wandsworth Historical Society. Copies are available price £3.00 from the Wandsworth Museum, 11 Garratt Lane, London SW18 4AQ (020 8871 7074), and from the Wandsworth Local History Service, Battersea Library, 265 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1JB (020 8871 7753).

JACK GRAY

As this newsletter goes to press, the SGRA notes with great sadness the death of its longest-standing committee member, Jack Gray. A fuller record of his contribution will appear in our next issue.

SEASONAL GREETINGS FROM ST BARNABAS

It's going to be a great time for kids at St Barnabas this Christmas. They can come and see Father Christmas in person at the Christmas Fair on 2 December, then enjoy the toy stall, the bouncy castle and take part in craft activities. Then on 10 December we hold our Christingle service with a traditional nativity tableau. We never know how many kings will turn up on the day but the toddlers frequently join in and everyone enjoys the tea party afterwards. On Christmas Eve there will be the Crib Service especially for children. And of course on Christmas Day we will all be able to experience the wonder of Christmas at the birth of the Christ Child.

Saturday 2nd December

Christmas Fair 11.30-2.30 Adults £1 and children free.

Sunday 10th December

3pm Christingle Service - Children's Nativity Tableau followed by refreshments.

Sunday 17th December

5pm Nine Lessons and Carols then mince pies and mulled wine.

Monday 18th December

5.30- 7pm Churches Together carols at Southfields Station in aid of Crisis at Christmas.

Sunday 24th December

4pm Christmas Eve Crib service for children. Children are invited to come dressed as Angels, Stars, Shepherds or Kings.

Sunday 24th December 11.15pm

Midnight Mass - choir will sing from 11pm.

Sunday 25th December 10.30am

Christmas Family Eucharist.

A joyful and peaceful Christmas to you all.

TRINITY HOSPICE

Trinity is your local hospice. We provide care to many people every year who suffer from terminal illness. All our services are completely free of charge, and we will support a patient and their family for as long as they need us.

Trinity is the oldest Hospice in the UK. Located on Clapham Common North Side, we have provided palliative care for local people for over 115 years. Our beautiful Georgian buildings house a 28 bed inpatient unit, and day therapy services where patients can take part in social activities and receive complementary therapies (including massage, physiotherapy and aromatherapy). We also have a team of 13 Trinity Community Nurses that go out in to the community and visit patients in their own home.

In August work started on a £10m project to build a brand new inpatient facility. This vital work will result in one of the finest palliative care units in the country and most importantly help us to keep up with the expectations of those most

important to us, our patients and their families.

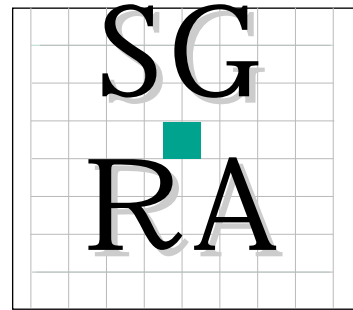
Trinity relies heavily on voluntary donations to help raise £7m every year and we are immensely grateful for the support we receive from people in the local community. Without the vital funds you raise we would simply not be able to continue providing the care we do.

In 2003 a collection was organised at Southfields Station which raised a quite fantastic £336.30 in little over an hour. We are very pleased to be supported again at this year's collection. This will take place at Southfields Station on Tuesday 19th December 5.30-7pm.

Thank you for your support.

Crime on the Grid

from the Editor



We have been asked by the Police to give the following advice:

There has been an increase of motor vehicle related crime on the Grid. Most incidents can be avoided by ensuring that you take ALL valuables with you - and that doesn't mean hiding them in the glove box! This includes empty mobile telephone and satellite navigation holders/cradles. Even better, leave your glove box empty and open so that it is obvious there is nothing concealed.

IF THEY CAN SEE IT, THEY CAN STEAL IT. IF YOU CAN SEE IT, MOVE IT!!

Finally, with Christmas fast approaching, do not leave gifts unattended in your car even if they are out of sight and do not leave gifts in plain view inside your homes - remember, many of these break-ins are opportunistic. If you wish to put gifts out early, keep your curtains or shutters closed, otherwise there may be some disappointed faces on Christmas morning. REMEMBER theft and crime do not stop because of Christmas.

Our Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Team currently consists of Sgt Gary Taylor, PC Darren Hunt, PC Dave Coates, PCSO Jacek Zebrachi and PCSO Alexandra Claridge. If you see anything suspicious call 999 or for non emergency matters contact the Team on 020 8247 8759 or by email Southfields.SNT@met.pnn.police.uk

CRIME STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER TO 31 OCTOBER 2006

Astonville Street	- 1 theft of motor vehicle, 1 theft from motor vehicle, 2 criminal damage to motor vehicle, 1 theft of bicycle, 1 possession of cannabis.
Brookwood Road	- 2 theft of motor vehicle.
Elborough Street	- 1 theft of motor vehicle, 1 theft from motor vehicle, 1 theft from front garden, 1 theft of post.
Elsenham Street	- 1 theft from motor vehicle.
Engadine Street	- 1 theft of motor vehicle, 1 theft from motor vehicle, 1 criminal damage.
Hanford Close	- 1 theft of motor vehicle, 1 residential burglar.
Lavenham Road	- 1 theft of bicycle.
Merton Road	- 1 robbery, 1 "going equipped", 1 theft of motor vehicle, 1 theft of bicycle.
Replingham Road	- 1 theft from motor vehicle, 1 shoplifting, 1 non-residential burglary, 1 residential burglary, 1 breach of ASBO, 1 ABH, 1 possession of cannabis.
Revelstoke Road	- 1 theft of motor vehicle.

NEWS FROM THE TOWN HALL

The Grid and Garage applications: residents have mounted an active and effective campaign against the proposals by the The Grid Inn to extend opening hours and by The Garage to introduce outside seating. The planning committee rejected these applications on the grounds that the proposals would be detrimental to the area and result in increased disturbance for residents as well as being unneighbourly. The Garage owners, Greene King, have however reapplied with a slightly modified proposal for outside seating. Your councillors will continue to fight to ensure that these proposals do not further compromise the village identity of the heart of Southfields.

Dog fouling: this is an issue about which residents are becoming increasingly concerned, particularly in a family area like the Grid where there are young children and a primary school. Dog fouling has a detrimental impact on the quality of life in our local area. It is an offence to allow a dog to foul the pavement and the fine can be

up to £1,000. Dog Owners are reminded to clear up after their dogs. Residents should report persistent offenders to the Council's Dog Control Service on 020 8871 7606 with a description of the dog and their owner and the times of such incidents.

Waste collection: any problems with waste collection should be reported to the Council on 020 8871 7869. The department is responsive and they monitor the work of the refuse collection service.

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

Lucy Allan
Jenny Nickels
Paul Reeve

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

MOWERSURE

Garden Machinery & Chainsaw Service
and Sales

Open: Monday-Friday 08.00-5.00
76 Brookwood Road

Telephone & Fax: 020 8874 8939

THE KEW GARDENER

Garden Centres

Kew Gardens 020 8948 1422 Southfields 020 8874 9962
18 Station Parade, Kew, 366 Merton Road, Wandsworth,
TW9 3PZ SW18 5AD

www.thekewgardener.co.uk

Is your lawn/garden suffering after the drought?
Contact the specialists in regular garden maintenance and
all other aspects of horticulture

EDDIE O'DRISCOLL APPROVED ELECTRICIAN



Domestic and Commercial
Inspections and Testing
Rewiring • Repairs

Mobile: 0797 080 7249 Tel: 020 8785 4610
eddieodriscoll18@hotmail.com

ZENITH DRY CLEANERS & LAUNDERERS

Specialists in Same Day fully hand finished dry cleaning without
extra charge. Silk, Ball Gowns & Wedding Dresses, Curtains,
Blankets, Settee Loose Covers, Duvets & Pillows, Bed Linens,
Hand finished Starch Shirt Service.
Invisible mending repair, and alteration
Deluxe Dry Cleaning Service.

203 Replingham Road, London SW18 5LY
Telephone: 020 8874 8651

Please Note: Plenty of parking at the corner of Pirbright Road
Junction and Replingham Road

• SOUTHFIELDS OSTEOPATHIC PRACTICE •

Clinic
by
Appointment



Emma K. Poole DO
Linda Goddard BSc (Hons) Ost
Alexander Irving BSc (Hons) Ost

020 8870 0822

21 Replingham Road SW18 5LT
www.southfieldsosteopathicpractice.co.uk

HILLSIDE CARPETS

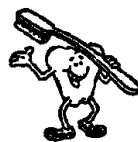
Family run business established 1990
32 Replingham Road, Southfields SW18.

Free in-house estimating and measuring service

Also Hillside Cleaning

24 hr carpet cleaning service, window cleaning and scotch guarding
Freephone 0500 700880, 24hr 07900 802007

New showroom now open at
169 South Lane, New Malden. Tel 020 8877 9595



WIMBLEDON PARK DENTAL SURGERY

126 Revelstoke Road, Southfields SW19 5PB
Tel: 020 8879 1111

A dental surgery NEAR you offering
NHS and private dental care for your family

Opening hours: Monday – Friday 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 5.30pm
Saturdays and evenings are by appointment only.

VILLAGE BUTCHERS

Established 2003

Purveyors of quality meat and poultry.
Specially selected Scotch Beef and Lamb.
Free range chicken and eggs.

Large variety of traditional home-made
sausages including S.A. Boerewors.

Telephone: 020 8488 5106

14 Replingham Road, Southfields SW18 5LS



OAKLEY LOCKSMITHS LIMITED

- ✚ JOINERY
- ✚ LOCKSMITHS
- ✚ DOOR CLOSERS
- ✚ CARPENTRY

81 Replingham Road
Southfields London
SW18 5BL

Telephone: 020 8871 1238
Fax: 020 8875 1416

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 Plumb**:

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



Absolute Lofts
South-West London's
Premier Loft Conversion Company

Absolute Lofts offer an exclusive custom-made package to cater for their client's individual requirements.

Having a fully integrated professional team of in-house architects, engineers, interior designers, project managers and nineteen dedicated construction crews, allows Absolute lofts to offer a unique and stylised utilisation of your loft space.

For specialist advice and a complimentary consultation please call free on 0800 24 30 48



www.absolute-lofts.com
absolute.lofts@btinternet.com
119^a Putney High Street SW15 1SE

VELUX

10 YEAR GUARANTEE



PARTY WALL SURVEYORS

Vincent-Brown & Associates are an established firm of professional party wall surveyors, experts in work involving loft conversions. If you, or your neighbour are planning to undertake a loft conversion shortly then let us streamline the party wall procedure for you.

- The latest surveying techniques including ultrasonic crack detection.
- Flat rate competitive pricing.
- A dedicated free-advice line.

Telephone or e-mail for further information:
e.info@vincent-brown.co.uk t.07976 069983 or 0870 4429707

MCCLUSKEYS

Your convenience store and off-licence.
A wide selection of beers, wine & spirits, groceries, phonecards, stamps, Lottery, fax, photocopying, Western-Union money transfer, newspapers.

VIDEO CLUB - free membership, £3.50 per night.
Happy hour everyday 5pm-6pm all videos half price (rent 2 videos, get 3rd free)

Open 7 days a week, 7.30am-9pm

200 Revelstoke Road, Southfields SW18 5WW
020 8946 6285

WHEELER & KIRK

Local friendly independent opticians
for all the family.

Contact Lenses. Excellent frame range. Sports vision specialists.

15, Replingham Road, Southfields
Telephone: 020 8874 5511
Fax: 020 8870 9744
email: sportsvis@aol.com
www.visioninsport.co.uk

John Howell

OPTICIANS

VISION WITH STYLE

35 REPLINGHAM ROAD, SOUTHFIELDS, LONDON SW18 5LT
TELEPHONE: 020 8874 1001 020 8874 5210



Paving, Turfing, Decking, Fencing, Brickwork, Driveways.

Recreate your Victorian path.
Make it look special from just £500.

Tel: 020 7349 9544 Mobile: 07903 124850

email: info@myurbanoasis.co.uk
website: www.myurbanoasis.co.uk



THE DELICIOUS DELI

We have a selection of speciality cheeses, cold meats and salamis, olives and other foreign foods to choose from.

Light snacks also available:
Paninis, sandwiches, hot soups, tea and coffee.
Catering services also available.

38 Replingham Road,
Southfields SW18 5LR
Telephone: 020 8874 2138

SOUTHFIELDS FOOT CARE

SPENCER CHILDS

BSc(Hons), MChs, SRCh

State Registered Chiropodist/Podiatrist

37 Replingham Road
Southfields SW18 5LT
Telephone: 020 8870 3742

Established 1990

PLUM LETTINGS



Specialists in Residential Property
Management

For a friendly efficient service covering: Southfields, Wimbledon Wandsworth and surrounding areas

Tel: 020 8875 0333

Fax: 020 8871 2270

www.plumlettings.com

130 Brookwood Road Southfields SW18 5DD