

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all residents
on the Grid from the SGRA.

Rhyme and Reason.

To celebrate 30 years of the SGRA, Tina Thompson, founder member of the SGRA, has written a poem about the origins of your residents' association:-

Early in nineteen hundred and seventy four
I opened my front door
To see houses boarded up opposite me
I was a victim of the Council's housing policy

As I soon found out
This was going on all about
Sutherland Grove was in a state
I was determined the Grid would not meet this fate

So this is what we did
We delivered leaflets around the Grid
Got a free let at Southfields School
Everything went according to schedule

Lots of people attended that night
We got a committee established alright
Then we passed a resolution
And got ourselves a constitution

We wanted the empty houses let
Sadly this request remained unmet
To stop the area looking blighted
They hung net curtains, we were delighted

Lots of things needed doing
Paving stones needed renewing
We didn't want developers changing houses to flats
So eventually the Council put paid to that

We could organise a petition
Run the best front garden competition
A silver plate was awarded
The winners name upon it recorded

Coronation Gardens became the venue
For the Southfields Festival, that was new
Entertainment, stalls, a competition tent
A really exciting annual event

Then there came Christmas time
We treated the kids to pantomime
And in the Summer if you were an OAP
A coach outing down to the sea

The police asked us one day
to get a Neighbourhood Watch underway
The largest in the borough ever tried
Their success cannot be denied

I hope you like my poem for this edition
Thank you for carrying on the Grid tradition
Of the Association that I started
I'm sorry I have now departed

Dates for your Diary...

Tuesday 21st December

"Christmas carol singing"

From 5-30 pm the SGRA choir will be singing Christmas Carols outside Southfields Underground Station. We will be collecting money for St George's Hospital Special Appeal, so please give generously.

Saturday 19th March 2005

"Golden Oldies" Party

3.00pm - 6.00pm
St Barnabas Church Hall, Lavenham Road. A chance to entertain the Grid's senior citizens for whom the party is free of charge. Live entertainment by the Mayfielders and special guest, Eddy Byles, who will again be kindly singing for us. Includes: popular songs, solo

items, comic turns and raffle. Food and refreshments provided. This ever popular event for older people on the Grid is one of the highlights of the year. If anyone requires a lift to this event, please contact your SGRA street rep - names on front of the newsletter. We have moved this event from January to March to avoid the bad weather sometimes experienced in winter.

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

Heythorpe Street

Neil Robson at 119

Lavenham Road

Mark Davie at 155 Clonmore Street

Merton Road vacant

Replingham Road

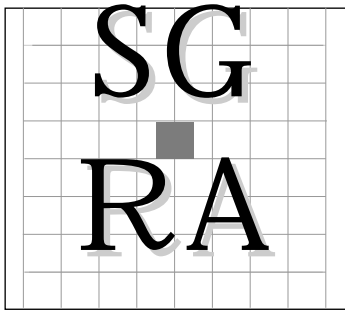
Annie Gossard at 67

Revelstoke Road

Chris Wright at 190

Trentham Street

Mark Page at 133



Local History

New Club at St Barnabas

SMILE PLEASE

A big welcome to **Wimbledon Park Dental Surgery** which has recently opened on the Grid. A new dental surgery offering NHS as well as private care is, these days, a rare occurrence and is a much needed service in Southfields. The address is **126 Revelstoke Road, Southfields**, telephone number **020 8879 1111**.

Roomy Villas, Neil Robson's highly successful history of Southfields Grid and its surroundings has been reprinted and is available once again from **The Golden Treasury, 27 Replingham Road and The Wandsworth Museum, 11 Garratt Lane. An ideal Christmas gift for friends and neighbours. Price £6.**

The new issue of The Wandsworth Historian contains a fascinating article about the building of the first houses in Elsenham Street in around 1894. It also carries a short item about Southfields Baptist Church, together with an evocative photo taken outside the building in the 1950s. **Available from Wandsworth Museum, 11 Garratt Lane. Price £2.50.**

If you are free on a Wednesday afternoon in the new year and fancy a chat - do pop down to St Barnabas Parish Centre in Lavenham Road. We are opening a drop-in group for older people, where you can get refreshments. The club will be open from 2pm to 4 pm in the main hall. We would welcome ideas for activities in the future, and if you are a pianist who likes to play the old tunes you will be doubly welcome.

The club opens on Wednesday 12th January and will be open on Wednesdays after that.

So do drop by. **For further details speak to Margaret Brett on 020 8870 5364.**

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - SOUTHFIELDS DISTRICT

This year's service has been compiled by the women of Poland and takes place on Friday 4th March 2005 at St Luke's Church, Ryfold Road, Wimbledon Park at 11-30 am followed by a light lunch and at Southfields Methodist Church, Durnsford Road at 7-30pm. This is an ecumenical meeting with involvement from the churches of St Barnabas, St Michaels, St Lukes, Southfields Baptist, Southfields Methodist and Christ the King RC. **Everyone welcome.**

Celebrating Christmas One Hundred Years Ago by Neil Robson

A hundred years ago, Southfields Grid was still in its formative stage. The final houses were yet to be built, and a network of social activities was barely off the ground. So how did people entertain themselves over Christmas in 1904? At the end of November that year, the evening class students at Merton Road (now Riversdale) School held a 'Cinderella' up at the old Town Hall on Wandsworth High Street. They hired an orchestra, arranged a programme of dances, invited their friends and

the function was pronounced a great success. Three weeks later, they received their end-of-term prizes at the school. Before the ceremony, the choir performed a number of songs with titles such as 'Drink to me only with thine eyes' and 'See our oars with feathered spray'. After they had finished, the Dramatic Literature Class presented a scene from The Merchant of Venice, which was enthusiastically applauded.

St Barnabas did not yet exist, but churchgoers may

well have worshipped at St Michael's. Perhaps they went to the free musical entertainment held in the church's hall on the corner of Brathway Road. The songs and orchestral selections that December evening ended with 'three rousing cheers...given most heartily'.

But Christmas 1904 was a miserable affair. Days of dense fog - one of 'London's finest' - gave way to damp, muggy weather, and the unsurfaced roads were practically seas of mud.

The 25th fell on a Sunday, resulting in a strange three-day break, which had an unsettling effect. The streets were deserted; the shops closed until the Wednesday, and most people spent the holiday indoors. As the editor of the Borough News wrote at end of the year, 'Altogether it was rather a dull Christmas.' Oh dear.

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

ELSENHAM TO ELSENHAM

On 4th September, a beautiful hot day, 35 residents of Elsenham Street travelled by coach to Elsenham in Essex - the village that gave the street its name. Organised by John Wilson, supported by his wife Lesley, the purpose of the outing was for town dwellers to connect with their country counterparts, as well as get to know other Elsenham street residents. We set off at 10am and the first part of the day's entertainment was a quiz, initially about items of local interest, then about landmarks along the route.

On arrival in Elsenham, we were greeted at the Crown Inn by the Chairman and Deputy of the Parish Council and, after exchanging gifts, were treated to an interesting talk by three staff from the local Molton Brown cosmetics factory. Elsenham Quality Foods - a company long associated with Elsenham village - also provided an array of products for purchase.

After buffet lunch, it was time to head for nearby Mountfitchet Castle and the House on the Hill Toy Museum which, despite the intense heat were enjoyed by one and all. On next to the Elsenham Stud and a highly informative talk from the manager about the daily workings of a multi-million pound operation, as well as an opportunity to meet a champion stallion at close quarters. After visiting the Norman church, it was time for our return journey, this time with a quiz close to John's heart - on films. Lastly came the raffle before arriving back in Southfields at 8pm, everyone having had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Many thanks are due to the SGRA for their generous part-sponsorship as well as all the local businesses who generously contributed raffle prizes.

What next I hear you ask? There's always the picturesque town of Lavenham to consider!

Getting things done

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

First, some good news for those who live in or walk along Clonmore Street. The relaying of the pavements along the entire length of this street, which has been put on hold since March because of more urgent work in other parts of Wandsworth, will soon be going ahead, following a bit of prompting from Richard. Wandsworth Council will be writing again soon to everyone in Clonmore Street with more details about the work, and contractors should be starting work in late November/early December, weather permitting.

Second, the Council has agreed to create a new pedestrian crossing point on Merton Road, after consulting Merton Road residents and finding overwhelming support for our request for somewhere safe to cross this busy stretch of main road. The new pedestrian refuge island will be placed near the bus stop outside St. Barnabas Church at the end of Lavenham Road. Hopefully bus passengers,

commuters and visitors to King George's Park will all find it both safer and easier to cross Merton Road in future.

Finally, the Council is proposing to fit four closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in the centre of Southfields that would be monitored continuously by Police and Council officers in the Council's CCTV control room. The cameras would be placed near Southfields Post Office and outside Wimbledon Park Court in Wimbledon Park Road, and outside Boots and Oxfam in Replingham Road. The Council is consulting residents and businesses closest to these locations, and if there are no serious objections the cameras will surely help make the centre of Southfields a safer – and a safer-looking – place.

Watch this space!

jleigh@wandsworth.gov.uk

simonroberts@wandsworth.gov.uk

rvivian@wandsworth.gov.uk

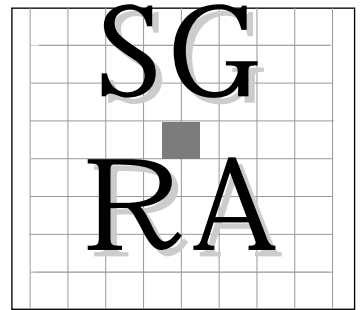
SGRA

Welcome to the many new residents who have recently moved to the Grid. This newsletter is produced by Southfields Grid Residents' Association (SGRA) which is a non-religious, non-political group of volunteers whose purpose is to improve life on the Grid. We meet on the last Tuesday of each month (except August and December) at 8pm in St Barnabas Church Hall, Lavenham Road, where all

Grid residents are welcome. We have regular contact with our MP, Councillors, police force, transport companies, local schools and businesses etc as well as organising social events. We strive to maintain the strong sense of community in the area so if you have any suggestions or feel you can contribute in any way, please contact your SGRA street rep or a committee member.

Crime on the Grid

from the Editor



The following are the crime figures, kindly supplied by PC Stephen Rogers, for the period 26th July 2004 to 26th October 2004.

- Astonville Street - Theft from motor vehicle (3), Theft of motor vehicle (1).
- Brookwood Road - Theft (1), Burglary (1), Theft of motor vehicle (1), Assault (1).
- Clonmore Street - Robbery (1).
- Elborough Street - Criminal damage to motor vehicle (1)
- Elsenham Street - Theft from motor vehicle (2), Robbery (1), Burglary (1).
- Engadine Street - Burglary (1), Criminal damage (1).
- Heythorp Street - Criminal damage (1).
- Lavenham Road - Burglary (1), Theft (1) .
- Replingham Road - Burglary (1), Criminal damage to motor vehicle (2), Shoplifting (4), Theft (2), Burglary non residential (1), Criminal damage to property (3), Assault (1).
- Revelstoke Road - Theft of motor vehicle (1).
- Trentham Street - Burglary (1), Theft from motor vehicle (2), Theft of motor vehicle (1)

Although there has been a relatively low incidence of crime over the last 3 months, a very disturbing robbery involving a knife occurred on the Grid recently. We have been asked to advise residents to be vigilant and try to avoid using and displaying mobile phones as you leave the Underground station, as this attracts robbers who observe the exits. If you are travelling home at night, please be aware of your surroundings and who may be in your immediate vicinity.

The Grid's local school

By Christina Piombo, Head Teacher, Riversdale Primary School

Riversdale School, with its distinctive building on the edge of the Southfields Grid, has prepared thousands of children of local families for their secondary education and adult life since it was built in 1895. Parents of young children coming up to school age will now be thinking about which school to send them to next September, and we hope they will consider Riversdale.

We pride ourselves on running a very "child-friendly" school in a caring environment with a strong sense of inclusion. But we also set high standards of behaviour and expect high levels of attainment by our pupils, based on a strong work ethic. We try to offer an exciting, challenging curriculum featuring regular trips out of school – you may well have seen groups of our pupils out and about, dressed in the turquoise tops bearing the school badge that characterise our uniform.

Our high staff to pupil ratio across the school helps give children the opportunity to excel in a variety of fields. We track the performance of gifted and talented pupils under the Government's Excellence In Cities Initiative to ensure that they achieve their full potential. We introduce all pupils to a foreign language in Years 5 and 6 (the upper years of Key Stage 2). We give all pupils the chance to excel in a variety of non-core subjects by offering expert tuition in activities such as singing and African drumming.

We have a full sports programme, both in lesson time and outside. The school playground has a football pitch

with a safe, all-weather playing surface, and for other sports we are fortunate to be able to use the excellent facilities nearby at Southfields Community College. We are one of very few primary schools that have their own indoor swimming tank. All pupils have regular swimming sessions – once a week for those between the ages of 5 and 8. This means that we can meet the statutory requirement for swimming tuition without needing to leave the school site.

Other activities include a weekly Homework Club and a number of other after-school clubs, not just for curriculum subjects such as information and communication technology (ICT) but also for arts, sports and music. And for children whose parents have heavy work or study commitments we run a daily Breakfast Club that opens at 8 am and an after-school care scheme that continues till 6 pm.

Our Nursery and Reception classes will be performing their Christmas show on Thursday December 9 at 10 am and again at 2 pm, and we would very much welcome prospective parents to come to either performance with their children and see our school at first hand. If you cannot come then, you would be welcome to come on any other Thursday morning during term time, on our Open Day in January, or at another time by arrangement. Please telephone the school office on **8874 6904** to make an appointment. **We look forward to meeting you!**

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