

# Sutherland Grove Conservation Area Residents' Association SGCARA

[www.sgcara.org.uk](http://www.sgcara.org.uk)

[admin@sgcara.org.uk](mailto:admin@sgcara.org.uk)

Reaching out to Residents  
July 2020



This is our first letter-box circular of 2020 to everyone in the extended SGCARA family at this challenging time, with so many of us having ongoing worries about health & well-being, job-security & schooling. Although in planning for a while now, we have delayed printing partly until we felt more comfortable asking our ever-willing letter-box deliverers to spring into action. This circular is also posted on our web-site [www.sgcara.org.uk](http://www.sgcara.org.uk) where the links are of course easier to access, but we are also mindful of serving readers who don't use technology, prefer to read in paper copy, or feel they have just spent enough 'lock-down' time in front of computer-screens & zoom-style meetings!



In conjunction with other local groups, networks, & personal contact where at all possible, we have tried to play our part during 'lock-down' enabling practical support where needed. We very much hope that those needing help are receiving it. The SGCARA neighbourhood has shown itself generous-hearted, with neighbours looking out for each other with cheery & compassionate 'socially-distanced' chats by phone or over garden fences & balconies, VE-Day tea-parties, & good support for 'Clap for Carers'. We send our heart-felt good wishes to any of you or your families & friends unfortunate enough to have contracted CV19 with serious outcomes. Those on the **email circulation-list**, have received CV19-related information such as local opportunities for CV19 testing, NHS updates, how to access help through Wandsworth Council & voluntary groups, & practical updates on local facilities. **Currently, under 25% of SGCARA-area households are on our email circulation list.** **Fast-changing protocols, including those resulting from CV19, will continue to be part of our lives for a long time to come & we would like to help our residents receive helpful information that comes our way as soon as available.** **Please take the opportunity to join the email circulation list in the Form on Pg 5.**

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As 'Reaching out to Residents' is later in 2020 than ideal, there is much information to squeeze in. Please bear with its rather dense content!

**Responding to items in 'Reaching out to Residents':** Please email [admin@sgcara.org.uk](mailto:admin@sgcara.org.uk) with a subject heading making clear which item you are responding to. If responding in print, please write 'SGCARA' on the envelope, along with the item-subject, include your name and address, & post through any of the following: *14 or 59 Girdwood Rd, 8 or 55 Skeena Hill, 130 Sutherland Grove, 56 Combemartin Rd.*

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We are continuing to celebrate our local environment with the 'Picture-a-Plant' initiative (see below). The natural environment has become even more precious to us in lock-down, with more people enjoying growing seeds & plants, whether in pots, window-boxes, or gardens. The lack of road & air traffic noise, opening our ears to the spring bird-song, has helped some of us feel calmer despite CV19 worries, & have made our local roads feel safer for families cycling. The first main item below updates on efforts to keep our whole area peaceful & free of 'rat-run' commuter-traffic when there is a full return to work-places, principally the future of the **Withycombe Rd 'No Left Turn'** trial, following an important council meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> June.



## The future of the 7.00-10.00am Withycombe Rd 'No Left Turn' trial

Hopefully you are all aware of the ongoing council trial, banning left turns at Withycombe Rd & the Northern entrance to Inner Pk Rd, 7.00am-10.00am on weekdays? SGCARA was one of six groups affected by 'rat-running' to submit deputations about this to the 9<sup>th</sup> June meeting of Wandsworth Council's *Strategic Planning and Transportation Overview & Scrutiny Committee*.... a bit of a mouthful... but this council committee makes important recommendations affecting our surroundings, so do read on...

This committee voted to recommend that the current trial should be made permanent. Good news for our area & Girdwood Rd in particular. The trial *has* reduced 'rat-running' traffic trying to avoid West Hill. However, it has had a negative effect further along Parkside, with 'rat-runners' - intent on avoiding West Hill - now turning left at the *Southern* entrance to Inner Pk Rd, Queensmere Rd & even 'U'-turning on Parkside to flout the restrictions. This has created huge problems for these other areas & strategy is needed that solves the 'rat-running' problem for everyone. A new trial is to begin for a rush-hour 'No Left-Turn' at the *Southern* entrance to Inner Pk Rd. This may not come into effect until September unfortunately, along with decisions such as permanent appropriate signage for Withycombe Rd. We just have to hope that commuter car-use doesn't sky-rocket before that, as more people return to work-places & have anxieties about using public-transport. Another remaining problem is the council's puzzling reluctance to put into place measures (eg through technology) to avoid local residents receiving fines for turning into the restricted roads between 7.00 & 10.00am This appears very unfair for residents needing to return home during that time, eg from night-shift & school-run. Our MP, Fleur Anderson, is still a Ward Councillor (Bedford Ward), & a member of the above Committee. After the 9<sup>th</sup> June meeting, both Fleur & Cllr Malcolm Grimston promised SGCARA to push the Council for exemption for local residents.

You can contact Fleur &/or our Ward Councillors, either by email or letter, to urge them to achieve this.

Fleur Anderson MP [fleur.anderson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:fleur.anderson.mp@parliament.uk) House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Malcolm Grimston [Cllr.M.Grimston@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.M.Grimston@wandsworth.gov.uk) Angela Ireland [Cllr.A.Ireland@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.A.Ireland@wandsworth.gov.uk)

Peter Carpenter (also a member of the above Committee) [Cllr.P.Carpenter@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.P.Carpenter@wandsworth.gov.uk)

You can email our Ward Councillors or write to them at:

**The Members' Room, The Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, SW18 2PU.**

**This still leaves the afternoon/evening 'rat-run' problem unresolved, but we have to be realistic and win one battle at a time.**

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### Some local services

**Delivery vans** bringing food, household goods etc have become a common site in our streets. We are less likely to be aware of **milkandmore's Ian Beardwell** in the very early hours, delivering pintas (*and much more*) from his silent electric milk-float to his many extra customers since lock-down began. Ian was 'Milkman of the Year' in 2019!

Another local hero is **Sunny (of Sunny News)**, who has continued to organise reliable newspaper deliveries throughout the CV19 crisis. He is always pleased to have new customers. Email your requests to: [sunnynewsdelivery@gmail.com](mailto:sunnynewsdelivery@gmail.com) or phone him on 0208 874 5565 or 07753 959 662

### ... and enhancing SGCARA's service to our area    **How can you interact with SGCARA?**

**1) SGCARA's website** [www.sgcara.or.uk](http://www.sgcara.or.uk) is in the middle of a major update. Please bear with us if it is occasionally unavailable during the process. We will be considering enabling the opportunity to pay subs & donations through the website in the future, as well as by the existing means.

**2) Email** has been the most practical way to share the large amounts of important information during CV19. **Do join the email circulation list via the Form on Pg 5 if you are not currently on our circulation.** If you would like to opt in but have already completed your 2020 Membership Form, just let us know ASAP.

**3) SGCARA Committee needs a Minutes Secretary.** This involves taking notes during Committee meetings (usually not more than 4 times a year, in our houses, once CV19 restrictions allow for this) then writing them up for the committee so that there is an accurate record of what was discussed & agreed. Why not try it out on a one-off basis? We are always pleased to hear from members interested in joining **SGCARA Committee.**

**4) Lock-down Legacy?** Such an extraordinary time....so many extraordinary stories. We would like to create a special page on our website of *your* experiences during lock-down & CV19.... particular challenges? unexpected opportunities? The kindness of both friends and strangers? We look forward to your stories (anonymous if preferred) for us to upload to our web-site **Lock-down Legacy** page.

5) **SGCARA Admin Angels** Could you be an 'Angel'? It would be helpful to have at least one person from each SGCARA street/block willing to do the occasional task, eg collecting or delivering notes where required. Contact us if willing to give this a go...

6) [admin@sgcara.org.uk](mailto:admin@sgcara.org.uk) is operated on a voluntary basis & emails you send in may not have a response for a day or two. If you contact us with emails needing an urgent response, eg about a lost pet, **please make clear whether or not you are happy for your name &/or contact-details to be publicised** when your concern is emailed out. Any helpful information will reach you more quickly if you can be contacted directly.

7) **A Defibrillator on our Doorstep?** SGCARA has received information about the possibility of having one or more **defibrillators** in our locality. The Ambulance service has been severely stretched during CV19, with understandable delays. There may be wisdom in considering ways that someone with cardiac arrest could be given prompt life-saving treatment in such a scenario. Even on a charitable basis, there are considerable costs in acquiring & maintaining a defibrillator. We would be glad to hear from anyone who has had experience of procuring a defibrillator in a neighbourhood, training others to use it etc.

8) **Neighbourhood Watch vacancies** Although SGCARA & NW are separate entities, we are in regular communication to keep our area as safe as possible. There are currently a number of vacancies for NW Co-ordinators in our area, through people moving away & retiring. A modest input of time is required.

1) Receiving relevant information (by email) on local crime-issues from the Met Police & passing it on to residents who sign up in your allocated area, hopefully building up your network by personal contact.

2) Receiving reports of crime or matters of concern from neighbours in your area & passing them back to the police/central NW contact.

Let us know if interested & we can help match up vacancies. The more active NW Coordinators we can have, the safer we can all be!

Access to email is essential for these roles.

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### **Celebrating our environment – 'Picture-a-Plant' 2020**

SGCARA had made some plans for Social Events for 2020, sadly not possible because of the CV19 Pandemic.



We have been holding a 'virtual' social event instead, inviting SGCARA residents (through the current email-circulation list) to take a photo of a favourite plant in the garden, balcony pot, window box, house plant, or perhaps a tree viewed from the window that gives particular pleasure & lifts your spirits.

We would love to have your photos, whether you are working at home? still in lockdown? keyworker or volunteer? maybe taking steps back to your usual place of work? or never stopped... including photos of less-usual plants that reflect the wonderfully-diverse heritage of our residents. Perhaps some of you have found time to explore gardening for the first time? from making use of sunny window sills or balconies, children planting a sunflower seed or two in a pot, to a garden bursting full of veg!

Please email your photo(s) to: [admin@sgcara.org.uk](mailto:admin@sgcara.org.uk) with your name and address.

If you don't have the means to send in your photo digitally, drop us a line & we can explore other means. Your photo(s) can include family & household members (with their permission of course).

Let us know if you would like your name to be included with the photo(s) when uploaded. Otherwise we will just label with the street/block name. You are welcome to add a sentence or two naming the type of plant, & saying why it gives you pleasure. The photos are really brought alive by their 'back stories'.

We have a number of lovely photos on the 'May' & 'June' pages of 'Picture-a-Plant' of our website & a 'July' page is underway.

(Look on the website [www.sgcara.org.uk](http://www.sgcara.org.uk) for photos of previous events, including 'Open Gardens', 'The Big Get Together' & 'Street Party with Style'.)

## Our Conservation Area special status

The Sutherland Grove Conservation Area (SGCA) was established in 1992, when it became clear that so many distinctive features of our houses were already being lost through inappropriate developments. This may explain to newer residents why there are puzzling inconsistencies in style within the Conservation Area. Pre-1992 changes cannot be cited as possible Precedents in new Planning Applications. The **SGCA Character Appraisal** is complimentary and descriptive, speaking of the:

*'...dramatic hilly landscape.... generous & mature front gardens ...a pleasant arcadian inter-war suburb...'* giving 'Arcadian Place' its name.

**Conservation Area status** brings important protections & additional constraints. Planning Permission is required before developing & changing the appearance of our dwellings, including work on trees. Residents are sometimes unaware that removal of (or in some instances changes to) any part of a front boundary in a Conservation Area also requires Planning Permission. Details can be best checked by emailing [WandsworthConsUrbDesign@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:WandsworthConsUrbDesign@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk) (Phone 020 8871 6631 or 020 8871 7564 only if email is not available to you.) Conveyancing Solicitors have a legal obligation to inform purchasers that they are moving into a Conservation Area. It is worrying that there have been a few instances recently where Conveyancing Solicitors appear to have failed to do this.

In 1992, the new **SGCA** included Whitelands College, with its Gilbert Scott buildings, contemporary with the 1930s houses. These included the Chapel with its famous Burne-Jones stained glass windows, depicting female saints (since Whitelands College was at that time just for women students). St Cecilia is on the left in this picture – a connection with our St Cecilia's C of E school. Long-term SGCARA residents remember many delightful Whitelands College events, such as the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov firework-displays & May Day 'May Monarch' celebrations to which the whole neighbourhood was invited. Whitelands College moved to its Roehampton site in 2005, & when the college site was re-developed as Whitelands Park, we were delighted that it remained as part of SGCARA, with the elegant 1930s Gilbert Scott buildings at its heart.



**1930s chic anyone?** 'Lock-down' seems to have left behind a spirit of nostalgia – appreciation for simpler, quieter times, music in keeping with *'We'll meet again...'* If those of you living in the 1930s houses are planning to change any original features from your house (eg the distinctive internal 6-panel doors, light switches & fittings, cast-iron external features) don't just ditch them! Drop us a line & we can email out their availability. Someone into 1930s-chic may appreciate them!

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## CVI9: Beware Track and Trace scammers!

Unfortunately, scammers are already engaged in exploiting anxieties about CV19 to trick people into giving their financial details & money eg for bogus 'tests'. **HM Govt information** below tells you how NHS Test and Trace will contact you, if you have been in contact with someone diagnosed with CV19.

**Remember to be vigilant & never give details of credit cards or other financial information to people over the phone. The real NHS Test and Trace will NEVER ask you to do this.**

### How NHS Test and Trace will contact you:

- 1) You will be contacted by email, text or phone.
- 2) Text messages will come from NHStracing. Phone calls will ONLY come from 0300 0135000
- 3) Children under 18 will be contacted by phone wherever possible and asked for their parent or guardian's permission to continue the call.
- 4) You will be asked to sign in to the NHS Test and Trace contact tracing website: <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk>
- 5) If you cannot use the contact tracing website, you will be contacted by telephone.

### The NHS Test and Trace service will:

- 1) **NEVER ask for bank details or payments**
- 2) **NEVER ask for details of any other accounts, eg social media**
- 3) **NEVER ask you to set up a password or PIN over the phone, or download software on your computer or device**
- 4) **NEVER ask you to call a premium rate number, such as those starting 09 or 087**

There is more online information on the Track and Trace service at this link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youve-been-in-contact-with-a-person-who-has-coronavirus/>

## SGCARA Future plans

At this point we realistically cannot set a date for the 2020 Members Meeting & AGM or for any other SGCARA events. We will let residents know as soon as this is a possibility. Make sure you are on our [email-circulation list](#) for quick access to this information.

## Police Youth Enterprise Summer Camp at St Cecilia's

The 2020 Summer Camp is confirmed to run 28<sup>th</sup> July-20<sup>th</sup> August at St Cecilia's. It is open to any young person aged 9-16, at just £25 per week. A great opportunity for local 'locked-down' children. Places will be over-subscribed, so book NOW at: <https://www.wandsworthsummercamp.org/projects>. If the internet is not an option, contact PC Vicki Gibb on 07471 025628. St Cecilia's does not expect the project to be noisy or create issues for local residents & will work with the organisers to minimise or eliminate any impact.

## Eco-corner

There is now so much research proving that even a small amount of green space in the urban environment is really beneficial, not only for wild-life & air-quality but for us – enhancing well-being & even playing a part in relieving depression. Let us help this along by valuing all the green around us & maybe adding to it where we can? If you have a balcony, or a front garden with substantial paving, how about an (extra?!) pot or two of bee-friendly plants or a climbing plant that won't take up precious space?



### Our local beekeepers

There are at least two bee-keepers living & working in our SGCARA area, & who are members of the Wimbledon Beekeepers Association. You can currently buy Steve & Annette Derry's honey at The Village Butcher in Southfields (supporting one of our excellent local independent shops at the same time). It is a lovely thought that the bees visiting the plants in our own gardens & balconies may have contributed to their 'Southfields Honey'!

(Eco-corner continued on final page)

## SUTHERLAND GROVE CONSERVATION AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - SGCARA

### SGCARA SUBSCRIPTIONS, MEMBERSHIP, DONATIONS AND CONTACT UPDATES 2020

SGCARA, founded in 1975, is the residents' association for those living in or very near the 1992-designated Conservation Area in East Putney SW15 and Southfields SW18 & SW19. SGCARA welcomes subscribers and members, both longstanding and newer residents, including those living in the newer developments such as Whitelands Park. **You are warmly invited to:**

- > **subscribe to SGCARA's Email distribution list/s, available Free** to up to two eligible residents per property (contact details needed) - please use sections 1, 2 and 3 below;
- > **sign up for sole or joint Membership** Minimum £2 p.a. covers up to two eligible residents per property (one vote per property) and
- > **Pay your annual Membership subscription and/or a Donation** - please use sections 1 to 5 below and overleaf;
- > **ensure that we have your up-to-date contact details**, underlining any changes - use sections 1 and 2 below.

Enquiries welcome. Please complete both sides as appropriate and return by hand, post or email to:

Mrs E Collingridge, SGCARA, 56 Combemartin Road, Southfields, SW18 5PR Email: [ecrov.z2@googlemail.com](mailto:ecrov.z2@googlemail.com) Tel: 07525 435 396

### 1 YOUR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:

POSTCODE: **SW**

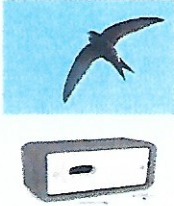
SUBSCRIBER A.		PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS <input type="checkbox"/> = Please tick as appropriate	SUBSCRIBER B.	
2a YOUR NAMES	PREFIX GIVEN NAMES		PREFIX GIVEN NAMES	
	SURNAME		SURNAME	
2b CONTACT DETAILS: Use of phone numbers is rare but may be vital e.g. if emails sent to you bounce back, or in emergencies.				
Mobile:	AS PREVIOUS <input type="checkbox"/>		AS PREVIOUS <input type="checkbox"/>	
Landline:	AS PREVIOUS <input type="checkbox"/>		AS PREVIOUS <input type="checkbox"/>	
E-mail:	AS PREVIOUS <input type="checkbox"/>		AS PREVIOUS <input type="checkbox"/>	

3 SGCARA E-LISTS	For <b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b> & <b>SOCIAL ACTIVITIES</b> Available Free to eligible residents. <span style="float: right;">02007</span>
	<b>INFORMATION</b> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SOCIAL</b> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> <b>INFORMATION</b> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SOCIAL</b> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
	Send to my E-mail as above <input type="checkbox"/> Via Subscriber B.'s E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Send to my E-mail as above <input type="checkbox"/> Via Subscriber A.'s E-mail <input type="checkbox"/>

Continue to side 2 overleaf...

**Adopt a street-tree** Our young street-trees are especially vulnerable in the increasingly-hot summers & will appreciate a regular bucket of water.

**Save our Swifts!** Each year from spring to summer's end, swifts can be seen darting high in our local skies, feasting on the plentiful supply of insects above our trees. Their numbers have decreased over the years, often because nest-sites are lost when we renovate our properties.



Ask your builder to search out 'bird-friendly' building materials, such as bricks (*far left*) & soffit boards incorporating nesting-holes for **swifts, sparrows & other birds**. Companies supplying these include <https://www.nhbs.com> or <https://www.wildcare.co.uk>

**Hedgehogs** were frequent garden visitors in our area in times gone by, but have suffered from new fencing-styles with no space for them to pass through. (They need to travel up to 2 miles per night foraging for food!) Anyone with a garden like to share the eco-dream of restoring hedgehogs to our area? If enough households in one area commit to becoming hedgehog-friendly, that area becomes eligible to be considered for a release of hedgehogs. A great project for families. Those interested would need to adopt measures such as 'hedgehog holes' in fencing & leaving a bit of wild garden. You can make your own 'Hedgehog Highway' in an existing gravel board. If replacing a fence, ask your contractor to source hedgehog-friendly gravel boards (available in wood or concrete).



**If enough people are seriously interested, we could arrange a Saturday afternoon meeting in the Autumn (CV19 restrictions permitting...)** inviting a 'Hedgehog Champion' volunteer to talk to us, maybe with a hedgehog or two, & other facilitators to inspire us to make our gardens eco-friendly. All SGCARA residents & their children (gardens or not) would be warmly welcome to attend, as the bio-diversity of our local environment benefits us all. **Email [admin@sgcara.org.uk](mailto:admin@sgcara.org.uk) to let us know if interested, for us to gauge whether a meeting would be practical.** More info about hedgehogs at: <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org>

**SUTHERLAND GROVE CONSERVATION AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - SGCARA**

**SGCARA SUBSCRIPTIONS, MEMBERSHIP, DONATIONS & CONTACT UPDATES 2020, continued**

**SGCARA's Purposes** under its constitution are to "promote and assist the preservation, conservation, protection, enhancement and improvement of the Sutherland Grove Conservation Area together with the amenities available to it, and to discourage anything which would tend to be detrimental to the area or its amenities". SGCARA is non-party political. Its work relates to all residents in its Area. Now in its 45th year, following the newer developments within its Area SGCARA now covers just over 1,000 residential properties/households including residents in Sutherland Grove and the roads leading off it up the hill to the west, from Augustus Road/Albert Drive (lower parts), through Whitelands Park (Whitelands Crescent and Scott Avenue) to West Hill (93 to 99) - apartments, flats and houses.

**For SGCARA voting Membership** (one vote per property) and **Payments including 2020 annual membership subscription, please complete as appropriate sections 1 to 3 overleaf, together with sections 4 to 5 below.**

Membership subscriptions and donations may be paid *either* direct to SGCARA, *or* via your bank direct to SGCARA's bank - details included in section 5 below. Minimum Membership subscription is £2 p.a. to cover up to two eligible residents at the property.

Subscriptions and donations are essential for SGCARA's work, and SGCARA greatly appreciates the generosity of so many who add donations to their subscriptions.

...continued from side 1	<b>SUBSCRIBER A.</b>	<b>ADDRESS:</b>	<b>SUBSCRIBER B.</b>
<b>4 MEMBER SIGN-UP</b>	I SUPPORT SGCARA'S PURPOSES (see text above). I AM RESIDENT AT THE ADDRESS PROVIDED AND AM AGED 18 OR OVER:		
	SIGNED PREVIOUSLY <input type="checkbox"/>		SIGNED PREVIOUSLY <input type="checkbox"/>
	Signed: X	X	Signed: X

**5 PAYMENT: DONATION & MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION** Payee: **SGCARA** Bank account: **9086 1456** Sort: **20-90-69** Barclays  
 2020 Please don't send cash through the post! **Via bank, please quote a Payer ID indicating your block/road & nos., and surname/s.**

Subscription **2.00** sent herewith  / sent previously  by cash  by cheque  by electronic / phone bank transfer  by standing order

Donation \_\_\_\_\_ sent herewith  / sent previously  by cash  by cheque  by electronic / phone bank transfer  by standing order

**TOTAL: £** =====

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**Enquiries welcome. Please return this completed sheet, with payment as appropriate, by hand, post or email to:**  
 Mrs E Collingridge, SGCARA, 56 Combemartin Road, Southfields, SW18 5PR Email: [ecrov.z2@gmail.com](mailto:ecrov.z2@gmail.com) Tel: 07525 435 396