# SUTHERLAND GROVE CONSERVATION AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - SGCARA <a href="https://www.sgcara.org.uk">www.sgcara.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:admin@sgcara.org.uk">admin@sgcara.org.uk</a>

Reaching out to Residents

August/September 2021











Just some of our....

....fabulous front gardens

# SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 'ENVIRONMENT EXCHANGE'

### ST CECILIA'S SCHOOL, SUTHERLAND GROVE

(Please bring a mask/face-covering, unless exempt)

10.00am to 12.30pm latest

**Timings below are approximate** 

Residents on the SGCARA information circulation-list have been emailed about this event.

(We apologise for the short notification by print, due to unforeseen problems with the printing-process)
...a Saturday morning to be family-friendly. Children very welcome.

This meeting will be in the brand-new Classroom Block at St Cecilia's (ground floor). These new classrooms are fully mechanically-ventilated so meet all the latest standards for a COVID-safe classroom.

#### 10.00am Tea, coffee & juice available

- **Sam Morgan** our local 'Enable' Tree Officer will share his knowledge and passion for trees, including encouraging & guiding us to the most appropriate species to enhance both our gardens & bio-diversity, involving children in recognition of trees & their leaves etc. If you have a poorly tree, Sam may be able to help identify the problem, (but bring along any diseased leaves in a sealed plastic bag to avoid spread!).
- **11.00 Jaqueline Underwood-Hall from 'SW15 Hedgehogs'** will enthuse us about these intriguing creatures & how to make our gardens hedgehog-friendly to tempt them back, since they largely disappeared from our area some years ago.
- Then..... Over to You! Chance to swap tips...plants for pollinators that do well in our soils? a successful garden pond? nesting boxes that have become des res for particular birds? Your 'environment' issues? Send photos you would like to share of unusual birds or wildlife, for compilation for 18 September Please send RSVPs (include your name/s and address) and any photos to: admin@sgcara.org.uk

#### THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER

ST CECILIAS SCHOOL, SUTHERLAND GROVE

\* MEETING FOR SGCARA MEMBERS (AGM Business)

\* ...followed by MEETING FOR ALL RESIDENTS

### $^st$ the two Meetings linked by $\,$ BUFFET REFRESHMENTS open to all

We are trying a new format for our first main meeting since Nov 2019. Paid-up SGCARA Members, & those who join by Thurs 7 October (Membership Form part of the back-page information) may attend & take part in the formal AGM Business. All SGCARA residents can enjoy the complimentary buffet & stay for the open meeting.

Please RSVP via form on the back page.

(Please bring a mask/face-covering, unless exempt.)

The following times are approximate.

**from 6.30 Members check-in**, light refreshments (CV19-appropriate) at the tables, drinks -wine, juice (& also beer supplied by our Guest Speaker John Hatch) ready for.... (contd overleaf)

- 7.00 Formal AGM Business for paid-up SGCARA Members
- **7.30 Buffet all SGCARA residents welcome** (the customary drinks & buffet refreshments, with presentation & serving adjusted for everyone to feel safe in the context of CV19).
- 8.00 Meeting for all SGCARA residents:

Fleur Anderson MP for Putney, Roehampton & Southfields, & Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office since January 2021, joining us at a SGCARA meeting for the first time since her election in Dec 2019. She will update on current issues.

The West Hill Ward Councillors are also invited.

**(8.30/8.45)** John Hatch - 'Local Treasure' & beer-brewer extraordinaire - John will entertain us with amazing anecdotes from his years as Master Brewer at the Ram Brewery (somehow teaching us local history at the same time). When Youngs sold up, John conjured up a nanobrewery on the 'Ram Brewery' site, keeping beer-brewing continuous since the 1530s! John is still there, (with Sambrook's), keeping the tradition in rude health.

9.30 PROMPT Meeting ends

As usual, all drinks are available on a DONATION basis. Please bring cash if possible, although we hope to have available a machine for contactless donations.

\*We need 2+ new volunteers to mastermind the buffet! (expenses covered – cooking not essential!)\*

\*\*\*Please contact <a href="mailto:admin@sgcara.org.uk">admin@sgcara.org.uk</a> if you are prepared to 'do your bit' & volunteer for this\*\*\*

### AELTC (All England Lawn Tennis Club) PROPOSALS FOR WIMBLEDON PARK

Residents on the SGCARA email circulation-list received full details of AELTC's 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Consultations (May & June 2021 respectively) on the sweeping proposals for their Wimbledon Pk (Golf Club) land.

The A5 leaflet accompanying 'Reaching out to Residents', prepared by 8 local Residents' Associations shows the extensive proposals, & outlines the most common concerns expressed throughout the area. In addition:

- \* Contrary to 1<sup>st</sup> impressions, AELTC have now confirmed that the 38 grass tennis courts proposed for the site will definitively *not* be available for any community use. They may have very occasional use for Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) tournaments outside the Championships, but will otherwise be unused for most of the year, each court surrounded by an electric fence to deter animals.
- \* The huge 8000-seater proposed Show Court appears incompatible with AELTC's claimed intention of 'renovation of the Capability Brown landscape' of this Historic Grade II\* park.

The Merton & Wandsworth Planning Applications (PA)s for the AELTC proposals are now 'live'.

As the councils both manage parts of Wimbledon Pk, they are both considering the Applications. Details at:

www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings

Application Number: 21/P2900 (Comments till 22.09.21)

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control

Application Number: 2021/3609 (Comments till 23.09.21)

AELTC plans to make copies of the Applications available in both Wimbledon and Southfields Libraries. The Closing Date of 16<sup>th</sup> Sept has been extended since printing of the enclosed leaflet (see above) & in practice comments will be accepted throughout the long planning process.

The Applications have 100+ documents – not a practical read for most of us... If you have even *one* concern from what you currently understand of the proposals, just make that known to *both* Merton & Wandsworth as advised in the leaflet. A complex PA like this may be amended during Consultation & early comments may help shape & improve the project. It is important to request that Conditions be imposed for the community benefits to be completed before AELTC's use of tennis facilities can begin, in the eventuality of Planning Permission being granted for a (possibly-amended) scheme. It is all too common for community benefits to be abandoned in large projects, squeezed out by time-pressures & budget-overrun. These community benefits include:

a) the completion of the public walkway round the lake (a 1993 Covenant obligation) b) clarification of the status of the new Public Parkland, so that public use cannot be withdrawn in the future. c) the desilting, improvement of water-quality & deepening of the lake. (At present, there appear to be no realistic plans to achieve this.)

#### WINDOW WANDERLAND in our area Feb 2021

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#### SOUTHFIELDS LIBRARY

300 Wimbledon Park Road Southfields SW19 6NL 020 8780 1945

Our valuable Southfields Library is now open as follows:

Saturday 10:00 - 14:30 (Sunday/Monday closed) Tuesday 09:00 - 19:00 Wednesday 09:00- 19:00

(Thursday closed) Friday 09:00 - 17:00

West Hill Ward Councillors' Surgeries After a long, pandemic-related interruption, our West Hill Ward Borough Councillors' Surgeries, offering assistance for residents (& an important part of our democratic processes) restarted Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Aug at Southfields Library, 11:00am - 12:00.

Councillors' Surgeries will continue with the following pattern:

First Saturday in the month - Independent Councillor

Cllr Malcolm Grimston: Cllr.M.Grimston@wandsworth.gov.uk tweet: @malcolmgrimston

malcolmgrimston@btconnect.com

Last Saturday in the month - Labour Councillors

Cllr Angela Ireland: Cllr.A.Ireland@wandsworth.gov.uk 07984 417248
Cllr Peter Carpenter Cllr.P.Carpenter@wandsworth.gov.uk 020 8788 6858

The Councillors are available to respond to concerns at other times through the contact-details above.

You can also write to them at: The Members' Room, The Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, SW18 2PU

# SAINT CECILIA'S SCHOOL NEW CLASSROOM BLOCK

It is good to know that just sometimes patient persistence wins out. When the colour of the proposed Classroom Block was shown in the 2019 Planning Application to be shades of light-to-dark greys, SGCARA & residents whose houses would face the block were very dismayed & made this clear in Objections submitted. After informal consultation with St Cecilia's, SGCARA continued to press for a change of colour & the council/contractors Kier finally chose a colour-palette more harmonious with the main school building. We hope residents feel the result is an improvement on the original proposal. In due course, there will be a Planning Application for a new school Dining Hall.

### ST CECILIA'S NEWS from St Cecilia's School Business Manager Dave Cobb

'We have appointed two new Deputy Headteachers who start in Sept, James Owens & Lucy Bush. They join the school as the new Classroom Block is completed, enabling the expansion to six forms of entry. 30 additional children join year 7 this September & an additional 30 will join each year for the next four years. The school remains incredibly popular with over 1000 applications each year for the 180 places in year 7.

The new classrooms achieve an 'A' rating for energy efficiency as they include solar panels, an air source heat pump (extracting warmth from the outside air to heat the classrooms), heat recovery ventilation systems, LED lighting & the latest control systems. We have also received a Government grant for the main school building to add solar panels, an air source heat pump & to replace old internal lights with new LED fittings. The improvements should save £20,000 per year in energy costs & significantly reduce emissions.

We are improving our limited green space, adding bird boxes, bat boxes & bug hides to the 'green corridor' that is the divide between the school & neighbouring properties. A grassed courtyard has been created in the area where our temporary classrooms were located. We have over 40 mature trees on site & will continue to plant new trees each year, so that younger trees will gradually mature to ensure a mixed (age & species) tree stock.'





Log-piles for habitat, bug-box & one of the new saplings in St Cecilia's 'green corridor.' SGCARA hopes all the new trees will flourish as well as St Cecilia's School itself



Solar panels on top of the new Classroom Block.

The large box to the right is the air source heat pump, (the smaller ones being air conditioning).

#### **COVID-19 MASS-TESTING**

#### **Report from SGCARA volunteer Peter West**

(Peter helped with mass-testing at St Cecilia's School for 6 weeks up to the Feb 2021 half-term, when volunteers conducted over 500 tests on the few staff still going into school & on the 40-50 students who were attending either because they have key worker parents or have special needs.)



"Good morning, how are you feeling today? Please would you take this swab and put it to the back of your mouth and waggle it around by your tonsils for 10 seconds...1,2,3,4..."

...So started the Covid test for each member of staff & student at St Cecilia's from Jan 2021. These were to check whether people with no symptoms (asymptomatic) were Covid positive without realising it. The test centre, set up in the gym, was run by volunteers, including SGCARA residents, some of whom are also parents with youngsters attending the school. St Cecilia's was very grateful for the contribution made by SGCARA residents, who

helped establish the basis for the rapid expansion of testing that was needed when all students returned to school.'

#### **'RAT-RUNNING' MITIGATION**



Residents will know that the Monday-Friday 7.00am-10.00am 'No Left Turn' into Withycombe Rd and *Northern* entrance to Inner Park Rd was made permanent in the Autumn 2020, & that a new ETO (Experimental Traffic Order) was set up in Nov 2020, with 'No Left Turn' signs (7.00 – **9.00am** Monday to Friday) at the Southern entrance to Inner Park Rd. This ETO is ongoing & was also

maintained during the Wimbledon Championships road-closures. In June 2020, both SGCARA & Independent councillor Malcolm Grimston had urged the council to find a way to exclude local residents from receiving PCNs (Penalty Charge Notices) from these 'No Left Turns'. These requests were emphatically - & inexplicably - turned down. Now the council appears to be moving towards acceptance that measures must be taken to exclude local residents from PCNs, eg by ANPR, (Automatic Number Plate Recognition), otherwise there will be understandably much-reduced support throughout the area for this 'rat-run' mitigation.

#### **'ENFORCEMENT' OF 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON OUR STREETS**

It is frustrating to many residents & to SGCARA that there is no practical Enforcement of the 20mph speed limit now official in all our streets. At a recent West Hill Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel meeting, local police made clear that Enforcement of the 20mph limit is not currently possible as it is 'not on the list of enforceable offences'. The 20mph speed-limit is being ignored by many, with a very serious 'hit 'n run' incident reported by a resident of Sutherland Grove in recent weeks. There appears to be no likelihood even of measures like the 'smiley face' reminders in sight. The road-humps as installed do not appear to be an effective deterrent. Before a realistic solution is achieved, having a blitz of 'slow-down' reminders in the rear windows of our street-parked cars, might just prick a few consciences?



SGCARA found this 'KILL YOUR SPEED, NOT A CHILD' adhesive poster on the internet. It comes in different sizes, starting at just £3.45, free delivery.

Find it at: <a href="https://www.etsy.com/uk">https://www.etsy.com/uk</a> & input 'CS233-BL' into their product search-box, supporting a small UK business at the same time.



The same firm also offer 'REDUCE SPEED NOW', product-code CS005-BL, with the same spec & price-range.

Neighbours might like to club together to simplify ordering? Please let SGCARA know if you plan to order one of these, so we know the level of support for the suggestion.

STREET TREES Some SGCARA residents had the nasty shock over the summer of discovering that beloved (flowering cherry) street trees had been cut down without any warning or explanation. Management of trees throughout the borough is outsourced to 'Enable'. If a street tree is found to be damaged and/or diseased, 'Enable' are then meant to attach a notice to it explaining why it needs to be removed. To do the actual felling, 'Enable' engage sub-contractors whose instructions are not to touch a tree lacking such a notice. Clearly these procedures failed on both occasions. SGCARA reps had a meeting with our local Tree Officer to talk through this & other concerns about trees in our area. We are hopeful that procedures are now tightened so that residents will have no more nasty shocks as above. Sadly the London Plane tree by 7 Sutherland Grove is also felled. Our Tree Officer confirmed he found evidence of extensive decay caused by a significant fungus (Pereniporia Fraxinea or Giant Ash Bracket). This has clearly been present for a long time, the cause probably historic root severance during footpath repair works. The Flowering Cherry trees & the London Plane should be replaced like for like in the Autumn.

#### WILDFLOWER VERGES 2021- GIRDWOOD RD

The practice of having street-verges of Wildflowers, rather than 'conventional' mowed grass, is gathering wide popularity, & SGCARA is very appreciative of Annette Derry's hard work negotiating with the council & Enable to make this happen in Girdwood Rd. Thankyou Annette. (Annette also initiated the 2014 Poppy Project, when the WW1 Centenary was commemorated by beautiful poppies in many of our street-verges.)

#### **Update from Girdwood Rd resident Annette Derry**

'The seeded turf should have been laid Autumn 2020, but was postponed until March 2021. This could have still been okay if April hadn't been the driest for decades, causing lot of deterioration. We really needed April showers! Nevertheless Mother Nature came through & most of the turf recovered, providing us with a variety of flowers appreciated by wildlife & the community. (Thames Water didn't help when they 'made good' after some work by reseeding the verge affected with ordinary grass, losing it to the wildflower turf initiative.) Some of the white flowering plants look more numerous but we mustn't expect a (new) wildflower verge to look like a cottage garden or herbaceous border. (These look 'natural' but are of much-reduced use to pollinators if they contain highly-bred flowers where the reproductive parts of the flower have been converted into extra petals.) A wildflower verge will sometimes look scruffy at the end of the season & only gets mowed after the seeds have set. A new mindset is required to admire this as part of its charm. Next year we could have a competition who can name the most varieties present on the street?! Here are some below: chamomile, vetch, poppy, yarrow, corn marigold, red campion.









#### **ABUNDANCE SOUTHFIELDS**

## Report from Sutherland Grove resident Richard Konig, - Inspiration behind Abundance Southfields

'Abundance Southfields will be selling cider & cider vinegar made from apples harvested in gardens around Southfields (maybe from your garden if you signed up?) at the Southfields Harvest festival at St Barnabas Church on Lavenham Road on Saturday 25 September. Come down & buy a few bottles to support this anti food-waste project. Between now & the festival Abundance will be collecting more apples & pears to hand out for free outside the tube station from time to time (the shiny & juicy fruit) & to make more cider (the bruised & ugly ones!). If you would like to share fruit from your garden or would like to be informed about the when & where of these events then please sign up to the mailing list on the contacts page of <a href="www.abundancesouthfields.com">www.abundancesouthfields.com</a> or start following on Instagram @abundancesouthfields (or both).'

(Many of the older apple & pear trees in our gardens, especially those on the flatter sites, date back to the erstwhile-orchards of the grounds of Edgecombe Hall (& also of the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability) & may predate the 1920s/30s houses themselves, making them a precious part of our area heritage.)

### **GRANVILLE RD ALLOTMENTS**



Those on the SGCARA email circulation list received the detailed email (19 April), explaining that the allotments behind the Granville Rd Rifle Club were at risk from proposed development by the owner of the whole site. (Allotments on private land have little protection in law.) Many SGCARA residents were among the 24,500 who signed the petition at <a href="http://chng.it/v7hjGQSLQT">http://chng.it/v7hjGQSLQT</a>. The allotments enhance bio-diversity in our area, with sightings of bats, rare moths & butterflies. SGCARA will publicise the Planning Application details if/when available.

# Update below from Tim Evans allotment-holder & Pulborough Rd resident

'We have had an amazingly-wonderful response, so thank you to everyone who is supporting the campaign to save the allotments & signed the on-line petition. The campaign has been successful in gaining much support, eg from MP Fleur Anderson & local Southfields Councillors. We know that the landlord is aware of our campaign & has not yet submitted the Planning Application. That is possibly because he is conscious of the strength of local feeling. We understand that if Planning Permission is Granted, the landlord has the right to deny a renewal of the Rifle Club's lease & could take possession of the whole space for development. We are keeping alert ready to fight any Planning Application & continue to campaign until this green space is protected from such development.

If you can help or for more info Email us at: Save.our.allotment.sw18@hotmail.com

For up-to-date information about many issues important to our area, apply overleaf for email-alerts!

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

SGCARA RESIDENTS 2021 - CONTACT: INFORMATION EMAILS: SUPPORT: MEMBERSHIP: DONATIONS

**SGCARA's activities** relate to the natural and built environment within and beyond the SG Conservation Area, and to the residents within the SGCARA constitutional Area (just over 1,000 residential properties). **SGCARA's Purpose** under its constitution is *to promote* and assist the preservation, conservation, protection, enhancement and improvement of the 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.

SGCARA welcomes, as Resident contacts, Information Email recipients, and Members, both longstanding and newer residents from right across the area. You are warmly invited (please use the sections - 1 to 7b -in the format below as appropriate):

- > in any case, to join or update SGCARA's Resident contacts (whether or not you have access to internet/email): include sections 1, 2 &7b;
- > to apply for **SGCARA Residents' Information Emails, available Free** to up to two eligible residents per property: include sections 1, 2, 3 &7b;
- > to sign the SGCARA Purpose (see para at top): include sections 1, 2, 4 & 7b;

Mrs E Collingridge, SGCARA, 56 Combemartin Road, Southfields, SW18 5PR

- > to apply for **sole or joint Membership of SGCARA** for up to two eligible signed-up residents per property, one Subscription and one vote per property: include sections 1, 2, 4 to 6, 7a & 7b; and
- > to pay a **Membership Subscription and/or a Donation** Membership subscription is minimum £2 p.a. per property, deliberately set so all eligible residents can be included (see full details about payments in section 6). **Subscriptions and donations are essential for SGCARA's work.**The Committee greatly appreciates the generosity of so many who make donations each year. Please see all sections.

**Enquiries welcome.** Please complete this format for each person, duly signed by each as appropriate, and return (with any payment due) to:

Mrs E Collingridge, SGCARA, 56 Combemartin Road, Southfields, SW18 5PR

Email: ecrov.z2@googlemail.com

Tel: 07525 435 396

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6	PAYMENTS: Membership subscription is minimum £2 per annum per property, renewal due in January. Donations greatly appreciated at any time. Payments may be made either direct to SGCARA or via your bank direct to SGCARA's bank, Barclays Bank UK PLC. Please don't send cash through the post!  If paying via bank: Please always quote a Payer ID reference indicating your block/road & number/s, and surname/s. For future years' payments, e.g. under standing order, please specify a date between 3 and 21 January. Bank Payee: SGCARA Account No: 9086 1456 Sort code: 20-90-69									
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7a		ID-UP MEM	IBERS' ANNU	AL GENERAL	MEETING: THUR	SDAY 14 OC	TOBER 2021, check-i	n & light refresh	ments from 6.3	
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Enquiries welcome. Please complete this format for each person, duly signed by each as appropriate and return (with any payment due) to:										

Tel: 07525 435 396

Email: ecrov.z2@googlemail.com