

# Reaching out to Residents

February 2022



The banner photos for this **Reaching out to Residents** show ‘yarn-bombing’ on our main Southfields post box & other post boxes not too far away. A brilliant creative response, sharing a bit of joy in these challenging times. Some ‘yarn-bombing’ doubles its effect by including a QR code, linking to a charity for donation.

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**Reaching out to Residents can also be read online at [www.sgcar.org.uk](http://www.sgcar.org.uk) to access the links more easily**

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Chance now for *everyone* to be creative & share their own bit of joy by signing up for Window Wanderland 2022. If you don’t think you are ‘creative’, just have a go. You might surprise yourself! **WW22** comes at the end of the February half-term holiday, so could be a great family-project



## SOUTHFIELDS WW22

**SAT 26th & SUN 27th FEBRUARY 5.30 – 9.00pm**

Seen the posters? Read about it by email or WhatsApp? Still time to sign up for this fun Covid-compatible community project. Everyone is invited to join in! SGCARA is one of the sponsors of **SOUTHFIELDS WW22**. It involves creating a display in just one window (*or maybe more*) that can be enjoyed 5.30pm – 9.00pm on both days of the w/e 26/27 Feb. Designs need to be visible from the street at those times eg with back-lighting from the room. They can be as simple as you like... have a theme? a pattern? or maybe a light-display re-purposing some of those Christmas lights? If you are unfamiliar with Window Wanderland, you can find out all about it at:

<https://www.windowwanderland.com/>

Here is a message from WW22 Southfields local organiser, (the Grid’s Sam Traynor,) with the link to sign up.

*Dear Window Makers,*

*As you may know Window Wanderland is returning on 26th-27th February for its 6th year in Southfields. Promises to be our biggest and best yet. We had 329 windows at last year's event which was pretty staggering considering we were in the middle of the lockdown and pandemic. Sky is the limit for WWTWENTY TWO!*

*If it's possible for you all to sign up again that would be a delight. Let's shine bright!*

<https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/southfields-london-2022/>

Participating-addresses are added to the online-map as people sign up, so by the 26th Feb you'll be able to plan a route to see all the **SOUTHFIELDS WW22** windows. We still have publicity posters for you to advertise **SOUTHFIELDS WW22** in your house & car windows etc to encourage more residents to sign up...or just enjoy the displays. SGCARA will also be given some printed copies of the online map. Contact [admin@sgcara](mailto:admin@sgcara) or call 07798 863 967 if you would like posters or a printed map Electronic versions of the poster have already been emailed. If you missed out, please download from the SGCARA website.

Were it not for Omicron, there would have been workshops for window-makers to kick-start our communal creativity. Try this online ‘tutorial’: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufr37\\_97hvs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufr37_97hvs)

If you don’t have internet-access but want to take part, contact 07798 863 967 for help with signing up.

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**NEW OPTIONS (incl. ONLINE) FOR SGCARA MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP – see Pg 4**

## QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE STREET PARTIES



SGCARA residents are planning Jubilee Street Parties! Some of these may possibly be very localised, e.g using cul-de-sacs for small groups – with no need to apply for official road-closure.

If other streets want to 'think big', it's not too late to apply for road-closure:

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/streets/street-parties/apply-to-hold-a-street-party/>

The council's usual £60 fee is being waived for Platinum Jubilee Street Parties but groups do have to procure their own road-closure signs (apparently available to rent directly from Wandsworth council at £30 a piece...*maybe make your own?!)*

**One neighbourhood party definitely going ahead is in Combemartin Road & it will be open to ALL SGCARA residents.**

Details not yet confirmed, but the road will be closed from 8:30 – 6pm for all through traffic. Proposed party timings are 10-4pm. Given so many uncertainties, the intention is for this one to be low-key & family-friendly with 'bring your own' chairs, snacks & drinks, (rumours of a lunch-time BBQ). Depending on the uptake, the party committee plans to help arrange seating for non-Combemartin residents. SGCARA has offered to coordinate a Music Tent to put local talent on display. The next (May) copy of 'Reaching out to Residents' will have firm details of this & other street parties. Meanwhile please get in touch with Caroline Pyper: 21, Combemartin Rd

[carolinepyper@gmail.com](mailto:carolinepyper@gmail.com) with any ideas YOU have for this Street Party or OFFERS OF HELP!

If offering music, please also contact Julia on 07798 863 967 or [JuliaRaeburn@aol.com](mailto:JuliaRaeburn@aol.com)

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## WEST HILL 'SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS' PANEL

The 'Safer Neighbourhoods' Panels in practice link together Wandsworth's Neighbourhood Watch scheme with other interested entities & individuals. PC Rachel Parry has been a very effective member of West Hill Ward's Safer Neighbourhood's Police Team – including initiating the speed-gun sessions held in our area in Autumn 2021.

PC Rachel has been relocated to another area but we look forward to welcoming PS Oswald Spencer who will be with the West Hill team for 6 months. PCSO Dorota Wojnowski has been a valued member of the team for some years.

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## GRANVILLE RD ALLOTMENTS

**Update from Tim Evans: local resident, club member & 'allotmenteer'**

*'There is a new twist in the long saga of development proposals for the Wimbledon Park Rifle Club site.*

*The landlord/developer (ICS Properties) has now announced plans to replace the entire club site with a large children's nursery (100 places & 25 staff) plus 3 mini-tennis courts.*

*The bulldozing of the rifle club & its allotments would denude the area of both recreational facilities used by residents & green space with good bio-diversity, including bats, butterflies & rare moths. It would completely remove the ability for people to take up the sport in the area. The site is also long & thin, with a very narrow exit to Granville Road by the railway bridge, so these plans would create an additional safety issue of congestion at busy 'drop off' & 'pickup' times. The Rifle club has been there since 1904, producing many county & national level competitors with members from age 12 & upwards. The club is registered as an Asset of Community Value & it is actively used by local residents who as members engage in the sport & tend allotments.*

*A formal planning application has yet to be submitted. If you would like to register your support for the club/allotments & be alerted to developments, please email the club at: [sec@wprc.org.uk](mailto:sec@wprc.org.uk). Once Planning has been submitted, the club will hold an Open Day & invite you to attend to learn more about the sport & how to Object to the Planning Application.'*

SGCARA will publicise the Planning Application details when available, by email & on our website: [www.sgcara.org.uk](http://www.sgcara.org.uk)

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## TRAFFIC ISSUES: 'NO-LEFT TURNS' & 20 MPH SPEED-LIMIT

The 'No Left Turn' from some Wimbledon Parkside turnings has apparently reduced morning 'rat-run' traffic by up to 40%. However, readers will know from previous 'Reaching out to Residents' that SGCARA has been urging local resident-exemption from fines (PCNs) since 2020, along with West Hill Ward Councillors Malcolm Grimston & Angela Ireland.

Great news came on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, confirming a scheme to allow the following groups to use those 'Left Turns' in the prohibited times: *West Hill Ward residents & teachers working at schools in the Ward, staff of rateable West Hill Ward businesses, & Special Needs children attending school in the Ward.*

Watch out for the letter about how to apply for this Exemption. It should be delivered to all residents towards the end of February. Exemptions will apparently NOT be available to visitors, traders, delivery vehicles or school-pupil drop-off by parents.

Vehicle-activated (VA) Speed Display Signs with the & faces have now been installed in Sutherland Grove (the slope nearest West Hill). Research has apparently shown that these *do* reduce traffic-speeds, despite any lack of 'Enforcement'. If that proves to be the case, they will be needed elsewhere in the SGCARA, where the 20mph limit is blatantly (& dangerously) ignored. Meanwhile debate (*still!*) continues over the effectiveness, frequency & appropriate height of the 'speed humps' in our streets, also whether further measures can be taken to make the roundabout at

Girdwood/Granville/Sutherland safer. These issues seem to take AGES to resolve, but the 😊 & 😞 signs now installed on Sutherland Grove give us hope that the other issues will be tackled...*in time*.

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

The Planning Applications (PAs) for the AELTC proposals are still being scrutinised by Merton & Wandsworth. It seems likely that these PAs will not be formally considered/decided by the council Planning Application Committees until after the local council elections on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

SGCARA has tried hard to present issues connected with the AELTC proposals in a balanced way. Many of us have been pleased & proud to have The Wimbledon Championships on our doorstep, but the mood since the huge proposals were revealed is that AELTC has just '*gone too far*'. As more information comes to light, aspects of the proposals, & the justifications provided with them, become deeply troubling. There is too much information on the AELTC plans to include in '*Reaching out to Residents*'. We now have an 'AELTC' page on the SGCARA website for those who would like to read in more depth. SGCARA hopes that this information will give residents reason to consider Objecting to the PA, (or submit an additional Objection). The recent Community Open Days and Newsletters suggests that the AELTC has become aware how much it is alienating so many in the local community."

Email your comments to BOTH council Planning Depts at:

[Planning.representations@merton.gov.uk](mailto:Planning.representations@merton.gov.uk)

[Planning@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Planning@wandsworth.gov.uk)

(Quote Application Number: 21/P2900

(Quote Application Number: 2021/3609



4. View from Cherm Road



5. View from central parkland



6. View from lake edge at the corner of the public park



7. View from northern parkland

The proposed 8000-seater Show Court (stadium) is a very controversial part of the plans. The above visuals from AELTC's own July 2021 '3<sup>rd</sup> Consultation' presentation, give an indication how the Show Court would dominate views across Wimbledon Pk, (*much more so in winter with no leaf-cover*). AELTC's claims for their proposals '*revealing the historic views*' appear indefensible. Wimbledon Pk is Metropolitan Open Land – urban Green belt & '*very special circumstances*' have to be demonstrated to allow building on it. The Greater London Authority (GLA) interim Report on AELTC's proposals (Nov 2021) concludes that the current proposals do not fulfil that requirement.

(GLA full Report on the SGCARA website AELTC page).

**Dr Dave Dawson** is a highly-respected local Ecologist, previously joint head of the GLA Environment Section, working on biodiversity for London Boroughs & monitoring Wimbledon Pk for some 33 years. His own assessment casts serious doubt on the adequacy of the AELTC-commissioned surveys, the lake de-silting proposals, & claims that their plans will enhance bio-diversity.

(Dave Dawson's full report on the SGCARA website AELTC page)

**The veteran Oak Trees** are a much-loved & valued feature of Wimbledon Pk, some dating from Capability Brown's time (mid 18<sup>th</sup>C) & one right back to Tudor times. The Show Court would be at the centre of a group of these veteran oaks. At 100+ feet high, this building would introduce substantial shading to these precious trees. AELTC does not appear to be aware of the highly detrimental effect of deprivation of light on these sensitive trees.

**Dave Lofthouse**, Merton's own Arboricultural Manager (Greenspaces), has commented on this, also appearing to question the adequacy of other protections for these veteran oaks in the Show Court plans. AELTC also proposes transplanting some semi-mature trees. The indication is that this is only successful in 50% of cases. The risk of losing or irreparably damaging any of these precious trees, on top of the 296 others ear-marked for felling in the plans, surely seems unacceptable

(Dave Lofthouse's comments on the SGCARA website AELTC page

which also includes a response to the 'Myth-busters' in AELTC's website & newsletters.)

The Wimbledon Park Golf Course site was purchased by AELTC from Merton Council in 1993. To appease the considerable public opposition & outcry to the sale of this land, AELTC & Merton agreed, in a legally-binding Covenant, not to allow the erection of any "permanent buildings" on this land, amongst other restrictions.

In 2021, AELTC Chairman Ian Hewitt is reputed to have responded to a question about the 1993 Covenant as follows:

'...As to the assurances made in 1993, I am sure you can appreciate that the requirements of the club & the community have developed in the resulting 28 years & that the AELTC has needed to work to ensure that The Championships remain a preeminent tennis tournament...' In other words, it appears it may no longer be 'convenient' for AELTC to wish to abide by the

Covenant." Living as we are in a period when keeping promises & abiding by the letter & spirit of the law in public life are hot topics, this is deeply troubling.

# SUTHERLAND GROVE CONSERVATION AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION - MEMBERSHIP

You can now apply for SGCARA Membership ONLINE

- 1) Through this link (access via the website) <https://forms.office.com/r/DxuCLBXqkD>
- 2) With this QR Code:



You can still apply for SGCARA

Membership via this PRINTED FORM:

By signing-up (including payment) to become a member of SGCARA, you are indicating support for SGCARA's **Purpose** under its Constitution. This 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's activities include engagement with local planning, transport, traffic, parking, safety & policing, along with wider environmental issues. SGCARA is non-party political.

Personal details that you provide are used by SGCARA volunteer-workers for SGCARA's constitutional purposes only and are never disclosed to third parties.

## Contact Details PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

I/we understand up to 2 residents per household can be sole/joint SGCARA members. I/we confirm that the name(s) given below are over 18 years old.

1. **Name Resident A** (add Mr, Mrs etc prefix if you wish).....
2. **Email address Resident A** .....Signature.....
3. **Contact number (s) Resident A** (only for essential-use) .....
4. **Name Resident B** (add Mr, Mrs etc prefix if you wish).....
5. **Email address Resident B** .....Signature.....
6. **Contact number(s) Resident B** (only for essential-use) .....

## Address

7. **Flat/House Number** .....
8. **Block/Street**.....
9. **Post-code**.....

## Membership (Subscription Year 1st Jan 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2022)

10.  I wish to continue  I wish to join  
Minimum £2 per property plus whatever donation you would like to give.

11. Total amount being paid £.....

**Paying by bank transfer**

**Payee Name:** SGCARA Account No: 9086 1456 Sort code: 20-90-69

**Payment Ref:** number & name of your street/block, then as much of your name as character-limit allows

**Paying by standing order (Pay-date ASAP for 2022, then in Jan for subsequent years please)**

**Sending separately (cash/cheque)**

Please put this form plus any cash/cheque in an envelope, addressed to SGCARA, with *your* name & address on the reverse, & deliver to the letterbox of the most convenient of these 3 addresses:

1 Combemartin Rd SW18 5PP, 14 Girdwood Rd SW18 5QS, M3, Gilbert Scott Building SW15 3SG

If you would like to receive information-emails from SGCARA without becoming a member, please email [admin@sgcara.org.uk](mailto:admin@sgcara.org.uk) making your request clear, & including your name, address & phone contact number(s).

**If you are already signed up for SGCARA information-emails you do not need to contact us. If you wish to stop receiving these, please let us know.**

If your household does not have internet-access, please indicate here: