

# SUTHERLAND GROVE CONSERVATION AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

SGCARA

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

## Reaching out to Residents

October/November 2022



Platinum Jubilee parties & 'yarn bombing' - Wimbledon Pk Rd post box

'Reaching out to Residents' is also posted on the SGCARA website - making links easier

Since the last 'Reaching out to Residents' there have been some momentous events, starting with Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, celebrated locally on the 5<sup>th</sup> June with fabulous street parties in Combemartin Rd, Girdwood Rd & Whitelands Pk, & concluding with the death of the Queen on the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept.



'Gotta try that home-brewed beer....'

Bobby McFerrin's 'Don't worry be happy' in the SGCARA music tent



Her Majesty visited our part of London a number of times, the first time when her cavalcade was photographed travelling along Wandsworth High St in Coronation year 1953. In 1981 she visited Youngs 'Ram' Brewery - then celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday - including an introduction to 'Ramrod III' - the company's Dorset Ram mascot! King Charles III, as Prince of Wales, also visited the Ram Brewery, pulling a pint in the traditional way.



\*\*\*\*\*

**Quiz Nights are back! Monday 28th Nov 7.30pm (arrival from 7.00)  
Park Tavern Merton Road SW18 5SW**

SGCARA's previous Quiz Nights were a great success, judging by the happy faces & new friendships formed - so come to Quiz Night 2022. The venue will once again be the ever-welcoming Park Tavern. Teams of between four & (ideally) six players. Entry £2 per person (paid-up SGCARA members) & £3 per person (non-members) to cover the cost of the professional Quiz host, payable in advance with the form overleaf. Ordering a meal is optional this time, so just taking part is really easy on the pocket. If you would like to eat at the Park Tavern on Quiz Night, manager Meghan has offered SGCARA a great deal - 15% off standard menu prices. (The 'Burger Monday' Special of £8.15 rather than usual price of £14 is not further discounted.) Once reply-slips are received, details of how to order 15% discounted meals will be sent to you by email. (Ordering food in advance of the day will be needed, so that the Park Tavern can plan for the numbers.)

Prizes for winning team & most ingenious team-name!

**If you would like to be part of SGCARA Quiz Night 2022, please complete the tear-off slip overleaf & drop off at: 1 Combemartin Rd or 14 Girdwood Rd, or M3 Gilbert Scott Building along with the entry-fee, as soon as possible, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov LATEST as numbers are strictly limited.**

**APOLOGY**... communications, including 'Reaching out to Residents', have been delayed by an unfortunate mixture of indisposition & illness. This has affected the SGCARA information emails, which had previously been sent fairly regularly to those on the circulation list. Apologies, including to new members, that you have not heard from us since summer. The challenges have largely been resolved now, so it should be back to 'business as usual', including a return of some favourite social events, eg the Quiz Night. The committee also very recently elected a new Hon. Treasurer, so the 2022 AGM will be delayed until early February 2023 to allow time to tie up loose ends. Full details will be in the January 'Reaching out to Residents'. We then aim to play catch-up by holding the 2023 AGM in November. This is not ideal, but practical in the circumstances. We would welcome another SGCARA committee member or two. Please let us know if you think that might be you. If you have some interest but feel unsure, you are welcome to attend a committee meeting as an observer to get a flavour of how we function. There can be as few as 3 committee meetings each year, but we keep in fairly regular contact by email.

\*\*\*\*\*

### LOCAL ARTISTS...

Wandsworth Artists' Open House used to take place in Autumn but sadly hasn't yet returned after Covid, but here are two opportunities to see the work of local artists.

Sutherland Grove's Elzbieta Smolenska is happy to show residents her (Photography & Screen-printing based) home gallery by appointment. Contact her at [elzbieta@smolenska.com](mailto:elzbieta@smolenska.com) She has an exhibition coming up at: POSK Gallery, 238-246 King St, W6 ORF. 26<sup>th</sup> Nov – 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. (Email Elzbieta for opening times)

'**ART FROM FOUND OBJECTS**' artist Cliff Pearcey is pretty local too. He is hosting an Indoor 'Table Top' sale of his wacky work: Sat & Sun 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Nov, 11am-5pm at 1 Granville Road, SW18 5SB.

'**Small pieces, wall pieces, tall pieces & things in frames.**' RSVP: [cliffpearcey@gmail.com](mailto:cliffpearcey@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

 ..... **Please detach this slip & return asap to join the Quiz Night** ..... 

**SGCARA Quiz Night**                      **Monday 28th November 7.30pm**  
**Park Tavern**                      **Merton Road**                      **SW18 5SW**

**Please return this slip BY 20<sup>th</sup> NOV, together with your payment, into any of these 3 addresses:  
1 Combemartin Rd, 14 Girdwood Rd, M3 Gilbert Scott Building. Please pay by cash rather than cheque (to SGCARA) if possible, as the amount is so small. Online sign-up & payment is not available for this event.)**

I would like to reserve places (please complete one of the either/or sections)

**either**

**to enter a team**    six / five / four places (*please circle the appropriate number*)

Our team name will be \_\_\_\_\_

**or**

**to join a team** on the night: \_\_\_\_\_ places

£2 per person (paid-up SGCARA-members, up to 2 people per household)

Number of places \_\_\_\_                      £ \_\_\_\_\_

£3 per person (non-members)

Number of places \_\_\_\_                      £ \_\_\_\_\_

***My contact details are***

**Total:**    £ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email. \_\_\_\_\_



## PILOT SCHEME for COUNCIL-ENFORCEMENT OF LOCAL 20mph SPEED LIMIT

Speeding vehicles within Sutherland Grove Conservation Area are a big problem, made worse as most of our roads include steep hills. Residents' cars are hit with alarming regularity resulting in at least one being written-off in the last couple of years. Just a few days ago, a speeding car mounted the pavement in Sutherland Grove, gouging one of the London Plane trees. That was unfortunate enough, but imagine if a pedestrian had been hit? There has been in effect no Enforcement of the 20mph speed limit on residential streets. Good news then that Wandsworth Council has been chosen to pilot a scheme allowing it to impose Penalty Charge Notices on speeding motorists (accompanied by a £130 fine we understand). The pilot roads are: Priory Lane (Roehampton, close to Richmond Pk) & Wimbledon Pk Rd. <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety/speed-enforcement-pilot-priory-lane-wimbledon-park-road/>

We hope that the pilot scheme will be successful & therefore extended to our local streets before too long. SGCARA will be doing all we can to help achieve this.

## GRASPING THE NETTLE...

Parking on the street can be a cause of real anxiety in our area, with regular damage to residents' parked cars from speeding vehicles as described in the last item. Thefts of cars or contents have also increased. We understand why residents might want to convert front gardens for off-street parking. However we have to face the fact that this is resulting in a gradual paving-over of what were beautiful front gardens. The rainfall cannot soak so naturally into the ground, becoming excess water run-off. This run-off is acknowledged borough-wide as contributing to overwhelming the drainage systems when there is heavy rain. Diversion of water into the drains also reduces the ground water available to our precious shrubs & larger trees. Climate Change will make extreme rainfall - & extreme drought - more common. Every Conservation Area has an 'Appraisal & Character Statement'. SGCA's includes '*A large factor in the attractiveness of the area is the greenery*'. 'Green' surroundings are also proved more conducive to peace & well-being – don't we all need a bit of that! We do ask if those with heavily-surfaced front-gardens, or who are contemplating creating more on-site parking space, might think how more space might be incorporated for plants? This need not impact greatly on the parking space available & would undoubtedly let more rainwater permeate into the ground. One attractive solution to consider is an appropriate climbing plant for the house front wall. There are some lovely examples of these on local houses. They also provide valuable habitat for wildlife Ideas. Ideas at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/cloak-your-walls-with-climbing-plants/> and also <https://www.houseandgarden.co.uk/article/plants-for-house-exteriors>

Examples from each of our four 1930s streets:



Introducing a flower bed on one/both side boundaries or planting a hedge behind a front wall are other options. We know of at least one example where the gradient of the hard-surfacing was constructed so that water flowed into the flower bed & not to the pavement/drain at all. Informally, we hear from Estate Agents that attractive front garden greenery may even enhance the value of your house.

Please remember that hard-surfacing materials should be porous & that Planning Permission is required for some front-garden paving intentions. Email: [wandsworthconsurbdesign@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:wandsworthconsurbdesign@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk) or phone 020 8871 6631 for information.

The Local Plan also contains detailed about what is allowed & what is not. You will find WBC's 'Housing SDP 2016' on the SGCARA website. See section 5.16 onward for helpful front-garden/parking information.

## WILDFLOWER VERGES – GIRDWOOD RD



This was the first full year for the grass verges that were re-turfed with wildflowers in Spring 2021. It was lovely to see that they have become established - also impressive to see how they withstood the drought, when grass everywhere else turned to yellow straw. When the rain did come, the wild flowers flourished further! The bees appreciated the flowers, using them to make honey, some of which we were able to extract from our local hives & share at the Southfields Harvest held in St Barnabas church. with profits going to their charity - so win-win all round! The verges have now been mowed, only needing one cut a year. There is a spell in

Autumn when they don't look so great but they need a chance to shed their seeds, so this is one time when you can ignore untidiness. Just look forward to next spring when they will regrow for another floral display! New residents may not be aware but the turfed wildflower verges have a blue spot painted on the kerb for identification. Care for it if you're lucky enough to have one near you & you will be rewarded with flowers next year. **Update from Girdwood Rd resident Annette Derry who initiated this scheme. Thankyou Annette!**

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

You may be forgiven for wondering how & why the Planning Applications for AELTC's proposed development of its Wimbledon Pk land are *still* under consideration by Merton & Wandsworth councils, nearly 18 months after public consultation began. The scope – and long-term effect - of these proposals is so far-reaching that the necessary scrutiny has to be very detailed indeed. Revelation of the existence of Legal Covenants that AELTC signed when it bought the land from Merton in 1993 has opened a whole new area of complexity, since these appear to put limits on how the land can be developed. Those of you on the SGCARA email circulation list received notification of the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) online forum which took place on Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. Celebrated local comedian & writer Andy Hamilton – himself passionately against the proposals - joined the line-up of authoritative speakers on this issue. If you signed up for this forum, we hope you found it useful. CPRE campaigns to protect our precious urban open spaces, as well as the countryside. If AELTC were allowed to develop this iconic site in the intense way proposed, no other London open space with a similar basis of ownership would be safe.

The A5 leaflet accompanying this '[Reaching out to Residents](#)', is an update of the one circulated a year ago. It is supported by 8 local Residents' Associations & a number of other respected entities. It outlines the most common concerns expressed throughout the area. Your comments/responses can still be sent in to the planning departments – all details on the leaflet.

## WIMBLEDON PK RIFLE CLUB & ALLOTMENTS – GRANVILLE RD

There is still no date indicated for consideration by the council Planning Applications Committee of the controversial Planning Application (PA 2022/1249) for future use of this land. The proposals would entail destruction of the valued Allotments & displacement of the historic & esteemed Rifle Club, which has produced Olympic & National Champions in the sport. Many of you have submitted comments to the planning page for PA 2022/1249, but it is still open for further comments. Just go to 'Planning & Building Control' on the council website & then 'Search Applications', giving the PA number 2022/1249. You will be guided to the form to upload your comments, (Object, Support, or General Observation).

SGCARA's Objection to the proposals can be read on the SGCARA website.