

SUTHERLAND GROVE CONSERVATION AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION - SGCARA

www.sgcar.org.uk

admin@sgcara.org.uk

Reaching out to Residents

January 2023



Three SGCA gardens looking magical in the Dec 2022 snow. The 4th is Elm Cottage c1890, the present site of 43 Augustus Rd. (Photo from 'West Hill and Wimbledon Park Side – The Story of a Council Ward' by Cllr Malcolm Grimston. Copies of Malcolm's book will be available to buy at the SGCARA AGM)

In this first newsletter of 2023 you'll find * an invite to the SGCARA AGM/residents' meeting - 9 Feb * chance to be creative for **SOUTHFIELDS WINDOW WANDERLAND 2023** - 25/26 Feb * a 'save-the date(s)' for possible Coronation street parties – 7 May * items by residents celebrating our local environment * feedback on SGCARA Quiz Night Nov 2022 * explanation why 'Reaching out to Residents' remains 100% paper delivery (*plus digital*) * Membership Form on Pg 4 * **To help drag SGCARA's systems well into the 21st Century, we are asking ALL (even long-standing) members to complete a 2023 Membership Form please, including whether you pay by Standing order, so we can check all records are up to date. Annoying...but really helpful at this point please!**

Reaching out to Residents can also be read online at www.sgcar.org.uk - easier access to links

- * THURSDAY 9 FEB ST CECILIAS SCHOOL, SUTHERLAND GROVE *
- * MEETING FOR SGCARA MEMBERS (AGM Business)
- * ...followed by MEETING FOR ALL RESIDENTS
- * the two Meetings linked by BUFFET REFRESHMENTS open to all

SGCARA Members, & those who join in the meantime (Membership sign-up on Pg 4) may attend & take part in the formal AGM Business. All SGCARA residents can enjoy the complimentary buffet & stay for the open meeting.

The following times are approximate.

from 6.30 Members check-in, light refreshments at the tables, drinks - wine, juice

7.00 Formal AGM Business for SGCARA Members

7.30 Buffet – all SGCARA residents welcome (the customary drinks & buffet refreshments)

8.00 Meeting for all SGCARA residents: We will hear updates from:

Fleur Anderson MP for Putney, Roehampton & Southfields, currently Shadow Paymaster General, then our West Hill Ward Councillors: **Daniel Ghossain, Malcolm Grimston & Angela Ireland**,

...next **YOUR** chance to ask questions & raise local issues important to you. If you have a question that requires Fleur or our Councillors to have statistics etc at the ready, giving them the question in advance will help them give YOU a more satisfying answer. Feel free to email your question in good time to: admin@sgcara.org.uk (letting us know whether or not you want your name shared), & we can send the question to them. You may prefer to email them direct at:

fleur.anderson.mp@parliament.uk Cllr.D.Ghossain@wandsworth.gov.uk
Cllr.M.Grimston@wandsworth.gov.uk Cllr.A.Ireland@wandsworth.gov.uk

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. Home-produced food for the buffet is always welcome. Fancy making a cake or savouries? Help serve drinks for a while? or set up or serve at the buffet for a short shift?

Please contact admin@sgcara.org.uk if you are prepared to 'do your bit' & offer any of the above



SOUTHFIELDS VV23 SAT 25 & SUN 26 FEBRUARY 5.30 – 9.00pm

Seen the posters? Read about it by email or WhatsApp? Sign up for this community project....find out how overleaf.....

Everyone is invited to join **SOUTHFIELDS WW23**! SGCARA is one of the sponsors so no cost to residents. 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 25/26 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/>

Sign up at: <https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/southfields-london-2023/>

Participating-addresses are added to the online-map as people sign up, so by the 25 Feb you'll be able to plan a route to see all the **SOUTHFIELDS WW23** windows. SGCARA has publicity posters for you to advertise **SOUTHFIELDS WW23** 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. If you would like posters or a printed map, these can be collected at 132 Sutherland Grove.

CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Abundance Southfields – 10th Anniversary



The **Abundance Southfields** project, which distributes free fruit & makes cider from fruit trees in gardens all over Wandsworth, is in deep hibernation at this time of year. However, residents who donated some of their excess apples or pears last summer may soon get a visit at the first signs of spring - delivering a few bottles of cider. Stay patient! Our community project to reduce food waste by putting all this lovely excess fruit to good use is now ten years old. The concept remains popular & we are often awash with fruit during the summer. We are then unable to pick our way past the fermentation vats for several months until the cider is all bottled & taken to storage. We desperately require a suitable premises for the project so it can grow & potentially even offer some seasonal employment. We hoped for some support from the council, through various Councillors over recent months, so far without response. Hopefully 2023 will see some traction or will we have to figure out a

(Photo above: 'Abundance Southfields' own label) different path for the project. For now the plans for 2023 remain the same as ever.....set up some cider sales to shift the 2022 harvest & earn some money for equipment, watch apples grow, pick fruit, give it away or crush it, ferment it, bottle it & then hibernate again! If you want to join in on any of these activities (or even just watch other people do it!) sign up to the newsletter at website: www.abundancesouthfields.com

& follow us on Instagram @abundancesouthfields

Richard Konig, Sutherland Grove resident

(Richard is the inspiration behind this brilliant community project. Thankyou Richard)

St Michaels Church Field – Kitchen Garden & Bio-Diversity Project

In parallel with the wildflower verges in Girdwood Road, if you are connected with St Michael's (church or school) you may be aware of the developing kitchen garden in the Viewfield Rd church field. As well as providing fruit & vegetables for community lunches, more than 30 new trees have been planted, bird & bat boxes installed, & a wildlife garden established with plenty of native plants. Interesting visitors include red kite (overhead), wasp spider, greater spotted woodpecker, frog & toad, despite the lack of pond. We are hoping for further wildlife visitors as the plants mature.

On the subject of frogs & toads, the SGCA area seems to be a haven for both species along with smooth newts, (which also happen to enjoy eating tadpoles!) There are a fair few garden ponds in the area, some of which are breeding ponds for toads though these are much more picky & site-faithful than frogs when it comes to laying spawn. Some frogs are still active through the winter & it won't be long now before early clumps of frog spawn start turning up, including in unsuitable containers such as plant pot holders! If moved to better locations, the spawn is likely to thrive & produce countless froglets in mid-summer, despite the attentions of crows & cats

Recent studies show that toads, which happily roam around pond free gardens most of the year, can live beyond 40 & can climb trees! They are most active at night, hunting slugs, insect larvae & even mice. Toads may appear slow & unhurried but can certainly put on a spurt if they choose. If you have a ground-based bird bath, it is likely to be used in summer by the occasional frog or toad as a nocturnal place for relaxing between meals - & they don't seem to mind too much if you shine a torch on them to have a look!

Simon Bray, Girdwood Rd resident

(thanks for your valuable work on this project Simon ... & to Annette for the Girdwood Rd wildflower verges initiative)

* Land behind 129-135 Granville Rd SW18 (better known as the Wimbledon Pk Rifle Club & Allotments PA 2022/1429

This piece of land is another precious & unique local environment. You will be forgiven for thinking 'NOT AGAIN!' to more planning updates about this (especially as the AELTC planning application is still rumbling on – see below). However the Allotments & Rifle Club Application has huge implications for our area & for those who use it, so please read on & respond! *Several thousand signed the Save the Allotments petition in 2022.* A reminder that behind the place in Granville Rd where many of us go to vote, is the flourishing & historic Rifle Club & much-loved Allotments that are part of it, making this whole site a paradise for the people & wildlife that flourish in it. All this would be lost if the current



Application for demolition & substantial re-development were to be Approved by the council. The Applicant has made some recent changes to the Application, but these don't protect the site He is clearly hoping that residents won't bother to Object again – giving the impression that his changes have made the Application acceptable

Photos above left show 1) a stag beetle from the site 2) one of a large variety of moths humanely trapped, recorded & released by Natural History Museum Lepidopterist & Club Captain Martin Honey 3) the flourishing allotments

Rifle shooting at WPRC is a highly-disciplined sport, with members having participated at National & Olympic level.

'Tabitha joined WPRC in 2020 & it has been a fantastic & supportive environment for her to continue with a sport which she really enjoyed at school. It has allowed her to develop in maturity & ability to act with responsibility. Without WPRC, Tabitha would have had to stop shooting as a sport as she moved through the school years due to the need to focus on academic work & her other sport, hockey.'

Charlotte Harrison, SGCA resident & mother of Tabitha

The closing date for response to PA 2022/1429 – via the Planning Dept at: <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/search-planning-applications/> was officially the 5th Jan, but you can still submit until the 2nd week of Feb....possibly later. If you Objected first time round, you can simply say that despite the changes to the Application, your previous Objection still stands. You may like to quote concerns highlighted in the Rifle Club Secretary's response to the Application changes or check out the original SGCARA Objection, (both on the www.sgcar.org.uk website). You can still choose to Object to the Application for the first time if you did not do so before.

***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. Numbers have decreased over the years, often because nest-sites are lost when we renovate our properties & loss of trees results in less insects for food. 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!) The nearest 'official' sightings of hedgehogs are now on Putney Heath, Wimbledon Common but anecdotally also closer to home 'our' side of Parkside.... not so far away. Adopting measures such as 'hedgehog holes' in fencing & leaving a bit of wild garden could encourage their return. 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).

***Bats** can still be seen flying at speed round a number of SGCA gardens & open land at twilight - when not in hibernation from about November. Sadly the loss of trees – especially large trees – in our Conservation Area has reduced these sightings. Please cherish your trees! Ideally add a tree or two to your garden if you have one. Apart from their huge environmental benefits, trees are acknowledged to induce calm & reduce stress. Can't be bad! WBC announced its Climate Emergency in Nov 2019, along with a commitment to increase bio-diversity. Sadly policies on the ground have not kept up with this noble intention, eg garden trees are still largely assessed with an emphasis on their '*visual amenity*', rather than a holistic view of their benefit to bio-diversity & the environment – eg birds, insects & carbon-sequestration. Despite bat-sightings, the council seems to shrug its shoulders rather than insist on bat-surveys or advising simple solutions when roof-work is proposed in SGCA – often a simple matter of raising a tile or two to allow access. See <https://www.bats.org.uk/> for bat-information in general & the 'Advice' tab for specifics.

SGCARA QUIZ NIGHT – Nov 2022



The first SGCARA Quiz Night since COVID was a great success. The Park Tavern's Manager Meghan organised things beautifully for us & many took up her offer of 15% food-discount for quiz-participants! PT's regular Quiz host, Glaswegian Aldis Hamilton was on top form...*(funny how Scotland featured in a lot of answers!)* There were 6 teams from SGCARA – Delta, Don't-know-it-Alls, Girdwood Gladiators, Hill Start, Middle of the Roaders, Not-so-Great Expectations. We welcomed teams from two local Residents' Assns – the Gridheads from The Grid RA & the Triangulators from STRA6 – the winners!

Photo: Winning team the Triangulators, including popular local electrician Keith Moon. Who knew Keith was a demon quizzier?

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III 6th May - Another chance for Street Parties



Following the success of the various SGCA area Platinum Jubilee Street Parties in 2022, there are rumours of Coronation parties in 2023! Caroline Pyper – main organiser of the 2022 Combemartin Road Street Party (which was open to all SGCA residents) - is sounding out local residents about planning an event to mark the King's Coronation in 2023. Caroline says *'The committee is very happy to throw another street party if there is enough demand. Things are so much easier to plan when we know the number of guests – the last party spiralled from 150 to 350 in the final week leading up to the party. Although this led to a great vibe, this was very hard to manage from a budgeting/supply point of view. Please fill in the spreadsheet (link below) if you & your family might like to join us again this year. This is not a commitment to come, but marks intention. We propose a very similar format to last year (if it ain't broke, don't fix it), but welcome any new ideas, suppliers, suggestions for sponsors etc. Please do get in touch. Proposed date is **Sunday 7 May** (date recommended by the Palace) - **Timings TBC**. Please click on the link below & fill in your details ASAP!*

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Wu3wnlFzB3nCv9VxLgBx_gj23EQVi4tBiXTY8WS5mbc/edit?pli=1#gid=0

AELTC (All England Lawn Tennis Club) PROPOSALS FOR WIMBLEDON PARK - PA 2021/3609

This AELTC application has been rumbling on for more than 18 months now. Merton & Wandsworth Councils are clearly unhappy about aspects of it, as is GLA (Greater London Authority) which has a part in the decision-process. AELTC have added 3 additional lots of documents to the Application over this time, in response to concerns from the councils. Many, many residents believe that no concessions (eg some ticket-concessions for tennis-events) come close to compensating for an 8000-seater Stadium blighting the open view from all aspects of the Wimbledon Park. Respected Ecologists believe that the iconic Veteran Oak trees would suffer from the over-shadowing the huge Stadium would cause. This is just one serious issue of many. The AELTC Planning Application may possibly come to the council Committees in February – Wandsworth's is 23 Feb.

You will have chance to ask questions at the 9 Feb AGM/residents' meeting, eg from Daniel Ghossain who was elected on a platform of opposition to the AELTC Application. If you come away with reasons to make a submission about the application, there will be time to do this before the 23 Feb. (See link at the Granville Rd Allotments/Rifle Club item).



photo 1: current view across the Wimbledon Pk Golf Club site



4. View from Church Road

photo 2: a similar view of the Wimbledon Pk Golf Club site if the proposed 8000-seater tennis stadium was Approved



7. View from northern parkland

Photo 3: a view of the proposed tennis stadium from the proposed parkland

(photos 2 & 3 are AELTC's own artist's impressions, from their 3rd Public Consultation)

DIGITAL or PAPER ? Reaching out to Residents

We are occasionally asked why we maintain 100% paper 'Reaching out to Residents' distribution, rather than electronic only for those who would choose that, citing the 'paperless office' etc. SGCARA's core Constitutional remit '*to promote & assist the preservation, conservation, protection, enhancement & improvement..*' (of the Conservation Area) ...'*together with the amenities available to it*' obliges us to make relevant information available to all SGCA residents. The SGCARA Committee has discussed '*Digital or Paper?*' from time to time & concluded that 100% paper delivery really is the most efficient way to guarantee all residents have chance to access the contents of 'Reaching out to Residents'. Here's why...

*In an office set-up e-addresses are of course standardised, whilst e-addresses of us residents are anything but! Even with e-addresses we know to be current, SGCARA has some bounce-backs after nearly all routine email-circulations – of the '*mail box full*' variety - or emails inexplicably vanishing into SPAM. *Residents change e-addresses without necessarily alerting all recipients & just occasionally residents give us an e-address with an unwitting mistake if they choose to use a paper membership form. *A number of properties in SGCA are rented. A paper newsletter ensures new tenants have chance to read it. *Residents move away & new residents arrive – the pressure of packing up etc means that letting SGCARA & others know just isn't no. 1 priority * Many of us who subscribe to online newsletters find our inboxes swamped sometimes & are tempted just to delete some of these before reading. (*Anyone ever done this?*) *A paper copy also means that any member of a household can get to read 'Reaching out to Residents' - not just one or two email-recipients. The SGCARA newsletter is just around 3 times a year, so not a big environmental footprint. Between times, SGCARA members (& others already signed up) receive information emails as regularly as we can manage. Hope this explains the decision. Even sending emails has a carbon footprint of course. Take a look at this link!

<https://carbonliteracy.com/the-carbon-cost-of-an-email/>

In fact SGCARA would ideally like to expand 'Reaching out to Residents'. We would need some extra income to fund this. If you have a niche business which you would the chance to advertise to the 1000 households that comprise SGCARA – at a very modest cost - please email us at: admin@sgcara.org.uk.

SUTHERLAND GROVE CONSERVATION AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION - MEMBERSHIP

You can apply for SGCARA Membership ONLINE

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



You can also 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 & assist the preservation, conservation, protection, enhancement & improvement of the area together with the amenities available to it, & 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 & 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 2023 – 31st Dec 2023)

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 2023, 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 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: