

Reaching out to Residents

June 2023



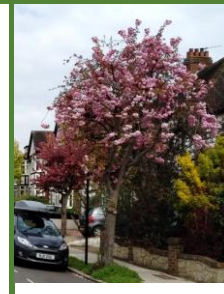
Caroline & Committee



...did someone say 'cake'?



birds'-eye view



Spring blossom in SGCA streets



'Reaching out to Residents' will also be uploaded to the SGCARA website - easier-access to web-links
 Welcome to all new residents! If you are a new SGCARA member, shared your e-address but haven't yet received SGCARA information emails, please check your SPAM first, then email admin@sgcara.org.uk to tell us. We may have misread a letter or two, from the printed forms especially. Items in this issue include a **TRAFFIC QUESTIONNAIRE – 'HAVE YOUR SAY'** but first off..... a big ****THANKYOU**** to Caroline Pyper & her Street Party Committee for the wonderful Combemartin Road Coronation Street party on the 7th May. Caroline says:
'It was wonderful to see so many local residents, their families & friends (nearly 600!) turn up at the Combemartin Road Coronation Party on Sunday 7th May. A day to remember with lots of photos as proof that everyone had a great time. Well done to all the Bake-Off competitors who provided us with a wonderful afternoon tea, & to all the participating dogs – all on their best behaviour! We were lucky with the weather so everyone was able to enjoy the BBQ, live band, games & entertainment without any interruptions. The whole event could not have taken place without the local community coming together to support. We are grateful to our sponsor Winkworth, to the Patel family at no. 19 for providing all the soft drinks & condiments, to Saint Cecilia's School for lending us all the tables & chairs, & to all the residents who helped set up & take down the event. Who knows when the next street party might be?.....'

(We hope to have more Combemartin Rd Coronation Street Party photos on the SGCARA website soon)

FAMILY MEET-UP – 16th Sept 10.00am - midday SAINT CECILIA'S (outdoor space)

A number of families with young children have moved into SGCA (Sutherland Grove Conservation Area) in the last year or so. We have heard from some who are keen to get to know other families in the area. Here's your chance! Join in a family gathering in the (outdoor, enclosed) quadrangle of St Cecilia's School. Saturday 16th September 10.00am - midday. Little ones can bring along their ride-ons & bikes to enjoy the big grass space in the quad, while parents get chance to sit & have a chat. Teas, coffee, juice, squash, biscuits etc on tap. There will be picnic blankets for children to play with their other favourite toys or games. *Soft balls only please as there are a lot of glass windows around!* Aimed at younger children but of course older siblings welcome, *(but no 'big' bikes please)*. We plan to have a table tennis table & possibly a couple of laid-on activities – to be arranged. If the weather is bad, there is an indoor space available, but the quad very much preferred of course! Saint Cecilia's is very much a Green Travel school, so please walk or cycle to the 16th Sept event. (Bikes can be locked up safely on school premises.) If you need to arrive by car, given its a Saturday morning, there is likely to be space on Sutherland Grove or on Saint Cecilia's forecourt. SGCARA is gifting a couple of trees for the quadrangle (*see item below*) as a thankyou to Saint Cecilias for generously welcoming SGCARA for events, including AGMs & the Sept 2021 'Environment Exchange'. **We hope that the planting can take place at the 16th Sept Family Meet-Up - 11.00am? (tbc). All SGCARA residents are welcome to join us for this part of the morning & be part of a great group photo round the new trees of course!**

Event free for SGCARA members, £4 per family for non-members. (Membership form on SGCARA website of you would like to join up in the meantime). No sign-up form needed for this event, so you can decide at the last-minute if you'd like to come. However it would be helpful if you can email: admin@sgcara.org.uk if you plan to come, including your name, address & the number & age-range of children you are bringing.



TREES FOR SAINT CECILIA'S & chance to order your own

As mentioned in the 'Family Meet-up item above, SGCARA is gifting a couple of trees for the Saint Cecilia's 'new' quadrangle. We have decided on Amelanchier. This has gorgeous white blossoms in spring,



vibrant red leaves & attractive berries (also supporting bio-diversity) in autumn. Easy to care for & recommended for a suburban setting. We plan to purchase these through a nursery we know to be very reliable – Hopes Grove Nurseries in Hampshire. SGCARA's gift is likely two trees. However the minimum order for a delivery is £240.00 (ie seven of these trees)...so... **we are hoping that SGCARA residents might like the chance to buy their own garden trees, hedging, or pot-shrubs through SGCARA to make up the order (& over of course if there is demand).** As an indication, a 5-6 feet Amelanchier tree (supplied in a pot) is £35.99. It can be grown as a tree, shrub or hedging – as classified in this link:

<https://www.hopesgrovenurseries.co.uk/shop/hedging/amelanchier-hedging/>

The delivery charge for seven of these trees works out about £8.50 extra per tree. If enough residents opt to order trees or bushes through SGCARA, a minimum order of £480 would give free delivery.

If you would like to do this, please take a look at the Hopes Grove Nurseries website & let us know what type of tree you would like & the quantity. We need to know by early - mid August. When (& only if) we are sure we have at least £240 worth of orders, we will check that Hopes Grove Nurseries still have your chosen tree in stock & then ask you to transfer the appropriate amount for your order to SGCARA for us to make the total order. Should your chosen tree then become unavailable, you would be refunded of course. Delivery would be around the start of the 2nd week of September. We do hope that a number of you will take up this opportunity. Our neighbourhood is near its 100th Birthday. *(In fact some Sutherland Grove houses had their 100th Birthday this year.)* Some beautiful new trees would make for a great 'birthday present' for our houses, area & of course bio-diversity!



Aren't I a beautiful bird? ...but don't feed me as I may eat up all the tasty food on your bird feeder & leave the other birds less. I'm partial to a bit of blossom too... (I bet that Amelanchier blossom tastes good.) Residents have even spotted me biting off tulips in spring. I guess I like flowers that are brightly-coloured like me. Who am I? why a ring-necked parakeet of course.

DONATE YOUR FABRIC SCRAPS - for a good cause

from Whitelands Crescent resident Polina Karbanova:

(thankyou Polina. What a brilliant project)

'Good Fabric has teamed up with local schools to donate fabrics scraps to their textile & SEN departments, helping reduce waste & encouraging creative education. The schools have no allocated budget for fabric. They are relying entirely on donations. That's where we come in. We're actively collecting fabric scraps from anyone who'd like to donate. Your scraps can be as little as 5x5cm – not big enough to make anything with, but just right to help a child learn about materials or create a collage! Any other spare arts & crafts materials you have would be greatly appreciated too. Old buttons, bias bindings, ribbons & thread will all be received with open arms. With your donations, we hope to bring regular deliveries of fabric scraps to the schools to help their pupils learn & create. This fabric would be used to create patterns & appliques, build mood boards, & teach students about different materials & textures.

With a little bit of teamwork, we sewists can reduce our fabric waste whilst benefiting children. Our small bits of leftover fabric can have a big difference! To donate your fabric scraps via post, arrange a drop off or request a collection, reach out to us at hello@goodfabric.co.uk (or phone Polina on 07789 254 396). To learn more about this initiative head over to our blog on goodfabric.co.uk. If you are a keen sewist, do have a browse at our sustainable fabric range.'

<https://goodfabric.co.uk/>

'Your go-to source of eco-certified & stylish dressmaking fabrics'

SAINT CECILIA'S NEWS

from Business & Development Manager Dave Cobb

*'The school continues to be an extremely popular choice among local parents. **Read about our activities** both in school & out in the community in our weekly newsletters. <https://www.saintcecilias.london/lettersandnewslettersdownload> Our **School Open Days** are a chance for prospective parents & their children to visit the school. We encourage families to use public transport, but there will inevitably be some extra traffic at Open Days. Dates for the next year are:*

Thurs 29th June 9am – noon; Thurs 21st Sept 5 - 8pm; Tues 26th Sept 9am – noon; & Tues 10th Oct 9am – noon.

*Work on the final phase of the school expansion – **the dining hall extension** - will start in the summer with completion due for late November. Construction traffic will be scheduled outside of peak commuting hours wherever possible to minimise disruption. Building works are restricted to 'normal' working hours to avoid causing a nuisance at evenings & weekends. Full plans are available on the Wandsworth planning portal (planning case 2022/5268). If anyone would like further details about any aspect of the school, please contact me at any time: dcobb@saintcecilias.london*

TRAFFIC QUESTIONNAIRE for SGCA residents

....HAVE YOUR SAY.... (OVERLEAF)

As most of you will know only too well, the recent closure of Girdwood Rd, while utility (gas) works took place at the top end, resulted in appalling congestion at times. This was concentrated at the Girdwood/Granville Rd/Sutherland Grove roundabout, resulting in more than a touch of road-rage on a number of occasions. SGCARA understands that there have been at least three accidents at that roundabout recently, one of them serious. The road-closure made clear to us residents of other SGCA streets, eg Skeena Hill, just what residents of Girdwood Rd, many of Sutherland Grove), & nearby Granville Rd, have to endure the rest of the time.

Enough is Enough. If you would like to 'have your say' please write your concerns - & possible solutions from your point of view - on the form overleaf.

Enough IS enough. We *have* to achieve a workable, enforceable solution to the ongoing problem of SGCA streets being used as a through-way at all hours, made worse by excessive-speeding.

SGCARA recently became aware of a petition (hosted by Wandsworth Council, but initiated by a residents' group). that ran from 12.10.22 – 20.12.22. The wording expresses clearly many of the concerns experienced within SGCA, but poor publicity meant that it sadly - & inexplicably - only attracted 118 signatures. Although the petition is closed, here is the link so SGCA residents can see the measures this petition requested.

<https://democracy.wandsworth.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=199&RPID=15992048&HPID=15992048>

(As always, it is easier to access the link through the SGCARA website, or when the newsletter is sent out to the SGCARA mailing list.)

In Nov 2022, a council official wrote the following:

'...we are due to carry out a comprehensive survey in the local area to help us understand traffic movements which will in turn help develop ideas / restrictions for future consultation....'

In Feb 2023, this was the state of 'progress' from the same council official:

'...Regrettably, the comprehensive survey is yet to be undertaken...'

This is likely still the case. SGCA's serious traffic problems have to become a higher priority for the council. The 'No Left Turn' 7-10am (weekdays), ANPR-enforced scheme has reduced commuter traffic using Girdwood Rd & Skeena Hill – but only between those times. As many of you know only too well, much of the displaced traffic travels along West Hill towards Wandsworth, turns right down Sutherland Grove & on to Granville Rd – at any time of the day. (We understand that any restriction of this right-turn would be the responsibility of TFL, not Wandsworth Council.) The reverse happens for traffic wanting to access the A3 to leave London at ANY time. Granville Rd, with St Michaels School at its heart, is the 'pinch point' of all this 'rat run' traffic. This has to be made safer for school-children & residents, including for cyclists & pedestrians.



photos left:
typical heavy traffic
congestion at Sutherland
Grove (en route to West
Hill), Granville Rd
roundabout, & Granville Rd
itself.

The road humps are completely ineffective at restricting speeds of vehicles, both domestic & commercial, to under 20mph. Frustratingly, in February 2023 the Department of Transport halted Wandsworth council's trial into issuing Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) for speeding, (on two sites - our nearest being Wimbledon Pk Rd.) Solving speeding & 'rat-running' go hand in hand.

PLEASE 'Have your Say' overleaf. There may be SGCA residents who experience these traffic issues on a daily basis & who have creative suggestions that may just be able to contribute to the solutions.

Please complete this form & return in an envelope marked 'SGCARA' to one of the following addresses:
1 Combemartin Rd SW18 5PP, 14 Girdwood Rd SW18 5QS, M3, Gilbert Scott Building SW15 3SG
Please continue on a further sheet if you need more space. There will be a chance to complete & return the form electronically if preferred when 'Reaching out to residents' is emailed to the circulation list.

1a) Do you think that the ANPR-enforced 7-10am 'No Left Turns' from Parkside have solved the morning 'rat-run' problem? If not, how could it be improved? eg by restricting other 'Left Turns' off Parkside?

1b) Should a similar ANPR-enforced scheme be created to reduce the high volume of A3 traffic that currently accesses Skeena Hill & Girdwood Rd, channelling into Granville Rd, via Sutherland Grove?

1c) Do you have personal experience of the traffic-problems in SGCA at various times of day? If so, please describe them.... & any other workable solutions, other than in 1a) & 1b) you might feel solve the problem.

2) Would you support a more radical solution such as the South Fulham Clean Air Neighbourhood Project? <https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/clean-air-neighbourhoods/south-fulham-clean-air-neighbourhood-project> (ANPR cameras restrict vehicles registered outside the borough. Genuine traders & contractors can gain access & visitors can be registered by residents)

3) The Girdwood/Granville/Sutherland roundabout feels very dangerous at times. There was a fatality not so many years ago & we fear it may be only a matter of time before someone is killed there again. Please share any ideas YOU may have to make it safer.

4) Granville Rd is outside SGCA, but used by us all, eg those with children attending St Michaels School. What might deter 'rat run' traffic in Granville Rd, & increase safety for cyclists & pedestrians? ANPR? chicanes? width-restrictive bollards? raised pavements? Have you a new different idea?

5) As the Department for Transport has currently quashed the council's speed-camera trial, there is no additional effective deterrent to excessive speeding in sight. (Speed gun operators do not have Enforcement powers). Do you have ideas as to how vehicle-speeds might be reduced in our area?

6) Would you &/or members of your household like your name(s) to be added to a list of residents concerned about these traffic-issues, (maybe willing to engage with discussions of possible solutions?) planning to add your name to a new petition? (to be drafted following this questionnaire & other input)
YES / NO (PLEASE CIRCLE)

Your Details PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Name

Address.....

Contact-details:

email **Phone**

