

Reaching out to Residents

March/April 2024



Easter 'yarn-bombing' spotted on a post-box in Southfields
Magnificent spring magnolias & camellias in our area

Reaching out to Residents can also be read online at www.sgcara.org.uk to access the links more easily

******* SGCARA ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING & AGM MONDAY 22ND APRIL *******

SAINT CECILIA'S SCHOOL SUTHERLAND GROVE SW18 5JR

6.30 – 7.30 REGISTRATION & BUFFET open to all members to enjoy, chat & meet new neighbours
DRINKS (donations for drinks appreciated)

6.45 – 7.15 our **West Hill Ward Councillors** will be at their desks in the Refectory, ready & willing to hear your concerns (**non-traffic related – see below**). A good opportunity to meet them now there is less certainty of seeing a particular Councillor at the Southfields Library 'Surgeries'.

6.30 – 7.30 Ken Henry is 'Better at Home' Assistant Coordinator Age UK Wandsworth. He too will be available, keen to share with interested residents ways they might give a little time to volunteer with Age UK. Ken will also share information about services available. This includes a 'Digipals' service to facilitate & give confidence to older residents currently not able to access the digital world. Prepare to have any stereotyped ideas about Age UK challenged!

7.15 – 8.00 Our Councillors will address the serious local issues of 'rat-run' traffic & excess speeding. **Our MP Fleur Anderson** will give the perspective on what can be done – or not - at a national level. **Our local (West Hill) police** will share their view on our traffic problems & also on crime in our area & what we can do to better protect ourselves & our property. All will be pleased to hear your questions. **Approx.. 8.00 – 8.15** chance to top up your glasses. Buffet still open

8.15 - 8.45 AGM – formal business

8.45 – 9.30 Steve Derry is one of our local beekeepers - keeping bees here in Southfields for nearly 20 years. Steve is Education Officer for the Wimbledon Beekeepers Association. He will talk about the wonderful world of bee-keeping, the emerging threats to honey bees & other pollinators & what we can all do to support them. Steve will be pleased to answer your questions.

Help needed at the AGM!

- Pour drinks for a while?
- Do a turn serving at the Buffet?
- Bring a salad? A quiche? A cake?

Please Email: admin@sgcara.org.uk

**NOT ALREADY A MEMBER or
NEED TO RENEW? Info overleaf**



SGCARA MEMBERSHIP

Please pay by Standing Order if possible. (Minimum sum for 2024 is still just £2).

Likely to rise to a fiver for 2025 to cover rising expenses, so minimum £5 would be appreciated!

Joining first time: Please use form on Pg 4 – online or paper form

Renewing: If you have a Standing Order in place, no extra action needed. Otherwise see Pg 4.

GIRDWOOD Rd WILDFLOWER VERGES

update from Annette Derry

Girdwood Rd resident



'As you walk along Girdwood Road you will see the plants in the verges start to emerge. You recall some of these verges were replaced with wildflower turf in 2021. This year the rest were completed by Wandsworth Council's team at **Enable** – the not-for-profit company who undertook the work. You may be interested to know the turf (supplied by **Wildflower Turf Ltd**) comprises thirty two native wildflowers & two non-invasive grasses. The plants are grown on a mesh. In earlier years this mesh was not fully biodegradable but more recently it is. **Wildflower Turf Ltd** have provided wildflower turf for many councils & developments - some prestigious. ('The Hive' at Kew has the same turf as us!) There is a full list of the plants on the



SGCARA website. A quick search of these plants gives a fascinating insight into their stories; some are used in medicine and folklore; all are loved by insects; some have even been found in British fossils tens of thousands of years old. Sharing a small part of our space with them – since many have declined in numbers - seems fitting. I'm looking forward to seeing them emerge!

Thankyou Annette. Maybe residents will be inspired to have a wildflower turf area in their own gardens?

CONSERVATION AREA UPDATE

Just a reminder that the draft (revised) SGCA Appraisal & Management Strategy was approved by Wandsworth Council in July 2023. It is already influencing the way that planning applications in SGCA being are assessed. If you are thinking about making changes to your property that require Planning Permission, please do read the 'new' Management Strategy: <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/building-conservation-and-design/conservation-areas/sutherland-grove-road-conservation-area-appraisal/>

A number of residents responded to the council's Consultation about this in February. See responses to each one from the council at link below. Just identified by numbers. Scroll down the numbers till you find your own!

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/building-conservation-and-design/conservation-areas/conservation-area-appraisal-programme-2021-23/>

Melrose House Nursery School
39 Melrose Rd SW18 1LX



Melrose House

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Please contact Ruth Oates.
Tel: 07910273579
email: southfields@melrose-house.com
southfields@melrose-house.com
Website: www.melrose-house.com

WIMBLEDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WISO

SPRING CONCERT WITH JENNIFER PIKE



SATURDAY 27 APRIL 2024, 7:30PM
St Paul's Church, 120 Augustus Road, SW19 6EW

Butterworth Banks of Green Willow
Gipps Violin Concerto
Elgar Symphony No.2. in E flat major

TICKETS
Standard £15
Under 30s £10
Children under 6 go free

Conductor Andy Morley
Violin Jennifer Pike

Available at wimso.org.uk
or on the door

WIMSO.ORG.UK
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HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT SGCARA?

SGCARA is looking for a new Treasurer. We are very grateful to Paul Willatts who took on the role on an interim basis & will leave the accounts in good shape for a successor. Thankyou Paul.

Consider joining the Committee? You can choose to be active in an issue that fires your interest, keeping commitment at the level you prefer. If that's a 'yes!' please download & complete a form from the website. Deliver to one of the 3 addresses on Pg 4

LOCAL TRAFFIC PROBLEMS UPDATE

• Thank you to all residents who completed the Traffic Questionnaire summer /autumn 2023 (offered in **Reaching out to Residents** summer 2023). Respondents' own experiences showed the severity of the problem, offering creative possible solutions. (below) photo shows 1 of at least 3 parked cars hit & written off over time by speeding cars

One resident made the telling observation:

'It is not an inalienable right to drive into London for your commute (and it is bad for the environment too)'

Where is the vision to persuade commuters to come into London by other ways than driving?

• You will remember the inclusion of the following with the Questionnaire. (received Nov 2021 from a council official with responsibility in this area)

'I would also advise 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.'

• The Report from this 'comprehensive survey' (by external Consultants) was due Aug 2023 SGCARA presumed our own Questionnaire might then feed into its findings & together they would inform action to solve the inter-connected problems of 'rat-running' & excessive speeding.

• A completed Report has still not been released at this point. Following persistent questioning by SGCARA, residents will be shocked to learn it has become clear that at some point the 'comprehensive survey' appears to have been watered down simply to a review of the current Automatic Number-Plate Recognition (ANPR) scheme. This is currently being reviewed by the relevant council Cabinet Member. There are hints that this review may propose making no changes at present. This would be unacceptable.

• The next step is for this issue to be aired at the 22nd April Members Meeting/AGM. Time has been given for our Councillors to update us. Cllr.Grimston has recently been speaking about traffic problems with some residents most affected & will share his ideas. Cllr. Ghossain has offered to raise a formal enquiry with the council into this issue on behalf of SGCARA residents. We will press Cllr.Ireland, (as Cabinet Member for Finance) on allocation of funds to resolve the problems. Our MP Fleur Anderson is not a member of the governing party of course, but may be able to explain some puzzling restrictions on Traffic Calming measures currently imposed by central Govt. These include the reduction of permitted heights for road humps & the halting of pilot schemes to allow Local Authorities to install their own speed cameras & impose speeding penalties.

• Following information gained from our Councillors & MP on the 22nd April, we plan to offer a zoom meeting for residents & to draw up/share template letters eg to lobby Government to allow Local Authorities (LAs) to have speed-camera pilot schemes.



'Rat-run' traffic



The Roche School

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The Keswick House Nursery
42 Keswick Road, London SW15 2JE
www.keswickhousenursery.com
Open Day: Tuesday 30th April 2pm

The Roche School - Nursery & Primary
11 Frogmore, London SW18 1HW
www.therocheschool.com
Open Day Friday 3rd May 9.15am

Truly Independent

You can apply for SGCARA Membership ONLINE

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



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

Address

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

Membership (Subscription Year 1st Jan – 31st Dec

- 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 £.....

PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD – set up a standing order (to be paid in Jan each year)

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 bank transfer
- 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