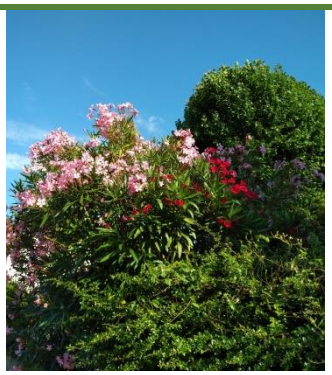
SUTHERLAND GROVE CONSERVATION AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.sgcara.org.uk SGCARA admin@sgcara.org.uk

Reaching out to Residents

August 2024



A fabulous front garden (& Sutherland Grove plane tree) Could it be yours?

What's shown in these pictures? Why the rampant red lion? Children might like to find & count the little red lions hidden in this newsletter! Answers on Pg 6

Flowers in the Girdwood Rd wildflower verges-June

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

Wandsworth Council's **'Sustainable September'** is here! Including 'car-free' Sunday - 22nd Sept

See SGCARA **'Sustainable September'** events on Pg 3 (22nd Sept) & Pg 4 (29th Sept)

****

HOW TO AVOID BEING SCAMMED!

Monday 23rd Sept Saint Cecilia's School 5.00-6.00pm **OR** 6.45-7.45pm

Scammers are becoming more & more sophisticated, occasionally fooling even the most tech-savvy of us - whether in person at our front doors, by phone or electronic communication. Debbie Foster of Age UK Wandsworth is giving 2 presentations for our residents on Monday 23rd Sept at Saint Cecilia's School.

Debbie says:

'*I run Age UK's Wandsworth's anti-scam campaign which aims to alert older people of the dangers posed by scammers. My presentation normally lasts about 45 minutes with questions after & **it's suitable for any adult group**.' I can also talk about the other services we offer, in particular Information & Advice which can help with benefit applications & any other services which may be of interest.* Age UK Wandsworth | Our Services

Although Debbie's presentation is aimed at older residents, she makes clear that it is for all adults & has kindly agreed to do 2 presentations:

5.00-6.00pm - This may appeal to those who prefer not to go out in the evening.

6.45-7.45pm - This may work better for some at work or N/A in the daytime.

The talks will take place in a Saint Cecilia's classroom. There will be a notice on the main school entrance with clear directions. Reception staff will also help out if needed. Tea & biscuits will await!

If you have neighbours who you feel may be vulnerable to scams, do encourage them to come & maybe offer to walk round with them or give a lift if appropriate?

If you would like to come but need a lift, please email: admin@sgcara.org.uk or call or text SGCARA committee member Susie on 07734 604708

It would be very helpful to have an idea of numbers. Please sign up!

1) either through Eventbrite via the link: https://bit.ly/SGCARAAvoidScammers or QR code

2) or via the printed form below

IF YOU DON'T GET TO SIGN UP IN ADVANCE, YOU ARE STILL WELCOME TO THE EVENT

HOW TO AVOID BEING SCAMMED! Monday 23rd Sept Saint Cecilia's School
5.00-6.00pm or 6.45-7.45pm

Contact Name(s) _____

Contact Address _____

Phone _____ Email._____

I plan to attend: 5.00- 6.00pm 6.45-7.45pm **Please circle the time you plan to come**

Please return this slip to any of these 3 addresses:

1 Combemartin Rd, 14 Girdwood Rd, M3 Gilbert Scott Building

- We are very sad to report that **Abundance Southfields** have had to close operations. You may remember that 'Reaching out to Residents' Jan 2023 included a plea from Richard Konig (indefatigable master-mind of Abundance Southfields) for new premises.
Nothing was forthcoming, including from Richard's requests to the council.

- Richard says: *'I tried hard to find suitable premises. When the summer comes this is a big operation that requires working space, power & water plus plenty of storage for pallets of bottles as well as the equipment. Most requires storage throughout the year. Some of the equipment is going to the Fruiting Tooting group that we gave some initial funding to last year.*
We'll decide on the rest after we have sold off the last of the cider & vinegar.'

- Abundance Southfields will make a final appearance at **Southfields Harvest** on the 28th Sept 12.00-3.00pm at St Barnabas Church – 144 Lavenham Rd SW18 5EP to sell the remaining cider.
Ironically 2024 is a bumper year for produce. WhatsApp groups have been buzzing with residents offering a variety of fabulous fruit. A box of fruit left out with a '*help yourself*' notice will soon disappear!

Thankyou Richard for everything you did to keep Abundance Southfields thriving since its inception in 2013. Its very sad that lack of premises has brought it all to an end.

- A professional couple are seeking to rent a flat in the Gilbert Scott Building in Whitelands Pk.
Please email admin@sgcara.org.uk if you can point them towards their des res.

- A couple of SGCARA residents have very demanding responsibilities caring for partners. These partners do not have mobility issues & we are wondering if any residents might give them an occasional respite by accompanying the partner on a walk? This might suit dog-owners who walk our local streets very regularly? If you are willing to give this a try, please email: admin@sgcara.org.uk & we can put you in touch with one of the residents who would really value just a little 'time off'.'

- Among the great choice of coffee shops in Southfields Village, the newly-opened '**Feel Good' Café** in Wimbledon Pk Rd is different. 'Feel Good' is an offshoot of charity 'Regenerate'. Their coffee shops & coffee carts employ youngsters who might otherwise struggle to find employment & also fund meals for children in need, including through partner-projects in Kenya & Romania.

- **WPCC** (Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators) have their annual Open Day on 8th Sept from 10.30am near the Windmill. '*a family fun day with lots to see & do':* https://www.wpcc.org.uk/ where you can also sign up for the WPCC newsletter to receive details of WPCC activities throughout the year.

- Good news from Saint Cecilia's School. The 'new' classroom block flat roof now boasts a full array of photo-voltaic panels (see photos – right).
- We understand that more panels are due to be installed on other roofs in due course. Saint Cecilia's hoped that the dining hall extension would start over the summer, but no start-date available yet. (We will receive that information as soon as available.) Not many residents would be directly affected by the building work noise, but there would be additional traffic for deliveries for a period.
- A new application is in progress for their astro-turf project (as costs became too high for the previously-Approved design). The playing surface would remain the same design & size. Saint Cecilia's cannot have 2 construction projects running at the same time, so the astro can only start on completion of the dining hall extension – maybe next summer?
- The 3 trees SGCARA gifted to Saint Cecilia's for their 'new' quadrangle are still doing really well, despite the extremes of rainfall & hot weather.

Photos: Bounty Energy

Important **TRAFFIC MATTERS - including update on 'THE BIG rat-run TRAFFIC COUNT' & Wandsworth Council's 'QUIET CYCLE LANE' CONSULTATION Pg 6**

If YOU, or a business contact, would like to advertise in: 'Reaching out to Residents'

please get in touch: admin@sgcara.org.uk

If you use the advertised services, please tell the company that you saw their advert in this newsletter

barnard marcus

Our Barnard Marcus Southfields team are equipped with vast local market knowledge and expertise to ensure that your home receives the attention it deserves.

We can help with selling, letting, buying, or renting, along with access to all those additional property services you'll need to ensure a smooth home-moving journey.

Call us today on 02088744106 - we'd love to help!

The Wimbledon PRINT COMPANY est 1946

HILLSIDE CARPETS

MAKING A HOUSE A HOME SINCE 1989

We are a family business, established in Southfields 1989.
We fit all carpets, vinyl flooring, wood-engineered flooring, laminates and luxury vinyl tiles
We always use our own company fitters.
For your free quote please call on 020 8877 9595
www.hillsidecarpets.co.uk

****

SUSTAINABLE SEPTEMBER (Wandsworth Council initiative)

Details of Sustainable September were included in the last SGCARA email-circulation (3rd Aug). The Council have suggested that **Sunday 22nd September should be a 'Car-Free' day**.
https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/news/news-july-2024/get-ready-for-sustainable-september/?utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery
This link includes information about micro-grants available for climate-action community projects.

- SGCARA has applied for a grant to buy plants, bulbs, compost & seeds for residents to plant round street-tree bases. This would take place on **'Car-Free' Sunday – 22nd Sept.**
- At the time of writing we don't yet know whether our application is successful.

- **IF** we are awarded the micro-grant, we plan to distribute the plants etc from 8 Skeena Hill SW18 5PL in two sessions on Sunday 22nd Sept: 9.30am -12.00midday then 2.00pm – 4.00pm, or until plants etc run out
- When coming to collect plants, residents would need to sign for them – names, addresses & the where-abouts of the tree they are going to plant round!
- You would need to bring a bucket for some compost to help the plants on their way, provide your own implements to prepare the ground round your tree…. and be prepared to give your plants a good drink of water afterwards & look after them, including continuing to water if needed.

- We are also asking for a grant for between 5-8 front garden trees. If your front garden has no tree & you would like to be considered to be given a tree, you would need to send us great reasons why you & your front garden should be chosen!
You could do this by emailing: admin@sgcara.org.uk or by dropping a letter to 8 Skeena Hill. Don't forget to give your name & address!
- This all depends on our micro-grant application being successful.

- If you already receive SGCARA emails, you will hear as soon as we know. If not, this is an ideal chance to join SGCARA & receive the mailings. Search www.sgcara.org.uk You will see that you can sign up online (by the QR code or link) or download a form to print. As it is well on in the year, please pay the minimum £2 & start to pay the new minimum of a fiver at the start of 2025.
- The grant-application outcome will also be on the SGCARA website.

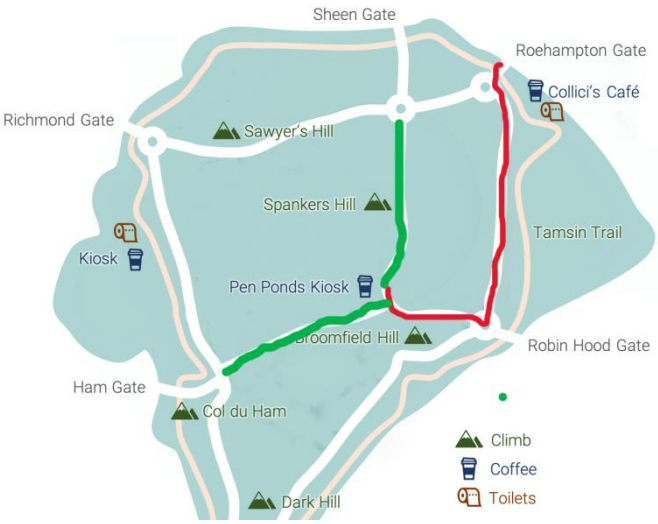
SUSTAINABLE SEPTEMBER - PEN PONDS CAFÉ Meet-Up - Sunday 29th Sept 10.30am

Bring 'Sustainable September' to a close by meeting your neighbours & getting to know other residents at **Pen Ponds café/kiosk, Richmond Pk, on Sunday 29th Sept 10.30am**. (café open 8.00am-6.00pm).
Ideal for cyclists – adult & children - but others could make it a really 'Sustainable Sunday' by travelling via no.85 bus from The Green Man bus stop (Putney Heath) to Richmond Park's Robin Hood Gate.
After chatting over drinks, brunch or snacks, enjoy the family-friendly cycling opportunities.
There are 2 wide car-free pedestrian/bike paths (**GREEN** on the map) for carefree cycling.

1) Pen Ponds café – Ham Gate path is quite flat, so ideal for younger cyclists.
2) Pen Ponds towards Sheen Gate is hillier, so perfect if your children are more experienced on their bikes.

There is a car-park (not marked on the map) by the Pen Ponds café (kiosk) to park with your bikes.
Car-route within Richmond Pk marked in **RED** on the map.
Map apps will show safe ways to cycle from Southfields to Pen Ponds café to avoid arriving by car.
Regular cyclists might join us for well-earned refreshments after some Richmond Pk circuits!

Pen Ponds café/kiosk has no roofed area, so consider the meet-up cancelled if there is 'serious rain' or gale-force winds!



Richmond Park

****

WPRC (including ALLOTMENTS)

Update from Stuart Pearson Hon Sec WPRC

(WPRC) Wimbledon Park Rifle Club is pleased to announce that it finally completed on the purchase of its site in Granville Road from its developer landlord on the 24th June 2024.

Readers may recall that the Landlord has made various unsuccessful planning applications over the years. Most recently he tried to obtain planning for a large children's nursery, seeking to win over the council by including a sporting facility on the site (junior tennis courts), despite an abundance of both nurseries & tennis courts in the general area. Wandsworth's planning committee unanimously Refused the application in April 2023 on strong planning grounds, backed up by over 400 objections, including from SGCARA.
Towards the end of 2023, the landlord agreed to sell the site to the Club. Consent to the sale first had to be obtained from the original owner - London & Continental Railways Ltd. This took time to obtain. *Finally*, a little over 120 years since the club first moved to the site, the Club can breathe a long sigh of relief!
Over the next few months, the club hopes to improve the appearance of the accessway leading from Granville Road & looks forward to its future with renewed enthusiasm.
The club is extremely grateful for the unwavering support of the community over the years & to those of you, including SGCARA committee, who took time to object to the landlord's planning application.
Once again, thank you!

SGCARA is delighted that the future is now secure for WPRC. We hope in due course you may feel able to offer another Open Day, so residents can see the whole space, including the wild nature areas & allotments so beautifully-tended by members. No hurry though Stuart. We know there is a lot to do & you all deserve recovery-time from the gruelling planning issues,

****

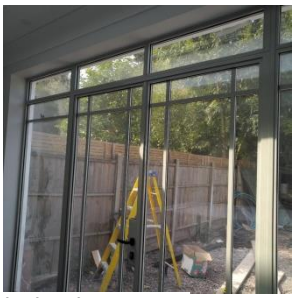
CELEBRATING our CONSERVATION AREA

No two 1920s/30s housing-developments are identical. Each has distinctive features. The charm & cohesion of our own Conservation Area is enhanced when residents restore original features to their properties where appropriate.

- In this newsletter, we are high-lighting some restorations made by 2 households. Would *you* like a mention in a future newsletter of an original-style feature you have restored/replicated in your house? (or apartment in the historic Gilbert Scott Building or old Wandsworth School building in Arcadian Place)? It might be a single loved feature or a larger project. Email us the story!
- From Valerie & Rick in Girdwood Rd. *'The property was derelict, having had no occupant for 9 months & in a rather sad state. We have always loved 1930s houses, both for the nostalgia of having been brought up in them & also because of the space & dimensions you have to bring your ideas to life. We also enjoy adding period designs back into the home. The Art Deco style was something new to us but now one that we love. We are trying to restore what we can in situ e.g. the finger parquet flooring - proving challenging with the thinness of the wood! We have kept the green pantiles when doing our loft work. We have managed to replicate the coving profiles, install new crittal-style windows & also a garden french door designed using an example of what was original to the property in the 30's. We had fun designing a replacement 1930s-style front door, with stained glass using ideas & colours from an original door on the street.*

It must be a joy to walk through this beautiful new front door every day!

original-style coving replicated



garden doors
- style & detail original to the property

Rick says: '*Eventually we will tackle the garden & install a much needed braai! (barbecue).*'

- We have also been admiring the progress of work on a property on Sutherland Grove, where the old UPVC porch has been replaced with a more traditional 1930's wooden style porch by new owners.

A sympathetic side-dormer extension blends well with the façade. We understand from the owners that they have also retrofitted two period fireplaces & kept traditional stained glass where possible. They tell us the renovation is still a 'work in progress' but it is great to see residents opting to modernise their properties whilst retro-fitting period features. As the owners say:

'*Mixing the old with the new. Optimising modern living standards yet meeting that of the Conservation Area!*

before…

restoration of 'original' style porch

before…

replacement period-style fireplace

2nd elegant retro-style fireplace

TRAFFIC MATTERS

- **THE BIG 'rat-run' TRAFFIC COUNT**

SGCARA Members (& others currently receiving SGCARA emails) will know all about the BIG TRAFFIC COUNT held on 25th, 26th, & 27th June. This was instigated to compile as much data as possible to demonstrate to our Councillors & council that further action is needed to address the serious 'rat-run' traffic issues endured by residents in some of our streets.
If you saw residents standing at one of the 3 counting-spots (Sutherland/Girdwood/Granville roundabout, the top of Girdwood Rd, or the junction of Sutherland & West Hill) earnestly operating clicker-counters & filling in record-sheets, they were part of the BIG TRAFFIC COUNT.
Thanks to residents spreading the word, we were joined by some members of St Michael's PTA who live on Granville Rd. Stronger together.
A SGCARA resident set up the SignUpGenius that made time-tabling volunteers so easy & another coordinated all the results into a spreadsheet – many thanks to both & to all who took part.
This spreadsheet especially demonstrates the high levels of traffic traversing the roundabout during peak times – averaging over 1000 vehicles per hour, validating the survey of an individual resident earlier in 2024.

- **QUIET CYCLE LANE CONSULTATION**

Since the BIG TRAFFIC COUNT, Wandsworth Council have launched a Consultation on the possible establishment of 'Quiet Cycle Routes', **CLOSING DATE 22nd Sept**.
Have Your Say Today - Wandsworth Quiet Cycle Routes - Commonplace

Routes 3 & 8 are the ones most relevant to our immediate area. The suggestion is to:
'Replace the mini roundabout at Sutherland Grove/ Granville Road with a priority junction.'

There are no further details given. A '*priority junction*'? Does this mean priority for cycles turning right from Sutherland Grove to Granville Rd as part of the Quiet Cycle Route (& vice versa)? How would that be implemented? Despite the shortcomings of the roundabout, we cannot imagine that residents would favour returning to a priority for one road over another at that roundabout, Depending on how it is done, creating a '*priority junction'* might help to slow traffic at the roundabout. It would in no way solve our rat-run traffic issues, but might be a part of the mix?

- At the time of finalising this item (Sat 17th Aug) there was yet another crash in Sutherland Grove.

A car, being driven (northwards) at high speed, came off the road, hit a tree, slammed into a front boundary wall, leaving the car a write-off & badly damaging a car parked on the drive. Miraculously the driver was unhurt & no pedestrians were in the vicinity. It could have been very different. Police were on the scene very quickly & have the matter in hand. This gives added urgency & justification for our efforts to get proper speed-mitigation in the streets of our Conservation Area where excess speeding is commonplace.

At present, It is hard to see how Sutherland Grove would be safe enough to be part of a 'Quiet Cycle Route'.

- **Please Have Your Say on the Consultation before 22nd Sept.** In our responses, we might like to include reminders of the serious traffic accidents & incidents that have taken place in Sutherland Grove & request that speed-controls are essential if it is to become part of a 'Quiet Cycle Route' . Important to ask for clarification about the proposed '*priority junction'.*

****

Answers to Pg 1quiz. **The 2 tall structures that look like lamp-posts** *are 'stink pipes' (aka stench poles)! In 1858 London, especially around the Thames, was hit by the self-explanatory 'Great Stink'. Engineers Joseph Bazelgette & Sir Goldsworthy Gurney were commissioned to create a London-wide sewerage-system –still the basis of our current sewers! Stink pipes followed the course of the main sewers, to release the gases in them. (This is why they are very tall!) They are usually at high-points in an area, grey or green. Some had very decorative features. The 2 in our area are very plain!*
The rampant red lion *is part of the coat of arms of the 2nd Duke of Sutherland. In 1833 he inherited Melrose Hall, later to become the Royal Hospital for the Incurables. It now has a much happier name - The Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability. The 2nd Duke gave his name to Sutherland Road, which became our Sutherland Grove.*
There 15 little red lions hidden in the newsletter.