

Reaching out to Residents

Feb/March 2025



Tawny Owl



Juvenile

These tawny owl photos were not taken by SGCARA residents **but..** tawny owls are heard quite regularly in our area, close to big trees. Like to support them? **(Pg2)** Spring flowers photos *are* from local residents (gardens & tree-pits). Fancy a **Rubbish Day Out?** **(Pg5)** Think you know the names of all SGCA streets & large apartment blocks? Try the **Wordsearch (Pg2)** Report on the important 30th Jan 'rat-run' traffic meeting **(Pg3)**

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 31st MARCH *******

SAINT CECILIA'S SCHOOL (Refectory) SUTHERLAND GROVE SW18 5JR

Not already a member? Need to renew? Membership Form inside (MINIMUM SUB NOW £5 pa)

From 6.30 REGISTRATION & BUFFET open to all members to enjoy, chat & meet new neighbours
DRINKS (wine & juices) Donations for drinks appreciated – cash or card)

6.30 – 7.30 West Hill Ward Councillors (Cllr Angela Ireland, Cllr Daniel Ghossain & Cllr Malcolm Grimston) will be at their desks ready & willing to hear your particular concerns.

Wandsworth Neighbourhood Watch reps can explain the benefits of the new, improved (W'worth & National) NW scheme. Join on the spot!
No NW in your vicinity? Learn how to become an NW coordinator.



Treadlighter are a nearby well-respected solar energy firm. Residents may be interested in installing Solar panels but unsure how this can work in a Conservation Area. Chat with an expert from Treadlighter who can answer your general questions. (See advert **Pg4**)

7.30 – 7.50 West Hill Ward police team 2 members of our local team hope to attend, update us on local current crime concerns, & respond to your questions.

7.50 – 8.10 Interval Chance to top up your glasses. Buffet still open

8.10 - 8.40 AGM – formal business (AGM Papers will be emailed & on the website 3 weeks before)

8.40 Dave Cobb (Business and Development Manager at Saint Cecilia's School) will speak about the various steps Saint Cecilia's has already taken to reduce its carbon-footprint & to help the school increase bio-diversity on its site. He will also outline ongoing 'environmental' plans for the future.

A SGCA resident (& Professor of Engineering at Imperial College London) will talk about his & his family's journey to retrofit their Sutherland Grove house - doing a 'passivhaus' retrofit within the Conservation Area guidelines – with external wall insulation, a heat pump & solar panels. There will be chance to ask both speakers your questions.

9.30 End of Meeting

Help needed at the AGM please! Pour drinks for a while? Take a turn serving at the buffet? Maybe offer a salad? a quiche? a cake? a speciality from your heritage? Email: admin@sgcara.org.uk

- Very solemn news indeed about a devastating diesel spill in the River Wandle. The Wandle item we had planned was to publicise the petition for the 'Missing Link' - creating a riverside walk-through under the big railway bridge at Earlsfield so walkers & cyclists do not have to make a diversion through a very busy part of Earlsfield, but can stay by the river:

https://www.change.org/p/fix-the-missing-link-in-the-wandle-trail?source_location=search The oil spill has made this seem rather irrelevant at the moment, but good to build momentum for the future. SE Rivers Trust have worked tirelessly for decades to restore habitat & bio-diversity to the Wandle. They are leading the clean-up work. <https://www.facebook.com/southeastriverstrust> will keep readers informed of the latest developments, including how help can be given.

- This is the first **Reaching out to Residents** since the 'Sustainable September' tree-pit planting on 22nd Sept 2024, enjoyed by a number of families. *'...great delight in planting to brighten up our street...Love it!'*
'a great local community programme'.



The crocuses & daffodils are beginning to flower. Look out for the wildflowers emerging a little later. We now know that the tree-pits, especially Sutherland Grove, need far more bulbs & flowers to make impact. We hope to ask for a bigger grant (if available) next September, so people can add plants & bulbs to the tree-pits they planted in Sept & more people take part! Read more about on the SGCARA website page '**Sustainable September**'.

- Saint Cecilia's School is looking for prospective School Governors. Dave Cobb writes: *'...especially looking for local residents with legal, finance, education or safeguarding experience, who support our Christian ethos & can attend meetings at school.'* dcobb@saintcecilias.london 020 8780 6706
- Offer a home for our local tawny owl visitors? Scroll down <https://shopping.rspb.org.uk/bird-feeders-boxes-tables/bird-houses-nest-boxes> incl. information where & how to fix. Maybe a swift box or two?
- Follow the twists & turns of the AELTC (All England Lawn Tennis Association) application at: <https://www.savewimbledonpark.org/>

Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Word Search Maker

SGCARA Word Search

The word search below contains the names of all of the streets & large apartment blocks within SGCA. They may be in any direction. Can you find them all?

C K C T R E B L I G J L O D J S E F T S
 S P E N C E R L N Y Z T O E Q M V P N Y
 F Z G A P F M N I T R A M E B M O C O B
 N M A L U X B A A A V L R T Z V F O M P
 Y A R O O G R H P N U O T K H M A F R T
 Y H C D N U U Z C D R J H M B G F L O Z
 B G A Y C A C S Y D G S N L F P I C T I
 B N D D E Z N E T U O O R X J I Y N S D
 E I I O M V O E S U T H E R L A N D K S
 R R A R O V T Y E T S J F Y S S W C X X
 E E N G S W C H A K E Z X J T H W Y Q H
 P H R D U I D G K L S R T A I G T D O L
 T S S J A X M R W U Q Q F T F D A T E L
 O S A F L C E E I M N F E J O X B I E T
 N R G B J T Q P T G O L S F Z C W L Y N
 W N I A V A N R E R A H N Q D P S A G G
 K T M F Q R B T D N A T D W L E N M V X
 R I Q K M S B U D C S L K J F N N W E H
 D G T S V T H S F N C L I N A X D V Z L
 Y M Z G W T M C K P H O K H S V D Z S D

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| ARCADIAN | ARTEMIS | AUGUSTUS |
| COMBEMARTIN | GILBERT | GIRDWOOD |
| GLOUCESTER | HANNAY | KNIGHT |
| REPTON | SCOTT | SHERINGHAM |
| SKEENA | SPENCER | STAFFORD |
| STORMONT | SUTHERLAND | WHITELANDS |

WORDSEARCH Which one of our local streets is not in the list? Look out for the answer in **PURPLE!**

TRAFFIC UPDATE – a Landmark meeting 30th January

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Attended by **FLEUR ANDERSON (MP)**, **HENRY CHEUNG (W'worth's Asst Director of Engineering)**, **Cllr JENNY YATES (W'worth Cabinet Member for Transport)** & resident-reps

A few residents in the quieter parts of SGCA may wonder at the focus on 'rat-run' traffic issues in SGCARA emails & newsletters, but the problem is all too real for those with homes in the rat-run 'hot-spots' - Girdwood Rd & Sutherland Grove (north of the roundabout especially).



MP Fleur Anderson kindly organised & led an informal meeting on the 30th January, bringing together high-profile council politicians & officials to meet with resident-reps from both SGCARA & Granville Rd/St Michaels School - all of whom had supported SGCARA's 2024 Big Traffic Count. The aim was to explore what else might be done to reduce the excessive 'rat-run' traffic & speeding.

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Leading up to the meeting, SGCARA provided the council with extensive information gathered from our ever-engaged & helpful residents, including feedback from the Summer 2023 Traffic Questionnaire, the results of our "Big Traffic Count" & some dramatic photos showing the damage caused by speeding cars.



Persuaded by this & other information shared by residents at the meeting, the Council has agreed to carry out its own new survey to verify the results of the Big Traffic Count. This survey should be much more reliable than the one carried out in 2022, which appears to have 'fallen in the cracks' between the two council administrations (& also suffered some data-recording failure).

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Look out for Automatic Traffic Counters (ATCs) appearing at various locations in SGCA, possibly as soon as March. These ATCs are the black tubes you see spanning roads from time to time. They are very sophisticated these days. The newest type can identify most different types of vehicles & offer a pretty accurate assessment of their speed. Locations for the ATCs, mostly suggested by the SGCARA resident-reps (Connor Guntrip, Freda Sedgwick, Paul Willatts & Rick Funnell) have been accepted by the Borough Engineer, so it *should* be 'All Systems Go'. Whitefield



In the meantime there will also be an appearance of more Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – the 'Smiley/Sad Face' speed-reminders - eg in Girdwood Rd.

Facing the fact that council coffers are very stretched & there are various traffic-challenges elsewhere In the Borough, these are positive steps forward after years of lobbying the council to acknowledge the ongoing severity of 'rat-run' traffic.

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Remember the Quiet Cycle Routes Consultation in 2024? The council are not proceeding with Route 3. This would have included a tricky right-turn at the Girdwood/Sutherland roundabout so is good news till traffic levels are reduced. Route 8 has been given the thumbs-up.



Residents may be disturbed to learn that: '*under the Council's traffic management policy the main criteria for intervention is the number of personal injury accidents*' (apparently standard criteria for councils). Hence the recent tragic death of a cyclist on West Hill is prompting TFL to look at ways of changing traffic-flows on West Hill. It is a miracle that no pedestrians have been hit when speeding cars mounted the pavements in Sutherland Grove & elsewhere recently.



ATCs in recent use in SGCA

**Keswick House Nursery in Putney
Primary Schools' Fair**



Thursday 8th May
Book your space by calling 020 8704 4857 | 42 Keswick Road

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*20% Discount until 31st March
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38 Replingham Rd SW18 5LR

<https://bosakitchen.co.uk>

SGCARA is very grateful to our advertisers for supporting the cost of printing 'Reaching out to Residents'

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RUBBISH DAY OUT

Come see what happens to our waste at Western Riverside Waste Authority
SGCARA Member benefit

see below for details (including important health info) and to sign up.

TWO OPTIONS:

10:30am

April

2

6:00pm

April

24



SGCARA committee is delighted to have been able to arrange 2 tours for SGCARA members of the Western Riverside Waste Authority (WRWA) facility at Smugglers Way SW18 1JS. As there are only 20 places per tour, it will be 'first come, first served' for allocation of places.

To make it fair for everyone, **there will be a single address - 8 Skeena Hill - for all reply-slips (printed form only).**

Limited to two (adult) members of any single household of paid-up SGCARA members

The WRWA organiser says: 'We can have 20 people for each tour. However only 10 will be able to take part in the additional tour of the machinery halls. This takes an extra 10 minutes for each of the two groups of 5 who go in. **People who are pregnant, have vertigo, or fitted with a pacemaker cannot go inside the machinery hall.** There is disabled access for sections of the tour, **but for the sorting machinery hall there is sadly no disabled access** & attendees will be required to climb several sets of stairs unaided. In the case of a fire alarm, attendees need to be able to climb down steep sets of stairs safely & swiftly.'

If you are not currently a member, why not fill out the Membership Form overleaf as well as the slip below?

Apologies that the reply-slip is rather wordy.

We have to give the WRWA organiser a list of names of those who have opted to visit the sorting machinery hall, making clear all have confirmed they don't have any of the named conditions or reduced-mobility.

We will let you know by email/phone if you have a place - where to meet up & also parking-advice.

✂.....**Please detach this slip & return asap to apply for one of the two WRWA tours.....**✂

1st SGCARA member

Name -----

Address -----

Phone ----- Email -----



I am a paid-up member of SGCARA & I would like to attend the WRWA tour on:

Wed 2nd April 10:30am-12:00 or Thurs 24th April 6:00pm-7:30 (Please circle your preferred date)

I understand there are only 20 places per tour & that only 10 people on each tour can enter the sorting-machinery halls.

Include the sorting machinery halls? **Yes please / No thankyou** (Please delete as appropriate).

If answering **Yes please** to the question above, I confirm I do not have any of the conditions for which entry to the machinery halls is prohibited (**pregnancy, vertigo, or fitted with a pacemaker**)

I also understand that the machinery halls require good mobility for several sets of stairs.

(WRWA regrets there is only disabled access for the main part of the tour, not the machinery hall.)

2nd adult of same household (if applicable)

Name -----

Phone ----- Email -----

I would like to attend the WRWA tour on:

Wed 2nd April 10:30am-12:00 or Thurs 24th April 6:00pm-7:30 (Please circle your preferred date)

Include the sorting machinery halls? **Yes please / No thankyou** (Please delete as appropriate).

(If answering **Yes please** I can confirm that I do not have any of the medical/physical restricted conditions.)



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:



You can also apply for SGCARA Membership via this PRINTED FORM:

PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO: admin@sgcara.org.uk WHEN YOU HAVE JOINED, so we can be sure we have your correct e-address. Please say whether have joined online or via 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 CAPITAL LETTERS – including for email address

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.

Name Resident 1

Email address

Contact number(s).....**Signature**.....

Name Resident 2

Email address

Contact number(s) **Signature**.....

Address

Flat/House Number **Block/Street**.....**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: The NUMBER of your block/street, then AT LEAST 6 CHARACTERS from the NAME of your block or street. This avoids any confusion, eg 1 Whitelands Crescent: Payment Ref should be at least: 1WHITEL

1 Whitefield Close: Payment Ref should be at least: 1 WHITEF

- 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, 7 Girdwood Rd SW18 5QS, M3, Gilbert Scott Building SW15 3SG

SGCARA information emails will be circulated to members every fortnight or so.

If you wish to stop receiving these, please let us know by emailing: admin@sgcara.org.uk

If your household does not have internet-access, please indicate here