

SUTHERLAND GROVE CONSERVATION AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.sgcara.org.uk

SGCARA

admin@sgcara.org.uk

Reaching out to Residents

March 2026



Reaching out to Residents can also be read online at www.sgcara.org.uk to access the links more easily
The banner photos are all from local residents – gardens, streets & street tree-pits.

A record number of new residents have recently moved into our lovely leafy Sutherland Grove Conservation Area (SGCA). Welcome! We hope you are enjoying your new homes & surroundings

For those residents who have yet to join /rejoin SGCARA. <https://www.sgcara.org.uk/join-us/> gives you access to an electronic membership form <https://forms.gle/q83Nvf6zzUhwcrTt8>
There is a printed membership form on Pg 4 of this newsletter.

SGCARA is volunteer-run, with membership fees & donations funding newsletters, events, meetings, the website, information on local services & regular news-updates via email. Just £5 minimum per year. Membership runs from Jan-Dec.

We are very keen to **attract NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**. We particularly need:
a **SECRETARY** (could be a job-share), someone with a keen interest in **LOCAL PLANNING**,
or organising **SOCIAL EVENTS**, or help with **NEWSLETTER CONTENT**
COULD THIS BE YOU? Download a Nomination Form from the website, email admin@sgcara.org.uk
A committee member will make contact to tell you more & answer your questions.

***** SGCARA ANNUAL MEMBERS' EVENING & AGM MONDAY 20th APRIL *****
SAINT CECILIA'S SCHOOL (Refectory) SUTHERLAND GROVE SW18 5JR

From 7.00pm REGISTRATION & LIGHT BUFFET open to all members to chat & meet new neighbours
DRINKS (Juices, Wine & **Wandsworth Phoenix Beer**) Donations appreciated – cash or card

7.30 – 8.30pm JOHN HATCH John was Master Brewer at Youngs Ram Brewery until it dramatically closed in 2006. He is now Heritage Experience Manager at Sambrooks on the same site. <https://www.sambrooksbrewery.co.uk/pages/tours#heritage-centre-tours>
John's presentation for SGCARA in Oct 2021 was legendary, (*as was the Wandsworth Phoenix beer he brewed & brought for us, & will bring for this meeting*). John is returning with more tales of his time at Youngs & the colourful characters he worked alongside.
John was awarded 'Best Told Story' 2024-2025 by Visit England. Don't miss him!

8.30 – 8.45pm Short Interval

8.45 (latest)pm SGCARA AGM – formal business. AGM Papers will be on the website & emailed to Members as soon as possible.
For reasons beyond our control, local election Hustings will not now be taking place at the 20th April meeting. We are hoping to arrange online hustings (via Zoom) on Wed 29th or Thurs 30th April. Details will be emailed to members. Another good reason to join up!

9.15pm End of Meeting

Could you offer help at the Members Evening?

Email@ admin@sgcara.org.uk

SGCARA NEWS SNIPPETS

- **Would you like to help children learn to love reading?** Currently a small number of SGCA residents go into local primary schools to hear children read & encourage them. They love it! If this interests you, a Wandsworth charity 'Learn to Love to Read' runs a scheme to train you up for this rewarding volunteer work, including safe-guarding training & acquiring DBS. <https://www.learn2love2read.org.uk/>
- **Wandsworth Neighbourhood Watch** We think that Combemartin Rd has the only Neighbourhood Watch (NW) group currently left in SGCA. Others fell by the wayside when NW was re-vamped quite a while ago & seemed no longer 'fit for purpose' to many people. A new system evolved in Wandsworth a couple of years ago & seems much better. How about starting NW in your street (or part of) or block? It is very straightforward. Find out how at: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/area/london-borough-wandsworth>

SUTHERLAND GROVE CENTENARY

A number of Sutherland Grove houses are 100 years old in 2026! At the time, various builders bought plots, each group of houses having distinctive features. *Did you know there are 6 distinctive porch-styles in Sutherland Grove?*

It would be wonderful to celebrate the Centenary, eg with a street party? This will ONLY be possible if Sutherland Grove residents come forward to help organise it!

If you would like to help, or have other ideas how to celebrate, please email: admin@sgcara.org.uk

Thinking of changing your front door? The 2026 Centenary is a perfect year to restore an original front door with its characteristic glazed roundel if you live in Sutherland Grove. Several residents have done just that. A new door will fit well & be double-glazed for heat-retention. Heritage with modern insulation!

'Absolutely thrilled with the quality of our new door from Good Looking Wood. Accurate and professionally fitted.' (Sutherland Grove resident)



MORE ABOUT KEN HOSKING – 'Chief cook & bottle-washer' of SGCARA till 2018

In the December edition of 'ROTR', we promised to include Local Treasure Ken Hosking's own account of his life in 50 Skeena Hill since 1969 in the next 'ROTR'! (*Has anyone lived in our area longer than that?*) We just can't bear to edit anything out, so here it is (*in very small font indeed!*) Ken is pictured with his front door (incidentally also made by GLW) with the glass roundel he & Rose designed together.



'I was born in 1935 in Australia. I came to England in October 1960, intending it to be the first stop in a two-year world tour: the plan was to spend the winter in England & set off to see the rest of Europe once the weather was warm enough. However, in the still cold February of 1961 I happened to meet & fall in love with the girl who became my wife two years later: Rosemary.

I was an accounts clerk at the time, and in 1962 went for an interview for a job as that with International Computers & Tabulators Ltd, a now defunct English 'IT' firm. By sheer good luck I ended up being offered instead the chance to become a computer programmer, leading to a 38-year-long career in IT. I ended up as a 'Business Data Structures Analyst' (don't ask!)

In 1967, when I was working for an Australian firm in London, and being paid in Australian dollars, Harold Wilson (my all-time favourite English Prime Minister) devalued the English pound by 17%, & thus handed me an unexpected & completely unearned 25% pay rise! Rose & I saved the extra cash. In 2 years we had enough to put down a deposit on 50 Skeena Hill, into which we moved in December 1969.

In those days some of the estate agents didn't talk about 'Southfields', they referred to it as 'Putney borders'. It seemed to me that it was when the Ahmadiyya community arrived here in the early 1970s & its members rejuvenated the shopping centre & thus the whole area, that Southfields came up in the world to become the highly desirable suburb it is today. (A few years ago I saw an estate agent's ad describing a house in Colliers Wood as being in 'Southfields borders!')

Sadly, both my daughters moved away - a long way away - to Australia. Rose, having succumbed to vascular dementia, died in 2020, leaving me alone in the house.

However in 2022 I was introduced to Clive Barham Carter, a former headmaster of the great public school Charterhouse in Godalming, Surrey. We 'clicked' at once & quickly became close friends. Early in 2024 Clive's wife, who had been suffering from cancer & for whom he had been effectively a live-in carer for well over 10 years, died. In 2025 Clive suggested I move to Godalming & indeed share his house. So for me this was the perfect opportunity to 'move on' & I have taken it.

In the circumstances, I cannot say I am 'sorry' to leave Southfields: it is just that all good things come to an end, and this is it. I hope Charles & Katherine Blennerhassett will be as happy in Southfields as I was for the past 57 years.'

Welcome Charlie, Kat & family! They say *'We so loved meeting Ken & are well aware we have impossibly big & special shoes to fill there, but we'll try our best! Ken has taken such great care of No. 50 & we feel so lucky to be the next caretakers'*

Other long-standing residents must have equally-fascinating stories to tell. Please send them in!

COUNCIL 'SCHOOL STREETS' CONSULTATION – Sutherland Grove

It is ironic that fact-finding & subsequent action over the School Streets consultation absorbed so much time that 'Reaching out to Residents' has ended up 2-3 weeks behind schedule. You won't be reading it until well after the consultation closes on the 29th March. So why write about it now? None of us know quite what will happen after analysis of the consultation-responses. Good to be as informed as possible. You can find the '**5 Key Concerns**' from the SGCARA petition against the School Street proposal on the SGCARA website.

- **Reminder:** The proposal envisages the closure of Sutherland Grove to all but pedestrians, cycles, scooters & exempt traffic between Combemartin Rd & Skeena Hill, from 8.00-9.00am & 2.45-4.00pm Monday to Friday (term-time). Saint Cecilia's School is of course within that stretch of Sutherland Grove.
- All appears very rushed by the council. No real indication of the School Streets proposal until Cllr Malcolm Grimston included some details in his email of 24th Feb. Just 6 days later (2nd March), the consultation letters arrived. Surprisingly, **Whitelands Crescent** was not included, despite the fact that some Saint Cecilia's School parents already park there to collect their children. Parts of **Arcadian Place/Artemis Place** appear to have been left out of the consultation letter-drop too. Could have also included **Granville Rd** as it already suffers rat-run traffic. This all suggests that particular council dept hasn't done enough home-work on current parent-parking patterns or how the 'rat-run' traffic works in our locality & how much worse displacement of traffic might make it.
- Cllr Malcolm Grimston obtained statistics from the council indicating that the number of traffic 'incidents' in the proposed 'School Street' location in the 'restricted' times is tiny & the number of complaints from residents about poorly-parked vehicles in that same location throughout 2025 can be counted on one hand. The 'problem' doesn't merit this 'solution'. Is the proposal a covert way to appear to be addressing our local rat-run problem?
- The final results for the December 2025 Traffic Survey for local roads were on display at the 24th March consultation drop-in, as part of the School Streets data. The final data & report for the March 2025 Traffic Survey have *still* not been released. How is that possible? SGCARA has been given the veiled suggestion that the latter results do not merit intervention. The Dec 2025 data shows Girdwood Rd to have 475 (presumably motorised) vehicles counted 8.00-9.00am & 516 counted 3.00-4.00pm. (586 & 587 for 4.00-5.00pm & 5.00-6.00pm respectively). Our understanding is that is way above the threshold for intervention. The numbers of vehicles pouring into London via the A3 & other trunk roads is challenging for any local solution. A comprehensive, over-arching solution to reduce car-commuting is likely to be one that no politician will dare to touch.
- A local resident with experience of a 'School Street' school elsewhere in SW London said *'a School Street does not make the street safer for the children. They develop a completely false sense of security within the zone. It's therefore extremely perilous for pedestrians & (permitted) drivers in & around the zone during the controlled hours, as children cycle in the middle of the road, dart in between parked cars on micro scooters, & so on'*. This was a primary school, but challenges likely to be similar for secondary.
- From discussions with those experienced in School Streets, SGCARA understands that the real danger-points are at the edges of the restricted zones, where children suddenly face extra displaced traffic. The tight, narrow Combemartin Rd/Sutherland Grove junction would be of particular concern.
- At the drop-in session on the 24th March, the council official indicated that the installation of a safe (pelican?) crossing was 'possible'. We hope you agree that the Saint Cecilia's pupils are in the main well-behaved & would quickly learn to cross only at an 'official' crossing. This would also 'calm' traffic. Poor parent-parking could surely be resolved by random attendance by Traffic Wardens. This happens at some other schools.
- We have been promised that if local opposition against the proposed School Street trial is very strong from the consultation-responses, the trial will not go ahead. The concern now is to ensure that the results of the consultation will be completely transparent & shared openly.



If YOU or a business contact would like to advertise in 'Reaching out to Residents' please get in touch at:

admin@sgcara.org.uk

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

Published by Sutherland Grove Conservation Area Residents Association



SUTHERLAND GROVE CONSERVATION AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP 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. Members' data is used by SGCARA volunteers 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**.....

Address

Flat/House Number**Block/Street**.....**Post Code**.....

Name Resident 2

Email address

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

Membership (Subscription Year 1st Jan – 31st Dec

I wish to continue I wish to join

Minimum £5 per property plus whatever donation you would like to give.

Total amount being paid £..... Please indicate payment-method below

I am setting up a Standing Order (to be paid by the end of January each year)

Payee Name: SGCARA **Account No:** 9086 1456 **Sort code:** 20-90-69

Payment Ref: **The NUMBER of your block/street, then the first 6 CHARACTERS from the NAME of your block or street, plus however much of your surname character-limit allows.**

**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**

I am paying by bank transfer (using payment ref described above)

I am paying by cash or 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

****By signing this form I consent to SGCARA retaining my data in accordance with its Data Privacy Policy****