



Autumn 2017 edition

**AGM – Tuesday 9 January 2018 at 7pm**  
Strand on the Green Junior School  
(Brooks Lane entrance)

## The Chairman's Foreword

Welcome to this edition of *Signals*.

OH GIVE ME YOUR PITY  
I CHAIR A COMMITTEE WHICH MEANS THAT FROM  
MORNING TO NIGHT  
WE ATTEND AND AMEND AND CONTEND AND DEFEND  
WITHOUT A CONCLUSION IN SIGHT

WE CONFER AND CONCUR  
WE DEFER AND DEMUR AND REITERATE ALL OF OUR  
THOUGHTS.  
WE REVISE THE AGENDA WITH FREQUENT ADDENDA  
AND CONSIDER A LOAD OF REPORTS

WE COMPOSE AND PROPOSE WE SUPPOSE AND OPPOSE  
AND THE POINTS OF PROCEDURE ARE FUN.  
BUT THOUGH VARIOUS NOTIONS ARE BROUGHT UP AS  
NEW MOTIONS  
THERE'S TERRIBLE LITTLE GETS DONE

WE GET VERBAL ABUSE AND ARE TOLD WE'RE NO USE  
WHEN WE SUPPORT THE MAJORITY VOTE  
BE IT FOOTBALL OR PARKING, LITTER OR DOGS BARKING  
WE ALWAYS END UP THE SCAPE-GOAT

WE GET CALLED OUT TO MEETINGS WHERE  
ATTENDANCE IS FLEETING  
AND THE SUBJECTS ARE VERY DIVERSE  
BUT WE CHERISH THE FACT THERE'S NO NEED TO REACT  
INDEED IT IS QUITE THE REVERSE

WE RESOLVE AND ABSOLVE BUT WE NEVER DISSOLVE  
SINCE IT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR US:  
'TWOULD BE A GREAT PITY TO END OUR COMMITTEE  
WHERE ELSE COULD WE MAKE SUCH A FUSS?

### Local nature report

It has been a good year for local bird-life with an increase in the numbers of Egyptian Geese and plentiful Canada Geese, some of which appear to be cross-breeding with the Greylags that occasionally land up on the river. Oliver's Island is a popular (and noisy) roosting and nesting site. To add to the regular Mallard ducks, Cormorants, Coots, Moorhens and various gulls, there have been sightings of the occasional Little Egret, Mandarin Ducks, Teal, Great Crested and Little Grebes. A pair of Peregrine falcons, which might possibly have reared a chick this year, can sometimes be seen flying from the top of the Kew Pumping Station water tower.

Neighbourhood foxes make use of the foreshore at night to fish for the large bream that abound in the river, leaving the remains of their feast in local gardens. Grey Herons continue to lay waste to luckless goldfish in local ponds.



### Another blue plaque for Strand on the Green



The Heritage Foundation has installed a blue plaque to none other than actor Donald Pleasence OBE, who once lived at 11 Strand on the Green. The plaque was unveiled on a rather windy Sunday 22 October by actress Vicki Michelle (of 'Allo 'Allo! fame). Quite a crowd attended the event and included members of Mr Pleasence's family, friends, the current owners of number 11 and neighbours. Donald Pleasence's notable film roles include psychiatrist Dr. Sam Loomis in *Halloween* and most of its sequels and the villain Ernst Stavro Blofeld in the James Bond film *You Only Live Twice*.

We have posted some video footage of the unveiling on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SoGAssn/>

### Credit where credit is due

Most of us have many gripes with LBH but on this occasion we must congratulate Hounslow Highways when it comes to graffiti removal. Since the last edition of *Signals* our area has been sprayed left, right and centre with graffiti, should it be under Kew Bridge, on gable walls, telecommunication boxes or elsewhere and every time we reported it HH took action within 24 hours. SoGA does its best to report graffiti when we see it but we would encourage you to be proactive too. You can report issues on the HH website at: <http://www.hounslowhighways.org/38-contact-us.html>

### Rubbish and recycling yet again



Without preaching to (most of) the converted, please may we remind you that wheelie bins and coloured boxes should not be placed on the pavements until very late on Tuesday evenings or early Wednesday mornings. Unfortunately some residents are placing bins and boxes on the Thames Road pavements as early as Tuesday morning. We have been informed that enforcement action will be taken by Hounslow Highways should this practice continue. Don't say you haven't be told!

### Summer party 2017

The summer party was held again in the garden of St. Paul's Church with the kind permission of Rev'd Michael. We had a turn-out of around 85 members and their guests. Live music was provided by The Ukaye Ukes.

The SoGA committee would again like to thank our sponsors Knight Frank (Chiswick), Riverhomes and The Pier House Trust. Thanks also to Fiona and her staff from The Bell & Crown who provided beer and wine throughout the evening and to all those who provided donations for our raffle.

We are especially indebted to Susie Collinson who worked very hard in producing such a successful evening. It is with regret that we report that Susie

has decided to step down from the SoGA committee. We thank her for all her help over the last two years. We also thank all the volunteers who helped set up the garden and also helped with the clear up on Sunday morning.

Our raffle raised an amazing £860 - half of that amount was donated to the Red Cross Grenfell Tower appeal and half to Age Concern Chiswick.



Video footage of some rather dodgy dancing is available on our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/SoGAssn/>

### SoGA website forum and social media accounts

Our website can be found at:

<http://www.strandonthegreen.org.uk>



On Twitter we are @SoGAssn



And on Facebook you can find us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/SoGAssn/>



### Latest crime figures for Riverside Ward

CRIME	MONTH	PERIOD 2017	PERIOD LAST YEAR	NOTES
Burglary	June	11		Commercial 0
	July	8		Commercial 0
	August	9		Commercial 4
Theft of Motor Vehicle	June	6	+5	
	July	5	No change	
	August	4	+1	
Theft From Motor Vehicle	June	3	-11	
	July	5	-4	
	August	16	+7	
Theft of Pedal Cycles	June	9	+1	
	July	4	-1	
	August	6	+5	
Damage to Motor Vehicles	June	1	-5	
	July	1	-5	
	August	1	-1	

#### Update on the street cleansing schedule

There is a schedule available on the LBH website of when street cleansing is meant to occur on each street. It should take place in every street every other week at the very least. The council term them as Week One and Week Two.

The next **Week One** starts on **6 November** and the next **Week Two** starts on **13 November**, alternating thereafter, if you want to keep a check on your road.

#### The following roads are inspected/cleansed on a Monday in Week One:

Spring Grove / Hearne Road / Pymont Road / Meade Close / Geraldine Road / Waldeck Road / Thames Road / Post Office Alley / Strand on the Green / Bell Alley / Grove Row

#### And on a Tuesday in Week One:

Riverview Road / Riverview Grove

#### The following roads are inspected/cleansed on a Monday in Week Two:

Thames Road / Loraine Road / Footpath from Herbert to Ernest Gardens / Ernest Gardens /

Herbert Gardens / Magnolia Road / Brooks Lane / Oliver Close / Strand on the Green / Ship Alley / Grove Row / Post Office Alley / Bell Alley

We hope this helps you to keep tabs on what is happening in your road so you can keep the council informed of any failures with respect to the schedule.

#### Farewell to PCSO Paul Kingsmill

We are very sorry to announce the departure of Paul Kingsmill from the Met Police. Many members and local residents will know Paul well as his devotion to duty as our local PCSO in the Riverside Ward over the past five years has been exceptional. It was Paul who really established and organised the regular meetings of local representatives with the local police via the Ward Panel Committee and at this moment in time we don't know whether Paul will be replaced or whether these Panel meetings will continue. We, members of the Panel, are currently working with the police to try to ensure there is continuity so that we do get access to the crime figures and details of successful outcomes to reported crime.

We wish Paul the very best in the future and express our thanks for his tremendous hard work in our community in the face of adversity!

NR

#### The Cycle Superhighway 9 – proposed in Chiswick

A meeting organised by Bridget Osborne of Chiswick Calendar was held at the George IV pub on Chiswick High Road on 17 October. The discussion was moderated by brave volunteer Julian Worricker and various individuals on both sides of the argument were represented on the panel. The topic raised some contentious issues but overall the meeting was more civil than most who attended expected.

Local residents have until 31 October to make representations to the online consultation and details of how to do this have been on the SoGA website since the meeting took place. The meeting was filmed and can be seen on the Chiswick Calendar website.

The links again are as follows:

An overview of the proposal can be found at: <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/roads/cs9/>

And you can have your say at:

<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/roads/cs9/consultation/subpage.2017-05-31.8829156719/>

A few of the arguments FOR:

- Inactivity crisis – we need to be encouraged to take more exercise
- Safer than roads for cyclists
- Less pollution by cars
- The aim is to push the percentage of people cycling from 64% to 80%
- With the population growth projections we have to get people out of cars
- In West London there are no protected bike routes
- Bike routes also offer more protection for pedestrians

AND AGAINST:

- Cyclists often wear headphones and are unaware of their surroundings
- Cyclists are totally unaccountable for their behaviour as there is no way of identifying them
- Who will ensure that they keep to the 20mph speed limit as imposed on motorists?
- Chiswick is a village and these routes should run along main roads such as the A4 not through popular shopping streets
- Concerns raised by local businesses as to how they load and unload into/from their premises across the superhighway
- Concerns raised by Catholic Church when 400 spill out of a mass onto what is left of the pavement if CS9 goes ahead
- Cost. Tfl is paying for this and Tfl is funded mainly by car drivers

The meeting was assured that this is not a done deal so views should be submitted.

### On safari

A little while ago, our Chairman asked all committee members to write a piece for this edition of *Signals*. Since my responsibilities are emails and membership, which are not exactly sexy, I thought I would tell you about my recent safari in Namibia. When you mention Namibia the normal response is 'Loved it' or 'I have always wanted to go there'.

We had to decide how we wished to travel between camps – fly, guide/driver or self-drive. The first adds to cost which depending on the standard of

camp you require can be expensive anyway, and of course self-drive will be cheapest. The three South Africans who were coming advised us strongly to have a guide/driver, because of the distances and without a guide one would miss all the local knowledge and expertise accumulated in our case over 14 years. Arnold was splendid, with a great sense of humour, encyclopaedic knowledge and an accomplished driver.

One needs to remember that Namibia is the 5th largest South African nation of some 850K sq mi, thus in 10 days we completed some 2,640 km (1650 miles in old money) on mainly C & D class roads. The long days of travelling were more than made up for by the eventual arrival at splendid destinations.



The best day for some of us was a morning boat trip in a catamaran from Walvis Bay to see seals and dolphins which included a splendid lunch of oysters and other yummy things. And then in the afternoon a flight in a Cessna 210 for a 2hr+ flight out of the desert dunes, back to the coast.

CLH

### The Recreation Ground

The Recreation Ground is generally in reasonably good shape and is much used. Part of the fence around the dog walking area is in a poor state – we will keep up pressure on the Council and Carillion to rectify this in due course. Occasionally the regime for collecting rubbish from the ground breaks down but by and large it works, particularly if users actually use the bins provided rather than abandoning rubbish. A new Springer purchased with a grant from Hounslow Council will be installed in the play area in November.

DC

**Stop Press!**

The Chairman is pleased to welcome Victoria Fitch onto the SoGA committee to replace Susie Collinson who resigned over the summer.

**Then and now...**

We have been adding lots of old images of Strand on the Green to our website. We realize that some members may not have access to the website so we thought we'd start including some "then and now" images in editions of *Signals*.



Grove Park Road, circa 1890



Grove Park Road, 2017

**Strand on the Green Word puzzle – 14 place names to find!**

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



With special thanks to Riverhomes for printing copies of Signals for us

The image on our front cover is kindly provided by Alan McBride