Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter No. 246 Oct. 2018

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COMING EVENTS

Photo: courtesy Geoff Barrett

OPEN MEETING

Saturday 27th October 2018
at 2.30pm
Walker Lower Hall, Christ Church Parish Centre, The Green, Southgate

"A History of Mr Punch"
by Geoff Barrett

(See page 8 for more details)

Geoff will talk about the history of Mr Punch and how he changed from a live actor to a glove puppet. It promises to be lively, enjoyable, and with some audience participation!

PLEASE NOTE:- Although it will include a short performance of Punch and Judy, please be aware that this will not be an event which is suitable for young children.

See inside for:

- The latest news on the restoration/redevelopment of Broomfield House **page 3**
- Our stall at the Palmers Green Festival **page 6**
- The exhibition at the Enfield Museum on Broomfield House and Park **page 7**

Other Dates for your Diary:

Sat. 17th Nov. LAMAS Local History Exhibition page 5

Contributions to the January 2019 newsletter should be sent by Friday 7th December 2018
to the Editor: Colin Barratt, 48 Maplin Close, Winchmore Hill, London, N21 1NB
Tel: 020 3302 4997 e-mail: colin_barratt@yahoo.co.uk

Copies will be emailed, hand delivered or posted during week commencing **14th January 2019.**

Southgate District Civic Trust ~ Established to conserve and enhance the environment in Southgate, New Southgate, 7ockfosters, Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Hadley Wood.
(Registered as an amenity society with **Civic Voice**).

CIVIC VOICE CONVENTION & AGM

This year the Convention will be held in Birmingham on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th October 2018. As part of the Big Conservation Conversation, Civic Voice are using the convention to ask the question: ***How can we balance conservation and regeneration?***

The weekend will bring together a range of speakers who represent different backgrounds and professions, from national policy makers to community groups, who have helped inspire change in their local Conservation Area. The workshops, walks, talks and speakers will highlight specific lessons and consider innovative responses around the conference theme.

Looking at the range of speakers and events, it looks like it will be a fascinating two days. Some of our members will be attending, taking the opportunity to meet members from other civic societies, as well as learn from the workshops and presentations.

For more information on the convention, see the Civic Voice convention website: www.civicvoiceconference.com. If you are interested in attending, then contact me via e-mail: jane.maggs@btinternet.com .

Jane Maggs

WANTED NEW SDCT SECRETARY - CAN YOU HELP?

After over ten years as the SDCT Hon Secretary, I want to let members know that I intend to step down at the next AGM in May 2019. I have had a wonderful time, thoroughly enjoying being so involved with all our work and projects.

Clearly, an organisation like ours cannot function without the co-ordination and organisation by the Secretary, which is in fact an amazing way to be at the heart of this society.

So, could you become our next Hon Secretary?

The key things that the SDCT Secretary does are:

- Be the point of contact for SDCT
- Arrange and minute Executive Committee (EC) Meetings
- Organise and minute the SDCT AGM
- Organising two Open Meetings a year

It is entirely possible for these tasks to be shared.

If you would like any more information or a chat, please contact me via jane.maggs@btinternent.com or 074153 16818.

Jane Maggs

SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC TRUST PRIVACY POLICY

As part of our compliance with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) the SDCT Privacy Policy has been added to our website.

You can find a link to the policy on the ABOUT US page of the website: (**http://southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk/?page_id=940**). If you do not have internet access and would like a copy, please contact Jane Maggs on 074153 16818.

BROOMFIELD HOUSE FOR SALE!

Broomfield House and stableyard are being advertised in the Estates Gazette which identifies itself as "The number one title in commercial property, providing market intelligence, comment and interviews every week". They are also being directly marketed by GVA which claims to be "Britain's leading and most diverse real estate advisory-led business".

The ad lists Broomfield House and stableyard as a restoration and development opportunity. This breaks down in to a reconstruction and restoration opportunity for the Grade II* Broomfield House and a conversion and redevelopment opportunity for the stables (subject to planning permission). It invites conditional and unconditional offers and a long leasehold interest.

There are many supporting documents available to interested parties setting out the background to, and constraints on, this marketing approach. The constraints include vehicle access being by a Grade II* listed arched gateway. The Council believe that they have a solution to the issue of the covenants limiting developments in the park. Links to the related documents can be found on the Palmers Green Community website. **https://www.palmersgreencommunity.org.uk/pgc/planning-all-subjects/broomfield-house-restoration**

This position has been reached after six years of the Broomfield House Trust intensively lobbying and working closely with Enfield Council and Historic England to find ways of funding the rebuilding and restoration of Broomfield House. None of this has been successful, and this is the final throw of the dice.

In direct line with the Broomfield House Trust's registered charitable objectives the Trust (supported by the Friends of Broomfield Park) has continued throughout to press for the community interest and community access. Understandably, the Council has wider issues to take in to account and the marketing brief includes community access as a desirable, but not essential objective. If bids fail to meet their registered objectives, the Broomfield House Trust will have to consider its position. The Board next meets on 15 November but they would hope to have some indication of how things have gone before then.

This is the last hope for Broomfield House.

Colin Younger
(Broomfield House Trust)

HISTORY GROUP MEETING – 11th SEPTEMBER
"Across the Middlesex Suburbs" by Phil Crouch

Phil and his brothers

Phil came to talk to us about his memories of growing up in Oakwood and the similarities between this area and Harrow. A link between them is that they were both part of Middlesex, which politicians tried to abolish in the 1960s. He and his twin brother were born in Bounds Green, but the family moved to Oakwood and in the early 1950s lived in a flat above the Gas showrooms in Oakwood Parade, where his father worked (now the Oakwood Library). Phil showed a map of the area as it was then and had a number of photos of the parade and his flat and could recall the layout of it and his childhood around it. At this time there were still areas not built on behind the parade, which he and his friends played on. He went to school at Vit et Pax Catholic Primary, then to Winchmore Hill Collegiate School.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the main road in North Harrow was then just a country lane, similar to what Bramley Road in Oakwood was like before the Underground came. North Harrow Station was built in 1914, followed by St Albans Church, and a parade of shops. A view of the shops looked very similar to Oakwood Parade, which were built almost 20 years later. Oakwood's development started after the extension of the Piccadilly Line to Cockfosters, when Oakwood Station (originally named Enfield West) opened. Similar developments of mixed housing grew up in both North Harrow and Oakwood, which added to their joint history.

The speaker now lives in Harrow. Our member Eileen Bostle also lives in Harrow, knew his wife Paula and recommended him as a speaker. Phil is involved with St Albans Church in Harrow and our Richard Purver, who works as a part-time volunteer for Open House, helped Phil to get the church included in 2017 and again this year.

Do you know someone who could give us a talk at a future meeting? Let me know of any suggestions.

Colin Barratt

RODWINS OF SOUTHGATE TO CLOSE

It was announced a few weeks ago that Rodwins, the craft and dancewear shop in Crown Lane, Southgate, will be closing on Christmas Eve this year, after being in business for 59 years! It will be a sad day for all those who have used this shop over the years. The owner, Josie, is also a member of the Trust.

There will be discounts and special offers, so make sure you visit while there's time.

PLANNING GROUP REPORT

There have been 17 applications to consider since May and I have also reviewed Southgate Circus Conservation Area with Harriet Bell (LBE Heritage Officer). This was for the Conservation Area Management Proposals (CAMP) when every five years we look at the area and review its condition and make a note whether anything needs to be done to improve it. That covers planning and any buildings that have been left in bad condition which includes The Maze Inn that has still not been developed and was becoming a rubbish tip. I have noted that it is boarded up now. We have commented particularly on the disgusting state of the pavements around the bus stops beside the station and the condition of the listed shop buildings there.

There was a Public Consultation Exhibition attended by architects and head teachers to explain the proposals for a new building for Walker Primary School, Waterfall Road, N14. The existing one is to be demolished. The Walker Cricket Ground Pavilion is undergoing a change with a lift on the frontage for disabled usage and slight other alteration.

We had an application for changing to double glazing, where all front windows were to remain in timber frames in a Compton Terrace N21 property, which was a pleasant surprise.

The original office block called South Point House, N14 was changed to flats when it became "permitted development" but it was refused permission to build higher. We now have an application for a 3 storey rear extension to it for offices on Chase Side/Nichol Close. We cannot help being suspicious.

Here is a selection of other applications. A higher monopole in Hoppers Road, N21; a Tattoo parlour in The High Road, N14; Land at the side of Winchmore Hill station that is a Farmer's Market on Sundays proposing to use it on more days and for different events. There are obviously others that all receive our interest and concentration, and a report of our comments goes to the Planning Officers at LBE.

We are looking for members to join us. Our meetings are held at 6, Eversley Mount, N21 at 8pm. Please call me on 0208 364 3500 for more information about the role.

Irene Stone.
Chairman of Planning Group

Editor's Note
The last newsletter did not have a report from Irene due to her fall in March that made life difficult for her for a few months. We are very grateful that she recommenced the Planning work in May and we wish her well for a continuing recovery. Do call Irene to find out more about commenting on planning applications that might affect our area..

LAMAS LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

The annual Local History Conference of LAMAS (London and Middlesex Archaeological Society) will be taking place again in the Weston Theatre at the Museum of London. The subject this year is **"An Emporium for Many Nations: London Shaped by Trade"** and there will be a number of talks about the commercial life of London over the centuries. Details of the talks can be found on the Conferences page of the LAMAS website, www.lamas.org.uk. Tickets are £12.50 if ordered by 31st Oct. and £15 after this.

The Conference runs from 10.30am to 5.30pm. Before the lunch break the winners of the annual Publications Awards will be announced. This year the Trust have entries in the Best Newsletter category, so let's hope they like us. Unfortunately, there is no cash prize for this one, unlike when we won the Best Journal a few years ago for Oakleaves 5, but there is a certificate for the winner.

PALMERS GREEN FESTIVAL – 2nd SEPT.

Our stall at the Festival was a great success again this year. This is always a useful shop window for the Trust and we sold a good number of our publications, as well as giving us the chance to tell people what we do.

Thank you to those members who helped run it through the day, which was hot and sunny and brought out a lot of people to Broomfield Park.

We were given a good position, in the Dance Zone, and had a steady number of visitors, including our MP Bambos Charalambous.

HIDDEN TREASURES: REVEALING BROOMFIELD HOUSE AND PARK

The current Museum of Enfield exhibition at the Dugdale Centre (which has now been extended from 6 January to 23 April 2019) has brought back for many memories of their visits to Broomfield House and the park over the years, including the health clinic and the museum and particularly the glass beehive that was a popular feature there. As well as those shown in the exhibition, there are paintings of the house in the Museum collection on the first floor and a small display of related items at Palmers Green library.
For opening hours see:
https://www.dugdalecentre.co.uk/page/museum/

© Museum of Enfield

The centrepiece of the exhibition is the restored panel of Minerva from the 18th century Lanscroon staircase murals, funded through donations raised by Broomfield House Trust and a grant from The Enfield Society. This is very interesting to see though also a sad reminder of what was lost or damaged in the fire which virtually destroyed the house in April 1984.

© Natalie Gee

Dr Mark Banting gave a talk about the murals at the Museum on 11 September as part of a supporting programme of events for various audiences themed around the exhibition.

There is a video about the restoration by Arte Conservation and a film loop which shows extracts from the Trust's DVDs: *Southgate – A Glimpse of the Past*, *Southgate Celebrates the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II* and *Southgate – A Half Century of Change* and *The Recorder 1907-1916*. These are available for sale at the Museum shop as is *Broomfield* by Steven Brindle, which we reprinted in conjunction with the exhibition, along with our other publications. Members of the Executive and Publications committees present at the launch on 27 July were very pleased that the contribution of Southgate District Civic Trust to the exhibition received a special mention in her speech from the Mayor of Enfield, Saray Karakus.

The exhibition was jointly curated by Stacey Anne Bagdi of the Museum of Enfield and the Broomfield House Trust as well as external donors who lent objects and memories of Broomfield, supported by old photographs and postcards of Broomfield supplied by Enfield Local Studies and Archive.

Visit **https://www.dugdalecentre.co.uk/page/revealing-broomfield-house-and-park/**
https://www.dugdalecentre.co.uk/whats-on/tuesday-talks/

Richard Purver

OPEN MEETING – 2.30pm Saturday 27th October 2018

A History of Mr Punch – a talk by Geoff Barrett

Mr Punch can be traced back to Pre-Roman times and has a fascinating history across Europe. In this talk, Geoff Barrett will talk about the history of Mr Punch and how he changed from a live actor to a glove puppet.

Photo: courtesy Geoff Barrett

Geoff has been performing Punch and Judy shows in and around Barnet and Hertfordshire for over 40 years, using puppets and equipment he makes himself. During the afternoon we will have an opportunity to see some of the different puppets he uses in his shows and learn about their part in the story.

Geoff's talk promises to be lively, enjoyable, and includes a Punch & Judy show.

Please note: this talk is *not* suitable for children.

Everyone is welcome: entry is free for members, and only £2 for non-members.

Time & venue:
2.30pm Saturday 27th October 2018
Walker Lower Hall, Christ Church Parish Centre, 7 The Green, Southgate, N14 7EG

Christmas is coming!!!

Have you thought about presents yet?

I know it is only October and Christmas seems a long way off, but as this is our last newsletter in 2018, it seemed a good time to make a pressie suggestion!

Why not give a gift of membership to Southgate District Civic Trust to your friends and family? As a special offer, if you buy membership now, it will last right through to 31st March 2020.

It has to be better than new socks or hankies!

For an application form or more information e-mail **info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk**, or go to the **MEMBERSHIP** page on the website (**www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk**).

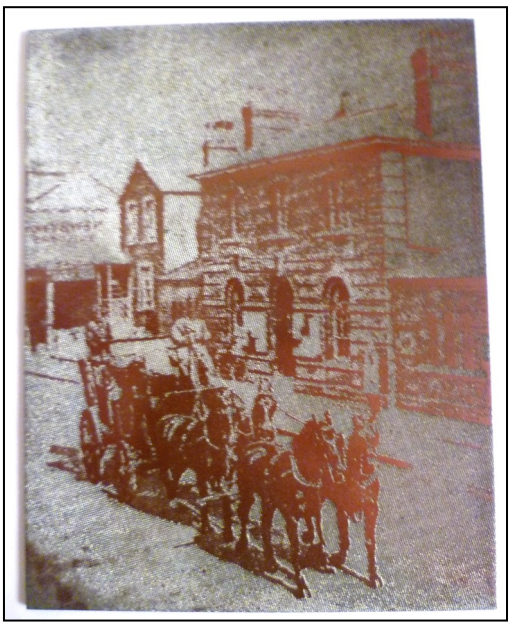
A DONATION OF PRINTING PLATES

Earlier this year we were offered a large number of printing plates, which belonged to the brother of a local man who was moving house. His brother bought them out of interest, to save them being thrown out, when the newspapers closed down.

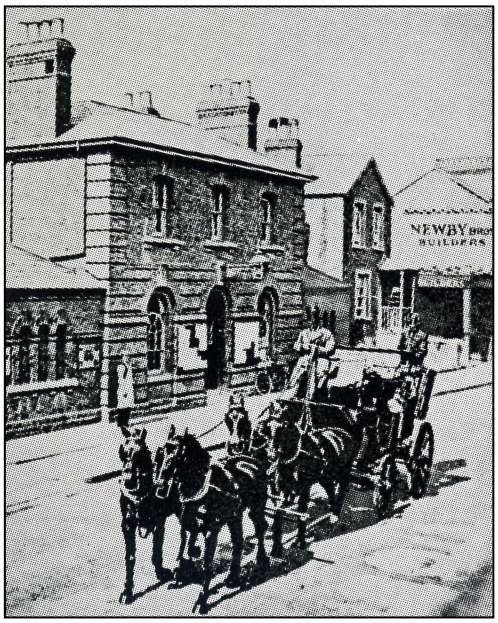
The plates had either local views or caricatures of well-known local people and had been used in editions of either the Palmers Green Gazette or Enfield Gazette. Helpfully the dates of the issues were written on the back of many of the plates, which were mainly the late 1960s, and Elaine Tyler and Colin Barratt searched the newspapers in the Enfield Local Studies archive to find what stories the plates were used with. This research is continuing.

We were told that the plates used the letterpress process, which is now obsolete. Many of these plates had interesting images, which we thought would be worth printing. Fortunately, a printer was found who had the equipment to make prints from these plates and so far a few have been done to see how well they would come out. The results are remarkable.

An example is shown below:



Surface of printing plate
(reversed view)



Printed image
(The Police Station in Chase Side Southgate)

We will be selecting a number of the plates for printing, while the opportunity exists.

PYMMES BROOK ACTION GROUP

Pymmes Brook

In the April edition I reported on the formation of a local community modelling group, working with Thames 21, to develop proposals for improving the water quality of Pymmes Brook, and reducing the flood risks within its catchment area.

At the end of July members of this group and similar ones working on other brooks, such as Salmons and the Ching, presented their findings and proposals at a Community Modelling Conference held in the old Turbine Room of what is now the Walthamstow Wetlands. The conference showcased the work undertaken by the community modelling groups, and offered insight into the approach and process. The community groups highlighted the potential improvements predicted and demonstrated how empowering local people can influence meaningful and sustainable change for our rivers.

This conference was attended by a number of major decision makers, including Thames Water, the Greater London Authority and Enfield Council. It provided a great opportunity to discuss the issues and effects of creating constructed wetlands at strategic locations along the length of the brooks.

Firs Farm Wetlands

The Pymmes Brook presentation announced the aim of improving the water quality by 28%. A study of the brook identified sixteen areas where constructed wetlands could be installed, four of which are in the Borough of Enfield, which would have a major impact on the water quality and flood risk. The results from the use of modelling software showed the effect of various interventions on these issues. The presentation was received positively, and it is hoped that the work will continue, with funding being applied for from council, government and private sources.

The Action Group hopes to create links with existing Residents' Associations, Friends of Parks groups and Enfield Council. The award winning Firs Farm Wetlands has shown that installations of this type make a big difference to water quality, while providing great habitat for wildlife and an attractive space for community use.

Colin Barratt