

# Newsletter

Southgate  
District  
Civic Trust



No. 200 April 2007

**Chairman:** Geoffrey Bone  
The Tower, Quakers Walk,  
Bush Hill Park, N21 2DE  
Tel: 020 8360 2289

**Secretary:** Position vacant  
For enquiries:  
020 8360 9563

**Treasurer:** Alastair Palmar  
5 Tintern Gardens,  
Southgate, N14 6AS  
Tel: 020 8882 9387

**Social Sec:** Janet Lane  
12 Norman Way,  
Southgate N14 6NA  
Tel: 020 8886 3303

## COMING EVENTS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 2.30pm.

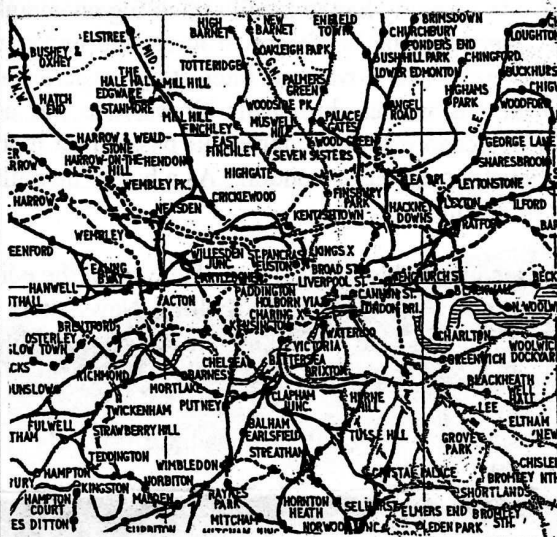
Walker Lower Hall, Christ Church Parish Centre, 7 The Green, Southgate, N14

The AGM is essential to the successful functioning of the Trust. It gives members an opportunity to question the outgoing committee and to express their views, also to elect officers and the committee for the next year. The nomination form for the new committee is on **page 7**.

After the meeting, Ruby Galili will talk about her forthcoming book on John Walker and his travels.

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that annual subscriptions became due on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Please send payments with the membership renewal form on **page 7**.



### HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007  
at 7.30pm.

Friends Meeting House,  
Church Hill, N21

“A Tangled Web:  
London’s Overground  
Railways”

by Peter Hodge

(See page 6 for more details)

### OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Mon. 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2007	May Day Fair	On Southgate Green 11am to 4pm (see page 2 for details)
Wed. 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2007	History Group	Subject and speaker to be arranged (Quaker Meeting House, Winchmore Hill 7.30pm)
Sat. 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 2007	Open Meeting	Subject and speaker to be arranged

### Contributions to the next newsletter should be sent by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007

to the Editors: Mary and Colin Barratt, 13 Beardow Grove, Avenue Road, Southgate, N14 4DG  
Tel: 020 8882 2246 e-mail: colin\_barratt@yahoo.co.uk

**Notice to Newsletter Distributors:-** We hope to deliver the next newsletter to distributors during week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

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

## **MAY DAY ON THE GREEN**

The Christ Church May Day Fair will once again be held on Southgate Green, on

**Bank Holiday Monday, 7th May,**

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As usual, the Trust will have a display and sales table, with our various publications available. We hope this will attract a good deal of interest. Please come along to support us. Proceeds from the fair will go to the Christ Church Fund and other named charities.

## **Ken West—an appreciation**

Ken West, a long time member of the Trust, died in January. He had been seriously ill with cancer for several months, but members who attended the Christmas lunch will remember his cheery presence there even though handicapped in a wheelchair.

A cheerful personality is how we will remember Ken - and his work for the Trust, which was that of a backroom boy, always undertaken willingly but not generally known to members.

In his youth in Devon he was apprenticed to a local paper becoming a linotype compositor, and as he was a volunteer air cadet in 1944 he was called up into the RAF. He trained as a flight engineer and was posted to a French Canadian squadron. When the war ended he had flown on eight operations (this was the average life of a bomber crew) and had survived many hazards - including friendly fire! The last sortie - to Hamburg - was aborted as they neared the target as British troops were entering the town. They then had to jettison their bomb load over the North Sea and consequently had to land in thick fog on an unknown airfield in Kent. Ken, in the tension caused by almost empty fuel tanks, forgot to lower the undercarriage until the last minute! When talking about the war Ken merely said it was an 'interesting' experience. I only learned the details when reading his memoirs which he had written during his illness. He was not demobbed until 1947 and during that time he had acquired a Meccano set which started his passion for model railways. He resumed his printing career and became a specialist typesetter in London. As a hobby he built a model railway and played trains with his friends for the rest of his life.

With his printing knowledge Ken was invaluable to the Trust. He was on the editorial panel and the publicity group. He spent four hours every quarter folding and labelling Newsletters and then driving me round delivering batches of them to the distributors. He found humour in every dull little job, and we will miss him very much.

Our thoughts are with his wife Audrey in her great loss, and we hope she will continue to come to our functions, if only the Christmas lunch!

*Frances Cook*

## **Report of Open Meeting, 10th March 2007**

### **CURRENT GLA PROJECTS**

Joanne McCartney gave a most interesting account of the structure and work of the GLA where she is the representative for Enfield and Haringey. Various topics were mentioned including policing and community safety, where 95% of the GLA part of our rate is spent on these services. The decrease of 9% in crime statistics for London is attributed to investment in these services including community police officers and measures such as knife arches (walk through metal detectors) and bus safety. Ms McCartney reported that 88% of transport into London is now by bus or train. Enfield and Southgate are the first areas to have low-emission double-decker buses and TfL gave Enfield money for street repairs, £50,000 for upgrading pedestrian routes and £50,000 for cycle tracks in Arnos Park and Broomfield School approaches.

The money for the North Circular road improvements was not sufficient to carry out the most expensive scheme, partly because of the £3million required for insurance cover, but dual carriageway improvements will go ahead with left and right hand turns incorporated to improve traffic flow. With traffic calming and avoidance of “rat-runs”, the whole area, with input from local residents, should be made more habitable.

It is hoped that the Oyster card scheme will be spread throughout the rail system when the “readers” will be introduced into all of Enfield’s stations by 2008/9.

The station upgrading at Oakwood and Southgate will begin soon, including better platform access and more CCTV camera installations for greater safety.

Climate change is being taken very seriously by the GLA. A large reduction in carbon emissions has been measured (thanks to the congestion charge), but with a projected increase in the number of cars in the near future, more must be done. Energy should be saved in offices and homes by turning off equipment at night.

The Assembly has a scrutiny body which examines the Mayor’s decisions and can be critical of aspects with which they do not agree.

It also covers other subjects, such as public toilets; neo-natal care; water supply, sexual health; health and safety; smoking in public places; MRSA; Post Office closures (PO currently losing £4m a week); planning and spatial development; the viability of local high streets and public buildings, particularly those which are listed and, finally, constituency issues. So, a great deal of ground is covered by the Assembly.

Questions relating to the North Circular Road, water supply and the possibility of raising the Thames Barrier were taken after the tea break.

Chairman Geoff Bone offered our thanks to Ms. McCartney for a most stimulating and interesting talk.

*Barbara Walsh*



**The Bridge carrying the Arnos Grove bound Piccadilly Line over Telford Road**

The photograph was taken just after both the bridge and road were opened in 1932.

## **North Circular Road (Bounds Green) Area Action Workshop: 20 February 2007**

I attended the Workshop, on behalf of the Trust, at Broomfield School. The event began with a video tour of the area, which is divided into three zones: Arnos Grove, Brownlow Road and Green Lanes. Most of the audience did not find this very useful and made their irritation clear.

The main business of the evening was an examination of a detailed map of the area in small groups and we were invited to make our comments regarding a number of issues: Environment, Transport, Community, etc. on the large chart, with space for our five priority issues. The groups then presented their findings at the end of the meeting. There was a considerable degree of agreement in the ideas suggested. Concern was expressed about the number of family houses that had been converted into flats and bed-sits and it was felt that the Council should limit the granting of planning permission for these purposes and that all of the empty and derelict houses should be reinstated as family homes. Action against rat-running in side roads was deemed essential. (In one, Seafield, the road surface is breaking up and there are numerous potholes from the weight of traffic.) The introduction of 20 mph zones was popular and gave priority to pedestrians. The proposal by Transport for London to replace the two pedestrian bridges across Bowes Road by light-controlled crossings had been condemned at an earlier public meeting I attended. Many of the participants were in favour of creating more accessible green spaces, tree planting - especially replanting where existing mature trees have died, and proper maintenance of the trees. The "Community" aspects of any planning were important to many residents, especially the need for Health Centres and provision for people to meet socially, young people in particular. There was general agreement that shopping facilities had deteriorated to an unacceptable level and that there was need to preserve and improve the shopping areas at Arnos Grove and the Bowes Road/Brownlow Road Junction to provide for local people. I made a special plea to improve the appearance of the Arnos Grove area in view of the fact that the Underground Station is of architectural importance and ought to be shown off to the greatest advantage. The surrounding area is scruffy and could easily be made more attractive and this is appropriate in view of the considerable sum spent by TfL on the station. Indeed, I think we ought to give more attention to those other fine public buildings erected in the pre-Second World War period, for example the Swimming Pool-Library-Health Centre complex only a short distance down Bowes Road. This was once fronted by an attractive rose garden; now the whole area is looking very down at heel. Then there is the Ritz Cinema, now the Jehovah's Witnesses Meeting Hall, and the shopping parade of which it forms an integral part. I wonder if the Art Deco interior has been preserved as it was when I went to Saturday morning cinema there. And, last but not least, there is Arnos (now Broomfield) School. I remember its light airy classrooms as a 12 year old and what a contrast to the dreary rooms at Southgate County School in Fox Lane. However, I must not give way to too much nostalgia; there is not much that I would wish to return to the nineteen fifties for.

The meeting was well attended and 71 participants were listed, mostly representing organisations within the area, and officials from the London Boroughs of Enfield, Haringey and Barnet. There was some scepticism among some of the invitees as to whether the Workshop would have any practical consequences, from bitter experience no doubt.

*Graham Beech  
Planning Group Member*

## **TOWN PLANNING GROUP**

There have been quite a few applications for removal or reduction of trees and, apart from the ones that are accused of creating subsidence defects to property, others have become noticed because of the storms and high winds we have experienced.

One such application is **St. Paul's Vicarage, Church Hill, N21**. This was applied for by 6, Denleigh Gardens, who maintain that certain trees in the vicarage garden were close to their house and that the roots of an oak tree were undermining their foundations and creating cracking in their property. This was a house built in 1969, whereas the trees pre-dated this by a great many years. One wonders why the foundations were not built taking into consideration any trees in the vicinity. This is found to be quite a usual situation, the desire for a developer or a private builder to build what they want at the time and years later want to have a tree removed that they consider is causing them problems. In this case it is in a neighbour's garden, who does not want to lose what they enjoy.

The Council set up a **North Circular Road (Bounds Green) Area Action Workshop** on 20th February 2007. Graham Beech who lives in that area and is a member of our planning group attended on our behalf. He has produced a report on it in this Newsletter.

**King Easton Garden Centre, Station Road, N21.** There is no further news on this.

There have been several applications in **Highlands Village** requiring rear conservatories or extensions. A couple of detached properties have asked for two-storey side extensions, and we have to make sure that in these circumstances the existing timber doors and windows are copied in any new extensions, and not changed to uPVC.

**Abbey Homes, Cannon Hill, N14** This development will be commencing soon. They have asked to use flags and large boards to advertise the new flats, but we have asked for this to be minimised in the conservation area.

We have a meeting scheduled for 18th April at 2pm, if any member is interested, at 6 Eversley Mount, N21.

*Irene Stone  
Group Chairman*

## **History Group Meeting 7th March 2007**

### **The History of Southgate Cycling Club**

From the first meeting of this year we have moved into the smaller meeting room at the Friends Meeting House in Church Hill, which should be a more convenient size for our group.

Our speaker, Tom Morley, has been a member of Southgate Cycling Club for many years, and his presentation covered not only the club but the history of cycling itself. He was accompanied by some other members of the Club, who between them had also brought along two penny-farthing cycles, known as "ordinaries". (These were not ridden up Church Hill, but strapped to the backs of their cars!)

Tom had gathered together many photos of events, both local and national, and club members dating from the 1880s to the present, and showed that the club had been active throughout this time, with some notable members. Among these were Charles and Herbert Newby, and also Frank Shorland, a New Southgate resident, who was a long-distance time trial champion in the 1880s and 1890s.

We had a good attendance, but Tom admitted that he wouldn't have minded if no one had turned up, as he had enjoyed researching the club archives so much! He had previously "tested" his presentation at Southgate Cycling Club, and the younger members had been amazed at the old photos shown.



We were able to examine the cycles after the talk, and the club members demonstrated how they were mounted. Perhaps I will ask Tom for copies of some of his photos for inclusion in later editions of the Newsletter.

*Colin Barratt*

**HISTORY GROUP MEETING**  
**A Tangled Web: London's Overground Railways**

London has an extensive network of surface railways, many of them built in the mid to late 19th Century. Peter will take us on a whistle-stop tour of the system, looking at its history and some of the places it serves. His talk will be illustrated with slides from his own collection, taken over the past 35 years.

**ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2007/2008**

**Vacancies now exist for:-**

**Secretary** - Although we now have someone to take minutes of meetings, we still require a person to take on the role of General Secretary.

The following members are willing to stand again:-

<b>President:</b>	Audrey Kirby
<b>Vice-Presidents:</b>	Molly Stanbridge, Chris Howell
<b>Chairman:</b>	Geoffrey Bone
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Alastair Palmar
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Janet Lane
<b>Newsletter Editors:</b>	Mary and Colin Barratt
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Irene Stone, Susan Jacobs

**Please use the nomination form on the following page.**

**HERITAGE WALKS IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD**

**Edited by Monica Smith, published by Enfield Preservation Society**

The Trust has co-operated with Enfield Preservation Society in the publication of this attractive 64-page book, containing six walks around areas of historic and architectural interest in the Borough. The text and illustrations for the Southgate and Winchmore Hill areas are drawn from the Trust's earlier publications describing walks in the local Conservation Areas. The other areas included in the new book are Forty Hill and Bulls Cross, Enfield Town, Edmonton and Enfield Lock.

There is a foreword by Graham Dalling, the Borough's Local History Officer, and an introduction giving useful background information on Conservation Areas, listed buildings, plaques and related topics. Clear maps accompany the walks, and line drawings illustrate them. The varying styles of drawing for the different walks add variety to the text. The soft covers carry a colourful photograph of Enfield Market Place.

The book is produced in a handy A5 size, and will make the perfect accompaniment to forthcoming spring and summer walks around the Borough's conservation Areas. It should encourage residents to get to know better some of the more distant parts of the Borough; the Edmonton and Enfield Lock walks, for example, can certainly be recommended to Southgate residents who may not be familiar with these areas.

Copies of the book are available from the Trust at £6.50 plus £1 postage, and may be ordered using the form on the following page. They will also be on sale at Trust meetings.

**Cheques should be made payable to *Southgate District Civic Trust* and sent with the form to the Trust at The Tower, Quakers Walk, London, N21 2DE.**

**NOMINATION FORM - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 5th MAY 2007**

**To: The Acting Secretary,**  
Southgate District Civic Trust,  
'Eversley', 2B Oakwood Crescent,  
London, N21 1PB

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for election as:

A. An Officer of the Trust, in the Post of \_\_\_\_\_

B. A Member of the Executive Committee

(Delete as appropriate)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to be nominated for the above position. Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC TRUST—MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Your subscription for the year 2007-2008 is now due, and it will help if you can please use this form, and send it with your payment to the Treasurer as soon as possible. At the same time we will be pleased to receive any additional donation to the Trust that you may like to give.

Many thanks for your ongoing support

THE AMOUNTS FOR MEMBERSHIP ARE:-

Non-Pensioner Household £7.

Pensioner Household £4.

To: Alastair Palmar,  
Treasurer,  
Southgate District Civic Trust,  
5 Tintern Gardens  
Southgate  
London, N14 6AS

I enclose my 2007/8 subscription: £ \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a donation of: £ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: £ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER FORM for Heritage Walks in the London Borough of Enfield**

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies at £7.50 per copy (including postage). **Amount enclosed** £ \_\_\_\_\_

Date: ..... Name .....

**Address** .....  
.....