

Newsletter

Southgate District Civic Trust



No. 204 April 2008

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COMING EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 10th May 2008 at 2.30 pm

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 9**.

After the meeting, albums of photos from our archives will be available for perusal, and Ruby Galili will have copies of her new book for sale.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that annual subscriptions became due on 1st April. Please send payments with the membership renewal form on **page 9**



HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Wednesday 7th May 2008
at 7.30 pm

At Friends' Meeting House,
Church Hill, N21

"Enfield in World War 1"
by Graham Dalling

ALL WELCOME

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Mon. 5th May 2008 **May Day Fair** See page 3 for details

Wed. 2nd July 2008 **History Group:** The Mystery of Middle Row by Richard Selby

Sat. 18th Oct. 2008 **Open Meeting:** An MP's View on Southgate: by David Burrowes, MP
(2.30 pm in Walker Hall) Past, Present and Future.

Contributions to the July newsletter should be sent by Friday 13th June 2008

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 14th July 2008.

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).

Identify the Location

We were surprised that no-one contacted us with a suggestion of where the mystery photo in the last edition was taken. It had to be Green Lanes, and we believed we knew where it was. The building on the far left was the giveaway. A brief check confirmed that it was still there - on the corner of Palmerston Crescent. So the photo showed the junction of that road and Green Lanes, looking north, towards the New River, and Kings Arms Bridge. The ivy clad house on the right has now been replaced by the engineering works, and you can just see Truro House, partly obscured, behind it. The terraced houses in the distance are between Broomfield Lane and Aldermans Hill.

The photo this time is hardly the London Marathon, but it's obviously an event which has attracted many local spectators, almost 100 years ago. Where is this Southgate start point? Does anyone know any more about this race? Was it a regular one, or just a one off?



A Letter of Appreciation from a Founder Member

Dear Geoff,

Greetings. As an Hon. Life Member of SDCT I have just received the Jan. "Newsletter". This is really just to ask you to convey to the Editors my congratulations on making it such an interesting and readable record.

I suppose it's too much to hope that the local community appreciates all the good work you do – long may SDCT flourish!

Best Wishes,

John Macdonald

(A note from the Editors: Members will have noticed that since last July the newsletter has been printed on better quality paper, and in colour. This gives us the opportunity to thank Raj Rooprai, a new member, who offered to print the newsletters for us, which has enabled us to include many more photos in the last few editions.

We also thank Diana Day for her work putting the newsletter articles together on the computer in their final format. This is not an easy job!)

May Day on the Green

The **Christ Church May Day Fair** will once again be held on Southgate Green, on
Bank Holiday Monday , 5th May
From 11am to 4pm.

As usual, the Trust will have a display and sales table, with our 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 Christ Church and the Nightingale Community Hospice Trust.

Coronation Queen Connie



At last September's History Group, and October's Open Meeting, I showed various films which had been made locally. One of these was Southgate Celebrates the Coronation, which had some of the week long series of events put on by the Borough in June 1953.

This included a procession featuring 24 year-old Constance Donnelly, who had been crowned as Southgate's "Coronation Girl", riding majestically on a float, with her attendants, towards the pageant in Broomfield Park. A thought occurred to me: is this lady still with us? If so, does she still live locally? If so, would she be willing to talk about her memories of the event? Had she seen the film of the celebrations?

Following some detective work by Trust member David Cooper, he discovered that Connie indeed still lived locally, in Winchmore Hill, so I rang her, not knowing what reaction I would get, with a call out of the blue, talking about an event in her life which happened more than half a century ago. Although slightly taken aback, and possibly wary of this unexpected phone call, she remembered the occasion, and how cold it was. Someone had thrown her a fur stole, to keep her warm on the procession. Connie had never seen the film of the local celebration, and would be interested to watch it. David had also tracked down an article in the Palmers Green Gazette from May 1953 which had the above photo of Connie and details of the competition to select the "Coronation Girl" from 35 entrants. The prize for the winner was a beauty treatment, hair styling and new clothes.

A few weeks ago, David, Mary and I visited Connie, and showed excerpts of the film to her and her husband. It was made by Edgar Chard, whom Connie had worked for at one time, printing photos in the basement of Camera Craft, in Palmers Green. She had also worked as a medical social worker at Highlands Hospital.

David had known Connie's late sister from their schooldays, and he and Connie reminisced about their local schools, and their experiences of school during wartime. Connie had once lived in the very house in Derwent Road which earlier, in 1912, famously had a small plane crash land on its roof! David presented Connie with DVDs of the Southgate Coronation celebrations, and the 1950 Chard film of Southgate. I think Connie enjoyed having the chance to see herself as a young lady, and the event she had been taking part in. We wondered whether a huge community event such as this could be successfully organised in Southgate now.

Colin Barratt

Open Meeting – 8th March 2008

The Council's Local Development Framework – George Simms

George Simms is Head of the Planning Policy Unit of Enfield Council and as such is actively involved with the current work on the Local Development Framework (LDF).

This Open Meeting, which attracted a large turnout, including a number of non-members, was intended to bring us up to date on the work he is doing at Enfield Council.

Enfield Council, like other councils throughout the UK, has been working for some time on its LDF. This framework aims to plan for good quality new homes, shops and businesses, improved transport systems and job opportunities. According to the council it will help deliver 'a healthy, prosperous, cohesive community, living in a borough that is safe, clean and green'. It is clearly a complex issue, with a whole raft of documents to be created and made available for public consultation. The consequences of this planning will be with us for many years, as it will fix the guidelines to be followed by future councils.

Enfield Council has now produced the final version of its core strategy, which outlines the preferred options. George explained that the core strategy is intended to determine, amongst other things, how many houses should be built in specific areas, the type of housing and to safeguard employment land against the continued pressure for residential housing. This document is available for comment and can be viewed on the council website at www.enfield.gov.uk/ldf or in libraries or at the Civic Centre.

As part of the strategy, four action plans have been created which will focus on the parts of the borough under particular pressure and requiring significant growth or change.

The four areas are:

- Enfield Town – to be developed whilst maintaining it's historical centre.
- North Circular area – hardly a surprise as this area has been severely blighted for decades. The action plan is intended to remedy the problems by creating one coherent plan.
- North East Enfield around Ponders End. This area has the most employment land in the borough e.g. Brimsdown and Montague industrial estates, but is coming under pressure for housing. The area is now being looked at as a whole.
- Central Leaside around the Upper Lee Valley. This will look at developing the Lee Valley Park while also generating more local employment.

These area action plans are intended to pull together the activities of the various providers, so that they work together.

George Simms also outlined possible changes to the green belt. Generally, the council are opposed to reducing the green belt, but some minor changes were necessary. One example is the removal of the housing development at Enfield Island Village from the green belt. Interestingly, requests from landowners to be exempted were unlikely to be agreed.

George went on to explain that as the LDF develops, more documents would become available for public consultation. These will be available on the Enfield Council web site and at libraries. Although there have been adverts in the local papers, many at the meeting said that they had not seen them. Clearly we will need to be more vigilant to ensure our views are heard.

There were quite a lot of questions, but one on the Olympics generated some discussion. While none of the Olympic sites are in Enfield, we cannot fail to be impacted, particularly as transport links will pass through the borough. Enfield Council will be consulted during the planning process and currently George is sitting on one of the Olympic working committees. This seems to be a controversial subject, which is likely to occupy our attention for the next few years.

Although planning is a critical area for councils and local residents, it has been very difficult for council departments across London to recruit and retain good quality staff. To address this Enfield Council have created a trainee scheme. Currently, there are eight taking part, some of whom have been working on the LDF. It is hoped to train and mentor these people and so keep them working in Enfield.

The meeting broke up with George reminding us to give our comments as the various documents become available for public scrutiny. He gave an assurance that all comments are read and considered.

I'm sure that everyone who attended the meeting will agree this was a stimulating meeting from a speaker who turned a subject, which could have been very dry, into an interesting afternoon.

Jane Maggs

*Arnos Grove and the Walker Family;
Isaac Walker the Founder of the Family at Arnos Grove*
by Ruby Galili



Southgate Beaumont, 2004



Arnos Grove c 1790

Beaumont, 2007



A new publication from Southgate District Civic Trust that recounts the early history of the Walker Family of Arnos Grove.

In 1777 Isaac Walker, a Quaker cloth merchant of Cornhill, bought Arnos Grove with its exceptional painted hall and 250 acres of parkland. His descendants were to live there for a century and a half. They were philanthropic landowners who made considerable charitable gifts to the people of Southgate and were heavily involved in local enterprises. Despite being Quakers, Isaac, his wife Elizabeth, his son John and daughter Elizabeth lived as members of the gentry; they had many carriages and horses, invested in enterprises like the New River and the Smallpox hospital, had fine collections of paintings, silverware and minerals. They improved the grounds of their park with several rare trees and plants and bought other local estates which came up for sale. The probable source of their wealth is a surprise, given their religious background.

Ruby Galili was led into researching the Walker family upon finding that her own suburban terraced house was on land that had once belonged to the family. After teaching history in a Haringey comprehensive school for some thirty years she retired to research local history but has the background to relate the local history to a wider context. This book is intended to be the first of three to relate the story of this remarkable family.



Isaac Walker

**Members of the Southgate District Civic Trust
are invited to the Book Launch on
Friday 25th April from 7 - 9pm at the
Southgate Beaumont, 15 Cannon Hill N14 7PJ**

**Light refreshments will be provided and
the Book will be available at the Launch,
price £9.95**

(Order form on page 9)

Town Planning Group Report for March 2008

Usually our Town Planning applications cover all our Conservation Areas, however we have recently had one meeting when out of 12 applications 10 were Hadley Wood/Cockfosters Road. There is a lot of activity in Hadley Wood, not all in the Conservation Area, and the developments are not being given the consideration that the area merits.

We are making enquiries with the Council about neatening up the triangle of trees between Eversley Park Road and Chaseville Park Road, N21. This would mean removing the broken white wooden picket fence that surrounds it at present, probably only being able to replace part of it (due to cost) and making the area neater at the edge where it meets the pavement. It would be an opportunity to check on the trees and foliage it consists of. It is a little haven in this position that we feel is worth preserving, and the Council are listening to us, and seem agreeable to help.

Truro House, Palmers Green, N13. There has been positive progress on a new scheme, which is good news.

In Highlands Village, **Land off Pennington Drive including Public Open Space, Kaplan Drive, N21**. There is an Appeal pending where the developers want 10 flats in a 2/3 storey block. This is certainly unacceptable to us, and the Council have refused it permission. There is very little open space in that area, and the space that we had hoped would be made available was reduced during the planning stage of the development of the site. We will be following this Appeal and as it will be dealt with at a Hearing by an Inspector we would hope to be present.

Most of our members will have noticed the works that have been taking place at Southgate Station. We had included the station in our audit of Chase Side and Southgate Circus, and we had a meeting with the relevant officers. Enfield Council is keen on de-cluttering the area of Southgate Circus, and we have provided photos and encouragement for them to do so. However, around the listed station the clutter is getting worse, and now more bicycle racks (badly installed) have appeared, boxes of free newspapers spilling on to the pavement, and recycling bins have joined the telephone boxes. Our new secretary Jane Maggs, who is also a member of the planning group, has provided photographs of the clutter and they have all been sent to the Council.

We will shortly be doing audits of the other roads off Southgate Circus. There is more to being on our Planning Group than just looking at drawings once a month and giving an opinion, you can see we take an in-depth look at all planning issues in our area and often use other members who are not in that particular Group to help us.

If you are interested in joining us, then please contact me by telephoning 020 8364 3500. Remember that if there is anything to do with planning that you would like to discuss or have investigated then call that number.

*Irene Stone
Group leader*

E-mail Addresses

There are occasions when we would like to contact members in between Newsletters and e-mail is the easiest and quickest way to manage this. Jane Maggs has asked for all members with access to e-mail to let her have their e-mail address. This can either be done on the membership renewal form or by e-mailing Jane directly to jane.maggs@btinternet.com.

Enfield Local History Unit

After much uncertainty, the Local History Unit will now be moving at the beginning of April from its present location below Palmers Green Library to a new home in Thomas Hardy House, at the junction of London Road and Cecil Road, Enfield. The expected date for the re-opening is 1st. May.

MoDA Exhibition

There is a new exhibition at MoDA (the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture), called “**THE SHELL GUIDES: Surrealism, Modernism, Tourism**” which runs from 4th March to 2nd November 2008, at Chase Side, Southgate.

The exhibition explores the creative forces that produced the Shell County Guides, a series of books which were a comprehensive guide to Britain, published between the 1930s and 1980s, and edited by John Betjeman. It considers their widespread cultural influence on our shared understanding of Britain and British-ness. The guides, illustrated with modern and often surrealist photographs and sketches, were aimed at a new breed of car-driving metropolitan tourists.

Then and Now - Cockfosters Road

The photo below, from our archives, was taken probably 100 years ago, and has been tinted. It has the caption “Cockfosters Village” and we initially thought it could be used in our Identify the Location feature.



However, it was easily recognised, and this present day photo is shown for comparison. Most of the buildings are still there, but the road is usually rather busier!



History Group Meeting 5th March 2008

The Christchurch Spitalfields Connection

Our first meeting of the year had Stan Rondeau explaining his family's links back to Huguenot ancestors, and the building of Christchurch Spitalfields.

Starting with his family tree, Stan took us back to 1685, when Jean Rondeau came to England, to escape the persecution of the Huguenots. Jean played a part in persuading the House of Commons to agree to the building and consecration of Christchurch, Spitalfields, and he served on the Vestry Council in 1728, a year before the church was opened. Stan showed us a map of the area in 1685, and then one from 1745, with the church marked, plus a small pathway nearby, called Rondeau Alley!

Jean's son John was Sexton at the church in 1760. His house still exists, a short way from the church. John had a son James, who, in turn, had a son also called James who lived in the Manor House at Bulls Cross, Enfield. The two James are buried together in St. Andrew's churchyard, Enfield.

Stan has maintained this link with Christchurch, by working as a volunteer guide there once a week.

Colin Barratt

The Ladderswood Estate

This estate was created as part of the redevelopment of New Southgate in the 1960s and 1970s. For most of its life it has probably remained largely unnoticed by anyone passing through the area, as it lies a little away from the main routes of the North Circular Road and Station Road. However, in 2005, its central tower block, Curtis House, suddenly became national news after some of the failed London bombers were traced to a flat there.

This may have been seen as the last straw in the estate's troubled history, for Enfield Council are now thinking about the future of the estate, and have enlisted a company to conduct surveys and consultations with residents of the estate and the surrounding area, to get their opinions on what should be done with it.

Three options have been put forward for consideration:

1. to refurbish the current Ladderswood Estate
2. to demolish the estate
3. to demolish both the estate and the adjoining Industrial Estate

In door to door surveys, there seemed to be a fairly even split between those who preferred new homes and those wanting them refurbished. The surveys also found that most were unhappy with security and the repair and maintenance of their blocks. There was a consultation event recently, where residents were given the opportunity to make their views known, and comment on the options. More consultations and meetings with residents are planned, and Enfield Council is being kept informed. If the decision is made to demolish the estate, it will result in a major redevelopment of this central area of New Southgate. Assurances have been given that the adjacent Millennium Green open space will not be affected.

Colin Barratt

Elections to the Executive Committee 2008/2009

The following members are willing to stand again:

President	Audrey Kirby
Vice-Presidents	Molly Stanbridge, Chris Howell
Chairman	Geoffrey Bone
Secretary	Jane Maggs
Treasurer	Alastair Palmar
Membership Secretary	Janet Lane
Newsletter Editors	Mary and Colin Barratt
Committee Members	Irene Stone, Frances Cook (co-opted in 2007)

Please use the nomination form on the following page.

NOMINATION FORM – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 10th May 2008

To: The Secretary,
Southgate District Civic Trust,
108 Chelmsford Road,
Southgate, N14 4JL

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: _____

Arnos Grove and the Walker Family;
Isaac Walker the Founder of the Family at Arnos Grove
by Ruby Galili

Please send me ___ copies of *Arnos Grove and the Walker Family* at £9.95 each (£10.95 including post and packing)

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____ Email _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Cheques payable to Southgate District Civic Trust,
c/o 25 St Georges Road, LONDON, N13 4AT

galili1@tiscali.co.uk

SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC TRUST – MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your subscription for the year 2008-2009 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 2008/9 subscription £ _____

I also enclose a donation of: £ _____

Total: £ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

E-mail address: _____