

# Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter  
No. 207  
Jan. 2009



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## COMING EVENTS

### **OPEN MEETING Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 2.30pm.**

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

### **“Every Action Counts”**

Phil Mason, a community champion for Every Action Counts, will be exploring how SDCT as a group and individually can take action which will contribute to more sustainable living.

See page 3 for more details of EAC.

**ALL WELCOME**



### **HISTORY GROUP MEETING**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009  
at 7.30pm**

At Friends Meeting House,  
Church Hill, N21

**“38 Years as a Local  
Railwayman”  
by Dave Cockle**

(See page 3 for details)

**ALL WELCOME**



### **OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

<b>Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009</b>	<b>History Group Meeting</b>	<b>Subject TBA</b>	<b>Friends Meeting House 7.30pm</b>
<b>Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	<b>Walker Lower Hall</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>

**Contributions to the April Newsletter should be sent by Friday 13th March 2009**  
to the Editors: Mary and Colin Barratt, 13 Beardow Grove, Avenue Road, Southgate, N14 4DG  
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**Notice to Newsletter Distributors:-** We hope to deliver the next newsletter to distributors during week commencing **6th April 2009.**

**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).

## **EDDIE BOLTON (1930 – 2008)**

Long-standing members of the Trust will be saddened to hear of the death of Eddie Bolton on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008. For many years he was an enthusiastic supporter of the Trust and its activities.

Eddie had lived in Winchmore Hill since the age of eight – always in the same house in Roseneath Avenue. A cabinet-maker by trade, he undertook work for many local people and organisations, including St. Paul's School and Winchmore Hill Baptist Church.

In his work for the Trust he was passionate about tree preservation, and was heavily involved in the fight against Dutch Elm Disease in the early 1970s. He was distressed by the recent loss of trees in the railway cutting at Winchmore Hill. Amongst his other contributions to the Trust was his work as a newsletter distributor.

Eddie was active in other organisations too – notably the League Against Cruel Sports and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. He was a kind and modest man – trustworthy and well informed – but a man of strong views and unafraid to express them. Eddie was a familiar figure in the locality – he walked everywhere – and will be missed by all who knew him.

*Peter Hodge*

## **A VOTE OF THANKS TO JIM HASELDEN**

Producing the Trust newsletter four times a year involves a number of volunteers, and one of these is Jim Haselden.

Over 15 years ago he was – and still is – a computer enthusiast, and produced and maintained for us a program which included membership lists, and each quarter names and address labels. Before this we had to write envelopes by hand, and this took considerable time and effort – membership was then over 350 instead of its present average of 170!

As I am a mere computer novice, Jim receives from me, at very short notice each quarter the list of membership alterations, and returns the new list and labels, within a day or two, sorted in round order. I then forward them to Colin and Mary Barratt who fold and label the newsletters and return them to me for delivery to the distributors. A cumbersome process but made necessary because of my inability to fold!

Jim was very willing to continue his role, but we are now fortunate in having a secretary who, like the majority of young people, always thinks and acts in computer terms, so she will maintain lists and produce labels as part of her secretarial tasks. This cuts down the chain of willing helpers involved in newsletter production.

I am taking the opportunity of expressing our thanks to Jim for more than 15 years of invaluable work for the Trust, and to wish him well and active in his other voluntary work, which he will no doubt continue to undertake.

I must also repeat my constant thanks to the distributors who undertake the door-to-door delivery within the week's timescale and in all weathers.

*Frances Cook*

## **HISTORY GROUP MEETING 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009**

The speaker at the March meeting will be retired railwayman Dave Cockle, who will give an illustrated talk describing his varied working life behind the scenes and on the front line on local railway routes running into Kings Cross and Liverpool Street.

Dave started his career as a Junior Railman (Telegraph Lad) at Finsbury Park in 1969 and retired as Operations Compliance Manager at Kings Cross in 2007. In between these years Dave worked as a Signaller, Booking Clerk, Assistant Train Controller, Station Supervisor, Operations Inspector, Station Manager and Movements Manager.

**All are welcome to this meeting.**

### **NEWS FROM THE CIVIC TRUST**

#### **The Civic Trust launches Made in Britain campaign**

The Civic Trust has launched a new campaign, “**Made in Britain**” which celebrates British manufacturing locations, skills and craftsmanship. An important part of this country’s cultural heritage.

The Civic Trust has teamed up with a number of companies which all stand for excellence in quality and design and continue to keep alive a long manufacturing tradition in their respective fields.

To find out more look at their dedicated campaign website and visit the online shop at [www.made-in-britain.org.uk](http://www.made-in-britain.org.uk).

#### **Every Action Counts**

The Civic Trust has become one of the partner groups for Every Action Counts (EAC). To most people it is now clear that the world has to act on climate change or face devastating environmental and economic consequences. As we cannot do anything about the past, we can at least influence the future.

Although the Civic Trust is working at a national level, it is local groups like the Southgate District Civic Trust that have a significant impact. Our contribution is in part through our individual actions, but also through our influence on the council’s planning and environmental teams.

The EAC website has lots of ideas on what we can do. This can be accessed via the Civic Trust or directly on [www.everyactioncounts.org.uk](http://www.everyactioncounts.org.uk) or on 020 7336 9464.

#### **Special Discount for Civic Trust members**

The Civic Trust have negotiated a special 10% discount on any books purchased on the RIBA\_Books pdf – see link below. RIBA Bookshops, owned by the Royal Institute of British Architects, is a key resource for all the latest books on architecture, planning, urban design and interiors. It's extensive range of new titles, expert book sourcing and knowledge make it the first place to come for architectural and design inspiration. RIBA Bookshops are also offering Civic Trust members a 10% discount on all book orders until March 31 2009. Please enter 'CIVIC' at the checkout to claim your 10% discount!

Link to pdf: [http://www.civicsocieties.org.uk/docs/other/RIBA\\_Books.pdf](http://www.civicsocieties.org.uk/docs/other/RIBA_Books.pdf)

#### **"Civic Trust response to Planning for a Better London"**

The Civic Trust has sent comments largely on community aspects of the Mayor of London’s proposals to ensure wider support for his aims and policies by engaging as wide a public as feasible in the planning of their own City.

The full response can be seen at: [http://www.civicsocieties.org.uk/docs/policy\\_papers/PLANNING\\_FOR\\_A\\_BETTER\\_LONDON\\_Nov\\_08.pdf](http://www.civicsocieties.org.uk/docs/policy_papers/PLANNING_FOR_A_BETTER_LONDON_Nov_08.pdf). If you are unable to view this online, please contact me.

*Jane Maggs*

## **LAMAS LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE NOV. 2008**

The theme of this year's conference was "London Recorded: by Word, Map and Camera". This subject was covered by five varied and interesting talks.

### **London from Fitzstephen to John Stow: the Eye of the Beholder**

The earliest written accounts of what London was like came from foreign visitors. The first of these were detailed descriptions of life there in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, by William Fitzstephen. This is the only detailed record we have until John Stow in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, although foreign merchants in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, from Germany, Italy and Holland, wrote of London. The best accounts were from Italians, who were all impressed by St Pauls, London Bridge and the numerous churches.

London was very wealthy, and women enjoyed a lot of freedom. Many of the accounts focus on the people of London, with detailed descriptions, rather than buildings.

### **Fixing the Image: the Mapping of London to 1900**

Detailed surveys of an area are expensive, and so are only redone occasionally. Earlier maps were used as the basis of updates. We were shown a Roman coin, which depicted the earliest "map" of London.

The first attempt at a map of London is on the Great Seal of the Corporation of London, from 1190. Over the following centuries, various maps were made, but it was stressed that all maps are subjective, and only show what the mapmaker wants to include. Maps were usually made for specific purposes — but there was always another London. The Agas map of 1561 emphasised the authority of the King but under-displayed merchants, and ignored the tenements of ordinary people.

In 1658 a new map was needed, due to London's expansion, but the result was rather odd, as it was not true to life, and was more nostalgic. A better map was started, but was halted by the Great Fire, and attitudes changed towards mapmaking. In the late 1600s new maps appeared, showing the City and Westminster. Then in 1746 John Rocque was commissioned to produce a map which was intended to demonstrate that London was larger than Paris. In the late 1700s Horwood made a survey for the "Nation of Shopkeepers", emphasising industry, and included house numbers. However, at the same time, plans were being presented to King George III for building London Docks, which would result in the sweeping away of many houses of the poor.

At the start of the 1800s the Ordnance Survey began a national survey. In 1840 they produced a detailed map, but based on a skeleton survey. From 1862, Edward Stanford produced maps of London, which included important buildings, and were used by local authorities for planning. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, two well known special maps were published: Charles Booth's Poverty Map and a colour coded map of Jewish East London. By 1906 the OS made a 6 inch map of London, showing how much it had expanded. Now we have Google mapping, which some may think is perfection, but anyone can now be the liar!

### **Publications Award**

The winners were announced of the annual awards for publications by Local History Societies. The standard of the entries is always high, and this year the winning book was "Putney and Roehampton in 1665 – a Street Guide" from Wandsworth Historical Society. The Specially Commended runner up was "The Greville Estate" by Camden History Society.

Next year, we hope to enter our own publication: Ruby Galili's "Arnos Grove and the Walker Family". It will face stiff competition!

### **The Work of the Survey of London, 1894-2008**

This was set up in 1894 by Charles Ashbee, who was shocked by the degradation of the East End and the demolition of pre Fire and wooden structures. These were being swept away, often without recording them. Ashbee saw historic buildings as of educational benefit. Areas of London were divided among committee members, who recorded and sketched buildings. In 1900 the LCC published the Survey's first work. The LCC acquired buildings in danger of demolition, and took over the surveys after Ashbee left.

The system of listing buildings of special interest started in 1947. The Survey is now part of English Heritage, and still continues its work. It aims for readability, and avoids architectural descriptions.

The surveys are bound in a series of volumes, but all can now be found online: ([www.british-history.ac.uk/surveyoflondon](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/surveyoflondon)). The Survey is keeping to Ashbee's original concepts today.

### **Recording London by Camera: the LAMAS Slide Collection**

The Bishopsgate Institute was opened in 1895 at St Botolph's-without-Bishopsgate. It consisted of classes and a library. The library contains a large amount of information on London history: books, cuttings, photos, trade directories, guide books. It also holds books and pamphlets on labour history, London Cooperative Society archives, as well as other movements: Freethought and Humanism, and Radicalism.

A collection of 5000 glass slides, belonging to LAMAS, have been held at the Bishopsgate Library since 1910. LAMAS left the premises in 1977, leaving these slides, in 52 small boxes. What do they contain? – famous London landmarks and buildings, statues, churches, architecture, street scenes. A project was started in 2006 to digitise the collection, which is expected to be completed in January 2009. There have been a number of problems with this project. Over the years, the slides had not been stored in the best conditions, and some had faded or become discoloured. They were also unlabelled, which has made it very difficult to identify or date many of them with certainty.

All the slides digitised so far are accessible on the Institute's website, which can be found on ([www.bishopsgate.org.uk/catalogue](http://www.bishopsgate.org.uk/catalogue)). All have a description and date (or estimate), are indexed and are searchable by collection. The library can provide a copy of any slide, on request.

The Trust also had a display table in the hall, among the other Local History Societies etc. and was well visited during breaks in the Conference.

*Colin Barratt*

## **OPEN MEETING 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2008**

### **David Burrowes MP – 'An MP's view on Southgate, Past, Present and Future'**

David Burrowes talk attracted a good turnout of over 30 people, some of whom were non-members. The past was drawn from the family archives, and particularly his mother's memories of the family and Southgate.

David Burrowes' family were first associated with Southgate through his great grandfather Basil Walpole, a vet based in Highgate, but with clients in the Southgate area. The family's first attempt to move to the area was thwarted when David's great grandfather tried to buy the land around what is now Southgate Station. Unfortunately for him, the owner would not sell until her brother returned from Australia, which gave the Underground company time to make an alternative and presumably higher offer. Eventually the family moved to Claremont (now Salcombe School) in Chase Side, where David's mother and aunt were born in what is now a classroom.

The family then moved next door, to 222 Chase Side then known as the The Orchard, but now turned into Sheridan Lodge. Part of a video of the wedding day of David's mother showed how things have changed – hardly any cars and a policeman directing the wedding cars in and out of Chase Side. We were shown fascinating articles of that time and the family's local links.

Finally, David Burrowes' parents moved to Cockfosters where he grew up. His concerns for the local environment eventually drew him to become a councillor. For both the present and future, David Burrowes is concerned to ensure that Southgate gets the recognition it deserves and is not overwhelmed by the more dominant Enfield Town. He believes it is important to recognise that the area is changing economically, socially and culturally which needs to be taken into account in the local planning and development plans. He is keen to explore the idea of parish councils in order to bring decisions back to local people.

The talk gave an insight into David Burrowes' family history in Southgate and his views on the area. We wish him luck in the difficult task of bringing them to fruition.

*Jane Maggs*

## **IDENTIFY THE LOCATION**

In the last edition, the exact location of the view of Winchmore Hill Road in the 1930s was spotted by our Treasurer, Alastair, whose road, Tintern Gardens, joins Winchmore Hill Road just behind the parked car in that photo. The road joining from the lower right was Queen Elizabeth Drive. The house where the car is parked is still there, and looks much the same, although everything else has changed considerably.

Those who attended the talk by David Burrowes MP at our October Open Meeting may remember a family photo he showed, (see below), which was taken somewhere in Southgate. He didn't know where, but he thought it could be in the Minchenden Crescent area. Can anyone help identify where this happy family group is standing?



## **DID NEW SOUTHGATE CELEBRATE QUEEN VICTORIA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE?**

One of our members, Shirley Gardiner, has contacted us with a request. Many years ago, she lived in New Southgate, as one of the extensive Gould family, and she remembers being told that two photos used to hang in one of the local pubs, (either the Beehive or the Sir John Lawrence), in Palmers Road, (then called Palmers Green Road). They showed groups of local people, 30+ adults in one and various adults and children together in the other, probably celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. At some point these pictures were moved to her uncle's house across the road, and hung there, but then seem to have vanished. They haven't been seen since.

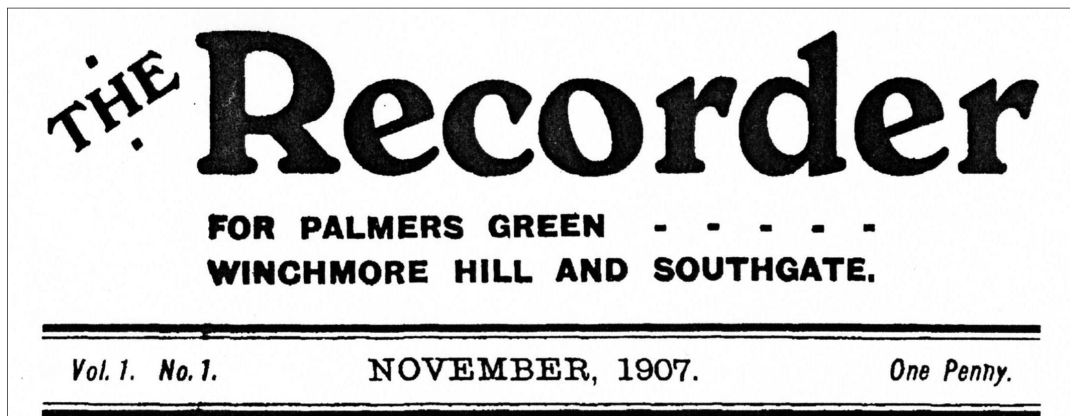
Shirley would like to know whether anyone remembers seeing these, or any other photos of local celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee. Although our local papers may have reports in them of local events, this was before they started including photos.

Can anyone help?

*Colin Barratt*

## HISTORY GROUP – 5 NOVEMBER 2008

David Cooper gave a talk on



At the turn of the 19th to the 20th Century, the character of the Palmers Green area was undergoing a fundamental change.

For hundreds of years It had been a small rural community, with a few small farms, but devoted mainly to serving the needs of a number of fine houses standing in extensive grounds, but it was changing to a suburb, peopled by a new breed of “white collar” workers, bankers, shippers, traders and their clerks, who commuted daily by the train services from Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill stations to their desks in the City.

Hibbard and Whittingham were estate agents and auctioneers, operating from offices at The Grange in Fords Green, Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill, and Mr F Whittingham, whose family had a printing company, T Whittingham & Co. Ltd., decided to start a monthly local newspaper:

**“The Recorder - for Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Southgate”.**

The first issue was dated November 1907, but after three years The Recorder changed to fortnightly publication. Then in June 1915 it reverted to the original calendar monthly basis. It went on for another 13 months, until July 1916, after which publication mysteriously ceased.

During the Recorder’s short life of just under nine years, life in the old Borough of Southgate went through greater changes than the area had in probably several hundred years previously - and those changes are mirrored in the pages and pictures of the Recorder: 150 issues 3,119 pages and numerous photos and other pictures, which appear on 311 of the pages, all having now been digitised and put onto just a single disc.

In his talk, David showed photos, paintings and drawings of many of the grand houses which were once a feature of our area, plus various local views from that era, such as Winchmore Hill Green and Palmers Green Triangle, many of which had been featured as illustrations in issues of The Recorder. We were also shown some of the adverts and articles included.

By sheer determination, David has not only collected all issues held on microfilm at the Enfield Local History Unit, but also managed to get the missing copies from the British Library Newspaper Library in Colindale.

The resulting DVD enables any of the 150 issues to be displayed and read, and it has a powerful search facility, which can locate references to subjects or single words, which was demonstrated at the meeting.

David had hoped to make the disc available commercially, but this has not been possible so far. However, it will be possible to use it at the Local History Unit.

Copies of the complete first edition were given out to those attending, which showed what a valuable resource these publications are, opening a window into a Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Southgate very different from the ones we know now.

*Colin Barratt*

## SOME ITEMS FROM "THE RECORDER"

Those who came to David Cooper's talk on "The Recorder" at the November History Group meeting will no doubt have been fascinated by the articles and comments in the first edition, dated November 1907, copies of which were made available by David for the meeting.

We have included from it a few snippets below, and hope to use ones from this and other editions in forthcoming newsletters. You have to keep reminding yourself that these were written 100 years ago, yet people were concerned about the same local issues as now!

**A Foreword** *The Recorder* is designed to be a paper for the home; old and young may read it, and, we believe, will read it with interest. Nothing will ever be allowed to creep into its columns which may not be read by every member of the family. Its contents will not be tarnished by political feeling nor sectarian strife. It will record the month's doings, not in the form of news, but in that of comment and explanation of passing events and those to come.

**The Ratepayer** As from April next, the new charges for water supply will come into operation in this district, as a result of the passing of the Metropolitan Water Board Charges Bill. Enthusiastic amateur gardeners may be interested to know that water used for watering gardens by means of a watering can will be included in the domestic charge – that is to say, you can water the garden as much as you like for nothing if you use a watering can, but if you use a hose you must pay, whether the tap is in the garden or the scullery. The Board, I am told, intend to strictly enforce this well-defined provision, and we may expect domiciliary visits from the Board's officials during the dry periods of next summer.

**The District We Live In** The omnipresent builder has made, and is making, great changes in our district. He descends upon a park, pulls down the mansion, cuts down the trees, carves out the roads, lays the drains, and converts an ideal rural scene into methodical streets of houses, whose alignment is so precise that one wonders whether the American plan of straight streets is an importation worth having.

Soon we shall have difficulty in re-constructing the scenes of the last century, so rapid is the march of the builder. The "Green Lanes", which once was green with grass for the road, with trees to overhang it, has disappeared. The last patches of grass went to make room for the tramways; the trees – or, at least, many of them – had to give way to the tramway standards. But it might have been worse. If builders must come, we must be thankful that they spare us monotony in street architecture: for if there is one thing that will depress an inhabitant, and qualify him for Colney Hatch, it is a district in which every house is alike, every street the same width, and every roadway is deadly parallel.

**Local Snap Shots** Prospecting for a site for the new Secondary School, which is to be built in Palmers Green for this district, is going on. A suitable site at a reasonable price is wanted, but no fancy prices will be entertained. The Middlesex Education Committee does not possess a bottomless purse for the convenience of grasping land speculators. It is doubtful if the site in Fox Lane will be secured as expected.

Lovers of the beauties of Bush Hill, Winchmore Hill, will be glad to know that the Metropolitan Water Board have bought all the land lying between the New River and the roadway. That side of this charming road will now be preserved in its natural beauty for all time.

**Topical Talk** Some day Compton Road may, for instance, become a "spouter's corner" on Sundays, and even on other days. It is such a fine "pitch", that its appropriation by outdoor speakers is inevitable. When that comes, we can bid farewell to peace and quietness at the lower end of Winchmore Hill. A pleasant oasis of green, instead of a howling speaker and a crowd, is surely to be preferred.

The worst case of all, we think, is the triangle opposite Aldermans Hill. Here, at least, are the makings of a charming spot, where a restful refuge under shady trees might be made without much expense. At present, it is the resort of hobbledehoys. It is a source of annoyance to shop-keepers on account of this, and may become a nuisance.



## **TOWN PLANNING REPORT**

Since the last newsletter the group have dealt with 39 applications. In addition, at the November meeting we had discussions regarding redevelopment of Southgate College, and the designation of the new Southgate Circus Conservation Area.

### **Southgate College, High St, N14.**

The College wishes to bring both its campuses together and therefore will be submitting an application housing both of them on the same site that was the Technical College. A public exhibition was held at the College for two days, and I went to see it. I have been supplied with drawings that were at the exhibition and the group has discussed them with a neighbouring resident of the college who was present at our last meeting. The group will deal with this when the application is available, and CAG will also be kept informed. It is not in a Conservation Area.

### **Southgate Circus Conservation Area.**

There have been four new Conservation Areas designated in Enfield - Southgate Circus N14, The Meadway N14, Grange Park N21, and The Crescent (Edmonton) - chosen by a points system. They were from a list of twelve that are not all designated at this time but may come forward at a later date.

The Trust has been asked to add Southgate Circus to the other Conservation Areas that we look after, and we have agreed.

### **Replacement Benches on Winchmore Hill Green, N21.**

Without any discussion with us or CAG new style benches were chosen as replacements for benches that had been damaged and removed from Winchmore Hill Green. The same style benches, but in a different colour were chosen for other areas of the borough that were not Conservation Areas. When Southgate Green realised that they had these benches already fitted in place without consultation, they together with us had a meeting and discussions with Mr Barnes and Mr Davis of Highways Services. A new standard style of bench has now been chosen for all Conservation Areas and they will be similar to the original wooden ones. The replacements will be removed from Winchmore Hill Green and Southgate Green.

### **Conservation Area Review (boundary revisions).**

Frances Cook and I went to a meeting with Christine White and Mike Brown to discuss the re-designation of a large proportion of the Highlands Conservation Area. This was a continuation of the designation of new Areas and using the same points system it is being argued that some existing Conservation Areas should be dealt with using the same criteria, where it could be said that a section of it does not have the merit to remain in a Conservation Area. We consider that Highlands is unique amongst Enfield's Conservation Areas and we do not wish for any removal of regulations that would be to the detriment of the Village, in the long term.

The work of our planning group covers a great deal and, considering that last month we had eighteen applications to discuss, even during a festive season we cannot rely on a holiday period of rest from them. We would be pleased to welcome any member to our group who would like to have a say as to how our areas can be improved or at least not continue to decline. Most members have strong opinions about where they live and changes that affect them detrimentally and this can be put to good effect at our planning meetings. Telephone 8864 3500 for the date of the next meeting and make a New Year resolution to join us.

*Irene Stone  
Group Leader*