

Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter
No. 213
July 2010



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COMING EVENTS

HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Wednesday 8th September 2010 at 7.30pm
At Friends Meeting House, Church Hill, N21
“The History of Trent Park”
by Keith Hammond

ALL WELCOME



OPEN MEETING

Saturday 16th October 2010 at 2.30pm
at Walker Lower Hall, Christ Church Parish Centre,
7 The Green, Southgate, N14
**“The Extension of the Railway from
Grange Park to Cuffley ”** by Dave Cockle

ALL WELCOME



Dates for your diary:

Wed. 3rd November **History Group** Subject to be arranged

Wed. 17th November **Annual Luncheon** at Southgate College (more details in October)

NOTE: If you have not yet paid your Trust subscription for this year,
(which began on April 1st), there will be a RED SPOT in this box:



Please fill in the form at the back of the April newsletter and send it with your remittance to the Treasurer.

Contributions to the October newsletter should be sent by Friday 3rd September 2010

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 4th October 2010

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 **Civic Voice**).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 8th May 2010

The AGM took place at Walker Hall, Waterfall Road, chaired by our Trust Chairman, Geoff Bone. Reports on the past year's activities were presented by the officers and Group leaders. These are shown below.

Officers and members of the Executive Committee were elected for 2010/11 as follows:

<i>President</i>	Audrey Kirby	<i>Vice President</i>	Chris Howell
<i>Chairman</i>	Graham Beech	<i>Secretary</i>	Jane Maggs
<i>Treasurer</i>	Alastair Palmar	<i>Social Secretary</i>	Janet Lane
<i>Newsletter Editors</i>	Mary & Colin Barratt		
<i>Committee Members</i>	Irene Stone Hugh Humphrey Geoff Bone		

After the meeting, teas were served by Irene Stone and Janet Lane, followed by an opportunity to view a display of photos, and browse a copy of the New Southgate Masterplan.

1. Chairman's Report

The Newsletters continue to be marvellous, keeping everyone informed about what is going on in the SDCT.

The main thing over the last year has been the demise of the Civic Trust. This has been replaced by the Civic Voice, which we have joined for the next year.

Thanks go to all on the Executive Committee. To Jane who takes the minutes, Colin and Mary for the excellent Newsletter, Alastair who says we do not need to increase the subs. Also, Irene for her planning report and representing us on the Conservation Advisory Group. Finally to Janet for organising the various activities. Thank you to them all.

Geoff Bone

2. Secretary's Report

There have been four Executive Committee meetings during this year.

During the year we have discussed many items and become involved in a number of local issues, including the New Southgate Masterplan, which was reported in the last Newsletter, and trying to clean Southgate's streets. The piles of cigarette butts outside the station have gone, but the streets still need a good clean. It will be a continuing battle.

The other major event has been the launch of the Civic Voice in April. The Southgate District Civic Trust has become one of the founding members and as such receives a number of benefits.

These include:

A continued reduction in our public liability insurance.

All members are entitled to a free one day access pass for the National Trust. See below for details.

Reduction in the cost of medical insurance. See below for details.

Civic Voice's first national campaign is Street Pride – supporting local action to help rid our streets of unnecessary clutter. They will be running a series of workshops to assist volunteers. If anyone is interested in this, please let me know and I will give them the details.

As members of Civic Voice, we have become members of the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), which will give us access to a range of resources. They have started sending me regular e-mails with information, but to be honest, I do not have time to deal with it all at the moment. Although it is already clear that this is a resource that could be very useful to us all. If anyone would like to help with co-ordinating this information, please do not hesitate to come forward.

Interestingly, today I received an e-mail from them with information on their guide to a hung parliament and the implications for the voluntary sector.

This is an exciting time locally now that the makeup of Enfield Council has changed radically to Labour control. This gives us an opportunity to work with the new team to help form policy. To do that we really need your help and energy, even if only for a few hours.

On a personal note, I wanted to add how influential our Civic Trust has been. A large housing development was proposed for the site opposite my house in Chelmsford Road. It was turned down a couple of weeks ago, but in the summary of reasons for refusal the opposition of the Civic Trust was highlighted. It just shows how influential we are locally – long may it continue.

Finally, please can you give or send your renewal forms to Alastair not me – I will always pass them on, but there may be a delay.

Jane Maggs



Civic Voice Partnerships

Now that the Southgate District Civic Trust is a member of the Civic Voice, there are a number of partnerships which benefit us individually.

National Trust:

The individual members of all civic societies who join Civic Voice can receive the offer of a free day access pass. This will provide free access to any National Trust property during normal opening hours subject to a small number of restrictions.

The free pass is available to download by using the following link www.civicvoice.org.uk/nationaltrustcivicvoiceoffer. The pass is transferable and can be given to friends or family if you are already a member of the National Trust.

Where members do not have internet access a free day pass will also be available by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Civic Voice, Unit 101, 82 Wood Street, The Tea Factory, Liverpool L1 4DQ requesting one and providing contact details and the name of the group which is a member of Civic Voice.

This offer is available in the first year that a civic society joins Civic Voice.

Health Insurance with The Health Insurance Group (THIG):

The Health Insurance Group (THIG) is part of Bluefin Insurance Services Ltd. They state that the advantages for our members are:

- Unique products not available other than via Civic Voice
- Discounted premiums
- Transfer terms for existing insured members
- No fees to pay
- Contribution made to your civic society

They can be contacted on www.healthinsurancegroup.co.uk/civicsocieties alternatively, 0800 389 7723 (quote civic society).

Please note that the SDCT does not have any further information on this company.

Jane Maggs

3. Planning Group Report

The Group has dealt with 60 town planning applications in the past year, although our meetings also consist of other matters relating to any other planning situations that arise. Of these the one that involved our time the most was the application for the redevelopment of Southgate College, N14, to accommodate more pupils following the proposed selling of Minchenden on the other side of the High Street. This is an important position in High Street, Southgate and is situated between the two Conservation Areas, Southgate Circus and Southgate Green, but being outside these areas meant that they only needed to present an outline application. However, in front of and on one side of the proposed development there are a row of listed buildings and the curtilage of the nearest one to the proposed new entrance and two storey relocated library building was not being taken into account. There was also an unacceptable frontage on to the High Street apart from entrance and exit roads. Because of these listed properties I was able to get the CAG involved and it was helpful to all of us that the owners joined our group meetings. The scheme was withdrawn, but it is not known how much the lack of finance had on the withdrawal, and it would be naïve to think that there will not be another application.

Hadley Wood: there are some very large gardens to the houses in this area and any detached house with a road adjacent has a likelihood of development being proposed. Demolition of an existing house and rebuilding either a larger property or two blocks of flats is still continuing along Cockfosters Road, EN4, one of these has just received permission for a small building just inside its gates for a 'Concierge'. We do object to these applications, but not always successfully, because they are only adjacent to Trent Park Conservation Area which is on the other side of the road. We still receive applications for Trent Park, although there is a Trent Park Conservation Group on CAG.

Winchmore Hill Green, N21: at present we have problems with the retrospective unsuitable fascias on the shops when they change owners. We have guidelines set out in a pamphlet for fascias and shop fronts in our Conservation Areas, so if we do get an application then it goes through the usual channels. If it is already fixed (retrospectively) and we know that no application has been made, the owner gets a chance to make an application and we have to consider it as we would have done. This usually means that we have had to contact the Environmental department of the council, where we do get an immediate response.

Southgate Circus, N14: it is still early days in this area and it has been mainly change of use and the fascias that we have been getting regarding shops. However, we now have an application by The Southgate Club, 17 Chase Side, for considerable alteration internally and at the rear in Crown Lane which is also in the CA. We are only involved in the visual aspect of the scheme and decided that provided it was kept to acceptable materials and a low key colour it would be an advantage for it to hide part of the police station in Crown Lane. The frontage in Chase Side was not altered.

Highlands, N21: a large area of the new build houses have now been removed from the CA. It remains around Pennington Drive including all the blocks of flats that were the original hospital buildings including any new build between them, all new properties that back on to South Lodge Drive, Chaseville Parade, Chaseville Park Road and Prince George Avenue. At the entrance facing Green Dragon Lane it only includes Blake Court on that side of the road.

Members may have noticed that there has been a new white picket fence erected around the small wooded area at the junction of Chaseville Park Road and Eversley Park Road, this came about after we had cooperation from the council in our long time desire to make the damaged fence and untidy area an attractive site again. The council footed the bill, but we have offered an amount towards it and we will in the not too distant future hopefully have a ceremony to hand over the money.

In the Newsletter, I try to give members an idea of applications that may be of interest to them, but obviously there are many that cannot be included. If any member considers that a development affects them, even if it is not in a CA, then they are welcome to contact me. We had such a development in Chelmsford Road, Southgate. The group dealt with it and I wrote to the council with our objections. It has been refused, for the time being, but we will continue to monitor it.

I end, as always, with my grateful thanks to the members of the group who give me the support needed to continue doing this for SDCT, because without them I could not deal with the volume of applications that we get, in addition to the other work it entails. Their good humour and enthusiasm, regardless of whatever drawings are placed in front of them, has to be seen to be believed and if anyone would care to join them they would receive a warm welcome.

Irene Stone

4. Editors Report

We are still working to ensure that the newsletter is produced to a high quality, by including photos when appropriate, and creating it in Publisher computer software. It's always given to the printers on a CD as a PDF, which is a format which prevents alterations or corruptions.

Last year, we said that we were considering emailing the newsletter to those members who requested it, instead of posting or delivering it. We have the email addresses of about 35 members, and at the end of last year all these were asked whether they would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically. 14 responded positively to this, and the January and April editions were sent in this form to those members. We didn't know if this would be acceptable, and offered to revert to printed format if asked. However, no one has come back yet to request this. If anyone else would like to receive the newsletter in this way, please let us know. One advantage of this is that you will probably receive it several days before printed copies are delivered, and another is that you will have colour photos!

With the creation of the Civic Society Initiative, and now the Civic Voice, we have received a lot of correspondence about these organisations over the past year, and our thanks go to Jane for editing the various items into a suitable form for our newsletters. We still welcome articles from members, and include these whenever possible, so please think about contributing, even if it's hand written.

Our thanks go again to Diana Day, for her work in putting the final editions together.

From the earliest days of the newsletter, it was recognised that we should keep a copy of each edition for our archives, and these have been bound professionally for safe storage. Peter Hodge reminded us recently that it's been 10 years since the newsletters were last bound. Fortunately, a copy of each edition has been kept since then, and these are now with Peter, who will be approaching the same book binding company for a quote to do the job.

Colin & Mary Barratt

5. Statement of Accounts for Year to 31st March 2010

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

HALIFAX PLC

	£ Debit	£ Credit
Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2009		13,186.34
Gross Interest		111.89
Gross Bonus		65.94
Tax on Interest	22.38	
Tax on Bonus	13.19	
Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2010	13,328.60	
	<u>13,364.17</u>	<u>13,364.17</u>

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER

COMMERCIAL BANK

(SANTANDER UK PLC)

	£ Debit	£ Credit
Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2009		2,911.39
Cash in hand B/Fwd 31/3/2009		4.74
Sales of The Walker Family (book 1)		221.10
Sales of Oakleaves 4		674.52
Sales of Publications (other)		135.75
Sales of Chard Videos		—
Donations/Postage		55.28
Royalties		20.00
Stall Fees - Christ Church	----	
Archive Acquisitions	----	
Stock Acquisitions	----	
Expenses	67.79	
Cash in Hand, Tansfer to expenses	4.74	
Publishing Expenses: Oakleaves 4	2,378.75	
Cash in Hand C/Fwd 31/3/2010	----	
Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2010	1,571.50	
	<u>4,022.78</u>	<u>4,022.78</u>

GENERAL ACCOUNT

ALLIANCE &

LEICESTER

	£ Debit	£ Credit
Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2009		3,124.77
Subscriptions and Donations		1,080.50
Purchase & Sales - Coronation Videos	39.00	13.00
Teas at Meetings	8.26	5.90
Admin.	226.37	
Newsletters	282.04	
Affiliations	355.65	
Hire of Halls	240.00	
Insurance	200.00	
Plaque: Flora Robson	242.54	
Sundries	10.00	
Speakers expenses	20.00	
Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2010	2,600.31	
	<u>4,224.17</u>	<u>4,224.17</u>

Please note that these accounts have not yet been audited. We hope to arrange for this to be done in the near future.

6. Conservation Advisory Group Report

There are now 14 members of the CAG, being representatives of Study Groups in Conservation Areas (CA) covering Enfield, together with Councillors of all political parties.

At one time most CA town planning applications were on the Agenda and our areas usually had the most. Now we spend more time on issues that keep us up to date on procedures in the council regarding the planning process and any large developments that need our consideration and involvement. For example, Southgate College, High Street, N14, described in my planning group report. Our Chairman has now established that we will have earlier knowledge of any further application by the College or any similar schemes, so that we are able to become involved before it has progressed to a stage when a developer has already discussed a scheme with a planning officer and has no intention of listening to other interested parties, although they go through the motions of public discussions. We get Architects giving CAG presentations of their developments and we have the chance to ask questions and have a say, but often find that it does not change anything.

During the year we have had updates from Robert Oles, Planning Enforcement Manager. He was given a list of any issues affecting shops and properties that we wanted clarification on in our CA's and he would come back with answers. He and his team are always available if needed to answer our questions or follow up information on concerns.

Regarding procedures involving trees, we had Aled Richards, Head of Development Services, who told us that there was no full-time tree officer and all 15 development control officers dealt with tree issues. Alex Campbell and Andy Robinson are consulted to identify disease or solve unclear issues.

This year saw the designation of two new CA's, Meadway, N14 and Lakes Estate, N14. This has brought to the CAG new representatives.

Truro House, N13 is occupied and in use, but apparently it has to be fully restored before any new building in the grounds can take part.

Broomfield House has had a feasibility study completed and it now needs ministerial approval and budget confirmation. A £500,000 grant will be spent on developing the scheme. Enfield Council made what appears to have been a successful bid to The London Mayor and The London Development Agency for a £5.9million grant for restoration from the Empty Homes Fund for a scheme that proposed 18 flats as sheltered accommodation, using the house and the stables. The housing minister has the final decision and there will be public consultation if he gives his approval.

The Benchmark Project took up a large part of my spare time since the last AGM up to September 2009. It was an initiative for a proactive enforcement photographic record of each of our CA's, to establish a clear dated evidence against which change including unauthorised works can be assessed. I was given a digital camera and batteries and the council processed the results. For their help in accompanying me and taking the photos while I noted each property, I have to give grateful thanks to Ruby and Moshe Galili for the largest area of Winchmore Hill Green CA; Mervyn Maggs for his help in Southgate Circus CA; and Barbara Walsh in Highland CA. Vicars Moor Lane CA and Hadley Wood CA I did on my own and Southgate Green CA I left to them. We worked through weather that was often too hot, windy or wet but the job was done, and we now have CD's of all the photos that we took of every single property in all our Conservation Areas.

There is a Master Plan for New Southgate where the views and desires of the local population has been sought and on behalf of the Trust Graham Beech has been attending meetings and sending opinions about which he knows a great deal because he lives in the area. Graham also represented The Trust on the Parks and Open Spaces Workshop, where several members of CAG represented their areas. Graham has also been a member of our planning group for many years.

As Chair of the planning group I have represented SDCT at CAG since 1999 and have used this position to make sure that we are always in the forefront of whatever is expected of us and that we keep the respect of all our colleagues and the Council, considering that we represent six Conservation Areas.

CAG has an important role to play and we are very much a part of that.

Irene Stone

7. Local History Group Report

We have a varied programme this year, which started in March with a showing of some photos of less well known places in our area, to see how many could be recognised, which was interesting, and created a lot of discussion. This week we had a visit from the Girl Guides, or rather the Commissioner of Middlesex East, who, with a colleague, talked about the 100 years of the Guide Movement. One of the speakers was dressed in the new Centenary uniform, and the other in an original 1912 outfit!

The next meeting, in July, will feature former Borough Local History Officer, Graham Dalling, telling us about the history of the Winchmore Hill Quaker Meeting House, plus the graveyard and garden outside. In September, we have a talk on the history of Trent Park.

So I am trying to keep to local topics, as much as possible, without the meetings becoming too formal, or too expensive. We are still usually getting around 20 attending, which is a comfortable number for the room. I will repeat my plea for any member who would like to talk on a local history subject to let me know.

Colin Barratt

TREE FELLING ALONG THE RAILWAY BANKS

At the AGM concerns about tree felling along the railway banks were raised and discussed. As a follow up the following was sent to David Burrowes MP:

“Network Rail are once again felling healthy trees and undertaking total clearance of undergrowth along the railway banks in Winchmore Hill and beyond.

There has been no consultation with local residents or societies, or information from any source as to reports or studies that have been assessed prior to this drastic action. Having cut down healthy trees in 2008 the Company now appear to be shoring up the banks which inevitably, with no tree roots to support the clay, are subsiding.

We can only assume that, as in the past, Network Rail are cutting costs, removing everything that grows rather than maintaining healthy growth on what is in effect an important 'green corridor'. This is also without doubt the worst time of the year to undertake such work, when wildlife are vulnerable to any disturbance, let alone the complete destruction of their habitats. Local residents are very distressed, by the loss not only of a visual screen from the track but also a loss of security formerly provided by a thick border of trees and undergrowth.

Because Network Rail have carte blanche to do as they wish on railway land, it is clear that the only way to stop this appalling loss is by altering the law which gives them the right to destroy wildlife habitats and valuable environments in a way that is rightly forbidden on privately owned land. Clearly trees particularly must be maintained (in the past they have been pollarded) and dead trees removed. To claim that all trees are a safety risk is clearly ridiculous, likewise the 'trees on the line' excuse cannot be a reason for total destruction.

Please will you approach on our behalf the Minister for Transport and the Minister for the Environment and ask them to urgently look into how this law or licence can be changed”.

A full response from David Burrowes has not yet been received, but his constituency office manager has responded to say:

“Can I assure you however in the meantime that David has already been in discussion with a number of people regarding the recent tree felling to raise concerns on behalf of both the constituents who have contacted him and the local residents of Winchmore Hill. He has spoken to the Council’s Planning Department and their Arboricultural Officer. He wrote a while ago to both the Chief Executive of Network Rail and the new Transport Minister, Phillip Hammond and he has spoken at length with Denise Thompson, Network Rail’s Community Relations Manager regarding the works and the lack of consultation”.

If you would like more information on this, or can assist in a campaign, please contact Audrey Kirby (020 8886 2724).

THE NEW SOUTHGATE MASTERPLAN

This Supplementary Planning Document was published on 17 March, after a period of months in 2009, during which the views and desires of the local population had been sought. I attended most of the meetings of the residents' panel. The Masterplan principles are stated as: a vibrant local neighbourhood; a neighbourhood with character and identity; a connected neighbourhood; a clean and green neighbourhood; a neighbourhood of opportunity for all.

However, the main planning objective of the plan would appear to be the creation of 892 new housing units and the demolition of all but two blocks on the Ladderswood Estate. Overall, the vision of the plan is to make the area attractive and well-connected to the rest of Enfield, a clean environment, well-used green spaces, high quality shops and community services and excellent transport links, which will include improved walking and cycling connections and bring life into underused areas and spaces. The plans for new housing on one of the two car parks at Arnos Grove imply an unstated objective of reducing car commuting to the station. As I previously noted in a submission to the Council, a census of car commuters would need to be done to ascertain where these people were coming from and to improve public transport to the station from these areas.

As for the detail of the plan, it divides the whole area into seven Regeneration Sites, three Estate Improvement Areas and three Open Space Improvement Areas. These 13 zones are colour coded on the maps.

1. The Ladderswood Estate will have most existing social housing replaced with new private and affordable homes with some space for commercial and community uses.

The Western Gateway consists of sites 2, 3 and 4: The Gas Holder, Homebase and Topps Tiles. These will all disappear and be replaced by a Landmark residential development at the Gas Holder site with a new public square, shops and restaurants. The other two sites will have mixed use development, houses and apartments, shops, restaurants and workspace and light industrial units. These latter will be positioned to the rear of the sites, with apartment buildings along Station Road, which will be narrowed to enable people to cross more easily.

5. The New Southgate Local Centre and Station will have a new public square around the station, with a mixed use scheme of houses, shops and restaurants. This includes what appears to be a multi-storey car park, described as "undercroft". This corner of the development area is also called a Gateway.

6. The Arnos Grove Local Centre is likely to be of most interest to the SDCT, as it includes two Grade 2 Listed Buildings: the Station and the Library/Swimming Pool complex. The focus here is on promoting and enhancing retail offer, building on the heritage status and improving the setting through the creation of a new public square, along with sensitive residential led development of sites adjacent to the station. This includes a small number of units for shops, cafes etc, and improved links to the Swimming Pool/Library. The map shows that most of the original car park will be given over to housing. The Planning Group will be eager to examine the designs when they are eventually revealed.

7. The Coppice Lodge Care Home/Grove Road Open Space would be integrated with new housing, library, health centre, sports and youth centre or community café. Is this library intended to replace the one in Bowes Road? I hope not. A new link between New Southgate and Arnos Grove Stations would be established.

No specific time scale is mentioned in relation to any of these developments, except Ladderswood, where I understand that a developer will be appointed, hopefully, in September. The developments on the Gas Holder, Homebase and Topps Tiles sites are the least likely to happen in the foreseeable future, I understand. I base this conclusion on what was said by officials at the meetings I attended.

Estate Improvement Areas 8, 9 and 10. At the High Road Estate an improved pedestrian link between High Road and Friern Barnet Road is envisaged. On the Red Brick Estate, better community safety by improving pedestrian links through the estate from High Road to New Southgate Station and improving the character and setting of the Estate. At the Highview Estate the residents will be consulted about improving the green spaces, the public realm and safety.

Open Spaces 11, 12 and 13: Millennium Green, Grove Road and High Road will be improved through redevelopment of nearby sites and also as stand-alone projects, with the help of the local community.

I suspect that the drying up of funds, due to the economic crisis the country is in, will result in the more far reaching plans being delayed. Am I being pessimistic or merely realistic in thinking that it will be a long time before much of this sees the light of day?

Graham Beech

THE “WESTERN GATEWAY” PROPOSALS IN THE NEW SOUTHGATE MASTERPLAN

Comments were invited by the Council on the draft Masterplan, discussed by Graham (overleaf). As he says, the developments at the “Western Gateway” are the least likely to happen.

I submitted a number of comments to the Council planning team on this Masterplan, and the following is an extract about the gas holder site, which I have a particular interest in:

Western Gateway (Gas Holder Site) - as someone who was born and lived for many years literally in the shadow of this gas holder, and also as a local historian, this structure has a sentimental value for me. However, as it was decommissioned by Transco nine years ago, and is unlikely ever to be put to use again, it would seem sensible to demolish it, and re-use the land.

There are three comments I would like to make concerning the fate of the gas holder:

- Who would pay for the demolition, which is likely to be very expensive and disruptive to the North Circular Road and Homebase? Would you expect National Grid to foot the bill?
- After demolition there may be contamination issues with this land, plus that under Homebase and Topps Tiles, dating back to the gas works activity on the site, which could cause problems for re-use as residential property
- There could be an alternative to demolition:- this holder was built in 1912 by Samuel Cutler Ltd, and another of their former holders, built in 1885 at the gasworks in Dublin was re-used in 2006 by constructing a contemporary design cylindrical tower block of 250 two-bed apartments within the framework, around a central courtyard, with underground car parking. Photos I have seen of it show an impressive structure, which would make a striking landmark feature for our Western Gateway!



Colin Barratt

OUR OWN WEBSITE

Many voluntary organisations now have their own website. This raises their profile, makes them easier to find by potential members, and allows them to announce their activities. Although this has been discussed by the Executive Committee a number of times, our Trust has been slow in moving into this area, mainly because of the lack of expertise available to set it up.

Having arranged for a website to be created four years ago for my Local History Society (Friern Barnet & District), and maintaining it since then, I have recognised the value of having a site. I am pleased to report that one of our new members, Hugh Humphrey, offered to create a website for our Trust. He already runs an active local website, www.n21.net, aimed at residents of Winchmore Hill, and he initially added the Trust to the list of linked organisations on his site which, when selected, showed visitors a number of pages giving brief details of the history and activities of the Trust, illustrated by appropriate local photos.

Following a meeting I had with Hugh, he has now developed the site further. It is still on the N21.net site, but now also has its own website address: www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.co.uk. We are working with Hugh to include more photos, details of events and meetings, current issues of concern, publications available, several editions of the newsletter and, hopefully, a photo gallery. It also has an email address, which can be used by anyone to contact us, and can be accessed by any of the committee to check incoming messages.

Have a look at the site. We welcome your comments.

Colin Barratt

THE HERTFORD LOOP REVISITED

The Trust's very first publication – *The Hertford Loop: The First Hundred Years of a Local Railway* – appeared in 1976 from the pen of your reviewer. The same railway, now almost 140 years old, is the subject of a new hardback from the Middleton Press – *Hertford Loop: from the Suburbs to the Country*. Compiled by Vic Mitchell and Keith Smith, the new volume carries the same cover picture, coincidentally, as the Trust's original booklet – a Great Northern train about to leave Palmers Green for Cuffley c1920.

Unlike the Trust's largely historical account of the line, the new *Hertford Loop* is primarily a pictorial journey along the route from Alexandra Palace (formerly Wood Green) to Stevenage. The many well-captioned photographs illustrate stations and other features of the line at various stages in their development. The three stations in the Trust's area – Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Grange Park – are well represented with a total of 18 photographs, spanning the period c1900 – 1997.



The photographs are supported by a historical introduction, reproductions of large scale Ordnance Survey plans, extracts from timetables and illustrations of tickets. Publication coincides with the centenary of the extension of the line from Grange Park to Cuffley, the subject of a recent exhibition at Forty Hall.

The Hertford Loop is available from Middleton Press, Easebourne Lane, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9AZ, at £15.95 post free, or it may be ordered through any bookshop.

Peter Hodge

MAY DAY ON THE GREEN

The Trust was represented again at the Christchurch May Fair on Southgate Green. The event had a good attendance. The train ride was again a big attraction, as was the new climbing tower. We had asked for a different location this year, as we were cut off by the railway last time, and had few visitors. The spot given appeared to be better, as it was next to the main path between the arena and the church halls. However, we had no better results. Next year, we are considering switching to the event on Winchmore Hill Green.



