

Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter
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www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.co.uk

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COMING EVENTS

OPEN MEETING

Saturday 17th March 2012 at 2.30pm
at Walker Lower Hall, Christ Church Parish Centre,
7 The Green, Southgate, N14

**“The Regeneration and Future Developments in
the Ladderswood, Bowes and Pinkham Way Area”**

by Councillor Alan Sitkin

ALL WELCOME

SDCT 50th Anniversary and AGM

Sat. 12th May 2012

**See page 2 for more
details**

HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Wednesday 7th March 2012 at 7.30pm
Friends Meeting House, Church Hill, N21

“Hidden Streams of Haringey”
by Albert Pinching and David Dell

Several natural streams rise in what is now the Borough of Haringey, and once flowed in the open across it. By the mid 19th century, these began to disappear underground into culverts and were lost to view. This talk will reveal their original routes and present locations. These fascinating natural features are now often overlooked, unless flooding or dampness draw them to our attention.

ALL WELCOME

See inside for: The N21 Festival events (page 3)
Planning applications in our Conservation Areas (page 7)
News from the Civic Voice (page 8)

Other Date for your Diary:

Wed. 2nd May **History Group Meeting** Friends Meeting House Subject TBA

Contributions to the April newsletter should be sent by Friday 16th March 2012

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 **9th April 2012**

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**).

Marketing and a Membership Drive

It is probably obvious, but in order to progress as the Southgate District Civic Trust and continue to look after the areas we live in and value, we must evolve. For this we need to expand our active membership. Although over the last few years, like many other civic societies, the membership of the Southgate District Civic Trust seems to be becoming increasingly less active.

To raise our profile in the broader community and increase our participation in projects we need an increase in members – but that is not really happening in sufficient numbers.

So - as a Society, we need to take action!

This whole topic has been a subject for discussion at many of our recent Executive Committee meetings, with many views expressed. What is clear is that to move forward we need to:

- define our local priorities – we are about more than just local history and conservation areas
- recruit members who can become involved, even just for a few hours
- let the local community know that we are what we are doing

So – what do we do next? Set up a Marketing Group for the SDCT.

The aim is to look at our involvement in local projects and events, lead our recruitment drive and get the message out to the community that we are a major force locally, which can and will campaign on things that are important to us.

We need you. Our membership is clearly diverse, so there are members out there with views, experience, enthusiasm or who just want to become involved. Please contact me if you are interested in joining this group. The first meeting will be held in late January, so it would be wonderful to have as many people as possible involved, even if you can only come to the odd meeting.

Contact me Jane Maggs at: jane.maggs@btinternet.com or 020 8882 4253

NEW NOTICEBOARD

The Trust has been offered the opportunity of using a new large noticeboard at Palmers Green Station. First Capital Connect will be installing it in the waiting room of the London platform in the very near future. We will have exclusive use of this, and it will have a lockable hinged front on the casing. We can advertise ourselves and local events and publicise current issues, as well as displaying a number of historical photos of the area. We are hoping that the board will be in place by the time the next newsletter is published, so look for more details then.

Southgate District Civic Trust at 50

The SDCT will be 50 in 2012!

We will be having a party after the AGM on Saturday 12th May 2012.

More details in the next newsletter, but feel free to volunteer to help now!

We will also be having a display of articles from newsletters over the past 50 years
- including the significant events and issues.

RECENT BOOKS

Winchmore Hill People and Pictures

This new book by local author Stuart Delvin is split into three parts. The first contains further recollections by ordinary people about the area, following his earlier book "Winchmore Hill Lives", including the late Alan Dumayne. The second part is a collection of about 100 images, many relating to the accounts given in the book. The last part looks at some of the famous people associated with Winchmore Hill.

This soft back book has around 200 pages and costs £14, (including postage within the Borough of Enfield). Add £2 for UK addresses beyond.

Winchmore Hill Village 1780-1830

An earlier book by Stuart Delvin looks at this remote Middlesex village of 200 years ago. It has over 250 pages, with many images. It costs £16, (including delivery within the Borough of Enfield).

Add £1.80 for UK addresses beyond.

The above books can be ordered from 259 Southbury Road, Enfield, Middx EN1 1RG.

Make cheques payable to Stuart Delvin, and state delivery address.



This year there is a unique event taking place in Winchmore Hill as the first N21 Festival will be taking place in June. A week of events have been organised to bring the local community together to celebrate the centenary of the Henrietta Cresswell book, "Winchmore Hill : Memories of a lost village".

We are happy to announce that The Southgate District Civic Trust will be one of the sponsors. The SDCT will be sponsoring part of the Film Festival starting on Saturday 16th and will also have a stall at 'The Fancy Fair' on Saturday 23rd June.

Apart from good fun, this will be a great opportunity to raise awareness of Southgate District Civic Trust within our local community.

The Festival plans are evolving and can be followed on the N21 website (see link below). There will be a grand opening on The Green in Winchmore Hill on Saturday 16th June 2012. There is already a programme of events planned throughout the week at different times of the day, evening and night.

At the end of the week, on Saturday 23rd June 2012 there will be a huge celebration on Winchmore Hill Green, when the roads will be closed, which is being called 'The Fancy Fair', based on a fair mentioned in Henrietta Cresswell's book.

Full details of the festival can be found at: <http://www.N21Festival.net>, as well as information on how you can obtain a new reprint of Henrietta's book.

Further details of the SDCT involvement will be published in the next newsletter, but if you are able to spare some time to help, please contact one of the committee.

OPEN MEETING – 15th October 2011:
Maggie Butt – Ally Pally Prison Camp

This open meeting was well attended by around 40 people, both members and non-members. Our speaker, Maggie Butt grew up in Southgate, so has always been aware of Alexandra Palace (Ally Pally). As a local poet she had originally just planned to write a few poems about the camp, but gradually became more and more interested. This talk and the accompanying book *, show how that interest developed.

The talk gave details of the camp with photographs mainly from pictures painted by the inmates. Poignantly, the history was interspersed by poems based on the letters of the prisoners, read by Maggie's husband Tim and Colin Barratt.

The inmates were mainly German, Austrian and Hungarian, who had settled in London, but had not taken British nationality. Originally, the men had been required to register with the police, but after the sinking of the Lusitania in 1916, they had been rounded up and sent to internment camps. Life in the camp was not easy, but the men were able to use their skills from before the war to make life more bearable. As the war proceeded, conditions became harsher and more restricted. The pictures of the living conditions showed just how cramped and confined it became, but also the ingenuity used to deal with their problems.

Generally, there were about 3,000 men at Ally Pally at any one time, but around 17,000 passed through during the war. Of these 54 died there, while 20 were sent to Colney Hatch Asylum, following nervous breakdowns brought about by the confinement and the continual noise with little privacy.

After the war the majority of detainees were deported, with only 15 minutes to say good bye to their families, who remained in England.

There were a number of questions after the talk and a lively debate. The whole meeting gave an understanding of life at the camp and the impact on those held there.

Jane Maggs

* As mentioned in the October newsletter, Maggie's book can be ordered from her at 115 High Street, Southgate, London, N14 6BP, at £8, including P&P.

ARP STAFF SHELTER AT PALMERS GREEN STATION

I took this photo of the faded wartime notice at Palmers Green Station in March 2000. The sign still survives between the blocked-off doorways in the outer staircase wall on the London platform. Does anyone remember the shelter when it was in use and any events relating to it?

Richard Purver



Letter to the editors:

AIR RAID SHELTERS

I have been informed that the car park, allotment site in Bourne Hill Southgate opposite the main gate of Grovelands Park is to be developed.

Looking at this site I noticed a bit of 'Old England' – an Air Raid Shelter. This building is one of the last remaining. Built of Fletton bricks, flat concrete roof and no windows it was just a block house. The entrance door is to the left, note the escape hatch at the right hand end. This was bricked up with lean mix cement. This was to allow easy break out if the door way became blocked. I think the window was fitted after the war.

I wonder how many times this type of shelter was used in an air raid. To leave your house on a dark night, no torches allowed, to enter this forbidding cell with no amenities, sleeping with your neighbours – I would prefer a tent in the park!

What was this type of building known as?

A G Jacobs
Winchmore Hill

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP MEETING – November 2011 “The History of St Albans” by Pam Wright

In this illustrated talk, Pam described how the town of St Albans developed, about Alban himself and the town today.

The two main features of the town of St Albans are Verulaneum and the Abbey. Julius Caesar originally attempted to invade Britain in 55BC, but it wasn't until 43AD that the Romans succeeded. This was an important Roman town, with a Forum and temples. However, after the Romans left in the 3rd Century it returned to nothing.

It wasn't until the 20th Century that the Roman town was rediscovered. Some fields were to be sold, and an archaeological dig was carried out in the former Verulaneum. An old Roman wall became visible, plus the site of the London Gate. The Theatre was also discovered. A mosaic floor, made of tesserae, and jars, were found, which are now on display in the main local museum. Roman houses have also been reconstructed in the museum.

Alban himself was a high ranking official in the Roman town. He was converted by a priest and, when the priest was in danger of persecution, Alban exchanged cloaks with him, was arrested, tried and condemned to death. He was taken out of the town, to the top of the hill, where the Abbey is now, and executed. A monastery was later built on the site and a shrine was built to Alban. The Abbey was originally a Saxon church, which was replaced in 1077 by a Norman one, made of brick, and has the second longest nave in England. It was built in both the Norman and Gothic styles, has a number of frescos on its walls and a statue of the Archangel Gabriel. The shrine of St Alban became very damaged, but has now been reconstructed, and is a centre of pilgrimage. In 1977, for the 900th Anniversary of the Abbey, a new Chapter House was built, using matching bricks.

Turning to the town itself, Pam showed us the clock tower in the High Street, which is 15th century, with a bell at the top, used for curfew and the opening and closing of the nearby market. An Eleanor Cross used to stand in front of it. During the 18th and 19th centuries the town was an important stopping place from London to Chester. It has interesting small roads and buildings, and the old water mill has been restored as a museum. There are three churches in the town, one of which, St Michael's, is Saxon/Norman, and has a statue of Sir Francis Bacon.

This was an interesting look at our neighbouring town, which has a long and important history.

Colin Barratt

WW2 BOMB DAMAGE PHOTOS

High Street, Southgate



This photo, and the one at the bottom, are shown by kind permission of the Enfield Local Studies Centre and Archive at Thomas Hardy House, and are both from an album recently donated to the Archive.

They were taken by a photographer of the Palmers Green and Southgate Gazette, and show how extensive the damage was to local houses.

The two houses which were left standing are on the corner of The Close. The demolished house was rebuilt, as can be seen in this recent photo.



Avenue Road, Southgate



These buildings were opposite Gwalior House, and appear to be greenhouses.

We would like to know whether anyone remembers this incident, or the one above.

PLANNING GROUP REPORT

The group made decisions on some 18 applications since the last newsletter and there were other matters in addition.

Since the last newsletter the Woodcroft Wildspace, N21 has been saved. They will retain 2/3rds of the site and the remainder will be developed. The Council has become partners in running it and are contributing financially. We are being kept informed by the committee and are delighted that there was this outcome to the situation that we added our interest to.

We were asked by the Chair of the London Assembly Planning & Housing Committee at City Hall, for our ideas towards a Review of community involvement in planning in London. We responded and afterwards were asked to comment further, which we did.

Southgate College has submitted an application to open up the frontage to the College on to the High Street, N14. They are proposing to remove the front railings and replace them as far back as the present Security Guards. This will create an open space that can be used by students and public 24 hours a day, and create a security problem for No.117, High Street which is the nearest of the listed buildings next to the College and its grounds. Contact between ourselves, the planning officer and the owner of No.117 means that we now know that the College will be amending the plans in a manner that we hope will give them the security that they need. We are waiting for new drawings. We have said that we would prefer the railings to stay where they are, because they are locked at night, and there could be problems with a 24hour open space, in that position.

The King Easton Site, Station Road, N21. Unauthorised work began on the site and was stopped by the Council. Some design elements of the scheme including the proposed house fronting Station Road were being changed without permission having been granted, and building was not going ahead according to the plans.

Since the last newsletter the group have had to readjust to not having the large drawings that we always worked from. The Council have made everything electronic so that we only receive the covering letter but no longer have any drawings or information. It is up to me to download from a web site all relevant information including any drawings for planning meetings. These are obviously very small in size and detail. The alternative is for me to go to the Civic Centre every time I receive a letter and then I could not bring drawings to the group unless they were printed at excessive cost to the Trust. Or, the group could all stand around my computer and try and read the detail off of it in order to come to a decision. At the CAG some associations do not have conservation areas, Study Groups deal with their own conservation area, but SDCT covers six areas.

Our weekly planning lists are already sent electronically, but CAG did think that to aid Study Groups to function properly regarding "planning" it would be understood that we needed drawings etc. sent to us on which we could work as a group. Most informative documents are sent to us by email that we have to download at our own cost, and it seems that the Council assume that we all have computers. At present our group is managing because applications have been small in size.

A new young lady, Heloise Brown, has taken the place of Christine White as the Conservation Planning Officer to CAG. Christine is now the Heritage Officer, and still closely involved.

I can be contacted on 020 8360 3500.

Irene Stone
Chairman of the Planning Group



News from the Civic Voice

MPs Back Changes to Government's Planning Policy Reforms

The House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee has published the report of its inquiry into the National Planning Policy Framework. It quotes Civic Voice eight times (as many as the National Trust and more than CPRE) and proposes a suite of reforms which would bring common sense changes to the planning policy review. Civic Voice gave written and oral evidence to the inquiry.

The Select Committee concludes that:

- There is no conclusive evidence that the planning system is a barrier to economic development
- Local Plans should be the centrepiece of the planning system
- Sustainable development should embrace the needs of people, the economy and the environment in equal measure
- Development should be guided by the principles of brown field first and town centre first and in exceptional cases there should be absolute protection for some town centres from out-of-town development
- Local authorities should include an allowance for "windfall sites" when allocating land for housing development – including an allowance for these usually brown field sites which cannot be planned for but which contribute significantly to housing land supply

The Government is expected to publish the final NPPF in February and has promised it by the end of March.

Take action

It is more important than ever to maintain the pressure for sensible reforms to planning policy by writing to local MPs. You can join the Civic Voice Campaign for fair planning here – <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/fairplanning>. The decision made in the next two months will shape the future patterns of planning and development for a generation.

If you cannot access the link, please contact me and I will send you the information.

Free advice on planning

Free advice on planning issues, including the new proposals for neighbourhood planning, is now available from four organisations which have been given Government funds to provide it. Civic societies from Ealing to Manchester are taking advantage of the free advice and everyone is encouraged to make use of the new services, not least to demonstrate the demand and ensure funding continues to be available.

The four organisations (and contact details) are:

- Locality, working with The Glasshouse Community Led Design and communityplanning.net - www.buildingcommunity.org.uk
- Planning Aid - <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid/> or ring the Advice Line on 0330 123 9244 (local rates apply from both landlines and mobiles)
- Campaign to Protect Rural England (working with National Association of Local Councils) – <http://www.planninghelp.org.uk/home>
- The Princes Foundation for the Built Environment - <http://www.princes-foundation.org/content/princes-foundation-receives-grant-engage-local-communities> and email CLGPlanningScheme@princes-foundation.org

CPRE is also producing an excellent range of free guides. The first How to respond to planning applications is already available from the Planning Help website (see above) and will be followed shortly by Planning explained and A guide to Neighbourhood Planning. Responding to planning applications is also available as an e-learning module and the others will become available in the New Year.

To participate you simply self-register <http://www.ntselearning.co.uk/welcome/>

Portas High Street Review

Mary Portas has published her long awaited high street review, which contains a lot of positive recommendations for the civic movement. Above all else the Portas Review recognises that high streets are about civic life and community and not just about shopping.

Introducing the review Mary Portas says: *“I believe that our high streets can be lively, dynamic, exciting and social places that give a sense of belonging and trust to a community....once we invest in and create social capital in the heart of our communities, the economic capital will follow.*

Recognising the immense public response to the Review its conclusions place a strong emphasis on “giving communities a greater say”: *“....local people should have more of a say in what they want from them. We are on the cusp of a new time, with the “localism” agenda all about putting more power into the hands of the people. But we risk this falling flat on its face if communities are not inspired and empowered....I want to see everyone feeling like their voice can be heard – to sweep away the apathy and create truly powerful new local involvement.*

Recommendations

The Portas Review makes 28 headline recommendations and picks up on a number of the issues raised by civic societies with Civic Voice, including:

- Rewording the National Planning Policy Framework to make explicit a presumption in favour of town centre development
- Extra curbs on out-of-town development
- Disincentives to keep buildings vacant
- Giving more discretion over rate relief
- Support for communities to get involved in neighbourhood planning
- Specific planning controls over the change of use to betting shops

The Portas Review makes important recommendations encouraging a “Town Team” approach to managing town centres which will involve the community, business, the local authority and others. It also proposes a new “National Market Day” to support a growth in local markets and, controversially, more free parking schemes.

Local Community Key Factors

The report recognises the following 10 principles to the local community:

1. The high street should be the hub of the community. That means it needs to be planned by the community.
2. Civic, social and cultural activities, not big stores, are the anchors of our town centres. Encourage them.
3. Real localism starts when people have space to test their ideas. Use empty shops and public areas to create that space.
4. Local loyalty is about solidarity between people, not brands. Build markets around relationships and mutual benefit.
5. Local food and products are not middle class fripperies. They help people build independent livelihoods and create worthwhile work, and create alternative food sources and supply chains.
6. Every place is unique. That uniqueness is strengthened when ownership is local and money stays in the local economy.
7. Places don't look after themselves. They need to be animated, which means giving people opportunities to do what inspires them. Town teams should be animators, not office holders.
8. Climate change, technology, demographics and austerity will change the way nearly all of us live. We need to use our high streets to build interdependence and resilience.
9. Expecting multinational retailers to solve the problems of town centres is like expecting drug dealers to run rehab clinics. We should dare to be different and be ready to invest in local ideas.
10. There is no going back to the high street of the past. We can use the ideas of the ‘21st century agora’ to start imagining the future.

Next steps

Many of the ideas contained in the Portas Review can be taken forward by civic societies such as the SDCT, businesses and local authorities. We can see that in some of our local centres, local residents are actively working with the shop owners etc e.g. Palmers Green town centre.

If you are involved in a local initiative to regenerate a town centre, the SDCT Committee would be interested in what you are doing. We can provide support and use your experience to help with our other town centres.

Clearly the SDCT has a role to play in maintaining or improving our local environment for the good of the whole community.

Jane Maggs

A SURPRISE BOX OF FAMILY DELIGHTS

Back in 2006, on a sunny September Saturday morning, a group assembled at New Southgate Cemetery. However, this wasn't for a funeral, but for the unveiling of an information board, created to tell visitors about the area of flat vaults in front of it, known as the Queen Victoria Vaults, or Savoy Vaults, which contain the remains of 236 people, who had been re-interred here from the burial ground of the German Lutheran Chapel, Savoy Precinct, London in 1875, due to the area being required for the new Victoria Embankment.

The group at the ceremony were made up of members of the Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, plus some from the Anglo-German Family History Society and the Cemetery Manager. This was the culmination of four year's work, attempting to get this board agreed and installed, and I reported on the event in the April 2007 edition of the newsletter. (The board is still there, as good as new. Go and have a look at it!).

Previously to this, we had recorded all the engraved information on the vaults, (names, date of death, age), and provided a copy to the cemetery office. Co-incidentally, just three days after the unveiling, the office was contacted by a lady, Henrietta Morgan, enquiring if they knew about these re-interred burials. She was a direct descendant of one of the families, (who were named Poland). The manager forwarded her email to me, and I was able to give her the details of nine of the Poland family who were shown together in one vault. I also sent her photos of the vaults and the information board, plus a copy of the graphics. In turn she sent me copies of painted portraits of Peter Raymond Poland and his wife, both of whom are buried there, plus other documents relating to the vaults, confirming Queen Victoria's involvement, which I wish I had seen before preparing the board graphics, as it would have added some more interesting details.

I heard nothing more from this lady after this brief correspondence. Then, just a few days before this Christmas 2011, I had a phone call out of the blue from a man, Peter Rauner, who lived in Southfields, Wimbledon, and worked in the house clearance business. He had recently cleared a council flat in Camden, with the support of the police, as it was being lived in by drug addict squatters, and had been left trashed, with needles everywhere. Somewhere in this mayhem a box of old family documents had survived, which Peter kindly saved from being dumped, as he thought they would be of interest to a descendant of the family, and he wanted to pass it on to them - if he could find anyone!

One of the main names mentioned in the documents was Peter Raymond Poland, and putting this into Google he came across my article in the Southgate District Civic Trust newsletter on Henrietta Morgan's information about the Poland family. He rang me, hoping that I could put him in touch with a Poland family member, which I promised to try to do. Fortunately, I still had Henrietta's email address, which I hoped was still current, and sent her a message, to see if she was interested. She replied immediately, "My Goodness, AM I INTERESTED!"

By another amazing co-incidence, Henrietta said that she was presently surrounded by Poland family documents, including the ones I had sent her nearly five years ago, in preparation for a big family reunion the following day (22nd Dec.) in Russell Square, London! She lives in the New Forest area of Hampshire, but was coming to London that day, staying with her children in Croydon. As the box of documents was at Peter Rauner's house in Wimbledon, (another stroke of luck that he was so close), Henrietta hoped to be able to pick up the box on the way home from the reunion, on 23rd Dec.

The family reunion was very successful and Henrietta duly arranged to collect the box on the way home. The family were dying to know what was in it. Peter Rauner had obviously been fascinated by the box and its contents, and when she arrived to pick it up, he and Henrietta had a long conversation about it before she finally managed to get away and load the box into her car, which was already full of people, suitcases and Christmas presents!

Peter Raymond Poland had been a successful fur trader in London, and some of the papers in the box go back nearly 200 years, including a long and detailed bill from his coachmaker, various letters, financial details of the settlement of his estate after his death in 1827, and lots of cheques and receipts showing the enormous cash flow of his business, and family photos from the 1930s. There were also details about his descendant and namesake, Peter Raymond Poland junior, who ran the business until it folded, only dying in 1984.

She was so excited about this, as various members of the family had been trying to locate the papers, and Peter junior's two children, for some time, only to find they had both died, the elder one in Italy, and they concluded that the papers had probably ended up on an Italian rubbish tip! However, it seems that the papers were in the care of the other one, who lived in the council flat in Camden, until she died of cancer early in 2011. Her flat had been taken over by squatters, as mentioned above, but the papers were saved.

It was incredibly good fortune that these absolutely irreplaceable documents have been returned to her, as they had come within a hair's breadth of oblivion for ever, if it hadn't been for Peter Rauner's curiosity and concern. When they met he also told her that he was moving to Australia at the end of January, so she was very grateful to get the box when she did! Mission accomplished!

Henrietta has asked me for a copy of details of all the burials in the vaults at New Southgate, to see if any appear in these family documents. She will be keeping in touch.

Colin Barratt



Peter Raymond Poland

