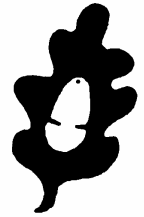


Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter
No. 223
Jan. 2013



www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.co.uk

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COMING EVENTS

OPEN MEETING

Saturday 2nd March 2013 at 2.30pm
Walker Lower Hall, Christ Church Parish Centre,
7 The Green, Southgate, N14

**“Grovelands House - The Nash
and Repton Vision and its 1980s
Restoration ”**

by SDCT President Dr. Audrey Kirby

ALL WELCOME



Note for your diary:

SDCT AGM

**Sat. 11th May
2013**

2.30pm, Walker Hall

HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 12th March 2013 at 8.00pm
Friends Meeting House, Church Hill, N21

Note new day - See page 4

**“The History & Mystery of Oakfield Road”
by Geoff Jacobs**

A voyage of discovery in researching
the history of his own road

ALL WELCOME

See inside for: AGM of Civic Voice (page 2)
Report of our October Open Meeting (page 4)
Update on the New Southgate Masterplan (page 9)

Other Date for your Diary:

Tues. 14th May **History Group Meeting** Friends Meeting House Subject TBA

Contributions to the April newsletter should be sent by Friday 15th March 2013

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

Notice to Newsletter Distributors:- We hope to deliver the next newsletter to distributors during week commencing **15th April 2013**. Emailed copies should be available for members w/c **8th April**.

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**).

CIVIC VOICE AGM 20th October 2012 in Coventry

On a gloomy, grey and foggy day in October, I attended the Civic Voice AGM as the SDCT delegate. In all there were over 100 delegates representing civic societies from across the country. The AGM organised by the Coventry Society was held in The Herbert Gallery. This was a great venue, but I have to confess this is the first time I have been to a conference where the proceedings were watched over by various dinosaurs peering over the room screens! Part of their 'Dinosaurs Uncovered' exhibition and nothing more sinister, I hope!



The dinosaurs aside, it was a fascinating day, and you won't be surprised to know, I talked to members from quite a few other civic societies, some with similar issues to us, whilst others had totally different priorities. This was particularly true for the societies based in areas impacted by the flooding in the summer, who unfortunately must have been hit again this winter. Sadly, there were not many London based societies attending.

A few facts that were given: Civic Voice now has about 290 member groups, which includes roughly 76,000 members. However, only 35% of the core costs are raised from the membership. The remainder is raised from legacies, donations, grants and corporate donations. The organization is incredibly

minimal, with only two paid employees, the rest of the work undertaken by volunteers and trustees. Full details of the financial statement can be found on the website www.civicvoice.org.uk.

Civic Voice's new CEO Steve Graham addressed the delegates giving an upbeat assessment of his meetings and discussions with member societies since he started in February. Clearly a man enthused by his role, with a vision for the future of Civic Voice.

He spoke of the continued importance of civic societies, the need for vigilance and the strength of a national body working with groups like ours and providing support to us.

The key note speech was given by Griff Rhys Jones the Civic Voice President. As you would expect he was an amusing, passionate and inspiring speaker. Amongst other themes, he spoke about his battles with the local planning department trying to restrict inappropriate development, the forthcoming consultation on planning reforms and his fear that the proposals will make it easier for developments to go ahead.

He said: "For me what we represent, all of us, in civic societies is people who look to the future and I hope look slightly further to the future than many of our leaders or governors...they seem to be very much concerned about the next five years and trying to dig themselves out of this recession which, after all, is a world-wide phenomenon." Griff added: "If you don't look after your own back garden then who is going to?"



There were various workshops including discussions on Neighbourhood Planning, Heritage Open Days, and the Portas pilots. I attended the one on neighbourhood planning, which gave me more insight in to the process, but also a more realistic idea of the potential pitfalls. A subject we still need to consider in relation to our own area.

In September, some of the delegates had attended the civic leadership course, run by Civic Voice. They gave a fantastic light hearted session about the challenges facing civic society groups and how to do a health check on your civic society. As part of the course they created The Civic Society Assessment Tool, to allow civic activists to gauge the quality of their civic society and therefore improve it. The tool is available on the website and is being evaluated by the Executive Committee.

As well as the formal sessions, there were many informal discussions about the challenges facing our own societies. It was reassuring to find we shared so many common concerns, but with different ways to work with them. I came away buzzing with ideas and practical things we should follow up on!

Photos included here were taken by the Coventry Society. These and more can be seen at this site:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/coventrysociety/sets/72157631814474798/show/>

Jane Maggs

Key dates for action:

At the Civic Voice AGM, delegates were reminded of key dates we should consider:

2014 100 years since the start of WWI.

There are various projects proposed nationally, including the review and restoration of war memorials. If you are involved in any of these, please let us know.

2014 London borough local council elections

2015 General election

These elections will determine the local representatives who we work with on planning and environmental matters. Regardless of political persuasion and national politics, we need to ensure our candidates convince us that they have been or will be actively supporting us their future constituents. Given many of the recent proposals, this is particularly key in matters such as planning, the environment and the other issues we campaign on.

NEWS ALERTS TO MEMBERS

Many of you will be aware that Southgate District Civic Trust has started providing alerts and reminders about meetings and events organised by us, as well as those by other local organisations.

Where possible, events will continue to be advertised in the Newsletter so that all members are informed. However, more and more often we only hear about interesting events a few days before hand. So we are now sending out details by e-mail to all members who have provided an address.

Hopefully you find them of interest – let us know what you think.

Are you aware of other events that might be of interest to our members e.g. choir recitals, concerts, local action groups, local council events etc etc? Please send the details to either Colin Barratt (colin_barratt@yahoo.co.uk) or me (jane.maggs@btinternet.com) and we will send out a message to the members.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to send these alerts out by mail due to the time constraints, as well as the expense involved.

Not receiving the e-mail alerts?

If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive these alerts, please send your e-mail address to Colin or me to be added to the list.

NB: E-mail addresses will not be passed to other organisations.

Your Newsletter will still be provided by post unless you tell us to change delivery method.

No e-mail or computer, but want to keep in touch? You can:

There are many people who do not want the trouble or expense of running a computer. But, **you do not need to own a computer** to keep in touch.

Enfield libraries provide computers **anyone** can use. They will even provide training to get you going. If you are interested, then let me know, as I am arranging a **free** training session with the library service for our members.

The initial session will be for a small group, where the library staff will take you through the basics, help you set up an e-mail account and get started on the Internet. A world of opportunities awaits you!

Interested? Contact me on 020 8882 4253.

If you want more advanced training, the library staff will be happy to help. We also have a number of members who have agreed to provide support where needed.

The Future of Communication to Members

Obviously, the trust needs to keep in touch with all our members, which means we have to use as many different methods of communication as possible. Therefore, the Newsletter will continue to be the main way to keep everyone informed of our events and work.

However, we have to recognise that times are changing and the ways of communicating may no longer be so appropriate with a generation of people using electronic media for both work and play. At the moment Southgate District Civic Trust is not very advanced compared to other civic societies, who regularly use their website, twitter and blogs to keep members updated. As an organisation we need to continue to review and evaluate the new media and decide how to make it work to our advantage.

*What do you think? What else should we be doing?
Let us know your views.*

Jane Maggs

OPEN MEETING – 13th October 2012: London – A Bigger Picture Discussion led by Deborah Salter from Film London

Film London and London's Screen Archives, are preparing a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), for a three year project, **London - A Bigger Picture**. This will involve working with 15 of London's outer boroughs to ensure family films as well as archives held by groups such as SDCT, can be preserved and shown to a wider audience. They are particularly interested in films that may have been stored away and possibly forgotten.



Photo Hugh Humphrey

This meeting was part of their planning process. Deborah started the meeting with an explanation of the project, and then showed a film of various events in London consisting of clips from their archives. These included 1920's street scenes, Petticoat Lane market, public transport, London celebrations, the Port of London from the air and life in 1935 on the River Thames filmed in colour. These were a fascinating insight into the lives of people going about their daily business.

Following the screening, Deborah led a lively discussion on the films we had seen and our interest in this type of archive project. As there was a large turn out for this meeting (approx. 50 attendees), clearly there is a great desire to retain and watch films on local history and particularly about our area and neighbours.

After the meeting, we were asked to fill in survey forms, which will be used as part of the HLF bid process. Deborah and her colleagues will keep us informed of developments, so we expect to be able to provide an update in future.

Jane Maggs

HISTORY GROUP - NEW DAY & TIME

Please note that, due to another booking on Wednesdays at the Friends Meeting House, our History Group meetings have changed to a **Tuesday** night, starting at **8.00pm**.

PLANNING GROUP REPORT

The Group has reported on fifteen new applications since September and there are six in the pipeline so far for the next meeting in December that we have not had yet.

Many members will have noticed expansions in the form of extensions that have been happening to local schools. This is the implementation of the Primary School Expansion Programme throughout the borough. The need for more places in local primary schools has produced this. The Walker School in Southgate Green is the only one in any of our Conservation Areas that is affected and in order to have 50% more places for children in the school a scheme has been produced by the Council showing a 3 storey block amongst the other buildings. Southgate Green Residents Association is objecting to the proposals and we have supported them by letter to the relevant department at the Council. There are many other associated difficulties from this proposed expansion that are being objected to by the Governors of Walker School.

The Former Middlesex University Campus in Cat Hill, Cockfosters has a proposed development of 232 residential units (163 flats, 69 houses with only 12 semi-detached, and 57 being terraced town houses). This site is not a conservation area, but it consists of ponds, trees and wildlife that make it a unique area in Southgate, not lending itself visually to the height and mass of the terraced properties and six 4 storey blocks of flats. The first application was refused. Regarding this second one the objections that have been sent to the Council were such that there was a Planning Panel set up before the Council Planning Committee meet to make a final decision in January. This Panel discussed the development on the 5th December with the developers London & Quadrant, local Enfield Councillors, planning officers, David Burrowes MP, the Cat Hill Committee and local residents. I sent a letter of objection to the Council questioning the density, lack of architectural merit and the fact it was out of keeping visually with the surrounding properties. There will be a tree reduction of about 40%, and there will be a need for consideration to cover what will be necessary for the number of people being housed there requiring schools and surgeries. (See page 8 for details about the history of the site, and further comments on the development plans).

The drawings of the proposed change in the railings fronting Southgate College, High Street, N14 have been amended. They will not be placed in front of the main building where there is the existing security booth but will remain at the front pavement edge with a setback area. The security booth will be relocated behind these railings, and there will be gates that will be locked and give security to the College grounds and the listed properties in the High Street.

Broomfield House, N13. A pre-application submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund and its subsequent advice has now been developed. This focuses on the restoration of the House, but it has also said that it would welcome a further bid to restore the landscape and buildings through the HLF Parks for People Fund. Advice from the HLF indicates that a bid of around £4m may be favourably considered. A bid of £4.175m was submitted by 22nd October 2012. It is hoped that a decision will be received by 29th January 2013. It is envisaged that the balance in funding could be met by £535k from the Council, the use of £200k grant received from the Greater London Authority, and from fund raising.

We have had our usual applications in all our areas for trees either felling or reducing, changes of use, small extensions, shop fascias and advertising, BT cabinets and change of timber windows to uPVC both of which we always object to.

The Group still meet monthly at 6, Eversley Mount, N21 1JP at 8.00pm. If any member is interested in coming along to see how we work then they are very welcome. Ring me at 0208 364 3500.

*Irene Stone,
Group Chairman.*

GRAHAM DALLING (1949-2012)

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Graham, a much respected local historian, and President of Edmonton Hundred Historical Society. He formerly ran the Enfield Local History Unit in Palmers Green Library. He died on Christmas Eve, after a brave battle with cancer, and will be greatly missed.

WALK AROUND PALMERS GREEN (in association with Jaywalks) 28th October 2012

On a damp Sunday afternoon in October, a group of about 35 people gathered at Palmers Green Station to meet Joe Studman from Jaywalks. This was the start of an interesting and informative afternoon.

With so many people joining the walk, we completely filled up the area by the ticket office while we waited to start. Luckily there were no trains running due to engineering works! However, we briskly moved out and started our tour of the area.



Joe outside Broomfield House
Photo Mervyn Maggs

For the next 90 minutes, Joe walked us around Palmers Green, telling the story of the growth of N13. He kept us amused and entertained with stories about the exploits and the lives of the characters that lived in the area or who influenced its development. Joe's way of holding your attention through a story is wonderful, for example we were asked to 'hold that thought' of an aero plane flying in the distant sky, before moving on to another location for the conclusion!

The stories regularly provoked the walkers to reminisce, which made them even more relevant. It was a fascinating walk, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Following this success, we plan to hold a walk around Southgate on 28th April 2013. See below for more details.

Jane Maggs

SDCT WALK AROUND SOUTHGATE (in association with Jaywalks) Sunday 28th April 2013

On this 90 minute walk between the villages of Southgate and South Street we meet the owner of the first motor car in Southgate, the lawyer who played with matches and got burnt, and of course the Walkers, their influence is everywhere.

Meet at 2.30pm at Southgate Station.

SDCT members £2.00. Non members £5.00. Concessions £3.00

For those that don't know him, as well as a member of SDCT, Joe is a qualified City of London Guide who leads themed walks through the City of London.

For more information on his walks, see Joe Studman's website or contact him directly: www.jaywalks.co.uk
Tel: 0787 553 7295

Other local events:

Joe Studman will also be doing a talk for the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society on

The Enfield Literati

Wednesday 16th January 2013 7:45pm

Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, off Chase Side Enfield

During his research, Joe kept coming across writers who had a City and Enfield connection. Lamb & Keats are the most obvious but Hunt, Hood, Hardy and Hall also appear in both locations. In this talk he will share his discoveries and the sites he visits.

For more details see: www.edmontonhundred.org.uk

SOUTHGATE FLOWERBED CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

Southgate District Civic Trust along with other local residents have for some time been campaigning for the restoration of the flower bed outside the Southgate Wimpy Bar (see October 2012 newsletter). As a result of our pressure and with the support of our local representatives, Councillor Smith and Councillor Hayward, the wall has been repaired and Enfield in Bloom volunteers have done a fantastic job replanting the space. They will be returning regularly to maintain and improve this area.

The flower bed is being sponsored by the Accommodating Company, so the future maintenance is now assured. The only fly in the ointment is the band of smokers from SouthPoint House who insist on leaving their cigarette ends in the flower bed. This has been raised with the Council, and I understand that the Enviro Crime team are working with the managing agent on a resolution. The agents have agreed to install new waste bins and keep the front clear. Although, at the time of writing the new bins have not yet been installed. I hope that by the time of the next newsletter, this too will be sorted out.

The open area on the other side of the station, outside Blockbuster, is also being looked at to bring it up to the same standard as other parts of Southgate. It is proving trickier, but Cllr Hayward has agreed to support this campaign, so we have high hopes for a speedy resolution and to see an improvement in the spring.

Jane Maggs

HISTORY GROUP MEETING – Nov. 2012 Sitting in the House of Lords (Kathleen Richardson)

Kathleen is a retired Methodist Minister, and former President of the Methodist Church. She has been a member of the House of Lords for the past 14 years, and she gave us a summary of the history of Parliament. It can be traced back to the 11th Century, when William the Conqueror brought bishops and barons together to govern the country, then William Rufus started Westminster Hall for lawyers to meet people who needed to discuss issues.

However, the church courts were where the power lay, and tensions developed between the barons and the Pope. In 1215 this led to King John being forced by his barons to sign the Magna Carta at Runnymede, which contained 61 clauses. (Only three of these remain in force today). A group of barons were established to run the rules of law. Simon de Montfort called the barons and bishops **Peers**, and the common people **elected representatives**, but this was only symbolic, as power was still with the King.

When Charles 1 came to the throne, he dissolved Parliament, but this was reinstated in 1660, following his execution. In 1847 the Lords were limited to 26 bishops. In 1911 the Parliament Act was passed, which made the Commons the primary chamber, so the Lords cannot stop bills. In 1958 Life Peerages were created, and women became members of the Lords for the first time. In 1999 it was decided that heredity was not a good principle, and most Life Peers were not allowed to stay in the Lords. 92 stayed.

Kathleen was not a political animal, but in her work as a Methodist Minister she became President of the Methodist Church in the UK, and Moderator of the Free Churches, and was noticed by then Prime Minister Tony Blair. She received a letter from him, inviting her to become a Baroness. Having accepted this, she had to visit the Garter King of Arms, and choose a name. She decided on Callo (her birthplace), and retained the title Rev. Kathleen could have arranged for her own Coat of Arms, but this cost £2600 at the time, so she decided against it.

When a new Peer is introduced in the House of Lords, they need to choose two barons to support them. Kathleen chose Lord Soper (also a Methodist Minister) and Lord Murray (formerly Len Murray, TUC President, and also a Methodist Local Preacher). Letters Patent were read out and she signed the roll and gave the oath of allegiance. Her maiden speech occurred in a debate on economic recovery in the central American Republics.

After retirement from the church, she joined a number of committees. She believes that the role of the House of Lords is to hold the Government to account and scrutinise bills. Debates are often significant. 200 of the peers are not politically aligned. There are plans to reform the Lords, with the intention to reduce numbers. There are currently 800, but only room for 250 to sit! On the whole, Kathleen concluded that it works.

Colin Barratt

A TOUR OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Following Kathleen's talk on the House of Lords, she offered to show a group from the Trust around it. If anyone is interested in taking this opportunity, please let Colin Barratt know, (8882 2246, colin_barratt@yahoo.co.uk), and we will try to arrange a suitable date..

THE FORMER CAT HILL CAMPUS

From earliest times the area known as the former Middlesex University Cat Hill Campus was dense forest, part of what came to be known from the 12th century as Enfield Chase. The forest had been common property up until the 9th century but then a manorial system was introduced which caused it to become private property where peasants retained the right to use the land. This system remained in place until Geoffrey de Manderville was granted ownership after the Norman Conquest. Over the following centuries the land passed down through Manderville descendants eventually enjoying Royal ownership (Henry V) via Henry IV's marriage to Mary, the daughter and co-heir of Humphrey de Bohun. In 1421 Enfield Manor and Chase was allocated to the King as part of the Duchy of Lancaster, even when Enfield Chase was divided under the 1777 Enclosure Act the site remained part of the Duchy of Lancaster as it fell within the King's allotment. The Duchy had released virtually all of its Enfield Chase holdings by 1937.

Purchased in 1954 by Southgate Borough Council for educational use what became known as The Cat Hill Campus was opened in 1970 to house Hornsey College of Art. Historically the site had remained undeveloped until the Art College buildings were erected in the late 1960's, it has been used for educational purposes ever since. The campus consisted of the main building, which housed a library and teaching and workshop facilities, fine art studios, and a student accommodation block. The MoDA (Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture) building opened in 2001 with the aid of a £1.6 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant and was a particularly useful resource for local primary schools. The employment generated by the university, both directly and indirectly, has been very important to the local economy.

Middlesex University came into existence in 1992, previously known as Middlesex Polytechnic, and grew out of a merger between schools and colleges in North London, the most prominent of these constituent establishments being the Hornsey College of Art. In 1993 London Borough of Enfield transferred the Cat Hill Campus to Middlesex University under the 1992 Further and Higher Education Act. Almost all of the campus site was sold by Middlesex University to London and Quadrant (L&Q) Housing Association for residential development in February 2011.

Enfield Council unanimously rejected L&Q's first planning application for 250 residential units in March 2012. A decision on a new application submitted in September 2012 for 232 residential units is expected early in 2013. If planning permission is granted an educational site will be lost, over 100 trees, some hundreds of years old, will be felled, a wildlife haven, which includes protected species, will be disrupted, a lottery funded building less than 15 years old will be demolished, over 1,000 new residents will be added to the local population with no extra provision for schools, doctors, dentists, hospitals, etc., to mention just a few outcomes. The area around Cat Hill roundabout will be changed forever.

Elaine Tyler

Enfield Council Planning Application Reference: P12-02266PLA

Campaign for Cat Hill

contact: Kim Coleman on 020 8447 5740

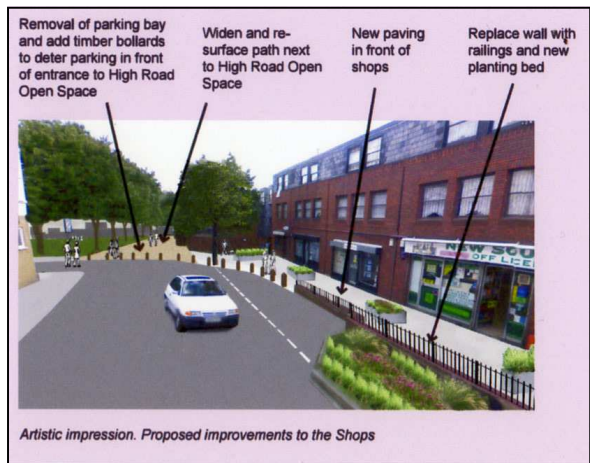
NEW SOUTHGATE MASTERPLAN

After a lengthy period of consultation, the latest improvements to the area have been finalised. These consist of changes around the High Road shops, traffic calming measures in the High Road and enhancement of the High Road Open Space, Grove Road Open Space and the Millennium Green. Also, the expansion of Garfield School has been agreed.

The High Road

The changes around the shops involve removing some walls, new paving and planters outside, creating a raised table in front of the shops and the entrance to the High Road Open Space to help reduce traffic speed and improve pedestrian safety, a feature, possibly a mature tree or artwork, and a better entrance to the High Road Open Space.

The main aim of the traffic calming measures is to create a better route for pedestrians and cyclists by forming a "green link". So the plans will connect the High Road to Betstyle Circus by removing existing pram sheds and making a new direct footpath from the top of the High Road to Friern Barnet Road. Pedestrian paths will be improved with a raised table between the junction of Woodland Road and The Limes Avenue. Speed cushions will be removed and replaced with a speed table along Inverforth Road. A new speed table will be built on Upper Park Road. An avenue of trees will be planted along High Road.

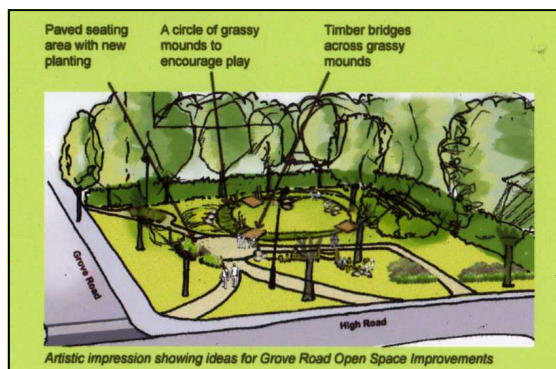


The High Road Open Space

There is already a new play area aimed at children aged between 8 and 13 and it is thought that this might be developed to become an activity space for residents of all ages by opening up views into the High Road Open Space to improve policing and reducing antisocial behaviour by removing trees and fences. More play equipment will be provided for young and older people and more seating and planting. Some residents have expressed opposition to these ideas on the grounds that they would be overdeveloping a site which is too small and that they would be insufficiently used and quickly vandalised, on past experience. We shall see.

Grove Road Open Space

To help this to become a well-used park, the plans aim to enhance the character of the space with new planting and removing "inappropriate" existing plants, creating a playable landscape that will appeal to very young children and providing attractive social areas for sitting and picnics(!) and creating a screen of plants around the electricity substation to conceal it. The artist's impression shows a paved seating area with new planting, a circle of grassy mounds to encourage play, and timber bridges across grassy mounds.





The Millennium Green

The plans here involve new signage and a clearer entrance way, which will help to connect the Green to the local area. There will be new information boards to inform visitors about the wildlife and a nature trail will be created. There will be a willow structure (a series of semi-circular hoops over which the willow is trained), to add natural play space.

Garfield School (Springfield Road)

The expansion plans will involve the erection of a new 2 storey classroom block on the site. While it is being erected, temporary classrooms will be used. The school will go from 2 form to 3 form entry, that is from 60 to 90 pupils each year. As the site itself cannot be enlarged without encroaching on public space, there will be less room for the children to mingle and play outside. This is of some concern.

The Ladderswood Estate

The planning application for the new building is due to be approved by the Council on 28 January 2013 and work to commence by the Autumn of 2013. If all goes according to plan, the first residents would move in by the end of 2014.



The Masterplan Map

Graham Beech

NORTH CIRCULAR AREA ACTION PLAN (NCAAP)

The final consultation document has been published and is available online. This public consultation is due to be completed by 31 March 2013, ready for final approval later in the year. Some questions have been raised about the actions of the Notting Hill Housing Trust, as they have been submitting planning applications for large housing developments within the area which, I understand, the Council is considering piecemeal, thus pre-empting the NCAAP. I expect to get some answers when the Neighbourhood Panel, of which I am a member, meets next on 31 January 2013.

Graham Beech

ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Trust again took the opportunity to increase its profile with a stall at the St Nicholas Fair on Winchmore Hill Green. This event was another great success, following on from the N21 Fair in June. We sold some publications, and had a good number of visitors - including our MP, David Burrowes! We were also able to watch the very popular carriage and horses rides around the Green.



IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM—LONDON

This museum is being upgraded in advance of the centenary commemorations of the start of World War 1. To do this, it will be closed now until July 2013, and will only open partially from this July until summer 2014. See their website for details, www.iwm.org.uk.