

Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter
No. 225
July 2013



www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.co.uk

Chairman: Graham Beech
83 Seafield Road,
New Southgate, N11 1AR
Tel: 020 8245 6998

Secretary: Jane Maggs
108 Chelmsford Road,
Southgate, N14 4JL
Tel: 020 8882 4253

Treasurer: Alastair Palmar
5 Tintern Gardens,
Southgate, N14 6AS
Tel: 020 8882 9387

Social Sec: Janet Lane
12 Norman Way,
Southgate N14 6NA
Tel: 020 8886 3303

HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 10th Sept. 2013
at 8.00pm Friends Meeting House,
Church Hill, N21

**Subject and speaker
to be confirmed.**

**Details will be emailed to members
nearer the date.**

ALL WELCOME

OPEN MEETING

Saturday 12th Oct. 2013

at 2.30pm Walker Lower Hall, Christchurch Parish
Centre, 7 The Green, Southgate, N14

“The Work of Thames21”

by TheoThomas (Senior Manager at Thames21)



As part of the **Love the Lea** campaign, Thames21 is working with Enfield to improve Salmons Brook with systems inspired by nature. The systems, to be created with local people, will treat the polluted water that enters the river every time it rains.

ALL WELCOME

OUTING: Sunday 4th August Tour of Myddleton House and Gardens. Meet at house at 2pm. Minimum group size is 15, maximum 25. Cost £5 per person. Contact Janet Lane as soon as possible to book a place, (tel. no. at top of page), and let her know if you need a lift, or can offer one.

Other Dates for your Diary:

Tues. 12th November
Wed. 13th November

History Group Meeting
Annual Luncheon

Subject TBA
Southgate College (more details in October)

Additional articles to be found on our website:

LAMAS Local History Conference programme “The River and Port of London”

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 enclosed with this newsletter, or the one at the back of the April edition, or on our website, and send it with your remittance to the Treasurer.

Contributions to the October newsletter should be sent by Friday 13th September 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 **7th October 2013**. Emailed copies should be available for members w/c **30th September**.

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**).

Griff Rhys Jones and the WI

“We should treat our high streets like our front rooms and make them interesting” was one of the messages delivered by Griff Rhys Jones, Civic Voice President, when he gave the keynote address to the Annual General Meeting of the Women's Institute.

Griff took the opportunity to speak passionately about his work as President of Civic Voice and about his visits to our groups across England. Griff also participated in a debate on the future of the High Street and spoke about his opposition to the Government's relaxation of planning laws. Civic Voice believes that our sense of community is intimately connected to the health of our local high street. This is because it plays such an important social role in bringing people together, so we were pleased to see the Women's Institute vote through a resolution for their members to support the High Street.

Civic Voice responds to wind farms announcement



Paula Ridley, Chair of Civic Voice, responded to the Government announcement that, in future, residents will have to be properly consulted over new wind farms (published 6th June).

“It is fair to say that across the country the building of wind farms is, more often than not, contrary to the wishes of local people who regard as unacceptable a remote energy company benefiting, to the detriment of the rest of the community”.

The full press release was sent out by e-mail to SDCT members and can be seen on the Civic Voice website

Civic Voice meeting Chris Skidmore MP

Civic Voice has been in discussions for a while now with Chris Skidmore MP about introducing a Community Right of Appeal into the Planning System. We are meeting with Chris again to discuss his plans for a new All Party Parliamentary Group dedicated to protecting the Green Belt. This would be a group that we believe would complement the work of the civic society movement and would continue to ensure we have our collective voice heard in the corridors of power.

Terry Farrell's architecture review seeks evidence



Terry Farrell's independent review of architecture and the built environment is seeking evidence from architects and the wider construction industry.

The call for evidence covers four themes:

- Understanding the role for government in promoting design quality in architecture and the built environment.
- The economic benefits of architecture and design, and maximising the UK's growth potential.
- Cultural heritage and the built environment.
- Promoting education, outreach and skills.

Ed Vaizey, architecture minister, said “Hearing from a wide cross section of people across the sector will help Sir Terry Farrell and in turn DCMS look at the future of policy in this area, and we need the whole industry to come forward with their views.”

Share your thoughts on this review by contacting Civic Voice at info@civicvoice.org.uk

For more information on these stories contact Civic Voice:

www.civicvoice.org.uk | 0151 708 9920 | info@civicvoice.org.uk |  [@civic_voice](https://twitter.com/civic_voice)

GROVELANDS PARK CENTENARY

18th & 19th May 2013

We had been concerned that the details of this event were so uncertain up to a few weeks beforehand that it risked being an expensive disaster, but after much hard work over many months by the Friends of Grovelands Park, and others, this much anticipated weekend of celebrations turned out to be a triumph. The weather was good, and people came in droves to the event.

There was plenty to see and do: vintage cars, climbing wall, sports displays, children's activities, plus lots of music on two stages throughout the weekend, and they even managed to get permission to have rowing boats back on the lake for it. Hugh and Ann Humphrey organised the boats, and these proved a great success. More than 50 stalls were spread around the park, including many food and drink stalls, commercial ones and various local groups and charities.

The Trust had a stall, and we felt that it was important enough to us to warrant setting up a small group to plan it. This work paid off, as it not only resulted in sales of many publications, but it was also a great publicity opportunity. Many of our members volunteered to join the rota for manning the stall over the weekend and I would like to thank them for their support. We had many visitors throughout the weekend, favourable comments on our displays, and we gained a number of new members.



The SDCT Stall



Jeremy Taylor with Audrey Kirby

A special visitor to our stall was Mr Jeremy Taylor, Great Grandson of John Donnithorne Taylor, (the owner of Grovelands House until his death in 1885). Our President, Audrey Kirby, had been in contact with Mr Taylor and arranged to take him to meet Matthew Eccleston, who wrote the 1997 book on the history of Grovelands House. Mr Taylor was interested to hear about our plans to restore (again) the Granary at the House.

One of the centrepieces of the Centenary weekend – the Historical Exhibition, had its own marquee. This major display tracked the history of the park from medieval times to the present. I helped gather the photos and maps required by trawling through the Enfield Borough archives and our own Trust archives, and the Friends arranged for these to be incorporated into professionally printed boards, which received many visitors and much admiration.



Historical Exhibition (images from N21.net)

From the time it was decided to celebrate the park's Centenary, it was hoped that Matthew Eccleston's book on Grovelands House could be reprinted for the event. The Trust and the Friends discussed this, and consulted Matthew about it. Although Jane and I arranged for a good quality scanned copy to be made, which Matthew was happy about, agreement wasn't possible between all of us on changes to it, so the Trust pulled out of the project. However, the Friends went ahead and printed copies as a special Centenary edition, which were sold over the weekend event.

Image from N21.net



Although this was the biggest public event to take place in the area for many years, the press didn't give it as much prominence as it deserved, but those who attended enjoyed it, and suggested it became an annual event! I don't think people realise how much work is involved in staging events like this or last year's N21 Festival.

Colin Barratt

THE NEW SOUTHGATE MASTERPLAN

High Road Open Space – Saturday 8th June saw an event organised by the Council to mark the official reopening of this small park. Accompanied by food and drink, stalls by local organisations, and music, it was possible to see and experience how the £18,000 had been spent. If the large crowd is any indication, the response of the locals is very enthusiastic. The play equipment seemed popular with the children and the feedback was very positive. There are suggestions that this place should have a new name. It remains to be seen whether the more destructive elements can be kept in check. Meanwhile, final consultations about the details of the Grove Road Open Space are being made.

Station Road Development – Plans have been unveiled for a new housing development by Origin Housing next to New Southgate Station. It will be on the site currently occupied by a Car Sales business. Whereas the original Masterplan proposal envisaged a mixed development, this one is purely residential. It will consist of 44 residential apartments, with a mix of types and tenures. These plans were on show at the High Road Open Space opening event, but there will be a wider consultation in due course.



View looking east towards Station Road from Friern Barnet Road

Garfield School, Springfield Road – The plans to expand Garfield School have been scrapped. On 24th April Enfield Council cabinet announced that they now intend to re-provision the school with a new single building on what is currently part of the school field. The plans for a 3-form entry will go ahead in September, but with temporary structures. When the new school is completed the old and temporary buildings will be removed and eventually part of the present school will be sold. These proposals are, of course, controversial, and a long period of consultation is inevitable while the architectural plans are developed. This change of direction has resulted from difficulties with the previous plans, which had been approved. The complexities of the site have caused a re-scheduling of the work and completion date back to April 2014, and the estimated cost has increased. The school governors were also concerned about difficulties of managing and teaching on the site, due to difference in levels, exacerbated by the number of sprawling buildings of varying age, quality and design and with poor outdoor facilities for younger pupils particularly. A new build would not only improve the site in terms of education, but would also be a new focal point for the Ladderswood community. This would make it possible to design the buildings so that they could be used for other community purposes.

Graham Beech

HISTORY GROUP MEETING

May 2013

“The History and Mystery of Oakfield Road”

The speaker was Geoff Jacobs, a member of the Trust, whose talk had been postponed from March. The subject was based on an essay “The History and Mystery of Oakfield Road” , by Geoff, which won an award from Edmonton Hundred Historical Society.

In March 2010, residents of Oakfield Road were planning to celebrate the centenary of their road, and Geoff was asked to research its history. He had only three months to do this, but, with the help of the Enfield Library and Archives and London Metropolitan Archives he gathered a large amount of information and maps, to build the story of this small local road.

Geoff showed maps of the area, when it was mainly agricultural, before the sale in 1902 of the huge Old Park Estate, (135 acres), which was bought by the British Land Company. He discovered that all the houses in what became Oakfield Road were built by the same man, William Arthur Goring, who also built houses in many other roads nearby. He then turned to Kelly’s Street Directories, which were produced at regular intervals. The first mention of the road was in 1907, and in 1908 houses had started to be built and were occupied. The house building was not complete until 1913-14. In 1908 the builder produced an advert to help sell his “High Class Villa Residences” in several roads around Fox Lane, which included pictures of the area.

Geoff studied various minutes of Southgate Council to piece together the timeline of building the Old Park Estate, to find out why Oakfield Road was delayed by several years. It appeared that this was because of Mr Goring’s commitments to building in other roads.

Deeds from some of the houses also gave useful information about the building work, with maps and purchase prices. Further research showed that Oakfield Road lay at the boundary with the Southgate House estate, owned by Russell Donnithorne Walker, and some land trading was done between Walker and Goring to allow access out of the Walker estate via Oakfield Road.

Another valuable source was the Middlesex Deed Registry indexes, which allowed Geoff to find out who first lived in the road, where they came from and their professions.

Geoff discovered that Mr Goring’s name featured frequently and unfavourably in the minutes of Southgate Council, and he found records of some rather shady practices by Mr Goring himself, over purchases of a large number of properties, including a number under the name of his sister Emily.

This impressive amount of research was completed in time for an exhibition to be prepared for the centenary street party in Oakfield Road, and shows what information is available for those of us who have sufficient tenacity and diligence, and Geoff’s work could form a template for anyone thinking of tracing the history of their road.

Colin Barratt

WORLD WAR I CENTENARY 2014

4th August 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

As we approach this important date, people of all ages will be reflecting on the First World War, the experiences of men and women both in the forces and at home, as well as how that experience shaped our lives over the following 100 years.

Southgate District Civic Trust is planning to work with local groups to mark this momentous period in our history.

This is a new project that we haven’t really started yet! So we need you!

There are a number of possible ways to mark this momentous time. What the Civic Trust do will depend on the ideas from us and the other groups. **So, can you help?**

As a start, we would like to know if you have memories, photos or other information relating to the war to share with the community? Please get in touch.

Jane Maggs

WALK AROUND SOUTHGATE IN ASSOCIATION WITH JAYWALKS

28th April 2013

On a Sunday afternoon in April, a group of Southgate District Civic Trust members, friends and Jaywalk regulars gathered at Southgate Station to meet Joe Studman.

The historic station made a stunning start to an interesting and informative afternoon. For the next 90 minutes, Joe walked us around Southgate and on to Southgate Green. He kept us amused and entertained with stories about the area, its history and the lives of the characters that influenced its development.

As we walked there was a great deal of chat and discussion about Southgate. As in other walks led by Joe, there was always an opportunity for us to add other local information, which made a more interactive event.

I have to admit that, although I have lived in Southgate for many years, Joe led us along pathways I had never noticed before. As well as learning more about Southgate, I have found new places to explore.



At Minchenden Oak

Photo Mervyn Maggs

These local walks have been very popular, so as part of the Grovelands Centenary Event, Joe once again led the three local walks (The Dark Side of Winchmore Hill, Palmers Green and Southgate). They made a fitting end to a historic celebration.

For those that don't know him, as well as being a member of SDCT, Joe is a qualified City of London Guide who leads themed walks through the City of London. If you are interested in any other walks, please see Joe Studman's website: www.jaywalks.co.uk or contact him directly on 0787 553 7295.

Jane Maggs

SOUTHGATE SUMMER FESTIVAL

Saturday 20th July 2013

As those of you at the AGM will be aware, Southgate District Civic Trust is collaborating with other groups to improve the town centres in this area for the benefit of residents and businesses alike. As part of that drive, we have been in discussion with the Southgate Chamber of Trade, which is planning a series of events in Southgate during the year.

Following on from the highly successful Easter Egg hunt, the local traders' next event is the **Southgate Summer Festival** on **Saturday 20th July 11am-4pm**.

The Festival will allow Southgate Traders to show their goods and products and let all the visitors know just how much is available in Southgate – probably more than you realised.

This will vary by store and all the details are not available yet. So far we know that the restaurants plan to have tables outside their shop fronts, with tasters available. There will be stalls and events outside other shops, as well as bands playing in three locations and the local Scouts will be having a BBQ.

Further details will be available nearer the time.

Homelink has offered to produce estate agent boards to advertise the festival. Would you be interested in allowing a board outside your house? If so, please could you let me have your name and address, so the details can be passed onto the organisers.

Jane Maggs

Jane.maggs@btinternet.com

Tel: 074153 16818

NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD

Area Action Plan – Notting Hill Housing Association has received planning permission for the 118 homes on the four sites around the junction of Bowes Road, Telford Road and Wilmer Way. The start date is not yet known, but is likely to be in the next three months.

Graham Beech

CAFÉ IN BROOMFIELD PARK

Greenery bid successful!

Announcement by the Friends of Broomfield Park:-

“After several anxious months awaiting a decision, the Palmers Greenery team were informed by Enfield Council in late May that, subject to formalities, they had won the bid for the project to open a café in Broomfield Park. The team is now hoping to start operation in the autumn of 2013.

The 'Palmers Greenery' will be a kiosk type operation, with indoor kitchen, serving hatch, outdoor seating and toilet/baby-changing facilities. We will be child (and dog!) friendly and serve affordable, healthy and where possible locally-sourced drinks and snacks. It will be staffed by volunteers from the community and all profits generated will be reinvested directly back into the park for park-enhancing purposes”.

See the Friends website for more details and an artist’s sketch of the café, (www.friendsofbroomfieldpark.org).

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE - 400 YEARS OF THE NEW RIVER

An exhibition to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the completion of the New River is running at the Enfield Museum in the Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road, Enfield until 5th January next year. It’s open 9am to 5pm Mon.-Sat. and 10am to 1pm Sun.

The exhibition looks at the course of the river in the borough, and the associated bridges, aqueducts and pump houses. It also delves more deeply into the problem of providing clean water and taking away waste water.

LAMAS LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

“The River and Port of London”

This will be held at the Weston Theatre in the Museum of London, on Saturday 16th November, 10am to 4pm. Details of the programme of six talks at this conference have now been released, although they are not on the LAMAS website yet. However, you should be able to see them on our Trust website. Tickets will be available from 1st September, at £12 (if ordered before 1st November), or £15 after 1st Nov. You can order tickets from the LAMAS website or, c/o Eleanor Stanier, 48 Coval Road, East Sheen, London SW14 7RL.

WINCHMORE HILL FRIENDS’ MEETING HOUSE

This historic Grade II listed building is special, built in 1790, and is an important part of Enfield’s story. The Trust has been using it for many years for our History Group meetings. The building has required over £100,000 in recent years to halt subsidence, repair damage, and improve site security. However, the Quakers need another £33,000 to replace damaged windows and doors, and further conservation and safety work for the buildings and burial ground.

If you would like to support their work to save this building, and allow it to continue to be an asset for the community, you can make a donation via their website (www.winchmorehillquakers.org.uk), or send a cheque to the Friends Meeting House, 59 Church Hill, London, N21 1LE.

