# Southgate District Newsletter **Civic Trust**

No. 228 **April 2014** 



www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.co.uk

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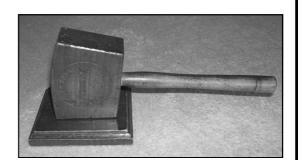
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# **COMING EVENTS**

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 10th May 2014 at 2.30 pm

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

Please come to the AGM, and tell us what you think about the Trust, and its work. More details are on page 2, together with the officers and committee willing to stand again.



#### **SDCT DINNER**

**Thurs. 15th May 2014** at 7.30pm, The Highland Restaurant, Southgate Green

To book a place, ring Janet Lane on 8886 3303

#### HISTORY GROUP MEETING

**Tuesday 13th May 2014** 

at 8.00pm Friends Meeting House, Church Hill, N21 "A View of the New River" by Rachael Macdonald

(see page 10 for details)

ALL WELCOME

#### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that annual subscriptions became due on 1st April. Please send payments with the membership renewal form on page 11.

#### **Dates for your diary:**

Mon. 5th May Christchurch May Fair on Southgate Green (see page 2 for details) Tues. 8th July History Group Meeting, Friends Meeting House Subject TBA

#### Contributions to the July newsletter should be sent by Friday 6th June 2014

to the Editors: Mary and Colin Barratt, 13 Beardow Grove, Avenue Road, Southgate, N14 4DG

e-mail: colin barratt@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 020 8882 2246

Notice to Newsletter Distributors:- We hope to deliver the next newsletter to distributors during week commencing 7th July 2014. Emailed copies should be available for members w/c 30th June.

**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).

#### SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

# Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 2.30 pm

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

The AGM is essential to the successful functioning of the Trust. It gives members an opportunity to question the outgoing committee and to express their views. It is the time when you elect the officers and committee for the coming year.

The AGM is an opportunity to help your new Committee plan the coming year and decide on the Trust's future strategy and campaigns.

#### **ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014/2015**

The following members are willing to stand again:

President	Audrey Kirby
Vice-Presidents	Chris Howell
	Geoff Bone
Chair	Graham Beech
Secretary	Jane Maggs
Treasurer	Alastair Palmar
Social Secretary	Janet Lane
Newsletter Editor	Colin Barratt
Committee Members	Irene Stone Joe Studman

Joe Studman Richard Purver Elaine Tyler

Auditor Elaine Tyler

We still need nominations for the post of **Publicity Officer**, plus any new members of the committee.

In order that the Southgate District Civic Trust can continue to be involved in local projects, proposals, or issues that are of interest or concern, we need members to join the Executive Committee. Can you spare a few hours to help with the running of the Trust?

For more information, please contact one of the Committee or Jane Maggs on <a href="maggs@btinternet.com">jane.maggs@btinternet.com</a>.

To stand for the committee, or nominate someone else, please complete the nomination form on page 11.

# CHRISTCHURCH MAY FAIR Waterfall Road, 5th May 2014

The Trust is returning to the Fair this year, and has booked a stall, as we are taking all opportunities to publicise the Trust, its projects and publications. We will need help from members to man the gazebo throughout the event. If you can help, even for an hour, please contact Richard Purver (8882 0123).

#### THE MASKENS FAMILY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Former local resident and Trust member Gillian Maskens is writing an account of a comprehensive collection of letters in her possession which were sent by family members to her late father Vincent during the war while he was away working in Australia and then in the armed services. The family lived at 22 Ulleswater Road and the letters give a vivid impression of life in Palmers Green and Southgate during wartime.

Gill recently donated a copy on CD-R of Volume 1, covering 1939, to SDCT via her friend Mary Castro and has now sent Volume II (1940) to *Oakleaves* editor Peter Hodge. At Gill's request we intend to make her book available to members in due course.

Richard Purver

#### **UPDATE FROM CIVIC VOICE**

In March, Civic Voice met with the Minister for Communities, Stephen Williams MP, to talk about giving greater protection to local assets. They were very pleased that the Minister had picked up on the press coverage Civic Voice received recently in the Times newspaper talking about why communities should be using powers provided through the Localism Act to nominate, protect and preserve the places and spaces they value most.

Securing greater protection for locally important and valued buildings and places, either as <u>Assets of Community Value</u> or by placing them on a <u>Local Heritage List</u>, is something they would like all groups across England to be considering.

If you want to learn more about how to nominate and get buildings listed, Civic Voice is running a number of events including one in London on 17<sup>th</sup> April at the Central Hall Westminster (for more details see the Civic Voice website). You'll come away with valuable insights, understanding and learning as well as having the opportunity to network with like-minded civic champions!

#### Relaxed shop-to-home conversion rules to come into force next month

New rules to allow shops and offices to be converted into homes without the need for planning permission will come into force on 6th April.

The Government published an order in mid March to amend existing permitted development rights. It follows consultation on the proposals, aimed at supporting the high street and rural communities.

Under the rules, shops and buildings used for financial or professional services with a floor space below 150 square metres may be converted into homes without the need for planning permission.

#### Permitted development rights to undergo further reform

The Chancellor announced in his Budget that government would consult on introducing greater flexibility to the rules governing the conversion of commercial buildings to residential use, including warehouses and light-industry structures.

The move will be part of a review of the General Permitted Development Order, according to the Budget document, which states: "The government has taken decisive steps to improve and streamline the planning system. To support businesses and households further, the government will review the General Permitted Development Order".

The document says that the review of the General Permitted Development Order will include consultation on creating a much wider 'retail' use class, excluding betting shops and payday loan shops.

There will be consultation on specific change of use measures, including greater flexibility for change to residential use. It gave the example of "warehousing and light industry structures" being converted to residential use.

Businesses will be allowed greater flexibility to expand facilities such as car parks and loading bays within existing boundaries, as long as there is little impact on local communities.

#### **Housing Minister to address APPG for Civic Societies**

Civic Voice and the All Party Parliamentary Group for Civic Societies will host a meeting in Parliament on April 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the challenges facing the country in providing the homes the nation needs.

The meeting will hear from Housing Minister Kris Hopkins MP and will allow MPs and members of the public to discuss the different approaches available to delivering new homes for the nation.

#### Strengthen local planning powers, Lib Dems say

The Liberal Democrat Spring Conference supported a motion to introduce a community right of appeal if a planning authority passes an application which does not conform to an approved, up-to-date neighbourhood plan. This is something Civic Voice has long been campaigning for.



Civic Voice support the adoption of a Community Right of Appeal that recognises a reasonable and considered "participation threshold". Having a threshold helps legitimise genuine concerns within communities against a particular development proposal and ensures that local opinion really does reflect a percentage of a community.

Civic Voice are glad the Liberal Democrats now support this need, and will continue to campaign on this as we move towards the General Election, (see page 3).

For more information about the work of Civic Voice see the website: <a href="www.civicvoice.org.uk">www.civicvoice.org.uk</a> Or call on 0151 707 4319

## OPEN MEETING - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014 Southgate Literati by Joe Studman

Joe Studman is well known to many members for his local guided walks. As a City Guide in London, he kept coming across the names of Thomas Hood and James Henry Leigh Hunt. This prompted him to delve deeper.

This open meeting was one of the best attended in a long time, attracting both members and new visitors. We were treated to a lively and interesting talk, full of anecdotes and tales about our famous residents, their friends and acquaintances. I started taking notes to write this article, but I was so engrossed in the stories, it became incredibly difficult!



The first part of the talk concentrated on Thomas Hood, who had lived for a time in Rose Cottage, Vicars Moor Lane. The house was bombed in WWII, but there is still a plaque on the house built on the site.

Joe recited some of the poetry and gave a description of his life and many literary achievements.

Thomas Hood.

Artist unknown

James Henry Leigh Hunt Benjamin Robert Haydon

The second subject was James Henry Leigh Hunt, born in Southgate in 1784. You will have seen in the last Newsletter that SDCT and Leigh Hunt's descendants recently restored the plaque on the site.

Leigh Hunt led an interesting life, with considerable literary successes. Joe recited a number of poems during his talk, including 'Rondeau', although it does not refer to our member Stan or his ancestors.



Unfortunately, Leigh Hunt was often on the edge of financial problems. He was a friend of Byron, Shelley and Keats, although he often relied on them for financial support. In November 1821, Leigh Hunt travelled from London to Italy to see his fellow poets and borrow more money.

He travelled on a boat named Jane, with his wife, five children and a pet goat. The family were delayed by storms, probably not surprising if you set sail in November, so they did not arrive in Italy until the following July, just a few weeks before Shelley died. Sadly, Joe was unable to tell us the fate of the goat during their travels.

I had not realised that Leigh Hunt's habit of borrowing from his friends became the inspiration for the character of Horace Skimpole in Dickens *Bleak House*. Possibly a good reason to re-read the book!

We had a fascinating afternoon full of interesting detail, poetry and many amusing and entertaining stories.

Jane Maggs



#### **CIVIC VOICE AND THE GENERAL ELECTION IN 2015**

At the 2015 General Election the civic movement has a huge opportunity to build on the first few years of Civic Voice and influence the future agenda impacting our towns, cities and villages. To achieve this, we need strong policies that reinforce our values, appeal to our potential supporters and can be delivered by Government.

Following the approval of the Manifesto Themes at the 2013 AGM in Liverpool, the members of the Manifesto Working Group are working with members as they draft the Civic Manifesto Document to be launched in 2014 at the Party Political conferences. This timing will allow time to influence the Political Party manifestos.

This is a great opportunity for Southgate District Civic Trust (SDCT) to become involved in developing and engaging politicians in the future of our country, on themes we believe are important both locally and nationally.

SDCT held a meeting of various members in the Queens Head, Winchmore Hill on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014 to discuss ideas and create our feedback. Civic Voice had agreed seven main themes:

The Planning System

Priorities for Growth (where should new housing and other development be built?)

Town & City Centres

Design Quality (better buildings and places)

Heritage

The Public Realm (better streets, squares and parks)

Civic Pride & Civic Action (how to get people actively involved in improving the places where they live)

This was too broad for this particular discussion, so we concentrated on 'The Planning System' and 'Town and City Centres' themes.

Graham Davis bravely volunteered to write up our suggestions and develop into proposals. Those members who attended or expressed interest in the process are now reviewing the document. Once everyone is agreed it will be sent on to Civic Voice.

Unfortunately, the timing means we are unable to show the suggestions in this Newsletter. However, the document will be sent out to members on the e-mail mailing list and posted to any others who contact me.

Jane Maggs



#### **CIVIC VOICE MEMBERSHIP**

Southgate District Civic Trust (SDCT) will continue its membership of Civic Voice for the year 2014-2015. We will again receive the various benefits of belonging to a national organisation.

As you will have seen in other articles about Civic Voice, it continues to campaign and lobby on issues that directly impact our local environment and heritage.

As members of Civic Voice, we can attend and vote at the AGM, as well as provide input to their campaigns. SDCT obtains its insurance policy at a special reduced members rate. We receive automatic free membership of NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations), who provide free advice and support to SDCT. Also free access to RUDI (Resource for Urban Design Information), who hold a large web resource dedicated to urban design and place making.

At an individual level all members can receive a free day pass to visit a National Trust property.

I hope you agree our continued membership gives us information and input into the key issues impacting civic societies like ours.

Jane Maggs

#### **PLANNING GROUP REPORT**

Since the last report we have dealt with 40 applications, covering all our conservation areas, and during this time we have had a couple of applications in Southgate Circus CA. With the new planning procedure of changing office buildings into flats, prior approval is not required. However we are notified because of the change of use.

The main building of the former <u>Southgate Town Hall</u>, Palmers Green is being converted into a Health Centre and the Library facing Broomfield Lane will still be there. Several people have asked me if the main building is to be demolished. This was never an option. There will be a glass infill to accommodate the staircase, and landscaping and car parking will be altered to accommodate an extension to lower and upper floors. There will be 18 flats in the conversion too, keeping several of the original features of the building. There will be a new build block of 18 flats part 3- 4 storeys high which will be at the side of the New River and obviously not far from the main building. The group are concerned that drawings in the application show an uninspiring flat roof that does not show much architectural feelings for the traditional pitched roof of the existing main building. It would have been nice for it to have matched. Even a mansard roof would give more shape and be more in keeping.

A vacant space beside Winchmore Hill Railway Station, N21 that had been a garden centre for a while is suggested as a local week end /bank holiday farmer's market for 1 year to see if it is popular. This could either be good for The Green or a nuisance regarding traffic etc for the area's residents. Shop fronts and fascias in the Winchmore Green CA are a constant problem.

Following several queries about trees in a conservation area, or getting Tree Preservation Orders placed on trees, it should be known that Enfield Council has a tree consultation procedure. If anyone seeks advice about trees, or considers that they should have been notified, then they can contact Stephen Downing, Tree Officer (Planning), Development Management, Environment and Street Scene, London Borough of Enfield. Tel: 020 8379 3845.

At our Public meetings I always have many people who ask me questions about developments in their areas, and seem pleased to have someone involved in local planning to speak to. Do not be shy, our group is always pleased to see anyone at our meetings who are interested in any of our conservation areas and wishes to have a say on any new applications that they are concerned about. We meet monthly at 6, Eversley Mount, Winchmore Hill, London N21 1JP at 8.00pm Tel: 0208 364 3500 for any information about the dates of the meetings.

Irene Stone Group Chairman.

#### **SOUTHGATE OPEN SPACES**

Now the sun has come out and spring is in the air, have you noticed how colourful the flowerbed outside the old Wimpy Bar is looking? It was well worth the campaigning by the various groups, as it brightens that corner of Southgate.



Photo: Mervyn Maggs

The regular maintenance and development is being carried out by Enfield in Bloom volunteers and the space sponsored by the Accommodating Company. It is a fantastic testament to these two organisations.

Improving the open space by Southgate Station is still in progress, although unfortunately moving rather slowly. We expect to have the trees looked at by the TfL tree officer, as they are in urgent need of attention. A member of the Thames21 team will be coming to look at the site, to see if it can be transformed into a rain garden. Using the site for SuDS (sustainable drainage system) would make it both interesting to look at, as well as improve the environment. So watch this space!

Jane Maggs

## SuDS WALK 12th March 2014

A group of around 40 walkers joined Dave Cockle of The Enfield Society and Aimee Felus of Thames 21 for a guided tour of the sites where sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) were to be installed. Aimee had given an enlightening talk to SDCT on October 13<sup>th</sup> and this was our opportunity to see her plans in action (see Newsletter 227 January 2014).

We met at The Jolly Farmers at the bottom of Slades Hill and within a few hundred yards we had picked up Glen Brook, which is a tributary of Salmons Brook, and followed its course through to Boxers Lake. On the way Dave had pointed out a new bridge installed to improve conditions for walkers.

On the far side of Boxers Lake Aimee explained that the brook was bereft of any wildlife due to pollution. She also pointed out a pungent smell emanating from the outflow at the bottom of Lonsdale Drive. The SuDS installation is to be placed where Merryhills Drive crosses Glen Brook thus saving Boxers Lake and Salmons Brook from further pollution. Local volunteers had already thinned out the wooded area between Merryhills Drive and Lonsdale Drive in preparation.

Dave then led us through to the back of Highlands Village and gave us a brief history of the site. Originally two hospitals were here, The Enfield Isolation Hospital (later South Lodge Hospital) and The Northern Hospital (known locally as The Pest House). In 1948 The Northern Hospital, which up to that point had been a convalescence hospital, changed its name to Highlands and became a district general hospital for the residents of Southgate and Winchmore Hill. It joined South Lodge in 1968 but the merged Highlands Hospital closed in the late 1980's. It is now a development of private and social housing.

At the short refuelling stop at Highlands Village Sainsbury Monica Smith of Enfield Society pointed out the buildings where the horse drawn ambulances arrived thrice a week bringing patients from North London hospitals.

We then passed through a footpath into Houndsden Spinney. Here Aimee pointed out the outflow that had been causing a huge pollution problem in Houndsden Stream (Aimee refuses to call it a Gutter). Apparently a local house had incorrectly connected its sewage pipes discharging effluent from six toilets into the stream. Please check your waste-water pipe connection to make sure your sewage is not going into the rainwater drain. 10% of households have wrong connections and this is a major problem.

The final stop was in Grovelands Park. Here there are plans to re-introduce the stream from Grovelands Lake through the wooded area. At present it is culverted. When it is allowed to take its natural course a wetland will be created to filter the rain and drain run off from Seaforth and Branscombe Gardens preventing pollutants reaching the stream.

The pleasant morning walk ended with tea and coffee in Grovelands Café.

Joe Studman

Forthcoming Open Meeting Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Oliver Pike: Pioneer Wildlife Photographer, by Rory Morrisey

#### ENFIELD'S LOCAL LIST OF HERITAGE ASSETS

A local heritage list is managed by the Local Authority and, while placing a building or asset on the local list does not give it any additional legal protection, it does mean that the heritage value of a locally listed heritage asset is a material consideration in determining planning applications.

Here in Enfield, the process of reviewing our Local Heritage List is starting. We expect that following English Heritage guidance, local community groups (including Southgate District Civic Trust) will be involved in the review

You can view the current Enfield list at: <a href="http://www.enfield.gov.uk/info/514/planning-listed\_buildings-statutory">http://www.enfield.gov.uk/info/514/planning-listed\_buildings-statutory</a> register/168/heritage strategy

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The SDCT Planning Group will lead our response, but if you know of buildings or other heritage assets, which should be listed, please get in touch. We have already received a few suggestions, but there must be more. Please let me have any ideas either via <a href="mailto:jane.maggs@btinternet.com">jane.maggs@btinternet.com</a> or call on 020 8882 4253. Once a few more suggestions are received we will be organising a meeting to discuss the recommendations. If you are interested in attending, then let me know.

Across the country, Civic Voice members have pledged to increase the number of heritage assets on local lists by another 2,015 before April 2015.

As a start, in January Civic Voice sent out a press release where Griff Rhys Jones, President of Civic Voice welcomed the announcement that, after three years of campaigning by the Norwich Society, Norwich City Council has added more than 100 buildings to a Local List of Heritage Assets.

Griff commented: "This is great news. Across the country, civic groups are working hard daily to gain extra protection for the buildings they value. We are delighted to see the Norwich Society achieve such success. This shows that, when communities work together, they can have a voice on issues that matter to them. I congratulate the Norwich Society for achieving recognition for these local heritage assets."

This was followed a few days later by an announcement that Marple Civic Society has been successful in adding over 120 buildings to a Local List of Heritage Assets.



After these achievements, let's protect Enfield's heritage!

Jane Maggs

#### **NEWS OF WELD CHAPEL WEATHER VANE**

Some of you may remember at the AGM a couple of years ago, the subject of the Weld weather vane and its potential fate was hotly discussed. So, Southgate District Civic Trust are indebted to Suzanne Beard who posted an article on the **Palmers Green Jewel in the North** website, which provides an update and unravels the mystery.

The article is reprinted here with her kind permission. If you have not seen her posts with the latest on Palmers Green news, history and events, then I recommend signing up at: <a href="https://www.palmersgreenn13.com">www.palmersgreenn13.com</a>.

#### Vane Search Ended

A little bit of Palmers Green and Southgate's history has re-emerged in Sundridge Hertfordshire.

In our section on Palmers Green Jewel in the North website titled <u>survivals</u>, <u>oddities and curiosities</u> we told of the story of the weather vane which sat on a garage in the north circular road, on the site of McIntoshes old forge. The weather vane had originally graced the Weld chapel (built 1615). The chapel was demolished in 1862 to make way for Christ Church, Southgate, and the vane had sat atop one of the Walker family's barns until it was brought back to the forge in the 1920s.

Stephens Engineering moved to the forge site in 1968 and remained there for forty years before relocating five years ago. There were fears that the vane had been lost.

Not so. Engineer Bill Stephens has now restored and repainted it, and it now sits atop his new premises in Thundridge Business Park. Bill welcomes anyone who would like to see it to pop along. For more information about the story of the vane see the website.

Suzanne Beard



The Weld Chapel, demolished to make way for Christ Church Southgate Image (c) Enfield Local Studies Archive

#### **WAR MEMORIALS**

The Enfield Local History unit have provided a list of the war memorials they know about in the area covered by Southgate District Civic Trust. However, this does not seem to cover ones held in local clubs or sports buildings.

The memorials known are:

Christ Church, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters

Grange Park Methodist Church (The Church in the Orchard), Old Park Ridings, Grange Park

Holy Trinity Church, Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill

Palmers Green Bus Garage, Regent's Avenue, Palmers Green

Springfield Road Post Office sorting office, New Southgate

St Mark's Church, St Mark's Road, Bush Hill Park

St Paul's Church, Church Hill, Winchmore Hill

St Stephen's Church, Bush Hill Park

Winchmore Hill Baptist Church, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill

Winchmore Hill Methodist Church, Green Lanes, Palmers Green

Do you know of any more, particularly those that cover the people who lived in this area? It would be especially interesting to see ones commemorating people from other communities, who may not have fought for the allies.

If you know of any more, please let me know.

Jane Maggs

# <u>HISTORY GROUP MEETING – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014</u> The History of Enfield's Railways (part 2) by Dave Cockle

In case you were wondering, we haven't had part 1 yet. That covers the eastern side of the Borough. In part 2 Dave talked about the stations which lie within the Borough on the western side, on the main line and the Hertford Loop. The line from London to Yorkshire was proposed in the 1840s by Edmund Denison, who was MP for the West Riding, and the route was built by Thomas Bressey. The final section into London opened in 1850, and the route to York went via Lincolnshire.

The seven mile section from Wood Green to Potters Bar had a continuous gradient of 1 in 200, with five tunnels. Originally there were just two lines through New Southgate, which had two staggered platforms, and passengers had to cross the line to get to the other platform! Friern Barnet Pauper Lunatic Asylum was opened in 1851, next to the station, and had a large gate in its high wall to receive materials and supplies from rail trucks. Opposite the gate there were two turntables, on spur lines, one each side of the main tracks. Trucks were turned manually, then pushed through the gate. When the turntable on the far side was used, trucks were pushed across the main tracks to get to the gate!

The road bridge over the railway just north of New Southgate station, which carries Friern Barnet Road, used to have signal boxes built into the arches above the tracks. In 1931 the North Circular Road was built, requiring tunnelling through the embankment just south of the station. In 1958 the first diesel trains were introduced, but only for local journeys. Steam finally came to an end in 1964. On Boxing Day 1976 a devastating fire destroyed the station, and all the original wooden structure was lost.

The next two stations northwards are in Barnet, so were not included here. Hadley Wood station is in the Borough. The railway company was happy to create a station here, and build large houses, as this would encourage rich passengers who would be buying first class tickets. The station has high quality detail. The Chief Mechanical Engineer of the London and North East Railway, Sir Nigel Gresley, lived in Beech Hill, Hadley Wood, at Camlet House. The Hadley Wood tunnel was only wide enough for two tracks, but in 1957 a new tunnel was bored to increase capacity to four tracks.

Dave then showed us views of the local stations on the Hertford Loop, from Palmers Green to Crews Hill. A horse bus service ran from Palmers Green to Southgate. When the line through Grange Park was built, it required an embankment, which cut through Pike's Farm.

(cont'd)

In 1910 an underpass was constructed through the embankment to allow access between the two sides of the farm. This still exists, but has been blocked off at one end. The line originally terminated halfway up Windmill Hill, Enfield. When it was later extended, the line there would have required a level crossing so, to avoid this, the line was diverted to a new station, Enfield Chase, lower down the hill, and a bridge constructed over the road. This took the line on to Gordon Hill, then via the Rendlesham Viaduct to Crews Hill.

This talk showed how all our local stations are different, and each has its own interesting stories and incidents.

Colin Barratt

#### GROVE ROAD OPEN SPACE PLANTING EVENT

As I reported in the January newsletter, the re-landscaping of the Grove Road Open Space in New Southgate has been completed. A historical interpretation board was installed in early March and new flower beds were prepared.

On 1st April an event was organised by Enfield Council's project team to celebrate the completion of this part of the Take the High Road project. Residents and local history groups were invited to attend, plus a group of children from nearby Garfield Primary School.

I had been asked to give a brief talk about the history of the site and immediate area so, with the children in mind, I suggested imagining the Tardis from Doctor Who landing where we were standing, and the Doctor taking us all back in time 200 years, and seeing what the area looked like. I then got the Doctor to take them forward again at intervals, matching significant changes to the site or district, back to the present. This seemed to work well.

Photo: Richard Purver

Photo: Colin Barratt



After this, the children were taken over to the flower

beds to plant them up with potted plants brought by the Council's landscaping team, and supervised by the landscape architect. The children also sprinkled wildflower seeds around the soil "moat" surrounding a new play area. Meanwhile, visitors who had known the district for many years shared their memories, and newer residents learned what it used to be like, from a display of old photos. The event was a success, and the sunny weather helped. I hope that this space will be an asset for the local community for years to come.

Colin Barratt

#### **HISTORY GROUP MEETING Tues. 13th May** "A View of the New River - 400 Years of Fresh Water for London"

Rachael Macdonald, a member of SDCT, gives a personal insight into the story of the New River, a local amenity still unseen by some, but at last beginning to be noticed since the anniversary celebrations along its length in 2013.

Clarendon Arch



# NOMINATION FORM - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014 To: The Secretary, From: Southgate District Civic Trust, 108 Chelmsford Road, Southgate, N14 4JL I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for election as: An officer of the Trust, in the post of A. B. A Member of the Executive Committee (Delete as appropriate) Signed: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ I agree to be nominated for the above position. Signed: -------<u>SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC TRUST – MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL</u> Your subscription for the year 2014-2015 is now due, and it will help if you can please use this form, and send it with your payment to the Treasurer as soon as possible. At the same time we will be pleased to receive any additional donation to the Trust that you may like to give. Many thanks for your ongoing support. THE AMOUNTS FOR MEMBERSHIP ARE:-Pensioner Household £4 Non-Pensioner Household £7 To: I enclose my 2014/15 Alastair Palmar Treasurer subscription Southgate District Civic Trust 5 Tintern Gardens I also enclose a donation of: Southgate London, N14 6AS Total: Date: Address Tel. No:\_\_\_\_\_ Email address: