

Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter
No. 229
July 2014



www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.co.uk

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COMING EVENTS

HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 9th Sept. 2014

at 8.00pm Friends Meeting House,
Church Hill, N21

“Back to the Drawing Board - Transport Systems that Failed”

by **Ralph Hutchings**

Some of the weird and wonderful ideas which
were spectacularly unsuccessful

ALL WELCOME

OPEN MEETING

Saturday 11th Oct. 2014

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

“Oliver Pike - Pioneer Wildlife Photographer”

An Illustrated talk by **Rory Morrisey**

See page 5 for details

ALL WELCOME

Other Dates for your Diary:

Sat. 8th November	Guided Tour of Beale Arboretum (See page 7 for details)
Tues. 11th November	History Group Meeting “Enfield at War, 1914-1918, Terror from the Skies” by Ian Jones
Wed. 12th November	Annual Luncheon Southgate College (more details in October)

*** 2014 AGM REPORTS - These can be found on pages 10 - 15 ***

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 12th September 2014

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 **6th October 2014**. Emailed copies should be available for members w/c **29th 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**).

CIVIC VOICE MANIFESTO – SDCT submission

As reported in earlier newsletters, Civic Voice is creating an election manifesto to present to the various political parties. They asked for the views of their member groups to ensure this document reflected the views of the various societies. A number of members from the Trust met to discuss many of our local issues and create our input, which was sent on to Civic Voice. Below is the submission.

Civic Voice has released a draft version for discussion, which contains issues we raised.

The draft can be found on their website at: www.civicvoice.org.uk/uploads/files/Civic_Manifesto_2015_April_2014_consultation.pdf.

SDCT Submission for Civic Voice Manifesto March 2014

The Planning System

The current consultation system often allows for local views to be ignored.

More account should be taken of the views of local people in planning decisions. One way to strengthen local democracy in planning decisions would be by permitting third party rights of appeal, a concept rejected by Governments in England over many years.

Amendments to planning permissions should be consulted upon in the same way as the original planning application.

The recent temporary changes for three years to householder permitted development rights, both the prior approval process and the increased size limits, should be rescinded, and the former rights which applied until this Parliament reinstated.

The successors to the original statutory undertakers such as Network Rail should have their permitted development rights removed and their proposals for development should be subject to the normal planning application process. This would, for example, stop the clearance of trees on railway land without proper consultation and consideration.

The proliferation of betting shops in shopping streets should be controlled by legislation, including the use of Article 4 Directions. Such control would limit the number, size and appearance of betting shops.

The Secretary of State should not overturn local decisions which reflect local views and which are not strategic in nature.

The reuse of brownfield sites should be required before consideration is given to the development of Green Belt land. Development should not be allowed on green land, including parks and allotments, in urban areas.

In order to discourage the demolition of usable empty buildings (which are liable for Council tax) planning permission should be required for demolition outside conservation areas. Exceptions should be allowed only where the local authority approves demolition for reasons of health and safety.

Trees in conservation areas should have the same level of protection as those with tree preservation orders.

Local authorities should enforce the application of Article 4 Directions in conservation areas in order to prevent the replacement of wooden windows and doors with UPVC without planning permission.

Town Centres

In urban areas and villages priority should be given to pedestrians and cyclists rather than motor vehicles. There should be overall planning of town centres with public consultation to:

- reduce the use of motor vehicles
- ban large cars of the SUV type
- restrict road space for motor vehicles
- calm traffic
- provide parking for people with significant mobility difficulties
- facilitate the use of road space by pedestrians and encourage walking and cycling to school
- improve safety for cyclists, including the provision of cycle lanes
- improve the public realm for pedestrians including the provision of adequate space, seating and trees.

There should be a default speed limit of 20 miles per hour throughout urban areas and villages, with exemptions allowed only on major roads.

Other issues

- In order to encourage the occupation of empty residential space including flats above shops there should be greater taxation of empty residential property.
- In order to reduce air pollution it should be illegal to park a vehicle with its engine running.
- Where trees are cut down their replacement near the original site should be required.
- Trees in the public realm should be better cared for by local authorities.

Jane Maggs

SOUTHGATE OPEN SPACE—THE NEXT INSTALMENT

I am happy to report that in this instalment about the Southgate open space (next to Southgate Station Parade) there is mostly good news.

Firstly the trees - on the May bank holiday, contractors for TfL came and pruned the trees, removing the one that had died. This has made a huge difference, although I understand there may be more work done in the future.

Following discussions with Ben Fenton from Thames21, he has agreed that this area could be a potential rain garden. The proposal is to create a sustainable drainage scheme (SuDS) diverting rain water that normally goes into the street drains from High Street and the end of Crown Lane via culverts into a rain garden in the open space. Planting will be used to 'clean' the water and so prevent polluted street run-off going straight into the local watercourse.

Part of the space may not be suitable for the SuDS scheme, so Enfield in Bloom have agreed to re-develop that area. Their planting will be designed to reflect the rest of the space.

The second excellent news is that thanks to help from Joanne McCartney's office, Ben Fenton from Thames21, Mo Cross from Enfield in Bloom and I finally met with TfL. In principle TfL like the proposal, but as with any large corporate group it is made complicated by the number of teams involved. However, the TfL response was very positive, so I remain optimistic that we can overcome any barriers. The next stage is for Ben to work with his team developing the ideas into a tangible plan for further discussion later this summer.

During our meeting with TfL, a number of health and safety issues were picked up, so you may see some more work undertaken on the open space. This will then be superseded by the completed development.

Unfortunately, there is a bit of bad news, as one of the trees that was pruned has been broken, which is incredibly sad. TfL will be coming again to assess the damage. If the tree is beyond saving, I am expecting that this and the other removed tree will be replaced over the winter.

It is a great relief to know that the project is moving forward and, for the time being, still heading in the right direction!

Jane Maggs



NEWS FROM CIVIC VOICE

Local Listing

A recent gathering of civic volunteers in Timperley in the North West, focused on the importance of local heritage listing and how communities can embrace this power to give greater protection to buildings of local importance. Volunteers heard from English Heritage and Timperley Civic Society. Ensuring all local authorities adopt a local heritage list is now a national campaign championed by Civic Voice.

Locally listed buildings are getting more and more teeth. A building in Camden was recently saved from demolition after the council identified it on a draft local heritage list. Although the appellants had objected to this designation, an Inspector felt that in its repaired state the building would form a local landmark with an attractive design.

Southgate District Civic Trust is starting work on our review of the local list. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved.

Hartlepool Civic Society concerned that town is in ‘planning chaos’

Hartlepool Civic Society believes Hartlepool's future is now in the hands of developers as a result of the Local Plan, a 15-year planning blueprint, being axed by Hartlepool Borough Council.

A spokeswoman told the Mail: “Hartlepool Civic Society was shocked, to say the least, when, contrary to advice councillors decided to ‘throw out’ the Local Plan, which had taken so many years and cost so much money to produce. The worst fears of the Civic Society about what would happen with no Local Plan in place, is now coming true.”

Civic Voice feature in Guardian newspaper debate

Ahead of this year's local elections we were asked to participate in an online debate by the Guardian newspaper to discuss how we can get more people interested in local decision making.

The debate featured a range of experts from across England and discussed the following questions

How can technology be used to combat political apathy?

How can local people be more involved in decision-making?

What can be done to get people voting?

What projects locally can help to get more voices heard?

It was an interesting debate with people from a range of organisations contributing thoughts

Asset of Community Value reaches 1000

It was announced this week that more than 1,000 Asset of Community Value nominations have succeeded since the regime was introduced under the Localism Act 2011. Around one third of successful listings have been for pubs but other ACVs have included football stadia, school playing fields and a skate park.

The vast number of listings demonstrates that the ACV regime has really captured the attention of community groups but we still feel it has a long way to go before it can be classed as a true success.



Planning Minister, Nick Boles MP meets with Marple Civic Society

Planning Minister Nick Boles MP visited Marple to speak with Chair of Marple Civic Society, Gillian Postill about the issues affecting Marple Town Centre and how sensible development can enhance the town.

This was a significant coup for the society and demonstrates the increased importance given to the work of the civic society movement by senior politicians.

Freddie Gick, Chair of Civic Voice said ‘Marple Civic Society is right to voice their concerns to the Minister. It is important that the views of local communities are taken into account when a new development is being considered, as the high street is such an important issue. The civic movement is not



against development, in fact we support high quality, well thought out developments that enhance our cities, towns and villages. We are pleased to hear that the Minister enjoyed his visit to meet with Marple Civic Society”.

Re-imagine; an ideas competition for creative re-use of Birmingham’s buildings at risk

Birmingham Civic Society and partner organisations are pleased to announce the launch of ‘Re-imagine’: a competition looking for creative ideas for the reuse of some of Birmingham’s most important and challenging buildings.

The Society hopes to bring these buildings into the public consciousness, stimulate debate and maybe even help to identify viable future uses, which could save these buildings. The competition is open to everyone who shares interest in the city’s built heritage and is a fantastic way for a civic society to raise their profile and help set the local agenda. This is a project other groups may want to take inspiration from.



Margate jubilee clock tower restored by Margate Civic Society appeal

Several years of hard work by the Margate Civic Society paid off when they "dropped" the Margate time ball for the first time in several decades. The clock tower, in Margate, Kent, was inaugurated in 1889 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The ball mechanism, which dropped at a particular time each day to let sailors know the right hour, fell into disuse and the time ball has not worked since the 1920s. For the first time in 90 years the Jubilee Clock Tower "dropped" at 1pm on Saturday 24th May 2014 at a prestigious launch event.



President of Civic Voice, Griff Rhys Jones, said: 'This is exactly the sort of project that warms the cockles of my heart and sets the blood stirring in my veins. It's not a small thing. It's a big gesture. And it shows that local civic societies are not just about protesting and complaining.'

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CIVIC VOICE MEMBERSHIP

Some of the benefits of our continued Civic Voice membership are the National Trust and English Heritage day passes.

National Trust day admission passes are hard copy only, one per member (two for joint members) and can be obtained by forwarding a stamped address envelope to Gill Roxborough at: **Civic Voice, 60 Duke Street, Liverpool L1 5AA**. You should mention you are a member of Southgate District Civic Trust.

The **English Heritage day admission pass**, are downloadable at the following link: www.tinyurl.com/civcenglishoffer14. For those without internet access, contact Gill Roxborough at the address above. This pass can be used between 1 April and 30 June and 1 September and 31 January 2015. The pass is valid for one visit per Civic Voice member (couples should register twice - once for each individual) and is intended as a personal benefit, therefore not valid for use as part of a group visit. This pass is not transferable.

Please note that there are terms and conditions and certain properties and dates are excluded from both offers so you are advised to check the passes before making your arrangements to visit.

OPEN MEETING – 11th October 2014 **Oliver Pike: Pioneer Wildlife Photographer** **An illustrated talk by Rory Morrisey**

Winchmore Hill was the location for the early natural history photographs and books of local resident Oliver Pike (1877-1963), who was probably the first professional wildlife photographer and pioneered the development of equipment and techniques in both still images and cine-film. Rory Morrisey will talk about Oliver Pike's local connections, his trips all over the country, his marriage, service in the Great War, and moving house to the wilds of Bedfordshire; his books and lectures; his campaigns for the welfare and care of wild creatures and his continuing influence today in the fields of conservation and protection.

ALL WELCOME



Black-throated diver

HISTORY GROUP MEETING – 13th May 2014
“A View of the New River – 400 Years of Fresh Water for London”
by Rachael Macdonald

Contrary to many who describe the New River as neither “new” nor a “river”, Rachael insisted that it is a river, as it flows. So it’s not a canal, but a man-made river, and called “New” when it was constructed 400 years ago. There have been a number of events over the past months to celebrate this anniversary, but in 1986 Thames Water planned to close the River south of Turkey Street. Fortunately, this didn’t happen, and in 2000 an access path was opened along its length, due in no small measure to the New River Action Group.

But back to the beginning. In 1603, at Stamford Hill, a meeting was arranged with King James 1, to discuss a way to bring fresh water to London. At this time, 200,000 people lived in the City of London. It was decided to construct a new river along a contour line from Hertfordshire to London. King James had just taken over Theobalds Palace, which sat on the 100 foot contour, and this was the line chosen, so that the river could flow through the King’s palace grounds.

In 1609 the New River Company was formed by Hugh Myddelton, the King’s jeweller, and the surveyor was Edward Knight. The route was 20 miles, as the crow flies, but the river had to be 40 miles long, to follow the contour. It took four years to build – all dug by hand!

Over the centuries it has been modified in various ways: by straightening, aqueducts and fencing. In 1852, land was purchased to allow straightening of the large loops. When completed in 1859, this cut off 10 miles from the route. A well-known painting of the Walker estate, by C.Yardley, shows the New River and Pymmes Brook flowing near to each other through the valley, which later became Arnos Park. (This painting hangs at Bruce Castle). The redundant loops dried up, and eventually were built on.

After World War 2 the New River ended at Stoke Newington. In 1973/74 the North Circular Road was widened at Bowes Park and, to allow the New River to pass across it, the River was culverted under the road, in a huge “U bend”. An automatic weed collector was also installed, to prevent blockages. In 1986 an aqueduct was constructed to carry the New River over the M25 motorway at Theobalds Park. In 2012 the tunnel at Bowes Park was cleaned out, removing tons of silt, and uncovering a number of interesting objects, some of which are now on display next to the path along that section of the River.

The New River is an engineering marvel, and after 400 years of reliable service, it is still performing a vital role, presently supplying 6-8% of London’s water.

Colin Barratt

DENNIS PARADE AND CLAUD W DENNIS

Those familiar with Southgate Circus will know the row of shops in Winchmore Hill Road called Dennis Parade, running from Chase Road. This is named after Claud Dennis, who was a local auctioneer, valuer, surveyor, land and estate agent, based at 3 Chase Side, (next to the florist in Station Parade). This former estate office, plus the adjoining Bairstow Eves office building, was designed by him.

Dennis had an active life and career. He was born in Surrey in 1886 and brought up in Wood Green. He served in France and Flanders in WW1, and moved to Southgate in 1935. He was a member of the Corporation of London and a Freeman of the City, and in 1942 was on the committee that made decisions about the reconstruction of the Square Mile. He was President of the Southgate Chamber of Commerce for two years, and was a Justice of the Peace for Middlesex, sitting on the bench in Enfield. He died in January 1953, aged 67.



His office at 3 Chase Side is now a café, and is currently undergoing renovation. During this work, the builders happened to find a number of signs, stained glass windows, posters and documents in the loft, which had belonged to Claud Dennis. Fortunately, the present owner has a passionate interest in local history and culture, and was able to prevent the builders throwing the items into a skip! He plans to display these artefacts at the café when it opens later in July. Why not call in and have a look?

Colin Barratt

OUTING TO THE BEALE ARBORETUM

Janet Lane has arranged a private guided tour of the Beale Arboretum, at West Lodge Park, for members of the Trust, and friends. She wanted this to be at a time when the trees are showing their autumn colours, and we have been given a date of **Saturday 8th November 2014**. There is also the opportunity to have a cream tea in the Lodge, after the tour, if you wish.

Please let Janet know if you are interested in joining the group for this tour. More details in October newsletter.

SALMONS BROOK HEALTHY RIVER CHALLENGE UPDATE

The Salmons Brook Healthy River Challenge is tackling pollution to the Salmons Brook caused by plumbing misconnections and road run off. Some homes and businesses mistakenly connect their foul water pipes to the drain meant only for rainwater which leads to the river. This means that washing machines, sinks and sometimes even toilets are flushed straight out into the local stream. Pollutants on the road surface, from oils leaking from cars or tyres and brake pads wearing down, is washed off by rain straight into the watercourses. A good illustration of this normally hidden pollution is when snow turns a horrid grey/black colour after a few days, as the pollutants mingle with it



Misconnections at the Spinney

finished we will organise volunteer days to plant up the SuDS. These are likely to be in late July. The plants will be allowed to establish for a few months, then we'll have a grand opening ceremony and 'turn on' the SuDS systems, allowing water to flow in. We hope to be working on the other two sites during this autumn.

In combination with the SuDS creation we're also doing lots to raise awareness of the problems facing our urban rivers and how you can help, wherever you live. Visit www.connectright.org.uk to find out how to check your house for misconnections, and www.thames21.org.uk/lovethalea to find out more about our campaign for healthier rivers in the Lea Valley. Where we've spotted pollution from misconnections we have reported it to the Environment Agency, and now Thames Water have started surveys to find the properties which are polluting. If you spot pollution please report it to the Environment Agency so they can investigate – call 0800 807060.

If you'd like more information on the project or to join us on the volunteer days please do get in touch with Aimee Felus on 07554 402727 or email aimee.felus@thames21.org.uk.

Thames21 are working to improve the water quality in the Salmons Brook. With assistance from the Environment Agency and Enfield Council we are creating Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to intercept this pollution before it reaches the stream. These green sponges are planted areas which take the polluted water where bacteria in the plant roots and soil break it down to harmless molecules. Some are then used by the plants to grow.

We're installing SuDS systems on four sites in Enfield – the Glenbrook in Oakwood, Grovelands Park, the former tree nursery next to the A10 and the Houndsden Spinney. After months of planning work has begun at the Glenbrook and Grovelands Park. Contractors are creating the SuDS, digging shallow channels known as swales and scrapes for wetlands which will intercept the water. Once they're



Road run-off polluting brook

Aimee Felus



LOCAL FESTIVALS

Christchurch May Fair 2014

The Trust has had a stall at the Christ Church May Fair at Southgate Green for many years, and returned there on 5th May after taking a break last year to allow for running a stall at the two-day Grovelands Park centenary event which followed soon after.

Two new colleagues joined regulars on the staffing rota on a pleasantly sunny day which brought out the crowds. Some new material was shown on the boards, including photographs of local WW1 memorials, and we displayed leaflets from our friend Thames 21. There was a good sale of our publications as we greeted a steady stream of visitors, recruiting five new members in the process.

Richard Purver



Southgate Summer Festival (Sat. 19th July)

Following their successful first Summer Festival last year in Southgate, the Chamber of Trade has arranged another, at which the Trust has again booked a stall. This helps to raise our profile, meet the locals and sell some publications.

Palmers Green Festival (Sun. 7th September)

Last year we were considering having a stall at this Festival in Broomfield Park. This didn't happen, but those of us who visited the event were convinced that we should be there this year. It was a very well attended event, with lots going on. We have booked a stall this year as one of the community groups.

HELP!

As with previous events, we will need some help from our members to man our stall at the above two festivals. If you can spare an hour or two on these days, please let me know.

Colin Barratt

TEA MAGNATE MOVES TO SOUTHGATE

Tea Magnate Sir Thomas Lipton purchased a 60 acre country estate circa 1890 on Chase Side Southgate. The Estate was Osidge, formerly forming part of the estates of The Abbots of St Albans and comprised well wooded parkland, a golf course, ornamental gardens and was surrounded by lawns.

Osidge; the house is a three storey Georgian Villa built in 1808, symmetrical in design with a central porch portico, two side wings and later Victorian additions. The building is built from yellow stock brick, embellished with stucco plinth, corner quoins, window architraves, frieze and a heavily pedimented cornice at roof level. The rear elevation has a colonial style veranda running its entire width from which views across the Pymmes Valley towards central London.



The house included a billiards room, an orangery, with collections of tea plants and orchids and the walls were hung with paintings including works by Canaletto, Constable and Landseer.

Lipton had built up a chain of over 300 grocery shops, a rags to riches story, opening one shop each week. His estate included five tea plantations in Ceylon and India, coffee and cocoa estates, fruit farms in Kent, meat packing companies in Chicago, bakeries and wine suppliers.

Lipton's Company office was located in Bath Street, off City Road, near Old Street in Clerkenwell. He travelled there each day, but shunned using the train from Palmers Green, preferring to drive by Coach and Pair.

A passionate yachtsman, he challenged the Americans five times unsuccessfully between 1899 and 1930 for The Americas Yachting Cup, expending a fortune on boat building costs but making important contacts in the process. The Americas Cup, currently held by Oracle Team USA, is the oldest international sports trophy and is awarded to the winner of yachting match races between two yachts (the defending yacht club that currently holds the trophy and the challenging yacht that represents the challenging yacht club). If the challenging club wins the match it gains stewardship of The Americas Cup.

Lipton was noted for his charitable work, donating large sums of money to charitable causes in London and Glasgow his birth place. On his death in 1931 Osidge was bequeathed to The Queens Nursing Association, dedicated to the memory of his mother Frances Lipton, the residue of his substantial estate was given to the poor of Glasgow.

On 21st September 1935 Osidge was officially opened by Lord Inverforth of Arnos House, providing accommodation for 14 nurses of The Southgate District Nursing Association, together with midwifery and maternity services. By the 1950s the Hostel provided retirement care facilities for 24 retired nurses set in 5 acres of garden.

Osidge is Grade 2 listed. It represents one of the few remaining substantial "Country Villas" left in Southgate. A couple of weeks ago it closed its doors as a care home and its future is uncertain.

Chris Horner

Further update on Sir Thomas Lipton Memorial Home (Osidge)

One of our members was very concerned about the news of closure, and the way it has been handled. During her working life she had regular dealings with the Charity Commission, and felt that there were a number of issues regarding the intended closure which they should be aware of, and she has written to their CEO, detailing these issues, asking for an urgent response. A copy of this letter has also been sent to our MP, David Burrowes.

Colin Barratt

OTHER NEWS

Oliver Pike Booklet

The October Open Meeting will focus on the work of wildlife photographer Oliver Pike, and Richard Purver thought that this gives us an opportunity to re-print some of the articles written by Pike, which were published in the Recorder. Richard has prepared a booklet containing the articles and some of Pike's photos. We hope that copies will be available at the Open Meeting.

Enfield Big Society Reception

A few weeks ago members of our Executive Committee were invited to attend a reception at Portcullis House in Westminster, which was due to be hosted by our two local MPs, David Burrowes and Nick De Bois. This is an annual event, arranged to thank volunteers in Enfield, who work to benefit the community in various ways. Jane Maggs and Colin and Mary Barratt attended. Unfortunately David Burrowes was recovering from an operation, so Nick had to host it alone, and took questions from the volunteers. It was interesting and useful to hear what other groups are doing, and to talk to some about various issues. The email addresses of attendees were later circulated to allow this contact to continue.

World War 1 Exhibition in Winchmore Hill

The Trust is working with Holy Trinity Church, Winchmore Hill to prepare an exhibition showing the effect WW1 had on the area. If this comes about, it will be displayed to the public in November 2014.

SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC TRUST

Annual General Meeting, 10 May 2014

REPORTS

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014/2015

At the AGM in May 2014, the following members were elected:

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
Auditor	Elaine Tyler
Committee Members	Irene Stone Joe Studman Richard Purver Elaine Tyler

We did not receive nominations for the post of Publicity Officer, but we are delighted that a member has volunteered to help with the website. More news soon!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

First of all I should like to thank on your behalf all the members of the Executive Committee for the work they have done during the last 12 months, reports of which this meeting will receive today. Special thanks go to Irene and Albert Stone for making their home available for our meetings and their hospitality during our hours of discussion.

One of our main objectives has been to give the Trust the greatest possible public exposure by taking part in those public events that draw large numbers of people. Consequently, we exhibited at the Grovelands Park Centenary Celebrations and on several other occasions where we could afford to have a stall. These efforts resulted in substantial sales and some new members.

Money, as always, is a continual preoccupation and you will note that we have avoided increasing subscriptions for next year despite rising costs. We are grateful to those members who add donations when they renew their membership and this makes a considerable difference to the Trust's financial position. In this connection I would ask those of you who have e-mail addresses to receive your Newsletter electronically as this saves a lot of money.

As a New Southgate resident, I have continued to monitor the New Southgate Masterplan and North Circular Area Action Plan on behalf of the Trust and have attended meetings of the Resident's Panel. The transformation of this previously neglected part of Southgate has now started to gain momentum. Improvements to the High Road Open Space and the shopping area were completed and the Open Space play equipment and green gym are well used. Recently, improvements to the Grove Road Open Space were finished with a planting ceremony and a talk by Colin Barratt who also helped to produce the interpretation board on display explaining the circumstances of this former 2nd World War bomb site. After much delay work has now started on the rebuilding of the Ladderswood Estate and the construction of apartment blocks along the North Circular Road at the Wilmer Way-Bowes Road-Telford Road junction.

Membership of the Civic Voice movement has enabled our Trust to be involved in national issues. We were again able to be represented at the Civic Voice AGM in Liverpool. And are now involved in making our contribution to the Civic Voice Manifesto which will challenge the political parties at the General Election in 2015 on such issues as Planning, the use of land and the future of our cities.

Finally, as you should all be aware Oakleaves 5 has now been published and I would like to thank the Publications Sub-Committee on your behalf for their work in creating it and recommend that everyone should buy a copy of this excellent book

Graham Beech

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There have been five Executive Committee meetings during this year, where the Committee have discussed many items and our involvement in a number of local issues. These have been reported to you in the Newsletter.

We have remained members of the Civic Voice and again received the benefits, including a reduction in the cost of our insurance policy. As our Chairman mentioned earlier, the Trust has had a stall at a number of local events, most recently the Southgate Green May Fair on Monday. Each event takes time and effort, particularly as each organiser tries to make our stall look slightly different, so we really appreciate the time given by everyone involved both behind the scenes and on the day. At each of these events we have recruited new members and sold some of our books and DVDs, but importantly we have continued to raise our profile, so more people know about us.

Apart from the events, the work we do on various projects or campaigns is becoming recognised. In planning we already have an established record and excellent reputation, however now we find that other groups or local politicians want to engage with us on issues and some have even offered to talk at our meetings. Not only that, working with the Trust has even been included in local election campaign literature. While the Trust remains apolitical, continuing to build our relationships with local politicians and council officers can only help us as we attempt to influence changes to our area.

I would like to mention our website, which is hosted by N21.net. We plan to increase our usage of the site as a way to keep members and others who are interested in our aims informed about our work. There is upgrade work happening on the hosting site, so we are unable to make changes at the moment. Once this work has completed, we plan to start updating the various sections. What we need though are regular items of news – please think about writing something we can add. One of our vacant committee positions is Publicity Officer, so if you could spare some time to help with this, please put your name forward! You will be welcomed with open arms.

Those of you who have provided e-mail addresses will see that information and reminders are being sent out more regularly. We have started adding the subject 'SDCT Alerts' – just so you know they are from us, so hopefully you won't ignore them or send them to spam! While the Newsletter remains our most important means of communicating with members, there are things that come up between times and it is not possible to inform everyone by post. If you have an e-mail address and are not receiving our updates, please let Colin or me know, so we can add you to the mailing list.

For those of you that do not have e-mail, don't forget the local libraries run one-to-one training sessions on using e-mail and the Internet.

Personally, I think the Trust as a whole has had an excellent year and look forward to the next 12 months.

Jane Maggs

PLANNING GROUP REPORT

Since the last AGM we have looked at drawings, discussed and reported on approximately 85 applications apart from discussions on developments in our areas and situations that have not as yet become applications. We have sent our comments several times in letters, when asked by the Council or other bodies for our opinions. We have dealt with Enfield's Local Plan & Policies regarding a Development Management Document that we wrote highlighting the impact of Betting Shops, supporting the Heritage Statements and Areas of Character. We are kept informed regarding the North London Waste Plan having supported the campaign against the previous scheme. There was a separate meeting by interested members that was held to discuss the Civic Voice Manifesto on which we sent comments.

This has been a year of new planning systems being introduced by the government. Office building can be converted into flats without planning permission, and this is already happening in Southgate. Neighbours can only make sure that adjacent owners have to apply for planning permission if they object after receiving a letter of notification. This will mean that the planning application and permission process will have to take place. Houses can now have double the length of extension that they could before. We are told that this is for three years initially, and called Permitted Development Rights.

As is usual all our conservation areas have been involved in developments, mainly extensions or change of use. **Winchmore Hill Green, N21.** Has seen an alteration to the facade of the Kings Head Public House, N21; discussion is on going on 10-12, The Green for an acceptable frontage to a new restaurant. Drawings were found and handed in to the planning department of the Council regarding 18, The Green that showed that the frontage was not built as the approved drawings in 2000.

Meadway, N14. At the entrance to The Meadway CA and in Southgate Green CA this latest application is a proposed development for two flats within a mansard roof to be erected above single storey shops that are on one side of the crescent shape formed either side of a central green area. It is not acceptable.

Southgate Town Hall -Palmers Green Library & Flats. This has been updated in newsletter planning group reports. The conversion went to the Council planning committee on 22nd April, and was approved. There is also a new build block of flats in the grounds.

Cat Hill, N14. The local newspapers follow the continuing story about this site, and we have an update from Elaine Tyler at every meeting so this is not a development that will be going away yet. It is still being legally contested by the local residents committee.

Grovelands, The Bourne, N14. Concern about a proposed Primary School by the Council created a new residents association in that area who asked if they could discuss it with our Group. Two of the members came to one of our meetings and although a new school in the grounds may not interfere with the Listed building and Park, any structure in that area will certainly interest us architecturally, so we will watch this.

Recently there have been times when we thought that planning permission has not been applied for but work has commenced or even been completed, and we have successfully notified the Enviro Crime Team, resulting in planning permission having to be sought.

Our meetings are still held monthly at 6, Eversley Mount, Winchmore Hill, N21 at 8.00pm. Anyone who would like to join us will be welcomed by the members of our group, who I thank at every meeting for their help. I repeat it again today. Without them the SDCT would not be able to maintain the respect that we have with Enfield Council regarding Planning.

*Irene Stone.
Group Chairman.*

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The annual lunch was again held in November at Southgate College. This was well attended by members and enjoyed by all. A few days after the AGM an evening meal for members has been booked at the Highland Restaurant at Southgate Green. It is also hoped to arrange a guided tour of the Beale Arboretum later in the year.

Janet Lane

CONSERVATION ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

The forthcoming election towards the end of this month has resulted in there not having been a Conservation Advisory Group meeting since early in April, and the next one we have been told will not be until the end of June. Our Chairman is trying to bring it forward, but a new Council has to sort its elected members (we had five of them at CAG last year) and rooms for meetings, apart from whatever else a newly elected Council has to do.

It is five years since they were commissioned so during this year we have revisited the Character Appraisals for 16 of the 22 conservation areas in the borough and The Drury McPherson Partnership have been engaged in a review and update of them. I revisited and made notes on the five original conservation areas that SDCT cover. We will shortly be dealing with the latest ones that will include our Southgate Circus CA.

Local Heritage Review A local heritage review was commissioned in February, and it will take about eight months to complete, this will include producing an assessment criteria for local listing and a draft local list. SDCT intend to become involved in this. Anyone can suggest a favourite site that they would like to be included in the Review.

Broomfield House Following the recent installation of a new hoarding, a fresh information panel about the house is being prepared by the Council using text provided by the Broomfield House Trust. The stored Mural has been inspected and found to be in good condition.

Grovelands/Priory A meeting was arranged in April with the consultants and English Heritage to review progress towards preparing a draft significance assessment. This was commissioned to identify the significance of the various elements of the historic landscape in association with meeting other known needs in the area e.g provision of a primary school, recreation provision and the needs of the Priory Hospital.

Truro House A viability review proved to be alright. The house could be completed from the phased development of flats in the grounds. It is hoped that this will see a successful outcome to that site.

At every meeting we are given a list of the Enforcement Conservation Area Caseload to keep us up to date with what the Enviro Crime Unit is doing regarding any site that we think may not have applied for planning approval before commencing works on alterations etc and we consider needs investigating. So if anyone has similar concerns in a conservation area, they can contact me and I will pass it on.

CAG has been without a Conservation Officer since Heloise Brown left. The post has been advertised but to my knowledge there is no one as yet. We are not without senior officers to help us in our deliberations on developments at meetings, but they have other commitments and we need someone in particular to whom we can turn at times for information.

Irene Stone

HISTORY GROUP REPORT

The imposed change to Tuesday evenings has worked well over the past year, and attendances have been good, although we have had to stop tea afterwards as the meetings now start later, at 8pm. I have attempted to keep to local topics and, as a reminder, we had talks on London's Waterways, the history of St Paul's Church, Winchmore Hill, (including a tour), and Enfield's Railways, plus a show of old short films with local connections.

I will try to maintain this and, as announced in the April newsletter, the next talk will be this Tuesday, "A View of the New River", by Rachael Macdonald. The July meeting will be held before the next newsletter is out, but I can say now that this will be a talk called "Enfield Football Tales", by Martin Cantrell. His tales are the stories from players, volunteers and supporters concerned with football in the borough during the last 50 years. I will email more details nearer the time to all members who have given us their addresses. If you have read reports of these meetings in the past, and have thought of joining us, please do. They are open to all members, and it would be good to have more attending.

Colin Barratt

NEWSLETTER EDITORS' REPORT

The newsletter has continued to be printed quarterly, and on good quality paper, so the photos are reproduced well. We are printing about 140 copies each time; 95 for hand delivering to members, 35 for posting and 10 spare for any new members. Additionally, 55 members have opted to receive their copies by email, which means they can see the photos in colour, and it saves the Trust a good sum. Most complimentary copies, for non-members, are now also emailed.

Through the hard work of our Secretary, Jane, we receive regular reports and announcements for the newsletter about important national issues which could affect us locally, often from Civic Voice, the umbrella organisation for civic societies and trusts, of which we are a member.

We try to include reports of our meetings and events, including the Open Meetings and History Group Meetings, plus the various fairs we have supported by having a stall. We also use it to announce meetings and events to come as, for many of our members, this is their only contact with the Trust. So we want to ensure the newsletter continues, and show our members and others that we are an active organisation.

It would be good to have more contributions to the newsletter from members, so if there are issues you want to raise, or comments about our activities, or just your thoughts on the district we are part of, send it to us, either written, or preferably by email.

Mary and Colin Barratt

PUBLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The seven members of the publications sub-committee are Alastair Palmar, Colin Barratt, Peter Hodge, Peter Owen, Ruby Galili, Stan Rondeau and myself. We meet every three months (four times since the last AGM).

We were very pleased to publish *Oakleaves 5* in January, which runs to 60 pages (20 more than *Oakleaves 4*). It contains articles about the early days of the Trust, suffragette activity in the local area, letters from Flora Robson to friends in Palmers Green, religious ritual at St Paul's Church, Risley Musical Theatre Company, the building of Oakfield Road, Shakespeare productions at the Intimate Theatre, the Pike family and a miscellany *People and Places*.

An editorial group led by Peter Hodge worked closely with Steve Quinn of sqdesign on the layout and proof-reading and 200 copies were printed initially, with the option to return to the printers Rapidity to produce more as required. Early response from readers and sales have been encouraging. *Oakleaves 5* should become available in local libraries in due course though I assume Trust members will be keen to purchase rather than borrow!

Gillian Maskens has donated the first two volumes on CD-R of her work-in-progress *The Maskens Family in the Second World War* to the Trust, which is available to members on application.

The restoration of the plaque for Leigh Hunt was completed by *Signs of the Times* and it was re-fixed by Colin Barratt. A ceremony was held on 22nd September with descendants of Leigh Hunt from the Seales family in attendance and we were very grateful that they offered to pay for the total cost of the restoration.

We are working towards placing a plaque for pioneer wildlife photographer Oliver Pike, who Peter Hodge wrote about in *Oakleaves 3*, at his former family home at 96 Green Dragon Lane. We made contact with Rory Morrissey whose website www.oliverpike.info is very informative. Rory lives in Leighton Buzzard where Oliver Pike moved from Winchmore Hill and has kindly agreed to give his talk on Oliver Pike at the Trust's open meeting on 11th October.

Current publications are on sale at Waterstones in Enfield, Enfield Local Studies, Trust meetings, St Paul's Church and the Intimate Theatre (*Oakleaves*) and the SDCT stall at various events. The list of publications is available on the Trust website and on the Trust noticeboard at Palmers Green station, which remains in good order. We also supply items for the noticeboard at Winchmore Hill Green, which is overseen by our President Audrey Kirby.

During the year members of the sub-committee helped with the staffing and/or organisation of the Trust's stalls at the Grovelands Centenary Celebration, Southgate summer and winter shopping festivals, the LAMAS local history conference and Southgate May Day Fair. Joe Studman kindly sold Trust publications at the Jaywalks/Palmers Green Jewel in the North stall at the Palmers Green Festival in September. The theme of the LAMAS conference this November is Law and Order.

The archive for Southgate District Civic Trust is looked after by Peter Hodge and Stan Rondeau in their own homes. Following an offer from John Clark at Enfield Local Studies to make use of available space on their shelves items appropriate for transfer to their ownership have been identified while retaining key documents in our own archive, which will be catalogued by Peter.

Richard Purver

Statement of Accounts for Year to 31st March 2014

CAPITAL ACCOUNT (LLOYDS BANK PLC)

	£ Debit	£ Credit
Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2013		11,471.73
Net Interest		48.39
C/A Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2014	1,478.51	
D/A Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2014	10,041.61	
	11,520.12	11,520.12

PUBLICATIONS ACC. (SANTANDER UK PLC)

	£ Debit	£ Credit
Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2013		2,748.89
Sales of Publications (Other)		406.50
Sales of DVDs		505.50
Design & Print/Sales of Oakleaves No.5	1002.00	330.00
DVDs Transfer from General Account		12.00
Donations/Postages		24.30
Royalties		43.00
Archive Acquisitions/Sales		13.50
Stock Acquisitions	623.00	
Expenses	36.58	
Sundries	51.85	
Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2014	2,370.26	
	4,083.69	4,083.69

GENERAL ACCOUNT (SANTANDER UK PLC)

	£ Debit	£ Credit
Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2013		3,491.91
Subscriptions & Donations		1,261.00
Sales of DVDs		12.00
DVDs - Transfer to Pubs. Acct	12.00	
Teas at Meetings	8.91	23.36
Admin.		344.02
Newsletters		535.99
Affiliations		303.00
Hire of Halls		380.00
Insurance (y/e 30/4/2014)		210.00
Collections from Outings		55.50
Leigh Hunt Plaque	120.00	120.00
Grovelands Festival Sales		85.50
Other Expenses		277.45
Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2014	2,857.90	
	5,049.27	5,049.27

