

Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter
No. 231
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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

COMING EVENTS

OPEN MEETING

Saturday 7th March 2015 at 2.30pm
Walker Lower Hall, Christ Church Parish Centre,
7 The Green, Southgate, N14

"The Work of the Greater London Assembly"
by Joanne McCartney, Member for Enfield and Haringey

ALL WELCOME



**Note for your
diary:**

SDCT AGM

**Sat. 9th May
2015
2.30pm, Walker
Hall**

HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 10th March 2015 at 8.00pm
Friends Meeting House, Church Hill, N21

"Singing for St Paul's"
by Chris Royall

Chris is a member of the Trust, but is also a professional singer as countertenor with the renowned classical choir "The Sixteen". He has also performed for many years in the choir of St Paul's Cathedral, including at the funeral of Baroness Margaret Thatcher. He will give us an insight into his career at St Paul's.

ALL WELCOME

See inside for:

Civic Voice Convention and AGM (page 2)
Launch of "Street Design for All" (page 8)
Report of our October Open Meeting (page 12)
An award for Oakleaves 5! (page 14)

Other Date for your Diary:

Tues. 12th May **History Group Meeting** Subject TBA

Contributions to the April newsletter should be sent by Friday 13th March 2015

to the Editor: 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 **13th April 2015**. Emailed copies should be available for members w/c **6th April**.

Southgate District Civic Trust ~ Established to conserve and enhance the environment in Southgate, New Southgate, Cockfosters, Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Hadley Wood.
(Registered as an amenity society with **Civic Voice**).

CIVIC VOICE CONVENTION and AGM - Canterbury 24-25th October 2014

In October, the 2014 Civic Voice Convention and AGM were held in the historic city of Canterbury. Chris Horner and Jane Maggs represented Southgate District Civic Trust at the event hosted by The Canterbury Society and supported by Canterbury City Council & Kent County Council. The weekend was well attended by Civic Voice members, many of whom were present last year.

On the Friday, the convention began in Westgate Hall, a 1913 drill hall saved and restored by the local community during an incredible campaign. The hall was officially opened during the convention.

The convention was started by Griff Rhys Jones, the Civic Voice President launching the 'Localism for Real' civic manifesto.

Griff Rhys Jones gave an entertaining speech on the importance of the civic movement and the need to involve local communities. He emphasised how as a society we need to ensure that developments reflect the long term needs, wants and desires of the different groups within an area. He also stressed the importance of civic societies understanding the detail of local areas. The whole speech made it clear that we should not only talk within our group, but also make sure that a wider audience hears our voices.



Photo: courtesy Civic Voice



He said: *"If the Government is serious about Localism, they have to listen to the concerns coming forward from civic groups, resident associations and local councils. Government must give local communities the powers they need to enable their town and city centres to prosper"*.

Griff Rhys Jones & Chris Horner

Photo: Jane Maggs

As part of the launch, we were all urged to go out and spread the message of what we are doing and the importance of this manifesto.

If you would like to see the full speech, a video can be found at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vE1x6dF4JUs

Following the opening of the restored Westgate Hall, delegates split into groups to follow various tours of the city centre. These gave us a fascinating insight into the development of the city and the different challenges it has faced over time. The tours highlighted both successful developments, as well as some less good examples.

This year, there was an evening talk from the author, TV presenter and historian, Dr Jonathan Foyle, who gave an insight into the complex history of the east end of Canterbury Cathedral.

The first day ended with the presentation of Civic Day Awards to Hale, Malvern, Maidenhead, Marple and Merseyside, in recognition of their work to make last June's Civic Day such a success.

Freddie Gick, Chair of Civic Voice, said "*Saturday 21st June was England's Civic Day and it was great to see communities across the country hold over 200 events to celebrate where they live. The awards recognise the fantastic work that community groups do in supporting and encouraging civic pride.*"

Up to now, Southgate District Civic Trust has not participated in Civic Day, but if any members would like to run a community event, please get in touch.



Saturday morning, we all reconvened in the Canterbury Cathedral Lodge for the AGM. After the official business was concluded, there were further tours and workshops, including ones on the Local Heritage List and Assets of Community Value, both key projects for SDCT. The workshops gave us both more information about the next steps for these important projects.

The afternoon concluded with discussion of priority projects for Civic Voice in the coming year.

The talks, speeches and tours were as usual very interesting, however, the key part of the weekend, was the opportunity to meet and discuss common issues with members from other civic groups. It was incredibly useful to hear what other groups are doing and how they have tackled problems. Civic groups across the country face many similar challenges, but we came away with a positive perspective on what groups like ours can achieve, as well as the influence this national movement can wield.

Finally a date for your diaries - next year's convention and AGM will be held on 23-24th October in Bristol.

Jane Maggs

GEOFF JACOBS

Those who knew Geoff will be sad to hear that he has died. He was a member of the Trust, and he allowed us to use his essay on the History of Oakfield Road in Oakleaves 5, which may well have helped it win the LAMAS award. We include two memories of him here:

I became friendly with Geoff Jacobs about seven or eight years ago when we discovered that both our homes had been built by the same builder, named William Arthur Goring, about 1910. I had researched our house in St George's Road and when we had a street party Geoff came to see the display that I had put together, on the SDCT display boards. The following year Oakfield Road also had a street party and Geoff's work on Oakfield Road was displayed there. He had researched each house and its residents very thoroughly and made a really interesting display (which was later enlarged and woven into his article) which of course was of considerable interest to the residents of Oakfield Road, so each person could find out about their own home and its history. I counted Geoff among my friends and was extremely sorry when he first mentioned that he was ill a few years ago and it is so sad that he is no longer with us. **Ruby Galili**

I encouraged him to enter his essay on Oakfield Road for the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society competition, which he won. He was an excellent researcher and very generous in the way he acknowledged any help he was given. **Kate Godfrey**

PLANNING GROUP REPORT

Since my last report in the newsletter our planning group has dealt with 35 applications plus many other situations regarding planning in our areas. We have welcomed Simon Gillingham to the group this year and at our meeting in December Councillor Robert Hayward attended.

In September we had a new Conservation officer starting at Enfield so it is now possible to contact Bridget Periera. In October Jane Maggs and I attended an evening at Southgate Green that brought together local businesses and organisations. December we both attended a meeting at Forty Hall that was to discuss a specially organised evening to take place in late January 2015 for the Head Teachers of local schools in order to show them what our individual associations can provide regarding the history of the Enfield areas that we are concerned in and our plans for the future that could interest their pupils. We will be there.

Our most recent designated conservation area Southgate Circus was after five years the subject of a review that we did last year on our other conservation areas.

Broomfield House: A report authorising the engagement of a selected Consultant is due to be concluded in December. The first draft condition survey of the stable block has been received from Structural Engineers. Some structural propping works to prevent water penetration is required. A second meeting of the Broomfield House Partnership Board was on 27th November 2014 established to steer the project under the chairmanship of Cllr. Bambos Charalambous. English Heritage is encouraging the Council, and Officers have met them to work towards a successful Heritage lottery Fund funding bid.

Southgate Circus: More Cycle Stands have been suggested between Ashfield Parade and Crown Lane and we have been asked for our comments. We need a much more detailed map of the positioning of them before we can agree to more of these in any area around the station. They are classed as street furniture and can create visual intrusion and obstruction.

Following on regarding cycling, our Chairman and Secretary who are both planning group members (Graham Beech and Jane Maggs) will represent us at the Cycle Enfield Partnership Board meetings when the Mini-Holland Project starts. There will be a great deal of public discussion in all areas and our group/SDCT will be involved.

Chase Farm Hospital: This development has such local interest to our members that our Group are keeping a watch on progress. Any updates will be in the newsletter. There will be the construction of new/replacement hospital facilities of approx. 32,000sq.m and up to 500 residential units, involving removal of a microwave clinical waste treatment plant and fuel oil burner, also a three form entry primary school. The Clock Tower building has been formally identified as a non-designated heritage asset by Enfield Council and it will be partially demolished but the Clock Tower will remain. An outline planning application has now been registered 14/04574/OUT. The case officer is Robert Singleton.

All our areas have provided us with changing retail units, houses or offices into flats and the usual extensions, except Highlands CA which has been quiet.

*Irene Stone
Group Chairman*

UNVEILING THE BLUE PLAQUE FOR OLIVER PIKE

Southgate District Civic Trust and Enfield Grammar School (where he was a pupil) have combined to place a blue plaque on the house where pioneer wildlife photographer Oliver Pike (1877-1963) lived with his family from 1882 to 1914, 96 Green Dragon Lane in Winchmore Hill, which was the location for his early natural history photographs and books.

Oliver Pike was probably the first professional wildlife photographer and pioneered the development of equipment and techniques in both still images and cine-film. Many of his films are held in the British Film Institute National Archive and more information can be found at the website set up by Rory Morrisey, www.oliverpike.info and in a booklet recently published by the Trust, *Oliver Pike: Birdman of Winchmore Hill*. This includes a version of the 2004 article by Peter Hodge from *Oakleaves 3* that started our interest in this notable local figure and three articles by Oliver Pike from the *Recorder* newspaper.

In the course of his work Oliver Pike lectured and showed his films locally as well as travelling all over the country to photograph birds, often in arduous conditions. He campaigned for the welfare and care of wild creatures and his continuing influence is still felt today in the fields of conservation and protection, Sir David Attenborough regarding him as a “towering figure” in his field.

The plaque unveiling ceremony took place on Sunday 16 November 2014 at 2pm in front of an audience of Trust members, family and friends and interested members of the public, Colin Barratt and Mervyn Maggs having fixed the plaque to the wall of the house on the preceding Thursday with the permission of the freeholder and leaseholders.

Richard Purver introduced three speakers who talked about aspects of Oliver Pike’s life and work: Peter Hodge on his Winchmore Hill connections, his grandson Jonathan Dollimore about the family’s memories of him in Leighton Buzzard (where Oliver Pike moved from Winchmore Hill on marriage) and Rory Morrisey on his film-making.

The plaque was then unveiled by Jonathan and his brother Richard Dollimore (with Jonathan’s daughter also present) after an amusing but inevitable hitch in releasing the curtain. In Oliver Pike’s day sparrows and starlings nested in the ivy then growing on the house but one suspects he might have been surprised by the ring-necked parakeet which flew over calling during the ceremony! Guests and SDCT committee members then retired to the Queen’s Head in Station Road for refreshments.



The event was trailed on the Trust’s website and Facebook page (which also has a short video of the actual unveiling), the Edmonton Hundred newsletter, the Palmers Green Community and Enfield Grammar School Old Boys Association websites and in an article on 5 November in the *Gazette* and *Advertiser* series of newspapers and website. Richard Purver has added a reference to the plaque unveiling ceremony to the Wikipedia entry for Oliver G Pike. Enfield Council’s Conservation team were pleased to hear about the plaque and intend to add it and the one we unveiled in 2010 for Dame Flora Robson in Southgate to the list of plaques in Enfield on the Council’s website.

Richard Purver

HISTORY GROUP MEETING – 11th Nov. 2014
“Enfield at War, 1914-1918, Terror from the Skies” by Ian Jones

With the date of this meeting falling on 11th November, it was appropriate to have a World War 1 topic. In WW1 all airships were known as Zeppelins, although others were built by Schutte-Lanz. In 1914/15 Zeppelins were the peak in war technology. The first raid on England was in January 1915, over Great Yarmouth and Kings Lynn, but it was difficult for the Germans to know where they were on raids, as they only had a compass and their eyesight to navigate.

There was no national fire service, and fire appliances were horse drawn. Edmonton just had a supply of sand for fires, and there was a restriction on lighting. No air raid warnings were given by the government until July 1917 and Enfield didn't provide any air raid shelters.

The Schutte-Lanz 11 (SL11) was launched in 1916, commanded by Capt. Schramm. We were shown a map of SL11's winding route over our area on 3rd Sept. 1916. The SL11 was attacked by Leafe Robinson, using new ammunition with incendiary bullets. After several attempts, The airship eventually caught fire, and fell to earth near the Plough Inn, Cuffley. The wreckage was cleared, but crowds came out from Enfield looking for souvenirs. An inquest was held later at the Inn. The bodies of the German crew were originally buried at a cemetery in Potters Bar, but in 1960 they were exhumed and moved to Cannock Chase

Leafe Robinson was awarded a Victoria Cross and became famous. After WW1 a memorial to the event was erected in Cuffley. Leafe Robinson was shot down and taken prisoner in 1917. He survived the war but died a few weeks later of 'flu and is buried in Harrow.

Super-Zeppelins were developed in 1916 and L31 flew over London in October of that year. Aircraft caught up with it and shot it down over Potters Bar. After L31 and L33 were shot down it put an end to airships as weapons. Biplanes took over for air raids. The planes started night raids, and in August 1918 the Germans planned fire bomb raids, but fortunately these were cancelled.

The talk showed how this new terror weapon of WW1 had a brief period of dominance, but was vulnerable and the crews navigated with little more than guesswork. The raid of 3rd Sept. 1916 is discussed in detail in Eileen Bostle's book, "Enfield's Night to Remember".

Colin Barratt

CLAUD W DENNIS COFFEE SHOP IS OFFICIALLY OPENED!

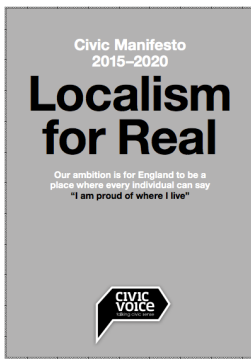
In the last newsletter we announced the opening of the new historically themed coffee shop in Chase Side, Southgate. Within a week of opening it had a surprise visitor – Joyce Dennis, the daughter-in-law of Claud himself! She only lives in Cockfosters and her family happened to see it while passing. Joe, the owner, was delighted and invited her to return to officially open his coffee shop.

She came with her family and reminisced about the time when she worked there, when it was an estate office. Joyce was pleased to see how Claud's name and activities had been remembered and celebrated, and she cut the ribbon to declare the coffee shop open. Our MP David Burrowes also attended, (together with his dog Claud!) and congratulated Joe on his work in creating a venue with such a local historical link.



Joe Tzouvanni with Joyce Dennis and David Burrowes MP

CIVIC MANIFESTO - LOCALISM FOR REAL



Our ambition is for England to be a place where every individual can say 'I am proud of where I live'

Griff Rhys Jones, Civic Voice President, launched this first Civic Manifesto during the 2014 Convention in Canterbury. It outlines the key issues for the civic movement and what civic societies consider the next Government needs to do to achieve real localism.

As reported in previous newsletters, the manifesto includes the majority of points members of Southgate District Civic Trust suggested for inclusion. Therefore, [this manifesto is also a manifesto for us](#).

Copies of both the summary and the full manifesto can be obtained from Civic Voice (www.civicvoice.org/manifesto). I also have some copies of the summary, which I can pass on.

As you cannot have failed to notice, the next general election will be in May 2015. Prospective candidates are already pounding the streets and knocking on doors. This is our opportunity to quiz them on their views on, amongst other things, planning, permitted development rights and how to increase community involvement.

I am pleased to note that at least two parliamentary candidates for Enfield Southgate belong to Southgate District Civic Trust. Hopefully this means they support our aims!

Jane Maggs

ARNOS PARK

The Friends of Arnos Park have received a grant of £4000 from the Residents Priority Fund to continue the work, already begun, of establishing an orchard and garden at the site of the old playground. This will require a lot more work and more volunteers are needed. Old railway sleepers have been obtained and are being cut up to make raised beds to plant vegetables and small fruit bushes in the areas once occupied by swings, roundabouts and slides.

An agreement has been made with the Urban Orchards Project to supply and plant a selection of fruit trees. The site for this, adjacent to the garden, has been prepared and the Grand Planting Event is due to take place on Saturday 28 February 2015. Anyone interested in seeing and helping is invited and refreshments will be on hand. The trees will need a lot of TLC as they will require watering twice a week for the first two years if they are to survive and become properly established. So, again, any volunteers are welcome.

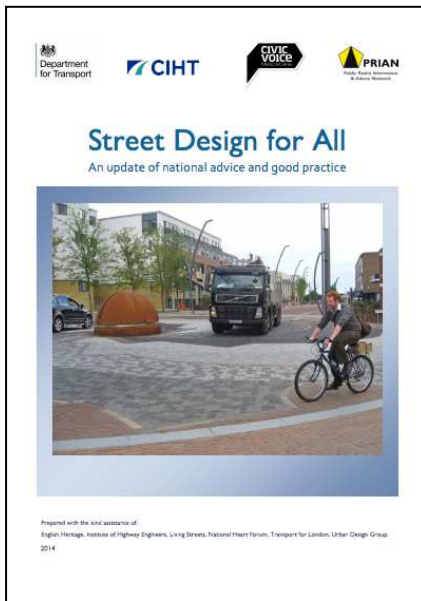
Graham Beech

THE ANNUAL LUNCHEON

This year's annual luncheon was rather let down by Southgate College, who decided to close their restaurant and not tell anyone! However our local "Cherry Tree" rose to the occasion, giving us a room of our own, and judging by the feedback, this was mostly preferred to the college. It was less formal and members were able to sit in smaller groups, and judging by most tables, quite a lot of serious Trust discussion ensued. It was also easier to speak to individual members of the committee re. any personal issues. - The food wasn't bad either!

Janet Lane

CUTTING CLUTTER IS COMMON SENSE - LAUNCH OF “STREET DESIGN FOR ALL”



On 1st December 2014, I was fortunate to be able to represent Southgate District Civic Trust at the launch of the updated guidance on street design. This took place during a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Civic Societies in the House of Commons.

The updated guidance, ‘Street Design for All’ has been produced by the Department for Transport, the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT), Civic Voice and Public Realm Information and Advice Network (PRIAN), with assistance from English Heritage, Institute of Highway Engineers, Living Streets, National Heart Forum, Transport for London and Urban Design Group.

Among others attending the launch were Robert Goodwill, Minister for Transport, Laura Sandys MP, Chair APPG for Civic Societies and Dr. Freddie Gick, Chair of Civic Voice.

Dr Gick said “Our members are informing us that many local councils are citing safety regulations as the reason for cluttering up our streets. Common sense tells us uncluttered streets have a fresher, freer authentic feel, which are safer and easier to maintain. ‘Street Design for All’ is updated guidance for anyone with an interest in seeing our towns and cities become more attractive and distinctive.”



Photo courtesy Civic Voice – see below

‘Street Design for All’ explains how in Poynton, Cheshire ten sets of traffic signals were removed and replaced with a high efficiency free-flow junction and carefully designed approaches. The East Cheshire highway authority’s two year road safety records show a substantial reduction in casualties, while vehicle flows have been maintained, congestion controlled, street quality considerably improved and businesses regenerated. The statistics chime with the results of similar schemes, including the de-cluttering of Kensington & Chelsea’s High Street, which saw a 40% reduction in road traffic accidents and a 60% reduction in pedestrian accidents.

This coalition of different groups is calling on the Government to consider conducting research into the safety impact of cutting street clutter in our towns, cities and villages.

I was pleased to note that this report was sent to all MPs, so although it was unfortunate that our MP David Burrowes was unable to attend the launch, he will still receive a copy. Details have been passed onto officers at Enfield Council concerned with heritage or highways, as well as some Councillors. Feel free to pass this on to anyone who may be interested, particularly in a professional capacity!

You can download your own copy of the full report from:

www.civicvoice.org.uk/uploads/files/street_design_2014.pdf, although it takes a bit of time. According to Civic Voice, 2,500 copies had been downloaded by mid December, which shows how much interest this report has already generated.

We had a number of copies available on our stall at the St Nicholas Fair, but we quickly ran out, so I am trying to obtain more copies for any members who would like one.

Clearly, the economic well being of a town depends significantly on the appearance of its streets and public space, so SDCT remain keen to remove redundant clutter to improve the health of our local communities. This report is a timely reminder of what can be done, as we continue to debate 'Quieter Neighbourhoods' and 'Cycle Enfield'.

Jane Maggs

SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC TRUST NOW ON FACEBOOK

Southgate District Civic Trust is delighted to announce that in in November we launched our Facebook page.



The aim is to use this space to bring faster updates on what we are doing, as well as pictures and videos.

You can find us at: www.facebook.com/southgatedistrictcivictrust.

If you are on Facebook, please '**LIKE**' us, then you can follow what we are doing. If you're not on Facebook, don't worry you can still view the site to see the latest news. We have some great photos already and intend to keep adding more!

Our thanks to member Simon Gillingham who put all this together for us and has been adding the new posts. If you have any news items or photos – please send them so we can show everyone what SDCT members are doing.

Do pass this on to anyone who may be interested in following what we are doing.

Jane Maggs

TOUR OF THE BEALE ARBORETUM

Thomas Hood, who once lived in Vicars Moor Lane, famously wrote:

No sun - no moon
No morn - no noon,
No fruits, no flowers,
No leaves, no birds!
November!



and it was on just such a gloomy day that about twenty members of the Trust met at West Lodge Park Hotel. We were to be taken round the Arboretum by the Managing Director, Mr. Andrew Beale. Mr. Beale first gave a resumé of the history of West Lodge Park and his family's long involvement with it, and then he showed where his heart really lay by sharing his complete love of trees with us.

The Arboretum was founded in 1963 and although, as Andrew explained, all trees are really planted for the next generation, it already has a mature appearance.

Some extraordinary trees were pointed out, a Wollemi Pine, a fossil tree thought to be extinct for 200 million years, yet rediscovered in Australia in 1994. We also saw that there are deciduous conifers and were just at the right time of year to see their beautiful Autumnal colouring.

We continued past a Corkscrew Hazel, originally cultivated at nearby Myddleton House, a tree much prized by flower arrangers for its crazily shaped stems and leaves. We were able to appreciate the many hawthorns with their beautiful berries before concluding at the Maple Glade and Giant Redwood where Andrew explained that we needed a "real" winter in order for the trees to "shut down" and rest in order to retain their vigour.

Next time you wake up to thick frost and ice I hope it will be of some comfort to know at least the trees are cheering!

We finished with a cream tea - delicious, like the walk itself.

Janet Lane

STALLS IN 2015!

During 2014, we had a presence at many of the local fairs and events. Probably more than we have ever done before. They have all been different, so we have tried to highlight different things each time. This policy of change and experiment seems to have paid off, as we have succeeded in increasing the number of members as well as raising our profile.

However, we could not be at all these events without the time and commitment of the members who volunteer to help. A big thank you to everyone involved and we look forward to another exciting year in 2015.



CIVIC VOICE UPDATE

Call for changes to the “Localism Act” at Government Select Committee

In November Civic Voice gave oral evidence to the Department for Communities and Local Government and called for changes to be made to “community rights powers” contained within the Localism Act 2011.

In response to a question from the committee about how the rights could be improved, Dr Freddie Gick, (Chair of Civic Voice), called on government to consider the introduction of a number of measures.

These included:

- extension of the moratorium period under the Right to Bid from six to nine months.
- appeal system for applicants who are refused asset listing.
- Government guidance for local authorities to ensure that Assets of Community Value listings are treated as a material consideration when considering planning applications.

Freddie Gick said “Most people want to have a say and play an active role in the way their local area is shaped. We believe these measures will inspire more citizens to participate in the community rights agenda”.

Southgate District Civic Trust is supporting the listing of local Assets of Community Value. If you have any suggestions for assets to be listed, please get in touch.

Civic Voice National Design Award launched

Civic Voice is calling on communities to nominate buildings and schemes for projects they consider make a significant contribution to the quality of their built environment, whether village, town or city.

Griff Rhys Jones, President of Civic Voice said: “It will not be the usual sort of design award where professionals give an award to the work of other professionals. Instead, the nominations will be made and supported by local communities across the country”.

The [Civic Voice Community Design Award](#) was launched in Canterbury at the AGM of Civic Voice. The awards will be distinctive in that nominations can only be made by local communities.

Nominations for projects will be considered that are examples of:

- New buildings
- Historic buildings that have been reused or refurbished
- Public realm schemes such as street works, conservation area improvements, parks improvements and enhancements of the civic realm.

The judges will be looking for excellence in terms of:

- Quality in design and construction
- Appropriateness
- Community participation and engagement
- Promoting pride of place.

Freddie Gick said “We are introducing the Award with the aim of demonstrating that communities are prepared to accept new development – when the development responds to local needs and is of a high standard of design. The Civic Society movement is focused on delivering high quality places and these Awards are a great way to do that while encouraging collaboration between communities and developers on a local level.”

Nominations should be made by community groups and organisations. The closing date for nominations is **31 March 2015**. Southgate District Civic Trust is supporting this new initiative, so if you have any suggestions that you would like nominated, please let your committee know.

OPEN MEETING - 11th October 2014
‘Oliver Pike - Pioneer Wildlife Photographer’ by Rory Morrisey

Oliver Pike was a remarkable man with a significant local connection. He became well known as a professional wildlife photographer, author, film-maker and lecturer. He was a pioneer of photography, developing new methods and cameras. During his life he became something of a celebrity.

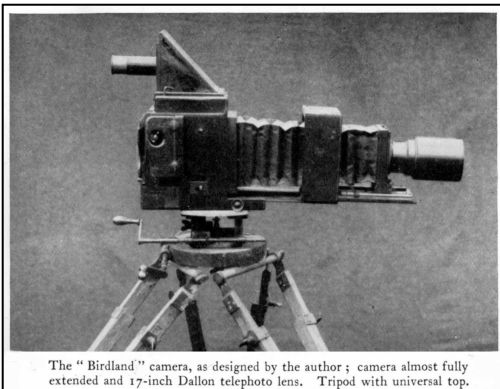
Rory Morrisey gave us a fascinating talk about the interesting life and work of this local pioneer.

Oliver Pike was born in Enfield in 1877, initially living in Chase Side, but later moving to No 1, The Elms, Green Dragon Lane, now re-numbered as 96. This is the house that now bears a SDCT plaque. Pike spent the end of his life in Leighton Buzzard, where Rory lives. Through this local connection Rory became interested in the work of Oliver Pike and his research brought him to Pike’s early life in our area.



Throughout his life, Pike was interested in both nature and photography, taking this photograph of a coal tit in 1895, using the remote control trigger he developed. Rory explained that Pike’s wildlife photographs are all the more remarkable, as he had to use a large glass plate camera. This talk included many examples of Pike’s work and wild life photographs.

Oliver Pike wrote his first book ‘In Birdland’ in 1899. This became a text book for wildlife photography, as well as showing his interest in protecting wildlife.



The “Birdland” camera, as designed by the author ; camera almost fully extended and 17-inch Dallon telephoto lens. Tripod with universal top.

Rory explained how Oliver Pike became frustrated by the limitations of the cameras available, especially as the noise they made frightened the birds he was trying to photograph. He invented the ‘Birdland’ Camera, a quarter plate camera. This sold for the equivalent in today’s money of £2,000 with the lens another £8,000.

Rory went on to explain Oliver Pike’s later life and how he moved into lecturing. He also started photographing and filming from more remote locations, including a film about St Kilda, which can be seen through the BFI.

Eventually, Pike moved to Leighton Buzzard and continued his interest in wild life conservation. He died in October 1963, following a lifetime that inspired a generation of nature lovers, conservationists, photographers and film-makers. He was described as ‘*a towering figure*’ by Sir David Attenborough.

Rory Morrisey gave a fascinating account of the life of this incredibly influential wildlife pioneer. If you would like to know more about Oliver Pike, visit Rory’s website www.oliverpike.info - where you can find details of his booklet and an email address, or you can write to him at 25 Alwins Field, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 2UF.

All photos © Estate of Oliver Pike

Jane Maggs

SOUTHGATE WINTER FAIR – 15th November 2014

At the end of November, Southgate Chamber of Trade organised its annual winter Fair. As well as a few stalls there was an ice skating rink in the middle of Southgate Circus, carriage rides and of course Father Christmas.

In a change to last year, Southgate District Civic Trust and the other stalls were allocated space on the open area outside the old Blockbuster store. Although this was not such a busy part of Southgate, we took full advantage of a large space. As well as a display of our latest projects, we were also able to show a Southgate Green street scene created from a montage of 1960's photographs. This became a great talking point, as visitors to the stall commented on the street changes, how few cars there were and the lack of street clutter.



We made the most of the opportunity to talk about the Local Heritage Listing project. As well as that, a number of people wanted to discuss specific local developments. We had volunteers who are also members of the planning group, so we were able to give them the information they needed.

Photo: Simon Gillingham

The day was a bit chilly, but the hardy volunteers were sustained with regular cups of coffee and even mince pies. Given the conditions we had a successful day, talking to lots of people, selling some books and signed up some new members.

ST NICHOLAS FAIR, WINCHMORE HILL GREEN – 13th December 2014

Early on a very cold Saturday in December, a band of hardy members were to be seen filling up a stall on Winchmore Hill Green at the St Nicholas Fair. We were not alone, as there were over 80 other stalls, plus music, an ice rink, reindeer and not forgetting St Nicholas who was distributing presents to the children!



The stalls for this event were fixed, so we were more constrained by size than at the other events this year. Undeterred, we decorated the stall with lights and bunting and focussed on the award winning Oakleaves 5, our other publications and the various campaigns such as the Civic Society Manifesto, Assets of Community Value, our Local Heritage Listing project and the new Street Design guidance. We had obtained copies of this report from Civic Voice before the day, so were able to give away copies. In fact there was so much interest, we ran out!

Even though it was a bitterly cold day, particularly when the sun went in, there was a huge turnout, and we were incredibly busy. We sold lots of things – local history makes great Christmas presents! Importantly, we also talked to lots of people about Street Design, the local manifesto and Cycle Enfield. The day gave us an ideal opportunity to discuss subjects that matter to this community.

Overall, we had a great day and you can see us on the time-lapse film of the day at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=17lcodATFzo.

(We are the first red-striped stall from the right of the picture).

OAKLEAVES 5 WINS AWARD!

Last year the latest edition of our occasional journal Oakleaves was submitted to LAMAS (the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society) for its annual Local History Publications Award. Some months ago we were told it had been shortlisted for the Best Journal Award, with the winner to be announced at the LAMAS Local History Conference held at the Museum of London on 22nd November. The Trust had a stall at the event, among other Civic and Local History Societies, and three of us were there to man it and attend the Conference.



The standard of publications is always high, but we had won awards there before, so were quietly confident. When it came to the time for the awards to be announced it was stated that the judges had a difficult job to choose between a number of excellent publications, but in the end they selected Oakleaves 5 as Best Journal for 2014! Peter Hodge went up on stage to collect the certificate, plus a cheque of £100 for the Trust.

This was a well-deserved reward for the dedicated work in producing this journal, and our thanks go to the contributors, editorial team, Steve Quinn for his layout design and the quality printing by Rapidity. Copies of the prize winning journal are available from Peter Hodge.

CYCLE ENFIELD (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS MINI-HOLLAND)

Judging from the letters in the local papers and comments from visitors to our recent stall, it is clear that the Cycle Enfield initiative has caused a considerable debate. Views seem to span the whole range from, totally in favour, to absolutely against.

Southgate District Civic Trust (SDCT), generally aims to represent the views of all our members, but in this case has found it very difficult given the range of road users and views expressed. Graham Beech (Chair) and Jane Maggs (Secretary) will be representing SDCT at the consultation meetings, along with other local groups and council officers. Our intention in these meetings is to work towards a solution appropriate to all road users.

Further information and updates will be given to members as they become available.

LOST 2nd WORLD WAR SHELTER FOUND IN NEW SOUTHGATE

Sometime in 2011 Enfield Council received complaints from local people that fly tipping was occurring on an unused piece of ground behind the Library in Bowes Road N11. When they proceeded to clear the rubbish they discovered the entrance to the shelter completely hidden by a dense growth of self-seeded trees and shrubs. Their response to this discovery, to the dismay of residents in Milton Grove, was to cut down all the trees and clear the site and it remains in this condition up to the present time. When some of the residents asked why this beautiful area, home to a variety of wildlife, had been destroyed they were told that it was because the trees were diseased, according to a friend of mine who lives in Milton Grove. He did not believe this explanation and asked me to find out the real reason for this official vandalism. The residents had long known about the existence of the brick structure and he thought it was a shelter.

I, therefore, contacted the Council to seek an explanation and asked whether there was a shelter on the site. An officer confirmed that this is the case and informed me that they intended to fill it in as the trees had weakened the roof. I asked why, in that case, had all the trees been destroyed and was told that they would have fallen down as their roots were too shallow. This, despite the fact that they had remained upright and healthy for the past 70 years. I was not very impressed by the Council's explanation and muddled thinking about the future of this site. In my opinion it is unsatisfactory to leave the land in this devastated condition without any use for what is surely a now rare example of local history which would be of interest to generations of people for whom the 2nd World War is only something they learnt about at school in the history books.



Photo Graham Beech

I decided to do some research about the shelters constructed in Southgate at the start of hostilities. At the Local History Unit at Dugdale House I studied maps showing the locations of both above ground and underground shelters. One or two of the former still exist put to other uses. In Broomfield Park and Grovelands Park they are used as changing rooms for football players and as a storeroom at the depot in Oakwood Park. But not a single underground shelter survives (to my knowledge) in Southgate other than the one in Bowes Road. There is said to be one in the grounds of Millfield House, Edmonton but it has been closed because it is now unsafe. *

These structures were known as ARP Trench Shelters and as the name indicates were dug as 5 feet wide trenches in mostly rectangular formations and then covered. I do not know how deep the covering was but the one in Bowes Road evidently had some hard material overlaid with tarmac. There were several of these dug in Southgate and their locations are shown. In Broomfield Park there were three together alongside Alderman's Hill opposite the old running track. There is hardly any evidence left. It is possible to detect slight unevenness of the grass if one looks carefully. These shelters were designed to accommodate 500 people. The Bowes Road shelter would have held 300 people. It was constructed as two rectangles, each 50 feet long and 23 feet wide internally with cowled entrance positioned between the two rectangles. This entrance is the only part of the shelter that is visible.

As a consequence of my intervention the Council has now agreed to consider the possibility of preserving the shelter. A structural survey has been done and the Imperial War Museum has been approached in order to assess its historical importance. This may take some time as the IWM has many enquiries to answer. In the meantime I can only hope that this may yield a positive outcome. In that case the cost of restoration would then be the issue and it is unlikely that our cash strapped council would be willing to make much money available for such an enterprise. We would then have to find a way of obtaining funds. It is nice to contemplate a time in the not too distant future when this site would be an attractive place for local people to visit to experience what one aspect of life was like in the 1940s.

* I have since been told that three shelters still exist at Millfield House, one of which is open to view.

Graham Beech

MEET THE TRUST!

You are invited to an INFORMAL meeting of members new and old, of Southgate District Civic Trust on:

Tuesday 24th February 2015 at the Cherry Tree, Southgate Green at **8pm.**

Bring your ideas, questions or just come and introduce yourself.

All are welcome. This is your society and we want to reflect your views.

We would love to see you.