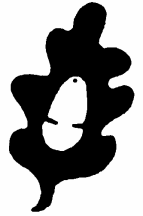


# Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter  
No. 233  
July 2015



Website: [www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk)

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## COMING EVENTS

### **HISTORY GROUP MEETING**

**Tuesday 8th Sept. 2015**

at 8.00pm Friends Meeting House,  
Church Hill, N21

#### **“Old Films of Our Area”**

by Colin Barratt

A presentation of clips and short films with  
local connections.

**ALL WELCOME**

### **OPEN MEETING**

**Saturday 10th Oct. 2015**

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

#### **“Magic Lantern to Multiplex”**

by Richard Gray

See page 6 for details

**ALL WELCOME**

### **Other Dates for your Diary:**

Wed. 15th July	<b>Tour of City Hall with Joanne McCartney</b> (Contact Janet Lane)
Sun. 6th September	<b>Palmers Green Festival in Broomfield Park</b>
Tues. 10th November	<b>History Group Meeting</b> Subject TBA

**\* 2015 AGM REPORTS - These can be found on pages 7 - 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. You can also now pay online using Paypal via our website.

**Contributions to the October newsletter should be sent by Friday 11th September 2015**

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 **5th October 2015**. Emailed copies should be available for members w/c **28th 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**).



## UPDATE FROM CIVIC VOICE

### **Planning - community right of appeal**

Just over a year into the coalition Government much fanfare greeted the 2011 Localism Act. Announced as part of the “Government’s revolution to hand power back to local communities”, the thrust of Localism was that communities should be able to be active participants in planning decisions and be given powers to decide what happens in their area.

However, what happened at local level didn’t really match up to the promise of the Act. Instead, numerous planning reforms left local communities feeling disempowered, with decisions being taken out of their hands.

Judicial review remains the only means of challenging a poor planning decision, although the need for legal support and the risk of incurring substantial costs puts this option out of reach for the vast majority of community groups. Nor can judicial reviews be concerned with the planning policy merits of a case; only whether a decision has been made unlawfully. Frustratingly, developers have the right of appeal against a local refusal of planning permission on grounds of planning merits.

Civic Voice are calling on the new Government to show that it is serious about giving power to communities by backing up local and neighbourhood plans with a right of appeal. If the new Government really wants to hand power to local communities they need to commit to rebalancing the planning appeals system so that community groups can plan for their future and challenge bad plans by others.

For fuller details go to [www.civicvoice.org.uk](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk) .

### **All Party Parliamentary Group for Civic Societies**

APPGs are informal cross-party groups that work within Parliament and are run by and for Members of the Commons and Lords, involving individuals and organisations who wish to promote their cause with key decision makers. The general election meant that all existing groups have to re- register and Civic Voice is now in the process of re-forming the APPG for Civic Societies.

SDCT has asked our MP, David Burrowes, to join this APPG. We await his response.

### **Annual Convention 2015**

The AGM and Convention will be held in Bristol on 23/24 October. The first day includes a programme of walks and visits around Bristol, opportunities for formal and informal meetings of interest groups and a dinner at which a number of Civic guests will be present. The AGM on Saturday morning is followed by the real business of the Convention with workshops, presentations and networking opportunities galore!

Civic Voice is thinking of holding a twitter/social media workshop to show how it can help raise the profile of civic societies and the civic movement.

If you’re interested in attending please let the SDCT committee know via [info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk](mailto:info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk)

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## **PALMERS GREEN FESTIVAL**

We are having a stall again this year at the Palmers Green Festival, being held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September in Broomfield Park. It runs from 12 noon to 7pm, and we will need a rota of helpers on the stall throughout the day. If you can help man the stall for an hour or two, please contact Colin Barratt (8882 2246) or Richard Purver (8882 0123).

## THE FOX PUB NOMINATED AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

### SDCT successfully nominate The Fox Pub as an Asset of Community Value (ACV)!

This is the **first** nomination accepted by Enfield Council!

While the nomination does not give total protection to this local pub, it does mean if the owners want to sell the pub or change its use, we have a chance to decide the future of this community asset. For more information on ACV see the Civic Voice website ([www.civicvoice.org.uk](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk)).

Let's hope we never need to exercise our rights, but at least now we can.

Various members of SDCT put together the nomination, in particular [Sue Beard](#), helped by [Joe Studman](#), [Jane Maggs](#) and [Basil Clark](#).



The Fox 1996

The Civic Voice workshop, attended by members, gave us lots of good advice. As well as access to their expert team during our planning.



The Fox 1900

Finally, the reason we nominated The Fox Pub. We realise not everyone is a pub user, but this application was about how this pub is used, not just the public house aspect – below is one part of our application:

*The Fox stands in a prominent position on the corner of Green Lanes and its namesake, Fox Lane. Tall and imposing, for those coming to Palmers Green from the north, it acts as a gateway into Palmers Green's main shopping area.*

*The Fox has a number of accolades. It is the oldest remaining pub in Palmers Green to have continuously stood on the same site – there has been a Fox on the site for over 300 years. It is also the only purpose built public house still remaining open on the main route between Wood Green and some way north of Winchmore Hill, the others being shop conversions with little architectural or historical merit.*

*The current building, of 1904, was built as part and parcel of the Edwardian development of Palmers Green. The size and grandeur of the building is a reminder that Palmers Green was once a place of enough significance to require a hotel and associated dining for travellers. Before the coming of the car, the Fox was the terminus of the horse drawn bus service into London, run by the Davey family of publicans who had stables at the back. Once the trams came, it was a major landmark on the journey from London. All taxi drivers still know the Fox.*

*The Fox, then, holds a position of huge cultural significance in an area, which tends to think of itself as having a short past. It is a well loved landmark and social hub. If Palmers Green were ever to lose its landmark pub, and this landmark building, it would lose part of itself.*

*As a former bus and train terminus, and a hotel, the Fox has always been at the centre of Palmers Green's social and community life. June Brown, Dot Cotton from Eastenders, ran her theatre company from it, bands, including big names like Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band, have played in it, famous comedians perform in it to this day, and the famous have drunk in it – locals like Rod Stewart and Ted Ray and visitors including the famous names who trod the boards at the Intimate Theatre.*

*Today, as the only remaining live performance venue in Palmers Green, the Fox host a monthly comedy night attracting top Perrier nominated comedians. It hosts a community cinema, Talkies, desperately needed now that there are no cinemas for several miles. It hosts exercise and dance classes, and until recently bands and Irish music. As the only town centre room-for-hire, it has hosted wedding receptions, christenings, parties and bar mitzvahs, giving it a special place in many local people's personal histories.*

*The loss of the Fox, in its current form as a public house, would leave the community impoverished; the loss of the building itself would take something beloved and iconic for local people.*

*For this reason, we wish to make an application for the Fox to be recognised as an Asset of Community Value, so that, should it ever be threatened, it will be clear that this is both a building and social hub valued in the local area, and that local people might have some kind of option to intervene.*

*Jane Maggs*



## **CYCLE ENFIELD**

### **Latest update from the Enfield West Partnership Board**

The May 2015 meeting of the Cycle Enfield Partnership Board was attended by Graham Beech and Jane Maggs. There was a large turnout for this meeting, with civic groups, local residents, business groups, councillors, council officers and Jacobs the consultants attending.

There have been a number of surveys undertaken by both Jacobs and local residents groups. These included town and traffic surveys, as well as parking.

Although we felt there were some omissions and flaws in some of the surveys, the results were interesting. It was clear that most people coming to this area were local and were in the area to shop. Presumably because they were local, the vast majority walked, about twice as many as drove. When asked about cycling, a large proportion of those that did not come by bike, said they would consider this if the routes were safer.

The public exhibition at The Fox was attended by 320 people, of which 71% were local residents and 12% local residents and businesses.

There were 270 comments/issues/ideas received. The main themes being:

- Parking – impact on local businesses and homes.
- Use an alternative route – this included the New River route.
- Lack of pedestrian facilities at the junction of Bourne Hill.
- Palmers Green Triangle – retaining/improving the environment around the triangle.
- Drop off – car & taxi drop off/pickups particularly for the elderly and disabled.
- Congestion along Green Lanes.
- Environmental improvements in Palmers Green and other locations.
- Emergency vehicles – problems of passing traffic.



Full details of the public meetings can be found on the Cycle Enfield website.

We were disappointed not to have seen more detailed proposals for possible designs, but understand these will be presented at the next Partnership Board in June. We were informed that the feasibility designs have been submitted to TfL for initial comment. Any designs must have TfL approval, particularly to minimise impact on the bus network. We are looking forward to seeing these, which will allow a more practical discussion.

The next key dates for this project are:

Next Partnership Board (Designs Presented) – June 2015

Public Consultation – Late July 2015 to October 2015

Scheme Approval – December 2015

Detailed Design – December 2015 to April 2016

Implementation – April 2016 to October 2016

Further information will be given to members as it becomes available.

*Jane Maggs*

## THE MINCHENDEN OAK



The Minchenden Oak Garden Restoration has been submitted for a Civic Voice Design Award. We will learn if we have been commended on 17th July.

The 800 year old Minchenden Oak forms the focus of the garden and its future was secured in November 2013 through judicious tree surgery works implemented by Enfield Council.

The Friends of The Minchenden Oak Garden have been working with Enfield Council to restore the Garden to its original status as a tranquil green garden for contemplation and remembrance.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May was the culmination of three years of work to refurbish the Minchenden Oak Garden; The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd & Rt Hon. Richard Chartres KCVO DD FSA presided over a ceremony of rededication and blessing of The Garden, attended by over 100 people.

An Oak sapling grown from a Minchenden acorn was planted by The Representative Deputy Lieutenant of Enfield Mrs Ann Cable MBE DL and Her Worship The Deputy Mayor of Enfield Cllr Bernadette Lappage, to songs sung by Childrens' Voices of Enfield.

The childrens' choir and 6th Southgate Cub Scouts scattered wildflower seeds below the trees as part of the replanting works.

The works in the garden have been funded from the Residents Priority Fund and include a new paved ramped access, re-laid pathways, restored gateway entrance, new boundary fencing, new oak seating, new history and information lecterns, and new underplanting.

The garden formed part of the Ancient Minchenden Estate, owned by the Dukes of Chandos, and it is sited adjacent to the former Weld Chapel, which celebrated its 400th anniversary on Sunday 24th May.

*Chris Horner*  
*Secretary Friends of The Minchenden Oak Garden*

## OPEN MEETING – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015

### *Magic Lantern to Multiplex - Richard Gray*

We are delighted to announce that Richard Gray will be the speaker at our next Open Meeting in October.



Regal, Old Kent Road, (courtesy of Richard Gray)

Richard is Chair of Casework for the Cinema Theatre Association, an organisation, which helps to ensure that the best of cinema architecture and design survives when the buildings are put to other uses. He previously worked for English Heritage as an Inspector of Historic Buildings. In 1996 he published *Cinemas in Britain* to coincide with the centenary of film and a commemorative exhibition at the Royal Institute of British Architects.

In this talk, *Magic Lantern to Multiplex*, Richard Gray will tell the story of buildings for film from the earliest days when the Lumière brothers arranged for their films to be shown at the Regent Street Polytechnic in 1896, through the early days of film exhibition and on to the first generation of purpose-built cinemas in the years before World War I. The story continues through the great era of cinema construction between the two world wars when film was extremely popular. With the advent of television, admissions dropped, but in 1984, the first multiplex arrived.

During the decline many cinemas closed, to be demolished or used for other purposes. Richard will be including some of our local cinemas in this talk.

This meeting is open to **all**, so please invite your friends and family.

**Date & time:** Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2.30pm

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



Ritz, Bowes Road (ABC), SDCT archive

Jane Maggs

### TIME CAPSULE

For several years there have been discussions about burying a time capsule on the New Southgate Millennium Green. For those who don't know about this Green, it's a triangular open space between Station Road and Inverforth Road in New Southgate, opposite the Homebase store. It was created at the Millennium and is looked after by a Trust, who work hard to maintain its various features: such as peaceful areas to sit and relax, open areas for play, wildflower sections and an expanding fruit orchard.

Funding has now been obtained from the Enfield Residents' Priority Fund for new equipment, tools, furniture etc. plus a time capsule. As a member of the Committee for the Green I am now starting work with a group on the arrangements for this capsule, which we hope will also involve the nearby Garfield Junior School.

Colin Barratt

# **SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC TRUST**

## **Annual General Meeting, 9th May 2015**

### **REPORTS**

#### **ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015/2016**

At the AGM in May 2015, 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
Publicity Officer	Simon Gillingham
Committee Members	Irene Stone Joe Studman Richard Purver Elaine Tyler

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

You will have read in your April Newsletter of our Trust's difficult financial position and the means by which your Executive Committee have chosen to remedy it. We could see no alternative to raising subscriptions as, without a substantial increase in membership, the Trust would inevitably run out of money putting at risk our ability to function and maintain the same level of activity. We hope the membership will understand and continue their loyal support of our work.

I have referred to the threats that face our heritage and the environment in our Southgate District citing the case of the former Middlesex University Cat Hill site where the ancient woodland and wildlife there have been severely damaged by the housing development despite a vigorous campaign to save it.

Now there is a threat to the main former Middlesex University campus at Trent Park which may fall into dereliction as the new owners have gone into Administration and there is a campaign being organised to prevent any damage pending a satisfactory solution to the future of the house and grounds. The latest news is that the site may be sold, possibly, for residential development. If this happens the Trust is bound to be involved in the planning process. An important priority is to preserve public access to the site.

You will also have read in your Newsletter that the Sir Thomas Lipton Memorial Home is being offered for sale although this appears to be in conflict with the rules of the charity which owns it. The Trust has been urgently investigating this situation and is another issue which the Trust will pursue to secure a satisfactory outcome.

As you may remember I have taken a personal interest in the North Circular Area Action Plan and contributed to the public consultation on behalf of the Trust. Enfield Council are about to announce the options for the redevelopment of the Ritz Parade in Bowes Road and a public consultation to follow. The Council has said that it would prefer the preservation of this building in some form but, as the land now belongs to the Notting Hill Housing Association, it will be up to them to submit proposals for planning approval. The Ritz Parade is a very characteristic example of Inter-War architecture and contains the only remaining Art Deco style cinema in Southgate.

I will therefore be active on behalf of the Trust in urging retention of as much as possible of the original structure.

These are only some of the activities of the Trust that I have chosen to highlight. You will be hearing more in the reports of our groups which follow. I think it is clear that there is plenty of work that lies ahead for our Trust to tackle in the coming year and beyond and I hope that the members of the Executive Committee and I will have your confidence in accomplishing these tasks.

*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. I have also dealt with a range of correspondence and organisations on your behalf.

There will be more later on publicity, but those of you on e-mail will see that we have been sending out more mails with what we hope is useful information and reminders. If you have an e-mail address and are not receiving our updates, please let Colin Barratt or me know, so we can add you to the mailing list.

The Trust is becoming increasingly active, so there is not the time to report on everything here, so I just want to highlight a few topical things.

Osidge and The Sir Thomas Lipton nursing home: You will have seen from your newsletter, that following the closure of this home last summer, we have been actively monitoring the situation. On behalf of the trust, I will continue to talk to both the Charity Commission and the trustees - Friends of the Elderly. Now the dust has settled, we will be contacting local politicians in both Enfield and Barnet, as well as other local civic groups. Although it is not clear how this will develop we anticipate that we will need to take action to ensure the site evolves in a way suitable for Southgate. Clearly the Executive Committee will need your input and experience, so would welcome any members who wish to become involved.

Assets of Community Value (ACV): I'm sure you have seen in the local paper that **Assets of Community Value (ACV)** have become quite a hot topic recently. As you probably know as part of the Localism Act, it has been possible to nominate certain buildings and open spaces as an ACV. Without going into the details, it means that if an owner wants to sell, the community has 6 months to put together an alternative bid. Generally being an asset of community value does not prevent an owner changing the use of a building, as this no longer requires planning permission. The only exception is where a pub is listed as an ACV, so cannot be changed into a shop.

SDCT nominated two assets this year. The first was a small triangle of land in Hoppers Road, at the end of the Salisbury Arms car park. This request was turned down and the site subsequently sold. Our second nomination in April was The Fox Pub in Palmers Green. We have yet to hear the out come of the nomination, but last week received positive feedback from a council officer, so remain hopeful. (See update on page 3 - Ed.)

We are now looking for other assets to nominate, with a couple of suggestions being considered. We have discovered that completing the nomination form is not as straightforward as it would seem. The council officers are scrutinising them very carefully and applying the criteria quite strictly. So obtaining approval of an asset is rather more complicated than some politicians would have us believe.

Civic Voice is running a campaign to list as many assets as possible this year. We benefited from their training and have support from one of their team, which has proved helpful.

*If you have any suggestions, please let us know and we will work with you on the nomination.*

Palmers Green & Southgate Life: Late last year, we received via Facebook an invitation to include an article on the Trust in the 'Palmers Green & Southgate Life'. We wrote a piece for them and provided some photographs from our archive. The article appeared in the February edition. Hopefully, this will let more people know about what we do.



Cycle Enfield: Graham Beech and I represented the Trust at the Cycle Enfield Board meetings. The other attendees included various Councillors, EBRA town centre managers, residents' groups and cycle organisations. So far we have attended only one board meeting, as well as the public meeting at the Fox Pub. Our position throughout this has been to ensure fairness to all road users, cyclists, pedestrians and drivers. We have also tried to ensure that other ideas such as shared space are included in the debate. The next Board meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> May, so we will report back on any developments. (See update on page 4 - Ed.)

Stalls at local events: This year we have again taken every opportunity to have stalls at various local events, fairs and local history events. These have given us an opportunity to show more people what we have done and would like to do in the future. At all of these we have recruited new members, but perhaps more importantly we are able to talk to lots of different people about what matters to them and us in this area.

We plan to continue raising our profile in this way and have a stall at as many fairs as we can. I would like to quickly take this opportunity to thank all the members who have helped this year.

Apart from the events, the work we do on various projects or campaigns is becoming recognised. The Trust remains apolitical, continuing to build relationships with local politicians and council officers so we can attempt to influence changes to our area. However, we also have a responsibility to hold all the politicians and officers to account and will continue to do that in the coming year.

As the number of projects increases, so has the amount of work of the Executive Committee. As a way of helping us, we have asked for more help. We are pleased that Simon Gillingham is standing as publicity officer, but sadly there were no nominations for someone to help the Secretary as minutes secretary. Please give it some thought, and if you can help, please volunteer when we reach the election part of the meeting. I don't see this as being an onerous task, just a few hours for each meeting.

Finally I would like to say, I think the Trust as a whole has had another excellent year and I look forward to the next 12 months.

*Jane Maggs*

## **CIVIC VOICE**

We have remained members of the Civic Voice and continued to receive the benefits from this membership, including a reduction in the cost of our insurance policy and day-passes for the National Trust.

Membership also keeps us in touch with national issues affecting us locally, particularly the continual changes to planning legislation. We also receive information on what other member societies are doing, some of which is passed on to you in the Newsletter.

Civic Voice is working closely with the APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) for Civic Societies, which is supported by an increasing number of MPs. We have continued to invite our MP David Burrowes to these meetings, but he has been unable to join. However, with a new Parliament and with his recent experience of ACVs, we hope he will now be able to attend and support the Civic Movement.

I was able to attend the APPG Civic Societies meeting in December at the House of Commons, when they launched the 'Street Design for All: An update of national advice and good practice'. Copies of which are available. It was really interesting and enlightening to attend this meeting, listen to the questions from the various members and see democracy in action.

Last year, Chris Horner and I attended the Civic Voice AGM in Canterbury. As reported in the Newsletter, we spent a very interesting two days with members from other civic societies, as well as attending workshops, including one on ACV. We were both struck by how many of these groups had a passion and vision for their area, which gave us plenty of ideas to bring back to this Trust. This year the AGM will be in Bristol and hopefully we will be able to send a contingent of members.

*Jane Maggs*

## PLANNING GROUP REPORT

Our group has discussed approximately 75 Town Planning Applications during the last year. We had two meetings that were cancelled due to lack of applications in our areas, which was a rare occurrence in our very long history. The months that we met were on average full of content, including discussions on planning matters in addition to applications.

From September 2014 we were pleased to have a new Conservation Officer at the Council, a lady called Bridget Pereira, who settled in quickly and is very helpful. I have tried to keep members informed of the more important applications or up to date information on them in our regular newsletters. Our six Conservation Area Appraisals that I visited and checked on any changes over the last 5 years were all dealt with during the year and will be approved by the Council Cabinet on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015.

During this year I have had many queries regarding ongoing projects and so today I will give an update as follows:-

Truro House, 176 Green Lanes N13. The refurbishment of the house and coach house and development of flats on the site finally got permission with the approval of Historic England (formerly known as English Heritage). However no development can take place before several conditions by the Council are covered. I have the list of conditions with me if anyone wishes to see them.

Broomfield House. The Broomfield Partnership Board will meet again in June. There will be a strategic plan in progress soon which it needs to give a framework for investment regarding lottery fund purposes. Historic England is giving a grant of 50% for the scaffolding to be kept.

Trent Park, N14. Following the recent site visit by officers and Historic England there are some repair and maintenance issues to be addressed, such as areas of water ingress at the Mansion, support of the Mansion Terrace and safeguarding the Kitchen Garden wall and Wisteria Walk. JLL, an international firm of Estate Agents in the property market, are now managing the property and are acting as the Owner's representative in dialogue with the Council. It was refused an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act that had been submitted by the Hadley Wood Forum to Enfield Council. There will probably be an Appeal because we understand that a considerable amount of information had not been taken into consideration when the decision was made.

Our Conservation Areas have provided us with plenty to object to.

Southgate Circus has created most concerns regarding applications for extensions in height and bulk in the view of the Grade 2 listed station. South Point House, 321 Chase Road, right opposite, had a request for an additional four storeys in height and a total change to flats refused because of the proposed height. There is now an application for four storeys on the rear facing Chase Road, but which we still consider is too visible. Hobart House, The Bourne, N14 is on the boundary of the conservation area and also wanting to add height and bulk, came up against visibility too and was refused. At the side of the station and facing Chase Side is The Maze Public House with a rear in Crown Lane that is close to the Station Parade crescent of shops. There have been some considerable alterations and amended drawings but it is still pending any finality. 18 Chase Side, above Barclays Bank, wants to construct another floor as a mansard roof to accommodate 2 new flats, but it is not acceptable to us in that position.

Hadley Wood's latest is a back land development to be created by the demolition of the garage at 21, Lancaster Avenue, the formation of a new access road, and proposing a pair of semi-detached houses in its back garden.

Highlands CA had the total demolition of Curie Lodge with a new build block proposed because it was considered by the developer that it was unsafe to remain. Ground subsidence was the reason given. All the flats had been emptied for safety and no one was allowed into the building. The Council has however decided to try and find a way of strengthening the building by a form of under-pinning before agreeing to the demolition.

Our group spends what I hope are a very interesting couple of hours monthly dealing with a great many different aspects of planning and as the SDCT must acknowledge keeps us in the centre of what we as an association stand for. So much is changing in planning now that it is no small thing for us to keep up with it all, and I thank them for their support and time. We now have an extremely good web site that gives anyone who is interested some information on what our planning group is all about.

To be a member of the group and know that your opinions count is even better, and you would be welcomed at 6, Eversley Mount, N21 to our monthly meetings that start at 8.00pm. Contact me at 0208 364 3500.

*Irene Stone*

## **CONSERVATION ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) REPORT**

The CAG meets monthly, and I try to organise my planning group meetings to be on the Wednesday a week prior to that date. That is because there can be applications that we have to comment on that will sometimes be on the CAG Agenda. I send a report of our comments to the case planning officer straight away, but if it is on the Agenda I read it out to the CAG meeting when discussion on Planning Applications is reached and the relevant application is being discussed. We will then get the opinions of any other members and there will be a decision by CAG as to whether they agree with our group comments or if there are other aspects of the drawings in front of them that they wish to bring forward. It is then decided if the CAG wish to object or not on their own behalf.

Examples are the applications I spoke previously about in my planning group report regarding: South Point House, Hobart House, 18 Chase Side and The Maze PH, all important because of their proximity to the listed station and in the Southgate Circus CA.

Architects who want to get an idea of how the CAG will react to a scheme can bring it to us as a Pre-application but that does not go into the public domain until it has been registered as a TP application, when it could still be amended or withdrawn. They usually come to present what they have already put in as an application for a development.

The Conservation officer gives us an explanation on previous applications and what their progress is, and our Chairman who attends the Council Planning Committee Meetings reports on any items that we have objected to and tells us the results.

The Heritage officer reviews all works being done on listed buildings and now gives an update on progress of the Local list. This will comprise items that the local community identify as being of value to them. At the last CAG meeting we were told that there are discussions with new Consultants in the hope that a firm can be employed to assist in drawing up technical designation criteria. The original employed Consultant unfortunately died and subsequent tendering did not produce anyone. SDCT has been discussing a local list for some time so has become involved already, but volunteers are being encouraged to become involved too. So let us know if there is any building or object etc in the Borough that you would like to see preserved.

Environmental officers, Highway officers, Mini-Holland Cycling information, or anyone our Chairman considers can give us an update on their work is often invited to come to a meeting. We end by dealing with an Open Session to give members an opportunity to bring up matters not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

SDCT have six CA's that we represent at CAG, other members have the one area that they represent so it is times like this year when our Character Appraisals and Management Proposals come up to their 5 year revision by us that I have it all as an extra, but it gives me the opportunity to survey our CA's. This has all now been completed, and hopefully any future developers will take the Appraisals into account.

It is now the end of the Municipal Year for Enfield Council, and although we have been given 2<sup>nd</sup> June as the next meeting we will have to wait for any future dates.

*Irene Stone*

## **SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Following the disappointment of the closure of the College restaurant, our annual dinner was a much more informal affair, in the "Cherry Tree". It was nonetheless well attended, with over 20 members present and the relaxed atmosphere allowed members to voice their concerns re local issues.

We had 2 walks around the Beale Arboretum - one in Autumn 2014 and one Spring 2015. Again, about 20 members were present and each walk was well described by the knowledgeable Mr. Andrew Beale, director of West Lodge Park Hotel.

We look forward to a visit to City Hall, and one to the BBC over the next few weeks and anyone interested in either tour should get in touch as soon as possible on 0208 886 3303.

*Janet Lane*

## 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 when *Oakleaves 5* won the LAMAS [London and Middlesex Archaeological Society] Local History Publications Award for Best Journal at their annual Local History Conference in November 2014, represented by a certificate and a cheque for £100, which has been added to the Trust's publications account for general use.

With the support of the Executive Committee we organised the placement of a local blue plaque commemorating pioneer wildlife photographer Oliver Pike at his former family home at 96 Green Dragon Lane on 16 November, in collaboration with Enfield Grammar School. The plaque was unveiled by Oliver Pike's grandsons Jonathan and Richard Dollimore after Peter Hodge, Jonathan Dollimore and Rory Morrissey spoke about his life and work. The event was trailed in the *Enfield Gazette and Advertiser* series and covered on the Trust and other local websites and in the January newsletter.

In association with the plaque we published a booklet (free to Trust members), *Oliver Pike: Birdman of Winchmore Hill*, which comprises a version of the 2004 article by Peter Hodge from *Oakleaves 3* that started our interest in Oliver Pike and three articles by Oliver Pike from the *Recorder* newspaper. Rory Morrissey gave his talk on Oliver Pike at the Trust's Open Meeting on 11th October.

Our publications are on sale at Enfield Local Studies, Trust meetings and the SDCT stall at various events, where we also sell some non-Trust items, eg *Enfield's Night to Remember* by Trust member Eileen Bostle (published by Enfield Museum Service in July). We are currently renegotiating the stocking of our publications at Waterstones in Enfield after a period of difficulty in engaging changing management staff. Peter Hodge has handled direct orders himself over many years but the process should be facilitated following the planned opening of a Paypal account on the Trust website. Publications and events are also advertised on the Trust noticeboards at Palmers Green Station and Winchmore Hill Green.

During the year members of the sub-committee helped with the staffing and/or organisation of the Trust's stalls at the Palmers Green Festival, the Southgate winter shopping festival, the LAMAS local history conference, St Nicholas Fair and Southgate May Day Fair.

The Southgate District Civic Trust archive is mainly looked after by Peter Hodge and Stan Rondeau in their own homes. Following an offer from John Clark of Enfield Local Studies to make use of available space on their shelves, appropriate items from the archive were transferred in June. Peter is currently completing a catalogue of the remaining documents, photographs and books in the archive and we intend to add this to the Trust website for the interest of members in due course.

Images from a 1960s photo roll of Southgate High Street/Cannon Hill found in the archive have been digitised by Chris Horner and photographs from archived albums are being digitised by Mervyn Maggs. Photographs from the archive were requested by Monica Smith of the Enfield Society for use in her book *A Time of Change* (Volume Four of A History of Enfield) which was published in February.

*Richard Purver*

## **GREEN BELT FORUM REPORT**

The Green Belt forum meets approximately four times a year at the Civic Centre Enfield.

It's led by four or five local councillors and those present on 28<sup>th</sup> April were Dinah Barry, who chaired the meeting, Yasemin Brett and Peter Fallart. Also present was Robert Oles, Enfield's Planning Enforcement Officer. The audience is mainly made up of representatives from local Friends of Parks Groups.

The council usually provide a short presentation and at the April meeting Matthew Watts reported on the management of the Borough's Angling lakes. This prompted a discussion about the moral and conservation issues of angling. The consensus among the audience was that discarded fishing tackle causes problems for wildlife. The council had produced a report of which I have a copy should anyone wish to read it.

The next topic raised was by a Friend of Trent Park who was alarmed by sports shooting nearby that had caused the loss of a rare bird in 2009. Unable to provide evidence from where the shooting originated the council were unable to follow this up.

As a follow on to this topic Joanne Brown of Friends of Forty Hall said that Fireworks have been causing distress and death of birds. She personally experienced a dead duck landing on her lap in St James Park while watching a Firework display.

Unfortunately these parochial and historic problems dominate most Green Belt Forum discussions.

Ultimately it is only a Forum and whilst congratulating Robert Oles for responding efficiently with any matters arising, and the councillors showing interest and support the group has no real powers to change anything.

*Joe Studman*

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## **PROMOTION & PUBLICITY ON THE INTERNET**

I have been a member of SDCT for a year now and have some previous Internet experience.

During the year, following meetings on the website with Jane Maggs, Elaine Tyler and Colin Barratt, it was decided to redesign the website. Before we continue, I would like to thank Hugh Humphrey for setting up the original website presence on his N21 Directory. Without this, we would not have had an Internet presence over the last five years.

Now we not only have our own fully functioning website, but also a Facebook page and Twitter account.

My aim is to make it easy for members of the public to pay for membership and books totally online using this website. This week I renewed my Membership online. Going forward, I will use our Internet presence to raise our profile in the Community hopefully to encourage more engagement and eventually more active members.

Website: [www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/southgatedistrictcivictrust](http://www.facebook.com/southgatedistrictcivictrust)

Twitter: @southgatetrust

Simon Gillingham



## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT**

The newsletter is still our main means of letting our members know what is happening, and what the Trust is doing, although we also have our website and newly set up Facebook page to keep people informed on topical issues.

There is a lot going on now, both locally and nationally, and Jane, our Secretary, works hard to summarise activities and reports from Civic Voice, to go in the newsletter.

More copies are being sent out electronically now, so I have reduced the numbers printed to 130. About 95 are being delivered by hand, by members who have offered to distribute a bundle to others in their area. This task is very much appreciated, and saves the Trust a considerable sum.

I am often told that the newsletter is a good read, and enjoyed by the members, which is nice to know, but it would also be good to have some feedback from readers. There have been a number of issues we have reported on recently which have caused a lot of debate in the local papers, such as Cycle Enfield, Cat Hill re-development, Thomas Lipton House and Trent Park Campus, but we have had very little comment from members about these. We probably have more non-members getting in touch about issues of planning than feedback from members. Our motto is "if you care - have a voice" so let's hear your voice in the newsletter.

*Colin Barratt*

## **HISTORY GROUP REPORT**

Numbers have been reasonably good at meetings over the past year, at around 20. There has been a mix of topics and speakers. Last year we heard about the New River, after its 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the history and stories of Enfield Football Club, then a fun look at transport systems that failed, finishing appropriately on 11<sup>th</sup> November learning about the effect on Enfield of airship attacks in WW1.

This year, in March, we were treated to a talk about the work of a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral, from our own Chris Royall, including listening to clips of their performances. These have all been reported on in the newsletters, for members who couldn't get to the meetings, and you will have seen the ones to come announced in the April edition.

A few days after the AGM was a talk about the popular poet John Betjemen, who had local connections, and in July Dr Helen Fry will be talking about how we bugged the high ranking Nazis imprisoned at Trent Park in WW2, which yielded a lot of valuable information.

Hopefully, these will continue with interesting topics. All members are welcome.

*Colin Barratt*

## **SPRING WALK TO BEALE ARBORETUM**

Our Spring walk was re-tracing our Autumn walk, but of course seeing those same trees in all their Spring finery. It was a beautiful sunny day, and it was good to be reminded, in that beautiful setting, that Enfield has more green spaces than any other London borough. May we long protect them.

*Janet Lane*

## 'OAK LEAVES AND CONNECTIONS, THE MINCHENDEN OAK GARDEN'

### **Talk by Chris Horner**

After the AGM this year, we had a fascinating talk by Chris Horner, who has been actively involved with the revival of this important local haven.

The talk was themed around the Minchenden Oak Garden, so Chris gave us a history of the garden. However, he expanded the talk to include an insight into the wider estate and Chandos family, not just at Minchenden, but the links with other sites and estates.

Chris rounded off his interesting talk by bringing us up to date with the latest work in the Minchenden Oak Garden. Over the last few years, a group of volunteers have transformed this garden from a dark and overgrown area to a light and pleasant place to sit and relax. (See Chris's article on page 5).

*Jane Maggs*

### **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR TO 31st MARCH 2015**

#### **CAPITAL ACCOUNT**

##### **(LLOYDS BANK PLC)**

	£	£
	Debit	Credit
C/A Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2014		1,478.51
D/A Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2014		10,041.61
Net Interest		53.67
C/A Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2015	1,475.71	
D/A Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2015	10,098.08	
	<b>11,573.79</b>	<b>11,573.79</b>

#### **PUBLICATIONS ACC.**

##### **(SANTANDER UK PLC)**

	£	£
	Debit	Credit
Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2014		2,370.26
Sales of Oakleaves no.5		455.00
Sales of Publications (Other)		340.40
Sales of DVDs		300.00
Christchurch Stall	116.00	
Donations/Postages		127.50
Royalties		48.00
Archive Acquisitions/Sales	10.99	42.50
Stock Acquisitions	63.00	
Expenses	22.68	
Sundries	7.00	
Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2015	3,463.99	
	<b>3,683.66</b>	<b>3,683.66</b>

#### **GENERAL ACCOUNT**

##### **(SANTANDER UK PLC)**

	£	£
	Debit	Credit
Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2014		2,857.90
Subscriptions & Donations		1,250.00
Teas at Meetings	12.90	12.10
Admin.	268.90	
Newsletters	522.02	
Affiliations	275.00	
Hire of Halls	380.00	
Insurance (y/e 30/4/2015)	210.00	
Donations for Talk		25.00
Oliver Pike Plaque	313.20	156.60
N21 Festival	65.00	
Civic Voice AGM	186.60	
Other Expenses	181.75	
Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2015	1,886.23	
	<b>4,301.60</b>	<b>4,301.60</b>

