

Southgate District Civic Voice

Newsletter No.275
April 2026

**We cover Southgate, Winchmore Hill,
Palmers Green, New Southgate, Cockfosters
and Hadley Wood**

(Registered as an amenity society with Civic Voice).



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 9th May 2026 at 2.30pm

**Walker Lower Hall, Christchurch Parish Centre, 7 The Green,
Southgate, N14 7EG**

Come and hear about our recent and future projects and have your say about our activities.. See pages 4 and 5 for more details.

HERE AT **THE POCKET PARK**
MUSIC • ART • FITNESS • POETRY

SAT 16 MAY 10-4pm
SUN 17 MAY 10-2pm

SOUTHGATEDISTRICTCIVICVOICE.ORG

See page 2 for more details of the events

SEE ALSO INSIDE:

Report of Open Meeting - Chickenshed

The Neglected Flowerbed

Choir Corner

Stan Rondeau

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Contributions to the July newsletter should be sent by Friday 26th June

to the Editor: Colin Barratt, 48 Maplin Close, Winchmore Hill, London, N21 1NB

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Note:- Copies will be emailed, hand delivered or posted during week commencing Monday 13th July.

www.southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southgatevoice

Contact us: info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org



**Saturday 16th May
&
Sunday 17th May**

Join us at the Pocket Park (in front of Nando's) for a glorious weekend of activities that bring the community together.

Saturday from 10am to 4pm is all about arts, crafts and creativity, while on Sunday from 10am to 2pm we turn to music and fitness.

This community festival is organised by **Southgate District Civic Voice** as part of the **Culture Place Activation for Southgate**.



All activities are free to attend and everyone is welcome. Although we recommend booking activities to ensure a place.

For up-to-date information go to the Southgate Celebrates [webpage](#).

Arts & Creativity Day SATURDAY 16th May 10am – 4pm



10am – 12pm [PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY](#)

Ben Nathan, from Pinhole London, will be presenting his amazing pinhole photography workshop

“Capture and develop your own pinhole photograph using traditional darkroom techniques. Watch the magic unfold as your image emerges in the developing solution. Take home your developed photograph.”

See [Eventbrite](#) for more details and to book a place



12pm – 2pm [WRITING FOR WELLBEING](#)

Poppy Kanu will lead her peaceful writing workshop:
“To make a Poetry Garden”

“I invite you to explore poetry in an accessible way in this one-off writing workshop. I will provide a moment of pause for you to respond to gentle creative prompts & we will gather as a group to read poetry, discuss & then write in an informal and non-judgemental space.”

See [Eventbrite](#) for more details and to book a place



2pm – 4pm **PRINTMAKING FOR ALL**

Claire Gayle will be leading her drop-in workshop that will allow you to capture the soul of Southgate, in your own custom print

“Come along and drop in to this fun printing workshop. Be amazed by the quick results you can achieve. Using a pencil, draw onto a foam tile, then cover in ink before printing onto paper. Choose iconic ideas from around Southgate as inspiration for your print, which you can take home with you”

See [Eventbrite](#) for more details and to book a place

Music & Fitness Day SUNDAY 17th May 10am – 2pm

10.15am - 11am & 11.30 – 12.15pm

[NEW RIVER DIXIELANDERS](#)

Come along to enjoy foot tapping tunes for all ages!



“Entertaining people since 2017! Our lively music, colourful costumes and unique blend of Dixieland Jazz music, never fails to get people smiling and dancing, playing songs from the early 1900s through to the present day.”

11am – 11.30 & 12.15 – 12.45pm [PROTOFIT](#)

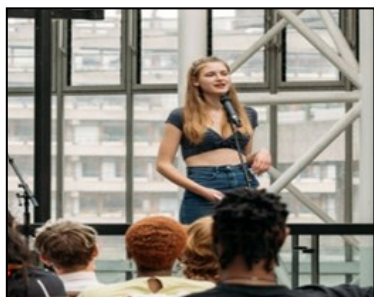
Are you strong enough for life? Meet Rob & team, join in their interactive ‘Strength for Life’ challenges or visit their ‘Ask the Coach’ stand throughout the day.



“Take part in two research-informed strength tests: the Grip Strength Hold and the Goblet Squat Hold, designed to highlight key markers of lower body strength and long-term health. We will be on hand to answer questions about strength training, fat loss, back pain, energy levels and building strength to support busy parents and professionals.”

1pm – 1.45pm: **P’S & Q’S LIVE BAND @rayofpoppy**

Join Sarah, Steve & Poppy for classic songs reimagined, as this musical trio perform modern classics and timeless favourites.



“Combining our classical training with soulful expression, we create piano-led arrangements and heartfelt vocals in an intimate, uplifting performance, reinterpreting modern classics and timeless favourites with warmth and sensitivity”

Southgate Celebrates



Funded by
UK Government

SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC VOICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 9th May 2026 at 2.30 pm

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

This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Walker Hall on Saturday 9th May.

The AGM is essential to the successful functioning of Southgate District Civic Voice (SDCV). It is when our members elect the officers and committee for the coming year. It is also an opportunity to talk about our recent and future projects.

Do come to support your Executive Committee, working on your behalf.

Reports from members of the Executive Committee will be distributed by e-mail *prior* to the AGM rather than being read out in full at the meeting. For members without e-mail, printed copies will be available at the meeting. The aim is to give members an opportunity to read the reports in advance, so that the meeting can focus on questions or important decisions. It also means the AGM is more interesting and quicker, without losing oversight by members.

As mentioned, a few times in the last year or so, we do not currently have a **Secretary**, which is making the life of our committee, much harder than it should be! The whole committee are volunteers, so any help is always appreciated. There are a few roles that are vitally important to the efficient running of SDCV and the **Secretary** is definitely one of them! The role need not be arduous. It is mainly about keeping track of our work, answering a few e-mails and ensuring everyone on the Committee is kept informed.

Please consider standing! If you would like to discuss how you could help SDCV please contact either Graham Davis, Chair, or Jane Maggs, Vice Chair, at info@SouthgateDistrictCivicVoice.org.

After the formal business of the AGM, there will be a presentation of the **Graham Beech Memorial Award** for outstanding service to SDCV and the local community.

Following a short break, there will be a talk about '**Broomfield House**'.

Jane Maggs (on behalf of the Executive Committee)

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2026/2027

The following positions are elected at the AGM:

President	Vice-Presidents
Chair	Secretary
Treasurer	Newsletter Editor
Publicity Officer	Committee Members (6 in total)

The role of Vice Chair is elected by the committee, so is not included in AGM elections.

Please note the positions of **Secretary** and **Publicity Officer** are vacant. We also have vacancies for **Committee Members**.

As an organisation, SDCV consistently punches above its weight, raising and commenting on issues of local concern, but your help is needed to keep doing this. Please offer to help, even if only in some small way.

You may not want to join the committee, but we always need help with the Newsletter, Planning Group, marketing, website, organising talks or visits.

For more information or to discuss the roles with no obligation, please contact Jane Maggs or Graham Davis via info@SouthgateDistrictCivicVoice.org.

If you are interested in standing for the committee, please complete the nomination form on the back page of this newsletter.

Jane Maggs (on behalf of the Executive Committee)

SDCV OAK TREE

The replacement oak tree on Southgate Green, provided by Enfield Council, to commemorate our 60th Anniversary, has survived the year and is beginning to show buds again. The engraved plaque didn't stay firmly in place on the plinth, so was removed last year and stored until it could be re-attached. Unfortunately, last summer the plinth disappeared, so a new one was required. Mervyn Maggs and I decided to create a new concrete plinth, which has now been done. This will be securely fixed in the ground next to the tree and the plaque glued to it. Hopefully this will be in place by the end of April.

Colin Barratt

CHICKENSHED: A THEATRE FOR ABSOLUTELY EVERYONE

At our Open Meeting on 7 March Trish Talbot, a volunteer at Chickenshed, gave an illustrated presentation about the history of our local inclusive community theatre in Southgate.



Chickenshed was started in 1974 by Mary Ward and Jo Collins in a converted chickenshed. They put on shows for teenagers. They noticed that one child could not walk and decided to be more inclusive. In 1982 a group of younger children, included a disabled boy, appeared on television.

1985 was a significant year in Chickenshed's development. Several well-known actors, including Judi Dench and Pauline Collins, came to a production. They introduced Mary and Jo to Lord Raine, who was chair of the National Theatre. Lady Raine became the chair of Chickenshed with a mission to find new premises. Development from then was rapid. In 1986 charitable trust status was granted. In 1988 250 children were members; Mary and Jo changed from being volunteers to paid employees.



Judi Dench



Princess Diana with children

In 1990 there was a performance in which 1000 children from 22 boroughs participated. Princess Diana attended the show. The following year she became the theatre's patron and brought her sons to the shows.

In 1992 Enfield Council provided land for the theatre. Seats for the new building were donated by the Royal Festival Hall.

In 1997 the Arts Council provided a grant of £4.7 million. The theatre company provided backing for the Spice Girls. Emma Bunton became a supporter. In 1999 a partnership was established with Middlesex University. By 2000 there were 450 members with 300 on the waiting list. Inclusive theatre training was provided for organisations worldwide. In 2005 a Foundation Degree course was started.

Chickenshed now supports 15,000 children a year. Children can get involved in any aspect of the theatre. Volunteers too engage in a range of roles, including backstage, costumes, office, front of house and the building.

The founders of the theatre were recognised by the award of an MBE to Mary in 1996 and Jo in 2003.

Graham Davis

HERITAGE MEETS HORTICULTURE AS VOLUNTEERS TRANSFORM NEGLECTED FLOWERBED AT ICONIC SOUTHGATE STATION



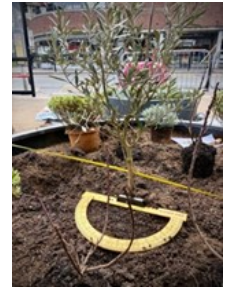
On Monday 9th March, a dedicated team of volunteers, coordinated by **Southgate District Civic Voice (SDCV)**, successfully transformed a previously neglected area of Southgate Station grounds into an elegant and vibrant green space.

The project marks the end of a difficult chapter for the site. For over 2 years the area was blighted by an unsightly temporary bus welfare container. Following its removal, **SDCV** worked alongside the **Bee Friendly Trust** and **Transport for London (TfL)** to revitalise the space for the community.

Designer and Artist **Dan Maier**, who has created several public artworks for tube stations on the Piccadilly line, was asked by TfL to lead on the project and bring it to fruition.



Dan Maier told us *‘There was a strong desire from locals for more planting in Southgate’s town centre and the flowerbeds at the station were ripe for revival. I felt it was important that whatever we implemented should complement the station’s iconic Art Deco style, so circular planters were the natural solution. Rather than fight a losing battle with the grass being continually eroded by people walking over it, we decided to install a porous resin-bound gravel for an elegant lasting solution for the planters to sit on. The scheme has also been designed to accommodate the large numbers of passengers waiting around the bus stops who spill onto the flowerbed, so the planters are located to allow plenty of room for people to circulate and enjoy the flowering plants throughout the seasons. The shrubs include rosemary and lavender for their scent and to attract the bees.’*



Volunteers supported this initiative with great enthusiasm and will continue to tend the plants throughout the year. We are also grateful to TfL Customer Service Supervisor **Jordan West** who came straight off a night shift to help us from 6am and must have lifted over 100 hefty bags of compost and grit! We couldn't have done it without him!



There has been fantastic feedback so far and we all hope people will enjoy what we've created for many years to come. The volunteers talked to the local pupils were waiting for buses as the work was being finished, were pleased they there was a very positive response to the changes.

*If anyone would like to **join** the volunteer group, please email your mobile number to info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org and we will add you to the WhatsApp group.*

Photos: Mervyn Maggs & Dan Maier



Choir Corner At the Pocket Park 2nd March

Our Second Event at 'Choir Corner' was the **Osidge Lower School Choir** from years 3 and 4 (ages 7-9).



The choir performed a range of songs at Choir Corner, to an appreciative audience of parents, passers-by, shoppers, travellers and college students. It was lovely to see such a great performance by some of the youngest members of our community.

Our thanks to *Tamara Scott* who arranged this event with Osidge School.

What Next for the Pocket Park?

See the article on **Southgate Celebrates** in this Newsletter. For up-to-date information go to the Southgate Celebrates [webpage](#).

Finally – it would be helpful to have a few volunteers to help for an hour or so during the celebration weekend. Nothing arduous, just to show people where to go, help with any queries and handout information. If you can help, do please get in touch.

Jane Maggs
Photos: Tamara Scott & Jane Maggs

STANLEY RONDEAU (1933-2026)

We are sad to say that Stan Rondeau died aged 92 in January. He was a quietly spoken friend to so many.



Stan was a supportive member for many years of three of our subgroups: history, publications and planning. For the history and publications groups Stan was for many years a custodian of part of our archive.

As a member of the planning group, he brought a merry humour to the proceedings, with a twinkle in his eye. However, he also played an important part in the working group for proposals to redevelop the

Highlands Hospital site. After the redevelopment, he looked after the new community hall for many years.

At our Annual General Meeting in 2018 Stan Rondeau was presented with the Graham Beech Memorial Award, by our Chair Graham Davis, for his contribution to SDCV and the wider community.



He was always ready to help at SDCV events and I remember him quietly and warmly welcoming me to the first open meeting I attended. He took me under his wing and made sure I was not left on my own. A legacy of enveloping people we hopefully continue to this day.



Stan was also an active member of the *Friends of Oakwood Park*. There are many who have memories of seeing him in the park normally accompanied by his dog. Apparently, even while out walking his dog in the park he would carry copies of our Oakleaves publication which he would brandish and sell to fellow dogwalkers. But he remained an active member of the friends, even taking part in a litter pick a couple of years ago.

Stan took a great pride in his Huguenot heritage. His research into his family, was eventually incorporated into his pamphlet *The Rondeaus of Spitalfields*. He was clear that this is a story that must not be forgotten because the Huguenot's were the first wave of immigrants that came to Spitalfields.

Stan led a group of SDCV members on a fascinating tour of Christ Church Spitalfields, where he volunteered every Tuesday. He proudly showed us the plaque commemorating his ancestor, John Rondeau.

In 2012, he was interviewed for the Radio 2 program *Great British Faith* about the Huguenots and their history.

Stan also produced a publication and gave talks about his wartime experiences. He is an honorary member of the Rhiwbina Civic Society, the suburb of Cardiff to which he was evacuated. He spoke to school pupils there and locally about his time as an evacuee.

His life was included in *Spitalfields Life* by The Gentle Author, published by Saltyard Books. The Gentle Author also wrote a full and fascinating history which can be found on his website: <https://spitalfieldslife.com/2026/02/17/so-long-stanley-rondeau/>



In 2023, a few days after Stan's 90th birthday, we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the opening of Southgate Station. Stan was there and had a great day continuing to celebrate his birthday and that of the station. He even cut the cake with the then Mayor of Southgate!

As this short article shows Stan has made a living and outstanding contribution not only to the work of the SDCV but also to the wider community. He will be greatly missed.

Jane Maggs

RICHARD PURVER

We have just heard the sad news that our long-serving Publications Officer, Richard Purver, died suddenly on 14th April. This was a great shock to the Executive Committee and he will be greatly missed. An obituary will be included in our July newsletter.

THE COMMEMORATIVE ENTRANCE TO BROOMFIELD PARK

Part 1

The oak tree in the border in front of the Aldermans Hill entrance to Broomfield Park is one of 15 'King Oaks' planted in parks across Enfield to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III, which took place on 6 May 2023 (although it is currently missing its identifying plaque). To the left inside the entrance are two flowering crab apple trees planted by the residents of Lakeside Road to commemorate the wedding of HRH The Prince of Wales (as he was then) and Lady Diana Spencer on 29 July 1981 and on the other side of the path is a tulip tree provided by the Friends of Broomfield Park for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Given the uncertainties faced by newly-planted trees (as we found with the first SDCV 60th anniversary oak sapling on Southgate Green which had to be replaced) it's impossible to say whether the coronation tree will live for hundreds of years like the Minchenden Oak which is a feature of the Borough of Southgate coat of arms on the gold medallions attached to the gates behind it (motto: *Ex Glante Quercus* – From Acorn to Oak).

Some kind of lasting legacy was however intended here in relation to Queen Elizabeth's own coronation on 2 June 1953 with the construction of the Commemorative Entrance. Its dual significance is recorded in the inscription on the stone panel in the brick wall to the left of the gates: *This entrance was commenced during 1953 the year of the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the acquisition of Broomfield Park.* This reflects similar wording in the minutes of the Parks Committee for 2 December 1952 setting out the plan for a permanent feature to recognise both occasions.



The minutes were effectively summarised in the 'Descriptive Note' outlining the scheme in the official Southgate Borough Council guide to events in the park and elsewhere during Coronation Week (May 31-June 6), which was reprinted (with amendments) in the informative six-page programme produced for the opening:



For Southgate Nineteen Fifty Three is doubly memorable since not only has the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second taken place, but the year coincides with the Fiftieth Anniversary of the acquisition by the Council of the fifty-four acres of Broomfield Park.

To mark both occasions a Commemorative Entrance to the Park has been established on the Aldermans Hill frontage with the avenue of trees below the Children's Playground as a background. For the moment, only the end features, in one of which is incorporated a bas relief expressive of some of the activities which take place in the Park, of the final scheme have been set up in permanent form. Wrought iron ornamental fencing and gates eventually will replace the concrete fence and wooden gates now provided and an ornamental path will lead from the gates through the avenue of trees to a terminal feature consisting of an example of contemporary sculpture. The entrance Gates will be known as "The Coronation Gates".

Until the full scheme is brought to completion the Parks Committee are confident that the temporary features, and in particular the specially designed oak gates, will be regarded as worthwhile additions to the many existing features of Broomfield Park.

A large stone with a shell design recording the opening of the park on 25 April 1903 is located just inside the arched Tudor gateway leading from Broomfield Lane which was historically the main entrance. A plaque on a seat on the platform overlooking the model boat pond records its donation by the Friends of Broomfield Park to commemorate the centenary of the opening in 2003.

Tied Vote

The full council meeting at which the decision was to be taken in principle about whether to proceed with the scheme was held on 30 December 1952 at Southgate Town Hall and reported in detail in the *Wood Green, Southgate and Palmers Green Weekly Herald* on 2 January 1953 with the headline *Coronation Gate for Broomfield Park* and on the front page of the *Palmers Green and Southgate Gazette* on 9 January under the banner *Aldermans Hill frontage of Broomfield Park / Coronation Gates as Part of Park Anniversary Feature / Two schemes: the larger is for better times*.

At the meeting the chairman of the Parks Committee, Councillor John Clarricoats, explained that 'some time before it was known that the Coronation would occur in 1953 [they] had had under consideration the establishment of a permanent feature to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the acquisition of Broomfield Park by the Council'. This would now be combined with marking the Coronation and they thought that 'the renewal of the fencing in Aldermans Hill presented an appropriate opportunity for introducing what they suggested should be known as "The Commemorative Entrance" to the park'. (The current wooden fencing along the Powys Lane and Aldermans Hill frontages to the park was due to be replaced by concrete palings.) They suggested the gates should be known as the 'Coronation Gates'.

Councillor Clarricoats said the Parks Committee were 'much attracted' to the design prepared for the entrance and gates by Borough Engineer JTW [John Trevor Williams] Peat but the estimated cost of £3,500 would be 'beyond consideration in the present financial circumstances ... however they remained strongly of the opinion that 1953 ought not to pass without some form of permanent recognition, and [had] asked the Borough Engineer to reconsider his plans so that at least a part of the larger scheme could be carried out' during the year. The temporary scheme would cost £900 and involve 'a simpler layout of paving and grass in the recessed area' of the entrance (which was planned to be about 100 feet in length) and 'the ornamental path and sculpture entirely omitted'.

The £3,500 scheme 'met with much opposition from members on grounds of expense – despite assurances from Parks Committee members that it would not be carried out for some years'. Alderman George Peverett said that '£8,000 was already being spent on Coronation celebrations, and that was heavy enough expenditure and he had grave doubts as to whether further expenditure was justified' and that 'in expending £900 a certain amount would be wasted money when they came to the larger plan'. Deputy Mayor Councillor John Kimber did not think anything should be spent on the jubilee of the park. Alderman Herbert Wauthier liked the basic plan but asked why 'if it was so satisfactory the Committee had bothered to mention the £3,500 idea. He disliked schemes about which the council "agreed in principle"'. There was support though for the Parks Committee from Councillor Mrs Ruth Winston who argued the scheme would be 'a thing of beauty and provide great improvement where it was needed'.

While recognising that £900 represented a ¼d rate, Councillor Clarricoats said the committee 'were trying to make an architectural feature that would be a credit to the borough' and that 'if one day they embarked upon the larger scheme the concrete fencing used in the recess, and the gates themselves, could be used elsewhere in the borough. Only a small proportion of the £900 would be lost'. He described Broomfield Park as 'one of the beauty spots of Southgate and the one blot on the landscape was the Aldermans Hill side of it', which Alderman RS [Raymond Samuel] Pruden spoke of as being the 'shop window' of the park.

Awkwardly, members of the Parks Committee gave differing views on the intended longevity of the temporary gates, their vice-chair Alderman Pruden remarking that dealing with the scheme piecemeal and still to be 'messaging about' with the Coronation Gates in five years' time would be ridiculous; Councillor FJV [Francis John Victor] Brown did not want members to talk about a temporary scheme as the one now proposed, which he said provided 'an attractive entrance: neat but not elaborate', could be there in twenty years' time if need be and Councillor Mrs CT [Charlotte Tonge] McConnell also said 'the £900 scheme was complete in itself and could remain for 10-20 years'. This prompted Alderman Peverett 'to sense confusion in the Parks Committee' and move reference back to them of the £3,500 scheme 'so the position could be more clearly stated'. The vote was tied 13-all and the mayor [Will H Warren] declared it 'not carried'. A similar motion to refer back the £900 scheme was defeated 'by a considerable majority'. So the proposal by Councillor Clarricoats and his Parks Committee colleagues to create a Commemorative Entrance to Broomfield Park became a reality but it was a close run thing.

Under the sub-heading *Aldermans Hill 'New Look'* in his Pen Points column in the same edition of the *Gazette* 'Alderman' congratulated the council on their decision while putting in his two-pennyworth in wishing '[they] had decided, in re-fencing the Aldermans Hill frontage to Broomfield Park, to carry the fence BEHIND the short avenue of chestnuts – this would have given the lovely effect of a boulevard and enhanced the appearance of the hill'. He was surprised Councillor Kimber didn't think anything should be spent on the park's jubilee: 'Some of us have a warmer appreciation of all that the wise and courageous action of this Council's predecessors in buying the 54 acres against strong opposition, has meant to Southgate as a whole'.

Discord

The dynamic between the Parks Committee and the full council at this time is an interesting one, not least because a few weeks after the close decision to go ahead with the Commemorative Entrance and its specially designed gates, an unrepentant Councillor Clarricoats and his team were roundly castigated by other council members when they arranged for the demolition of the old pillars at the Village Gates entrance at the north-west corner of the park without notifying them that the action was about to be taken, as well as raising the ire of *Gazette* editor John Ginn in his report of the event in the 6 February edition.

Shortly after this they were in hot water again with council colleagues (and John Ginn and his letter-writers) for proposing to do away with the Commemorative Stone at the entrance because of its poor condition and replace it with a plaque in a nearby wall rather than renew the weathered central panel which carried the inscription. The full council insisted on the latter course, which the Parks Committee arranged but unusually placed on record in their May 1953 minutes a disclaimer that as the specialist advice was that there was an element of risk involved because the outer shell [made of Portland stone] was 'well worn and defective in places ... the Committee cannot accept responsibility for any unavoidable damage which may occur to the outer shell, either in the process of replacing the existing inner stone by the new stone or otherwise'.

The Coronation Gates and the Silver Key



The Coronation Gates were formally opened by the Mayor of Southgate, Alderman CWF [Charles Walter Finney] Ridley JP on the sunny afternoon of Saturday 11 July 1953 at 3.30pm, before assembled members of the Council and guests, who included the Mayoress [Mrs Jean Ridley], Councillor Clarricoats and Mrs [Alice] Clarricoats, (now) Deputy Mayor Will H [William Henry] Warren and Mrs [Ivy] Warren, Alderman Pruden, Town Clerk Mr Gordon H Taylor and Mr JTW Peat. After the opening the guests passed through the gates to an enclosure which had a platform for the speeches and after inspecting the layout of the gates took tea in the marquee which had been erected nearby.

The event was reported in the *Gazette* for 17 July in an article headed *Coronation Gates Opened / The lesser of two schemes / 'Get Cracking on Permanent Plan' – The Mayor*. The accompanying photograph showing the mayor using a silver presentation key to open the gates (which had been handed to him by Councillor Clarricoats as chairman of

the Parks Committee) was also printed with the feature *Broomfield Park Gates Ceremonial Opening / Celebrates Jubilee and Coronation Year* in the *Herald*.

The temporary wooden gates were markedly different in appearance from the structure we see today. They were made of oak and set within concrete palings, with a carved version of the Southgate coat of arms placed on each of them, flanked by two royal cyphers. In his speech Councillor Clarricoats said he felt 'they should be happy there were still craftsmen capable of producing such lovely work as the oak gates' and that 'the Borough Arms was especially to be commended' (to which the editor responded 'we heartily agree'). The *Adding interest to the Park* Opinion column in the same edition of the *Gazette* commented 'All who take the trouble to examine this work will cordially agree that it is a splendid example of the carver's art'.



The borough arms and cyphers had been commissioned from Bernard L Simons & Sons Ltd of 50, Isledon Road N7 [for £68]. The bas relief was made by a local sculptor, George A Holman of 40 Compton Road in Winchmore Hill. The opening ceremony booklet gratefully acknowledged the 'great care and attention shown by the following firms and individuals' who as well as these two included: Portland Stone, J Bysouth Ltd, Dorset Road N15; Concrete Fencing, Bell & Webster Ltd, Hoddesden, Herts; Selected Oak for Gates, James Meek, Angel Road N18; Construction of Gates, Kenneth Robbins Ltd, Ponders End, Middx; and General Construction and Layout, Craftsmen of the Works and Parks Sections of the Department of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

'Get Cracking'

The Opinion column remarked on the mayor's 'knack of saying what he thinks, very directly, in the fewest possible words' and in what the main report called his 'brief and forthright speech' he said he was 'rather sorry that the feature had been constructed as a temporary one. It made him think of temporary housing!'. Despite Councillor Clarricoats having explained that the decision to install only temporary gates at this stage was because the 'complete feature would have cost about £3,500 against expenditure of £900 for the present one' the mayor stated he hoped the Parks Committee would 'get cracking' and carry out the permanent scheme as quickly as possible. He thought the design was first-class 'and it would be pleasing to see it fashioned in full – even at the cost of a penny rate'.

Images: Borough of Southgate coat of arms roundel at the Coronation Gates by R.P.; extracts from opening ceremony programme and Mayor Ridley opening the Coronation Gates by R.P. courtesy Enfield Local Studies and Archive.

The Coronation Week events in Broomfield Park are featured in the film Southgate Celebrates the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth the Second and the Village Gates pillars can be seen in Southgate – A Glimpse of the Past, both issued on DVD by SDCV and also available on London's Screen Archives.

Part 2 in the July newsletter will discuss the response to the mayor's imprecation to 'get cracking' with replacing the wooden gates and the background of the sculptor of the bas relief, George A Holman.

Richard Purver

(Following the sad news of Richard's death, reported on page 11, we haven't yet discovered whether Part 2 of this article has been prepared. If it has, this will be included in the July edition, as Richard intended).



Wildfires

Do you live in Cockfosters, Enfield?
Are you concerned about extreme weather
and how it affects you and your neighbours?
Do you want to make a positive difference?

JOIN US

for a



Wild Weather World Café

When?



Tuesday 26th May
10:00 - 14:00

Please arrive at 9.30 to register

Where?



Chickenshed
290 Chase Side
London
N14 4PE

What to expect:



- Participants must attend the entire workshop
- Fun quiz and mapping activity
- Community facilitators
- Exhibition
- Lunch and refreshments provided
- Vouchers for your time
- Talk about the future of Cockfosters
- Limited creche spaces available

*All personal information will be kept safe and
participation is anonymous*

Scan to register



**Come along to share your experience of extreme weather, and your ideas
about what is important to protect in your neighbourhood, and how.**

No experience is needed - we just want you, your views and stories to share.

Visit: <https://www.encaf.org/>
for more information

Contact email:
enadapt1@gmail.com

NOMINATION FORM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 9th May 2026

To: Southgate District Civic Voice info@SouthgateDistrictCivicVoice.org	From: (Your name & address)
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I wish to be nominated _____ for election as:

An officer of Southgate District Civic Voice, in the post of

A Member of the Executive Committee

(Delete as appropriate)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Address:

I nominate the above person for the role above.

Name:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Address:
