

# Southgate District Civic Voice

Newsletter No. 276  
July 2026

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

(Registered as an amenity society with Civic Voice).



## PALMERS GREEN FESTIVAL 2026

Sunday 6th Sept.  
12.00pm - 5.00pm



(See page 14 for details)

## AUTUMN OPEN MEETING

Saturday 24th October 2.30pm  
Walker Lower Hall

## Trent Park House of Secrets

by Giuseppe Albano



(See page 10 for details)

### SEE ALSO INSIDE:

|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Southgate Station Clock             | page 2  |
| Southgate Celebrates                | page 3  |
| Unlocking Broomfield Park           | page 7  |
| Tributes to Richard Purver          | page 8  |
| Broomfield Park Commemorative Gates | page 11 |

**Contributions to the October newsletter should be sent by Friday 18th September 2026.**

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**Note:-** Copies will be emailed, hand delivered or posted during week commencing 12th October 2026.

[www.southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org](http://www.southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org)

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Contact us: [info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org](mailto:info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org)

## SOUTHGATE STATION CLOCK

The Southgate Station Clock is working again! The most asked question recently has been ‘when will the clock be working again?’

You may remember, the clock was restored beautifully and then restarted. It worked for a while, before the old wiring gave up. So, we were delighted to be informed by TfL that the power supply problems have finally been fixed, by changing the control to a new Off-Grid Solar Panel Control Box located on the station roof.



*Jane Maggs*

*Photos: Simon Gillingham and TfL*

## VOLUNTEER FOR SOCIAL MEDIA NEEDED

As part of the Southgate Celebrates festival, a new Instagram page for Southgate District Civic Voice was set up. This is brilliant in that we have a presence on Facebook, Instagram and Bluesky.

We realise that social media is a really powerful tool to increase interest in the work that we are doing. Plus, we should be using it to extend our reach to a new audience.

However, to use social media properly and efficiently needs an awareness that we don't have in our current committee. So, we are looking for someone to work with us who can create and post on our social media.

Can you help? Or, do you know someone who could help?

If so, please contact me via [\*\*info@SouthgateDistrictCivicVoice.org\*\*](mailto:info@SouthgateDistrictCivicVoice.org).

*Jane Maggs*



Over the last six months Southgate Celebrates has been a fantastic celebration based in the Pocket Park (in front of Nando's), culminating in a glorious weekend of activities to bring the community together.

This community festival was organised by *Southgate District Civic Voice* as part of the *Culture Place Activation for Southgate*. It was funded by a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

All activities were free to attend and everyone was welcome.

### ‘Choir Corner’

Activities started at ‘Choir Corner’ in December 2025, with Ashmole School choir, followed by Osidge School Choir in March 2026. See previous newsletters for more photos and details.



### ‘Southgate Celebrates’ weekend event – 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May

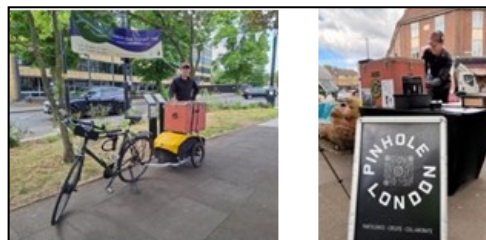


Saturday was all about arts, crafts and creativity, while on Sunday we turned to music and fitness.

**There is not space in this newsletter to include pictures of everything, so this is a flavour.**

### **Pinhole London – Photography**

Saturday started with Pinhole Photography, creating images using a pinhole camera. The images were fascinating and everyone enjoyed creating their own unique photo.



We were pleased to be joined by our GLA Assembly Member Joanne McCartney, who had her photo taken. She also stopped to talk to the people in the Pocket Park



### **Poppy Kanu – Poetry**

Next up was Poppy Kanu with a mindful poetry session. A creative time and space, which brought a new group together. Amazingly, the location on the roadside was not a distraction, it apparently added to the atmosphere. The group came away inspired.



### **Claire Gayle – Printmaking**



The final session on Saturday was printmaking. This was popular with families and introduced both adults and children to a new way of making artwork.

Another local politician joined us during this session. This time Bambos Charalambous MP, who took time to talk to the families taking part.



## New River Dixielanders – Live music

Sunday started grey, but was soon enlivened by the live music. People stopped and watched, listened and danced.



## Proffit – Fitness

The fitness team challenged people with a few fitness tests. The most popular was the Plank Challenge, that is holding the plank position for as long as possible. Not as easy as it sounds!



Good to see our Chair Graham Davis and the Event Co-ordinator Tamara Scott rose to the occasion, doing a plank challenge together. They were impressive.



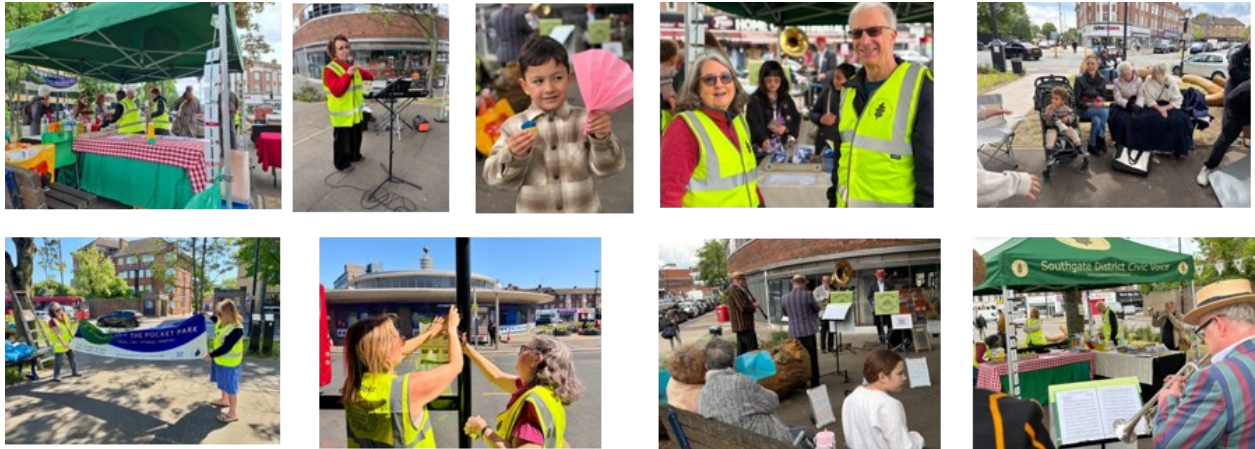
## Ps & Qs – Live music

Last up were the amazing Ps & Qs. Yet again the live music brought people to the space. With more dancing from an appreciative audience of all ages.



## Not only but also .....

Our thanks to the local businesses that were involved. In particular, the wonderful cup-cakes from Cake Beb, as well the free gifts and donations from Scrivens, ASDA and Nando's.



Lots of people spoke to the SDCV volunteers and were really excited to see the space being used. They were also glad to see something really positive happening in Southgate.



We were asked if this would be a regular event! Well, that would be wonderful, but what was clear is that even an event like this takes time and effort. We could not have done it without our grant from UKSPF, which paid for the different participants, support from Enfield Council, our brilliant organiser Tamara Scott and the hours given up by the volunteers.

So, should we do it again? And would you be able and willing to help organise another event for Southgate? Let us know what you think.

However, the Pocket Park is a space for everyone to use. Let us know if you have an idea and we can help you co-ordinate with Enfield Council.

## **The Pocket Park: A small but mighty space for our community**

*Jane Maggs*

*Images: Mervyn Maggs, Jane Maggs, Dan Maier & Tamara Scot*

# AGM 9th May 2026

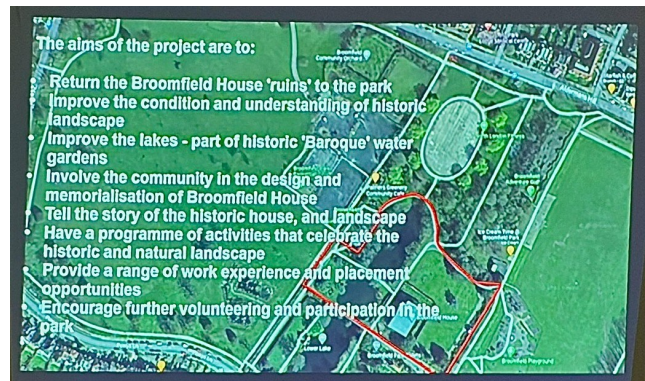
## Talk by John Cole – Unlocking Broomfield Park for the Community

John is co-Chair of the Enfield Society together with our membership Secretary John West. John Cole is also Enfield Council's Community Engagement Officer for the Broomfield House Project.



John gave a brief history of the house. It is a grade II\* listed building in Palmers Green. The original house was built in about 1550. Southgate Urban District Council bought the house for £25,000 in 1903. A faux Tudor front was added between World Wars I and II. The house caught fire in 1984, 1993, 1994 and most recently in 2019. 90% was destroyed.

There have been many past attempts to secure the building's survival. The emphasis now is an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). In 2023 £500,000 was obtained for a development phase. This paid for a design team to carry out a structural survey leading to a project for the house and walled garden. The aims of the project include making the house part of the landscape, improving the lakes and memorialising and telling the story of the house, and developing a programme of activities celebrating the historic and natural environment.



A Community Steering Group on which our late member Richard Purver represented SDCV contributed to the design ideas. This spring the design was finalised. An application for NLHF funding should be decided in September. If the scheme is approved construction would start in November 2027 with completion a year or so later.

Prospective additional projects will include the stable block and the refurbishment of the bandstand.

*Graham Davis*

# RICHARD PURVER

Richard was a longstanding and committed member of Southgate District Civic Voice. He was the Publications Officer and a member of the Executive Committee. On the Executive Committee Richard provided a useful challenge function, making sure that proposed actions were fully justified and represented value for money.

As Publications Officer Richard was responsible for promotion and sales of SDCV books, leaflets, maps and DVDs and for our archive stored with Enfield Council. He was immensely knowledgeable about our local area, about which he researched and wrote many articles.

One of Richard's recent interests was the future of Broomfield House. He participated in the steering group deciding on the future of the house. Richard was always present at our public meetings and our stall at local fetes.

Richard did so much for SDCV and for the local area. He is irreplaceable.

*Graham Davis*



## RICHARD'S EULOGY, PROVIDED BY HIS NEPHEW MARK

Richard was born on 3 April 1950 in the Lying-in hospital in Lambeth. He was a beloved brother to Ian and Liz and beloved uncle to Stephen, Mark, Nicola, Katie and Becky. Richard was raised in South London and then settled in North London in the 1980s. He married Sally in 1976, and although the marriage ended in divorce they nevertheless remained friends.

His first job was as a library assistant: not surprising due to his love of books and English literature. Following this, he had a career in social work with both children and families and then special needs. Richard retired at the age of 55 to pursue his interests: walking (often covering many miles a day), theatre and music. He was a very active member of two local history groups: Southgate District Civic Voice and The Enfield Society. He regularly wrote articles on local history.

Richard wrote poetry at one time, working in collaboration with two close friends, Jon and Nigel; this led to the production of CDs (these were only distributed to family members though!) Richard was a kind, warm and generous man. He was always very interested in his family, taking particular pride in the progress and achievements of his nephews and nieces.

He was a good, honest and caring man who will be greatly missed.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026

The AGM was held at the Walker Hall on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May. It was good to see so many people getting together to talk about issues impacting our area of interest.



The meeting was chaired by **Graham Davis**, who during his Chair's report paid tribute to Richard Purver, who died shortly before the AGM.

### Elections to the Executive Committee 2026-2027

The following members were elected as officers and members of the Executive Committee:

|                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| President                  | <i>remains vacant</i> |
| Vice-Presidents            | <i>remains vacant</i> |
| Chair, Executive Committee | Graham Davis          |
| Vice Chair                 | Jane Maggs*           |
| Secretary                  | <i>remains vacant</i> |
| Treasurer                  | Roz Jones             |
| Membership Secretary       | John West             |
| Newsletter Editor          | Colin Barratt         |
| Publicity Officer          | <i>remains vacant</i> |

Committee Members (up to 6 members) Jane Maggs

Unfortunately, we did not receive any nominations for the posts of President, Vice President, Secretary and Publicity Officer so regrettably these posts remained unfilled. We are also painfully short of committee members!

The Executive Committee would be pleased and relieved if members would volunteer to join the committee in any capacity. Although, we would particularly appreciate a new **Secretary**. The other members of the committee have taken on some of the duties, but it is difficult to cover everything. If you can help in any way, please contact the committee at [info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org](mailto:info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org)

\*Jane Maggs was elected as Vice Chair at the Executive Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June. The Vice Chair is not voted for at the AGM.

*Jane Maggs*



## THE PLAQUE IS BACK!



Our 60th Anniversary oak tree on Southgate Green is thriving and now has its plaque back in place, mounted on a new concrete plinth made by Colin Barratt and Mervyn Maggs. The plinth was moulded with brackets in it, which were concreted into the ground to prevent theft. We hope this will remain to celebrate our organisation for many years to come.

## Tour of Biffa's material recycling facility in Edmonton 29 July 2026

On 29 July from 11.45 to 13.00 hours a group of SDCV members will visit Biffa's material recycling facility in Edmonton. This follows on from a tour in January of Edmonton Eco Park to see the facility for dealing with household and fly-tipped waste.

There are places available for the July tour. If you are interested please email me by 22 July at [info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org](mailto:info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org)

*Graham Davis*

## TRENT PARK HOUSE OF SECRETS

This much anticipated museum opened in July and its Director, Giuseppe Albano, will explain how it came about. Following meticulous restoration the ground floor will show recreated rooms from the grand days of Sir Philip Sassoon in the 1930s.

The basement will unveil the extraordinary story of the "Secret Listeners", who eavesdropped on the senior German prisoners kept there in WW2, gathering vital intelligence. - and there's a café!

# THE COMMEMORATIVE ENTRANCE TO BROOMFIELD PARK

## Part 2

Unsurprisingly, given the financial constraints the Parks Committee had had to take into account in realising their plans for the creation of a Commemorative Entrance to Broomfield Park in Aldermans Hill and the installation of temporary wooden gates (as discussed in Part 1 in the April newsletter), Mayor Ridley's intervention in his speech at the opening on 11 July 1953 encouraging them to 'get cracking' in replacing them had no effect and it was not until 3 September 1963 that (still under Councillor John Clarricoats's chairmanship) they eventually decided to go ahead with the permanent scheme:

*The Committee have considered the question of completing the "Coronation Entrance" to Broomfield Park. The work was commenced in 1953 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the acquisition of the Park and to commemorate the Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. The 60th Anniversary of the acquisition of the Park occurs this year.*

*The Committee have considered a revised scheme submitted by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor for the replacement of the existing wooden gates and adjacent concrete palisade fencing by ornamental steel gates and fencing. The Committee consider that this would greatly enhance the original plan although the enlargement of the scheme would involve greater expenditure.*

*Financial provision of £1,000 exists in the 1963/4 Estimates and the Finance Committee have agreed that expenditure should be met from the Capital Fund and repaid over ten years.*

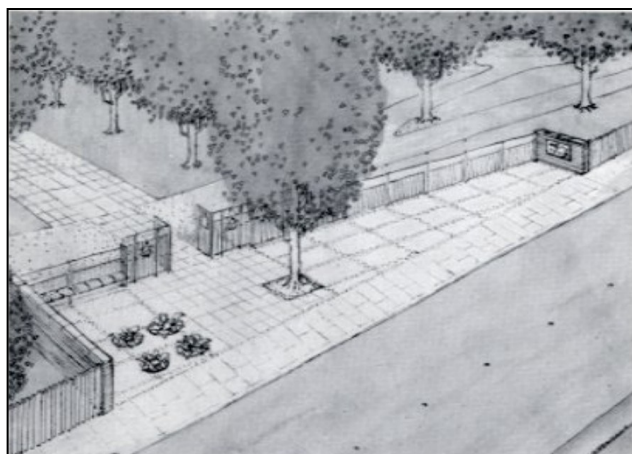
The decision to proceed with the ornamental steel gates and fencing at the following full council meeting was reported in the *Gazette* for 11 October with the headline *Gates Of Steel To Replace Wood / At 'Coronation Entrance' To Broomfield Park*. Councillor John Lindsay's accusation that the Parks committee had 'gone through the back door' to obtain supplementary funding required to top up the £1,000 previously agreed by the Finance Committee received a firm rebuttal:



Ald. John Clarricoats, O.B.E, chairman of Parks, told Cr. Lindsay that the committee did not operate in the way he had suggested. "We don't do fiddles," he said. Either they did the job or they did not. Ten years ago they had hoped to put up a good scheme but because of the economy drive they had to use, as he thought, some makeshift materials for the gates and certainly for the fencing – "and that is something I cannot really like. We hope to get this finished in the 1963-4 year and no fiddle is intended.

The '*Alderman's*' pen points column in the *Gazette* for 18 October, headed *The New Gates*, followed up with 'The prospects of Gates of Steel at the entrance to Broomfield Park in the middle of Aldermans Hill, to replace the humble wooden gates and harsh, out-of-keeping stretch of associated concrete palings erected ten years ago, pleases me'. The columnist had seen at the recent council meeting a drawing of what was proposed, 'gathering from it that the design is modern, simple, even severe – but none the worse for that!' Although different from and [arguably] less ornate than the Inverforth Gates at Grovelands Park, 'the work should be durable and give pleasure to all interested people'.

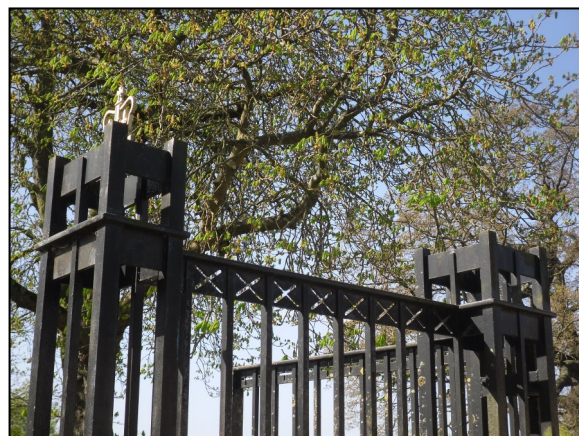
Incorporating the additional funding referred to in the *Gazette* report, £1,145 10s 0d was paid to C A and A W Haward Ltd for supplying the new gates and fencing, supplemented by 'direct labour employed at an estimate of £55 [to provide] the necessary ancillary works, namely attendance on the specialist contractor, clearing away old and painting new fencing'. A note in the Parks Committee minutes for 6 October 1964 records that an additional £11 8s payment to the contractors was agreed retrospectively following a national pay award in the engineering industry in December 1963. This indicates that the gates were installed during 1963/4 as planned, although I've not found a report in the minutes or local papers giving the actual date of completion.



The booklet for the opening ceremony in 1953 included an artist's sketch of what the permanent entrance would look like and it does bear resemblance to the construction eventually put in place, which has black-painted steel gates, flanked by a long fence of the same material, with thirteen gold crowns along the top complementing the four gold roundels bearing the Southgate Borough coat of arms on the gates. The overall effect is impressive though somewhat reduced by the addition of various temporary posters scattered along the frontage.

Park gates in general seem particularly vulnerable to damage from vehicles on site and according to the *Wood Green, Southgate and Palmers Green Herald* of 17 July 1953 the opening ceremony was nearly scuppered by the drama of woodwork at the bottom of one of the gates being hit by a lorry half an hour before the start, causing it to split and necessitating urgent repair with plastic wood.

History repeated itself in January 2022 when (as pictured on the Friends of Broomfield Facebook page) the front loading shovel of a tractor clipped the gates on the left of the entrance, causing them to tilt at an angle. It was apparently during the repair and reinstallation process that the gold crown on the supporting column nearest to the entrance on that side came off. I noticed it was missing in May 2023 and after intermittent and complicated back-stage negotiations it was eventually replaced in August 2025.



### **George A Holman and the Bas Relief**

In relation to another aspect of the original scheme described in the programme, at the opening Councillor Clarricoats had referred to the sculpture planned eventually for the end of an ornamental walk along the avenue of trees leading from the gates, which could be a fountain or, as optimistically hoped by the Parks Committee, perhaps someone might present a suitable piece to the council.



This part of the design was not included when the permanent gates were installed but in place from the beginning was the stone bas relief located to the right of the entrance set into the brick wall which shows sports activities taking place in the park including depictions of a cricketer, a woman running, a rugby player, a woman with a tennis racquet, a man playing bowls and a boy sitting (perhaps ready to paddle) with a model yacht and on the extreme right an athlete apparently putting the shot.

The minutes of the Parks Committee for 3 March 1953 show that ‘on the recommendation of the Royal Society of British Sculptors Mr George A Holman ARBS of 40 Compton Road N21 has been commissioned at a fee of 125 guineas (£131 5s 0d) to carry out the bas relief work for the Commemorative Entrance. The Borough Engineer has been authorised to purchase suitable stone for the work at a cost not exceeding £55’. This was reported in the *Herald* of 19 April in a column headed *Sculptor Commissioned*. As stated in Part 1, he was one of the contributors to the project thanked for their ‘great care and attention’ in the opening ceremony booklet, where he was listed as George A Holman Esq, ARBS, ARMS, NRD, GMC, FRSA,

As noted in the *Gazette* of 17 July 1953, at the opening Councillor Clarricoats gave thanks to Mr King, President of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, for suggesting that they employ a local sculptor to produce the bas relief. He was sure that ‘those who critically examined the piece of sculpture would have differing ideas about it. It would be peculiar if they did not; but it was an example of contemporary art and would doubtlessly appeal tremendously to some people and not at all to others’. The Opinion columnist remarked ‘Then there is the piece of sculpture – the bas relief. This expression of contemporary art is already being widely discussed. At least it adds something of interest to a park which contains so much to attract visitors’. George A Holman was named in the report as the sculptor but not whether he was present to hear the rather ambiguous comments on his work.

George Alfred Holman certainly was local as he was born at 56 Argyle Road, Edmonton on 13 June 1911. His parents were Charles and Eliza [née Kilbourn] and he had an elder sister, Ivy. The 1921 census shows the family living nearby at 53 Brettenham Road, when Charles was a labourer. At the time of the 1939 Register their address was 22 Park Drive, Winchmore Hill with their occupations given as Charles, warehouseman, Eliza, unpaid domestic duties, Ivy, dressmaker and George as sculptor and jeweller. He later moved from 40 Compton Road in Winchmore Hill to 250 Highlands Boulevard in Leigh-on-Sea, where he died on 4 January 1980.

Holman’s archive, which I was able to visit by appointment in April 2024, is held at the Beecroft Art Gallery in Southend and 21 items from their collection which are currently in store can be viewed on the Art UK website with information about George A Holman from the book *Artists in Britain Since 1945* by David Buckman:

Sculptor and medallist, his talent was early spotted at school. Studied art at Hornsey School of Art under the sculptor Harold Youngman, 1927-34, after Hackney School of Art, 1925-27. Exhibited at RA and other London provincial galleries. Holman’s sculpture has a feeling of mass and solidity, as in his *Boy and Duck*, illustrated in Eric Newton’s monograph *British Sculpture 1944-1946*. Southgate Borough Council commissioned a bas-relief in stone for Broomfield Park. Lived at Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.



There is an example of Holman's work as a medallist, King Edward VIII fantasy pieces from 1954 on the World of Coins website where its profile gives the information that he was registered as a qualified designer for industry by the National Register of Industrial Designers in 1939, elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 1942 and became an associate member of the Royal Society of British Sculptors in the same year, serving as a member of its council 1946-9.

*Images: Commemorative Entrance, Coronation Gates and Bas Relief by R.P.; extract from opening ceremony programme by R.P., courtesy Enfield Local Studies and Archive; The Dancers by George A Holman, courtesy Southend Museums via Art UK*

*Richard Purver*

## PALMERS GREEN FESTIVAL 2026 Sun. 6th September 12pm - 5pm

We have booked a stall space again at the festival this year. It's always a good way to publicise our organisation and gives us the chance to talk to people about what we do and display photos and our publications

We have a super new gazebo now, which may attract more visitors and encourage people to join us.



As always, we need a team of helpers on our stall, attending on a rota over the day, so if you can help, even for an hour, contact Colin Barratt on [colin\\_barratt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:colin_barratt@yahoo.co.uk) or 07826 868690.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, who have joined us since April:

**Katherine Harding, Keith Hodgson, Mrs. F. Holmes and Bethan Jenkins.**

We would be pleased to see any new members becoming involved in helping the organisation, particularly where they have specific interests or skills. Anyone interested in helping can contact us at [info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org](mailto:info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org).

Members are reminded that membership covers all members of your household.

