

Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter
No. 245
July 2018



www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk

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COMING EVENTS

PALMERS GREEN FESTIVAL - BROOMFIELD PARK

Sunday 2nd September 12pm to 7pm

We have a stall again at this festival, and we look forward to raising our profile still further. We will need a rota of helpers on the day, as the Festival will last for seven hours! so if you have an hour or two to spare, please let one of the Executive Committee know.

HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 11th September 2018 at 8.00pm

Friends Meeting House, Church Hill, N21

“Across the Middlesex Suburbs”

by Phil Crouch



Oakwood Parade

See page 9 for details

ALL MEMBERS FREE, VISITORS £2.00

OPEN MEETING

Saturday 27th October 2018

at 2.30pm

Walker Lower Hall, Christ Church
Parish Centre, The Green, Southgate

“A History of Mr Punch”

by Geoff Barrett

Geoff will talk about the history of Mr Punch and how he changed from a live actor to a glove puppet. It promises to be lively, enjoyable, and with some audience participation!

(See the April edition, page 7 for more details)

ALL WELCOME

Other Dates for your Diary:

Broomfield Exhibition 28th July 2018 - 6th Jan. 2019 at the Dugdale Centre See page 11 for details

Palmers Green Festival Sun. 2nd Sept. 2018 See note above

Contributions to the October newsletter should be sent by Friday 14th September 2018.

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

Tel: 020 3302 4997 e-mail: colin_barratt@yahoo.co.uk

Copies will be emailed, hand delivered or posted during week commencing **8th October 2018.**

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**).

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018/2019

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

President	Audrey Kirby
Vice-Presidents	Peter Hodge Chris Howell
Chairman, Executive Committee	Graham Davis
Vice Chairman, Executive Committee	Chris Horner
Secretary	Jane Maggs
Treasurer	Elaine Tyler
Membership Secretary	Joe Studman
Newsletter Editor	Colin Barratt
Publicity Officer	<i>remains vacant</i>
Committee Members (up to 6 members)	Janet Dougharty Simon Gillingham Richard Purver Irene Stone Joseph Tzouvanni

We did not receive any nominations for the posts of Publicity officer and Minutes Secretary, so regrettably these posts remain unfilled. If you are interested in either of these roles, please contact Jane Maggs.

Motions agreed at AGM

Section 15: NOTICES

The meeting agreed to amend the wording of this section to:

Any notice required to be given by these Rules shall be deemed to be duly given if *sent by e-mail*, left at or sent by prepaid post addressed to the address of that member last notified to the Secretary *or Membership Secretary*.

Section 1: NAME

There was much debate about this motion and the importance of the various constituent parts of the society name. The meeting finally agreed to amend this section and hence the name to:

The name of the Society shall be Southgate District Civic Voice.

As changing the name of the society has a number of implications, so this proposal will take time to fully implement. The meeting agreed that the Executive Committee would determine the time of the final switch once all practical measures have been resolved. Further details of this will be notified to members in the next newsletter.

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair – Graham Davis

This has been a year of success and also familiar concerns.

Our outstanding success was to be presented with a national Civic Day award by the national organisation Civic Voice. The award was presented to Chris Horner and Jane Maggs for their outstanding efforts in leading a range of activities for Southgate Civic Week in June 2017. Chris masterminded the coordination of a wide range of activities by local organisations. Jane oversaw the opening of a pop up shop in Southgate station parade. The shop became a showpiece for all the week's activities. These culminated in the presentation of awards by our newly elected MP Bambos Charalambous to members of Southgate Photographic Society for photographs of Southgate's conservation areas.

This was the second year in succession where the Trust was presented with a national award for Civic Week. This triumph does however raise the familiar concern about the relatively few active members of the Trust. The 2017 team decided not to organise events for Civic Week 2018. Without the efforts of our active members things simply do not happen.

There have been other highlights during the year. There have been two interesting and well-attended open meetings. In October Stefan Dickers spoke about Street Photography in the East End. This was followed up with a tour in January of the London Archive at the Bishopsgate Institute led by Stefan and of Spitalfields by our own Stan Rondeau. In February we held a meeting, attended by sixty people, about Conservation Areas in Southgate with speeches by Ian Harvey of Civic Voice and Bridget Pereira of Enfield Council.

Our sub groups have been active. The planning group under Irene Stone has met regularly to consider planning applications, particularly in the Southgate and Winchmore Hill conservation areas. The group has also considered some major applications outside conservation areas. We comment on applications both direct to Enfield Council and in discussion at the Council's Conservation Advisory Group.

The Local History group worked with Enfield Council to commemorate in December the presentation in 1917 of the Victoria Cross to a former resident of Southgate Captain Allastair McReady-Diarmid.

The Publications sub-committee has made arrangements for the transfer of the Trust's archive from members' homes to Enfield's Local Studies in the Dugdale Centre.

We have been active in pressing for local environmental improvements. For example, meetings have been held with representatives of Transport for London and Enfield Council to consider enhancements to Southgate Station and its environs. Partly as a result of our involvement improvements are beginning to happen. The unsightly and unused telephone boxes outside the station have been removed. The road for the bus station has recently been resurfaced. More improvements are in prospect.

I am grateful for the work undertaken by the Executive Committee. All committee members make a contribution. I wish to single out Jane Maggs for her extraordinary hard work in taking forward so many of our activities.

The Trust is very active and effective in seeking improvements to our local area. We could be even more effective if more members would give a little time to pursuing activities and initiatives under the Trust. Please consider volunteering to help the Trust.

Graham Davis

Secretary – Jane Maggs

There have been five Executive Committee meetings during this year, where the Committee have discussed our involvement in various local issues. These have been reported to you in the Newsletter.

This has been a year of change for the Trust, where we have reviewed how we work and transformed our various procedures. Importantly, we continue to look to the future.

Although, the newsletter remains the key method of reporting our work to members, we have been using Facebook and Twitter much more this year. These two social media outlets, along with the E-news, allow us to spread updates on our activities to a far wider audience than before.

During the year the number of people following us on social media has increased enormously. We are using this as a way to tell anyone interested what we are doing and about things happening locally that may be informative. We are also using social media to pass on information about more national issues that will have an impact on us here in the Southgate District. If you are not following us, perhaps take a look every once in a while and add your comments.

This is only one method to publicise the work of SDCT and we need to do more to tell the world what we do. If you could spare some time to help with publicity, please let me know.

During the year, SDCT has had considerably more approaches from various organisations, local residents and members. As a result, groups in this area are working together more frequently and more effectively on behalf of the whole community. With this increased co-operation, I have dealt with a wider range of correspondence and organisations on your behalf.

This has been a really busy year, with lots of projects on the go (see other reports) or about to take off. I would like to re-iterate what others have said that this is good time for members to get involved and help keep the campaigning work of the Trust going. So, do not hold back – get involved.

Jane Maggs

HISTORY GROUP MEETING 8th MAY 2018 “Life Before Death” by John Philpott

John lives in Friern Barnet and has researched the graveyard of St James the Great Church in Friern Barnet Lane. This was originally a parish church, but is now being run by the Greek Orthodox Church. Most of the church dates from a 19th century restoration, but a church was on this site in the 12th century, run by the Knights Hospitalers and later by the Dean and Chapter of St Pauls. There are 700 gravestones in the churchyard, plus others unmarked. The oldest dated stone is 1668. John gave us some interesting details about some of the people buried in this graveyard, particularly former Rectors of Friern Barnet.

Rector Edmund Duncan (died 1673) was a friend of famous poet and hymn writer George Herbert. At the end of Herbert's life Duncan visited him in Bemerton and Herbert gave Duncan his poems and hymns, which might otherwise have been lost.

Rector Abel Lendon (died 1846) founded a local charity school in 1809, which are now the Lawrence Camp Almshouses.

Rector Robert Morris (died 1882) came to Friern Barnet in 1850, just as New Southgate station and Colney Hatch Pauper Lunatic Asylum opened, and the population began to increase. He re-built the church in 1853 and started St James mixed school. He founded the concept of school lending libraries.

There are 16 World War 1 graves, including Sgt Ernest Usher (awarded the Military Medal) and nurse Monica Ferguson. In WW2, two Stephens brothers, both in the RAF, were both awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

There are also a number of grand family tombs, erected by local wealthy residents. John showed us that all of the graves in this churchyard are not just names engraved on stones, but real people with productive lives, who have made a difference to their communities and sometimes to their country.

Colin Barratt

Treasurer – Elaine Tyler

See balances below:

Given that income from subscriptions covered operating expenses this year and anticipating the same to apply in future years I do not see a need to review the subscription rate at present.

Elaine Tyler

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR TO 31st MARCH 2018

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

(LLOYDS BANK PLC)

	£	£
	Debit	Credit
C/A Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2017		1,472.94
D/A Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2017		10,214.86
Transfer from Publications A/C		3000.00
Net Interest		52.21
C/A Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2018	22.94	
D/A Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2018	14,717.07	
	14,740.01	14,740.01

PUBLICATIONS ACC.

(SANTANDER UK PLC)

	£	£
	Debit	Credit
Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2017		3,641.51
Stock: Printed books, Maps etc.	59.15	408.70
Postcards		19.00
DVDs	160.00	294.00
Placemats		49.00
Royalties		0.00
Archive	7.65	
Admin.	0.00	
Petty Cash		65.00
Sundries		18.10
Transfer to Capital Account	3000.00	
Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2018	1,268.51	
	4,495.31	4,495.31

GENERAL ACCOUNT

(SANTANDER UK PLC)

	£	£
	Debit	Credit
Balance B/Fwd 31/3/2017		3,067.93
Subscriptions		2,131.00
Donations		177.44
Insurance (y/e 30/4/2018)	266.93	
Website	51.05	
Newsletters	329.83	
Meetings	461.03	
Affiliations - Civic Voice	180.00	
London Forum	28.00	
LAMAS	25.00	
Fairs	50.00	
Admin.	84.53	
Equipment	145.71	
Civic Voice Conference	161.07	
Petty Cash	0.00	41.05
Sundries	72.77	20.38
Balance C/Fwd 31/3/2018	3,581.88	
	5,437.80	5,437.80

REPORTS OF THE GROUPS & REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Publications Sub Committee

The members of the Publications Sub-committee are Colin Barratt, Eileen Bostle, Peter Hodge, Stan Rondeau, Elaine Tyler and myself, Peter Owen having stepped down after many years of service. We meet every three months (four times since the last AGM).

We are working with Southgate Photographic Society on a publication celebrating 50 years of conservation areas, based on competition photographs on this theme displayed at the SDCT Civic Week shop at Southgate Parade in June.

Our publications have been on sale at Trust meetings, the SDCT stalls at the N21 Festival Fancy Fair at Winchmore Hill Green in July and the Palmers Green festival in September, the Civic Week shop, Enfield Local Studies and Waterstone's in Enfield. As well as advertising publications and events on the website the Trust has noticeboards at Palmers Green station and Winchmore Hill Green.

Eileen and I attended the LAMAS local history conference in November, where the theme was *Pastimes in Past Times*. The annual LAMAS Transactions book and newsletters can be accessed via the archive.

We are in negotiation with Enfield Local Studies over transferring to their safe-keeping the majority of items held in the SDCT archive.

We helped organise a visit by descendants of the Taylor and Walker families to Southgate and Winchmore Hill in May, the tour including Christ Church, the Walker Ground, Beaumont Centre (Arnos Grove), the Olde Cherry Tree (lunch), Grovelands House and Friends Meeting House.

Peter Hodge has become a vice-president of the Trust.

Richard Purver

Planning and Conservation Advisory Group

The planning group meets every month to consider applications in our area of interest. Although the main focus is on the conservation areas, we have been particularly engaged with some of the larger or significant developments. These have been reported in the newsletter.

During the year, members have been involved in discussions with the developers for Trent Park, Capitol House and The Fox Pub.

As The Fox Pub is an asset of community value, nominated by SDCT, we have taken a particular interest in any changes that will affect the listing. Jane Maggs represented SDCT to make a representation at the planning committee meeting in April, which discussed this application. This intervention helped ensure interested groups (including SDCT) are involved in determining the conditions to be implemented for the community use.

The group welcome anyone who would like to join; you do not need to be a planning expert, just interested in what is happening in the area. If you would like to become involved with the group, please contact Irene Stone for more information.

Irene Stone

Green Belt Forum

The Green Belt Forum has discussed a number of issues relating to the green belt. It heard a presentation from London School of Economics on their proposals for changes to the green belt, plus an update on Enfield's local plan review. Members attended various meetings regarding the draft London Plan to be in a better position to review Enfield's proposals when they are released for consultation.

Civic Voice

We have remained members of Civic Voice this year, ensuring we continue to receive benefits through them, particularly discounted insurance cover.

Our membership keeps us in touch with national issues affecting us locally, particularly the continual changes to planning legislation. We also receive information on the activities of other member societies. Where relevant to us, the reports have been passed on to you in the Newsletter. All the work we have been doing has raised our profile within the civic movement.

Civic Voice is continuing to work closely with the APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) for Civic Societies, which is supported by an increasing number of MPs. We are very pleased that our MP Bambos Charalambous has agreed to attend these meetings.

The APPG meetings are initially advertised to Civic Voice members, so we have an opportunity to attend before details are sent out to other organisations. A number of our members have attended APPG meetings at Portcullis House during the year. These meetings are always interesting, with a lively debate and often a robust exchange of views. I would encourage any member to come along.

Last year, Graham Davis, Chris Horner, Elaine Tyler and I attended the Civic Voice AGM in Wakefield. Our productive two days were reported in the Newsletter, and we brought back plenty of ideas to put into action. The highlight of the convention was the award of a 'Civic Voice National Civic Day Award', in recognition of all the hard work put into Civic Week last year.

This year the AGM will be in Birmingham and we expect to send a contingent of members.

I was invited to join the Civic Voice Regional Forum to represent SDCT. There have been a number of meetings held with representatives from different parts of the country. I am pleased to report that these meetings involve a robust exchange of views and give us an opportunity to influence the future of Civic Voice.

Jane Maggs

MODERNISM IN METRO-LAND

We have been contacted by Joshua Abbot, who runs the Modernism in Metro-Land website (<http://www.modernism-in-metroland.co.uk/>) that features many buildings in this area, including Southgate station.

He has teamed up with Unbound publishing to crowd fund *A Guide to Modernism in Metro-Land*, the essential guidebook to discovering the modernist treasures of London's suburbs (<https://unbound.com/books/a-guide-to-modernism-in-metro-land/>)

The guide will cover nine London boroughs, including Enfield, and two counties, with a map for each area, colour photographs and descriptions of each building. One of the aims of the book is to show people the history of the neighbourhoods they live in and the stories behind the buildings they pass every day.

Everyone who supports the book will receive a special edition, and their name printed in the back of the book. There are also different reward levels, including artwork from the book. They have also offered us a unique 10% discount code.



PRESENTATION OF THE GRAHAM BEECH MEMORIAL AWARD TO STAN RONDEAU

At our Annual General Meeting on 28 April 2018 Stan Rondeau was presented with the Graham Beech Memorial Award. The award is made annually, in memory of our former Chairman, to a member of the Trust who has made an outstanding contribution to the Trust or to the wider community.

Stan has been a supportive member for many years of three of our subgroups: history, publications and planning. For the history and publications groups Stan has been custodian of part of the archive. He has always been ready to help at Trust events.

There is a story about Stan which typifies his commitment to the Trust. Even while out walking his dog in Oakwood Park he would carry copies of our Oakleaves publication which he would brandish and sell to fellow dogwalkers.

Stan takes great pride in his Huguenot heritage. He has produced publications about his heritage. He volunteers at Christ Church Spitalfields, where there is a plaque commemorating his ancestors. He has led tours there for our members and has given talks for us about the Huguenots in Spitalfields.

Stan has also produced publications and given talks for us about his wartime experiences. He is an honorary member of the Rhiwbina Civic Society, the suburb of Cardiff to which he was evacuated. He has spoken to school pupils there about his time as an evacuee.

As this short article shows Stan has made an outstanding contribution not only to the work of the Trust but also to the wider community.

Graham Davis
Chairman



**Presentation to Stan by Graham Davis,
SDCT Chairman**

SDCT VISIT TO THE REED BEDS AT SLOPERS POND FARM Sunday 29th April

On a cold April day, our group had a warm reception from Elaine and Robert Haywood at Slopers Pond Farm on Staggs Hill. This is the farm you pass heading up to Potters Bar or when trying to join the M25. From the road you really cannot see just how much the farm has been changed over the last few years by this couple.

After a reviving coffee, we headed out to walk a circuit of the farm. Whilst the main focus of our visit was the reed beds, the walk gave us an opportunity to see first hand the changes being undertaken to improve the environment, particularly as the farm is in the process of converting to fully organic.



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We were all interested to understand how the changes have made a difference to the wild life, particularly the increase in diversity. Our discussions on the flora and fauna we could see led to fascinating conversations on a wide range of aspects of farming and conservation.



Incredibly, the rain held off, although the ground was rather muddy from the recent bad weather! After our bracing walk, we returned to the purpose built classroom block for our ‘picnic’ lunch and celebratory drinks. The conversation over lunch was wide ranging, lively, informative and fun.



Everyone agreed that this walk had been extremely interesting and thoroughly enjoyable. So, we are delighted that Elaine and Robert have agreed to let us return next year to see how the reed beds are developing.

Jane Maggs

Photos: Mervyn Maggs

HISTORY GROUP MEETING 11th SEPT.

“ACROSS THE MIDDLESEX SUBURBS”

Philip Crouch grew up in Southgate and later moved to Harrow, and a few years ago got to know SDCT member Eileen Bostle who, coincidentally, has also lived in both these places. Philip is the author of a book about St Albans Church in North Harrow which has striking 1930s architecture, and in 2017 Eileen put him in touch with Richard Purver who, through his voluntary work with Open House, was able to assist him in getting the church into their programme.

Philip will be speaking about his memories of Southgate, the suburban development of Middlesex, and St Albans Church, and Richard will talk about his work with Open House.

THE BIG CONSERVATION CONVERSATION 50 years of Conservation in the Southgate District

In 2017 the civic movement marked 50 years since the Civic Amenities Act of 1967 was passed. This private members bill led by Lord Duncan Sandys, introduced for the first time the concept of conservation areas.

This milestone was marked across the country as part of Civic Voice's¹ *'Big Conservation Conversation'* and celebrated locally as the theme of Southgate Civic Week 2017.

Now we are celebrating another milestone, as 2018 marks 50 years since the creation of **Southgate Green** and **Winchmore Hill Green Conservation Areas**.



So what is a conservation area?

An area that has been recognised for its special architectural or historic interest, designated in order to preserve or enhance its character or appearance. A conservation area has additional planning controls, not to prevent change, but to manage it in a way that keeps it special.

Our area has two of the earliest conservation areas. Why?

Much of the credit goes to the pioneers of Southgate Civic Society, set up in 1962 out of the campaign to save the Georgian Cottages next to the Cherry Tree on Southgate Green. The new society immediately registered with and became active in the national body, Civic Trust, which was the forerunner of today's Civic Voice. Southgate Civic Society has changed its name a few times over the years, and is now known as Southgate District Civic Trust (SDCT).



Importantly for our story, Southgate Civic Society worked with the then Southgate Council on proposals for both Southgate Green and Winchmore Hill Green, publishing a comprehensive report on Southgate, in February 1965.

Looking back through our archive, the minutes show that in July 1966, the secretary sent a letter to Duncan Sandys, with information about 25-31 The Green (the Georgian Cottages), to be used in the debate on the Civic Amenities Bill. We like to think that Southgate helped shape this key legislation!

The Society's November 1967 Newsletter included an extensive report of the Civic Trust Conference debating the new Civic Amenities Act. At the end of her report Audrey Lennox said: *'I wonder if we all realise that in the 10 years since the birth of the Civic Trust there has been a quiet and well mannered revolution. 10 years ago this new Act would not have been possible. 10 years ago, that the public had any right to interest itself in environmental planning, trees, building preservation was either startling, laughable or a discomfoting concept.'*

Finally, after a lengthy debate between the Council and the Society on boundaries, **Southgate Green Conservation Area** was created in April 1968, followed in November by **Winchmore Hill Green Conservation Area**. It marked a landmark year.

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So what does the future hold for Conservation Areas?

There are now over 10,000 Conservation Areas across the country. In Enfield we have 22, which range in size and diversity. You can see details of all of them on the Council website (www.enfield.gov.uk).

We cannot afford to be complacent as conservation across the country is under threat; one of the key themes from the speakers at the Southgate District Civic Trust February 2018 Open Meeting about 50 years of conservation.

The shocking figure is that nationwide there has been a 33% reduction (since 2008) in key conservation officers. While recognising the importance of Enfield's housing growth, we need to reconcile that need with a sustainable approach, recognising the valuable social and economic contribution made by heritage.



Looking back over our 50 years of conservation there is much to celebrate. We owe it to all those who campaigned for the establishment of conservation areas and have contributed to their success, to look forward to the next 50 years. This means that all of us, not just the civic and residents groups, form a key line of defence to champion the importance of heritage and conservation areas.

So what can you do to protect our local heritage?

Join a local civic or residents group that champions and campaigns for your area.

Come to a Southgate District Civic Trust event and talk to us about what we are doing. See our website for more information (www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk). Follow us on Facebook:

(www.facebook.com/southgatedistrictcivictrust) and Twitter ([@southgatetrust](https://twitter.com/southgatetrust)). Or join us!

Jane Maggs

Notes:

¹ Civic Voice is the national charity for the civic movement in England.

Picture of Duncan Sandys courtesy of Civic Voice; Cottages on Southgate Green & Minchenden Oak from Southgate District Civic Trust archive.

This article originally appeared in Palmers Green & Southgate Life.

BROOMFIELD HOUSE EXHIBITION AT THE DUGDALE CENTRE

An exhibition, *Hidden Treasures: Revealing Broomfield House* will open at the Dugdale Centre on 28 July and run until 6 January 2019, curated by Stacey Anne Bagdi, Research, Exhibitions and Museum Shop Officer for Enfield Council, assisted by SDCT member Colin Younger and his colleagues at Broomfield House Trust (see poster on back page).

In conjunction with the exhibition we have arranged a reprint of *Broomfield: An Illustrated History of the House and Garden* by Steven Brindle, originally published in 1994 and this will be on sale with other SDCT publications at the new museum shop located on the ground floor of the Dugdale Centre, which is to open on the same day as the exhibition.

Richard Purver

Broomfield House and Park memories wanted!



Photo credit: Enfield Local Studies & Archives

Enfield Museum is planning its 2018 exhibition:

'Hidden Treasures: Revealing Broomfield House'

This free exhibition will explore the history of Broomfield house and surrounding landscape up to its present day.

We need your help! Do you have memories of Broomfield House and/or park? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

We would like to collect stories, quotes, related objects or pictures that you may have of Broomfield House and/or its park.

Please call the museum officer on
020 8379 2299 or email
Enfield.Museum.Service@enfield.gov.uk

enfield
museum