

Newsletter

Southgate
District
Civic Trust



No. 202 October 2007

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COMING EVENTS

OPEN MEETING Saturday 20th October 2007 at 2.30pm.

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

“Our Local Area on Film”



We have had to change our plans for the Open Meeting. Unfortunately, neither Paul Drury and Partners nor Enfield Council could supply a speaker to discuss the Forty Hall Conservation Plan. Instead, we will be giving our members the opportunity to see the film clips shown recently at the History Group, plus some extra ones. There were so many details in these old films that we hope that those who saw them in September would be happy to see them again. We are lucky to have these as a reminder of our district as it used to be. Perhaps you will even see yourself, or someone you know in them, as happened at the History Group! ALL WELCOME.

MEMBERS’ ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Wednesday 21st
November 2007

at 12.00pm.
Southgate College
Restaurant

(See note on page 2
for details)

HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Wednesday 7th
November 2007

at 7.30pm.
Friends Meeting
House,
Church Hill, N21



“Shopping As It Used To Be” by David Berguer

Contributions to the January newsletter should be sent by Monday 3rd December 2007
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 14th January 2008.

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 the Civic Trust).

Identify the Location (New Feature)

This is not a competition. It's an opportunity for us to show some photos or paintings of our area from the archives, which are either so old or so vague that the exact location is unclear. We would like your help in identifying the spot. We are hoping that there will be someone who can tell us where the views have been taken from.

The first one is a postcard, sent sometime after 1911, which shows Powys Lane, but exactly where? Are any of the buildings still there? It's over to you. Please let us know if you recognise it.



LAMAS Local History Conference 2007

This year's conference is on Saturday 17th November, and will be held at the City of London School for Girls, Barbican.

The title for the day is "**They Came to London, 1000 Years of Migration**" and the six lectures selected tackle the theme of communities in London, created by migration over the centuries, in various ways. Tickets for the conference are available at £10. If you are interested in attending, please write for tickets to: Local History Conference, 24 Orchard Close, Ruislip, Middx, HA4 7LS.

Our Trust will not be manning a table at the conference this year.

Members' Annual Luncheon

Our annual luncheon has again been booked at Southgate College, for Wednesday 21st November, starting at 12 noon. The anticipated cost will be approximately £9. All members will be very welcome.

Anyone wishing to come should ring Janet Lane on 020 8886 3303 to book a place.

Town Planning Group Report.

The last few months have given us the usual varied selection of planning applications in all our Conservation Areas. We now receive a larger number of applications regarding tree reductions or removal than in previous years, some are due to the construction of houses or flats, as in Cockfosters Road, Hadley Wood. The removal of so many trees to make way for developments is particularly difficult for us to agree with. In the Conservation Area of Southgate Green, N14, number **18 Cannon Hill** has a considerable number of trees at the rear and surrounding this corner site that the owners wish to be dealt with, although most applicants use their own experts to make a case for any works required, we prefer the Council's arboriculture officer to make the decision. If you wish to speak to someone regarding trees, Andy Robinson is the person to contact at the Council. The chestnut trees on The Green, N14 are in danger because of a fungus and we may lose them over the next two years (see Chris Howell's item on page 3 *ed.*). If applications ask for reductions in height or the crown of trees then we agree, if removal is proposed then we need more expertise for a decision. We do have a member of our Group with a great deal of knowledge regarding trees and bushes and it is a considerable help to know about a species when a tree is giving concern regarding an adjacent structure.

If any member wishes to discuss the placing of a Tree Preservation Order upon a tree or trees then the men to contact are David Snell, or Andy Higham in Development Control at Enfield Council.

The latest update on **Truro House**, Palmers Green, N13, is that there was an out-of-court settlement at the last minute between London Borough of Enfield and the former owners of the house regarding the 'urgent repair bill' that the Council had to pay when the previous owners ignored the condition of the house. There was a recent planning application by the new owners but that was refused as being unsuitable. At present the Council are working with the owners to create an acceptable scheme and professional property advisers have been called in to aid this.

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Broomfield House latest news is probably known by now that Consultants are being called in to review the options and demolition is one of the.

At the AGM I commented on our on-going problem when properties in our Conservation Areas wanted to replace their wooden windows and doors with UPVC. We object every time, the Council refused permission, and appeals against them are dismissed, and yet still they come even though each property received an Article 4 Direction from the Council, explaining why it will not be allowed in the Conservation Area. The latest appeal to be dismissed has been 41 Church Hill, N21. Highlands Village, N21 is another area where properties want replacements to be UPVC, usually for maintenance reasons.

Cedar House, N21, this development was not being built to the original plans and a new application was required, but the interim application was not correct, and there will now be new drawings and a new planning application.

Any member interested in joining the Group can get all particulars about future meetings by telephoning 0208 364 3500.

*Irene Stone
Group Leader*

Cherry Tree Bus Island Trees



During the winter a substantial chestnut tree on the island unexpectedly blew down across the service road. This crushed two cars, and it was lucky no one was hurt. There are two remaining chestnuts, which on inspection revealed that they are both rotten at the base and hollow up the trunks. The trees are poor specimens, one of which is small and extremely deformed, and the other of a bad shape, and worryingly overhangs the bus shelter and is in danger of falling and demolishing it.

The Trust donated a considerable sum of money in 1986 for the renovation of the shelter; this being in memory of John Gough the architect who prepared the renovation plans.

The Council have confirmed the trees must be felled, and the Trust has offered to donate replacement trees, which we hope, subject to cost, will be mature specimens.

Chris Howell

Removal of Historic Post and Chain Railings and New Lamp Posts Outside Christ Church, Waterfall Road, Southgate Green



During the year the Council have been renewing the kerbs along Waterfall Road, and in doing so have removed the historic post and rail railings outside Christ Church. We have been informed that they do not wish to replace the railings, and are minded to further remove the rest of the railings that run in front of several houses running towards the Green. The railings are over a hundred years old, and are historic artefacts of the conservation area that must be replaced. We have written to the Council's cabinet member in charge of the environment, the local councillors and the officers to express our concern in the strongest terms.

The lamp posts along Waterfall Road are also to be replaced by 10-metre standards, It is proposed that those outside Christ Church are to be sited on the back of the pavement along the boundary wall to the Church which is a listed building of architectural merit. This is unacceptable as they are unsympathetic to the setting of the Church, therefore we have asked the Council to site them across the road.

The listing of Christ Church was upgraded to grade 2*, not only because of its architectural value, but also because of its contribution to the setting of the conservation area, of which Christ Church is the focal point. Together with the Southgate Green Association we are vigorously pursuing this matter and hope for a more satisfactory outcome to both the unsatisfactory proposals above.

Chris Howell

A Walk Along The New River



On Saturday 1st September Chris Royall treated members of the Trust to the discovery of another beautiful part of the New River. Chris is a member of the New River Action Group, which champions public access to this great local asset.

We met outside Capel Manor and within seconds we had turned onto the river footpath. A lovely walk in warm sunshine followed. We saw a family of pochards (very pretty small brown ducks) plus the usual coots, moorhens and mallards. But we were in for a treat. The river widens with a large island in the middle, and there on the far bank was a giant heron. He was huge, with darker grey marking than the herons that live in Grovelands Park.

The beauty of our walk was temporarily halted while we crossed the noisy M25 and headed for Theobalds Park. A large stone had been set where Temple Bar once stood. Temple Bar is now back in its rightful place in London, near to St. Paul's Cathedral, each stone having been dismantled and cleaned first (and it looks wonderful there). However, we realised that to continue onto Roman Ermine Street our exit was blocked by electronic gates. After a slight delay, and a request to the staff, the gates were finally opened and, in a scene reminiscent of Escape From Colditz, the members were able to continue on their walk.

Before heading back, we spotted a caravan park where a kind lady opened her shop especially for us to have refreshments. As though for our entertainment, a family of rabbits played at the side of a nearby field. One of them kept standing on its hind legs and pulling down the low branches of a tree and eating the leaves. None of us had ever seen this antic before, so we were all highly amused.

Then it was time for home, where we thanked Chris once again for proving that we don't have to travel far to see some wonderful signs of nature.

Janet Lane

The Plaque has Returned!

Members will be glad to know that, at long last, the plaque which was located behind the Wimpy Bar in Southgate, to signify the South Gate to Enfield Chase, has recently been returned to its original position.



Events at MoDA

Exhibition "The Suburban Landscape: Two Hundred Years of Gardens and Gardening"

This runs until 14th February 2008, and looks at the evolution of the suburban landscape as a whole, including the development of parks and open spaces, as well as the evolution of smaller private gardens and gardening.

Visit MoDA online for more information on their collections and events. www.moda.ac.uk

History Group Meeting 5th September - Our Local Area on Film

We had a good attendance of over 30 for this meeting at the Friends' Meeting House, Church Hill, and we had to move to the main room to accommodate everyone.

The aim of the meeting was to run clips of films showing our area, which I had gathered from various sources and transferred to CD, to allow projection on screen. I also had some DVDs but, unfortunately, a technical hitch prevented these from projecting. However, the other films on CD worked, and I was able to include clips covering over 35 years:

- **Southgate Methodist Church, the Bourne (Edgar Chard)** – from its building in 1928, the surrounding location in the 1930s, children visiting patients in Grovelands Hospital, and Scouts and Guides in 1950 preparing for a camping trip.
- **Southgate, A Glimpse of the Past (Edgar Chard)** – a real historical document of our area in 1950, including the “busy” Southgate Circus (one bus and two bicycles!).
- **Friern Hospital (Colney Hatch)** – the grounds of the hospital and the staff in 1950.
- **Southgate Celebrates the Coronation (Edgar Chard)** – The less well known film of the various activities and pageant organised for the Queen's Coronation in 1953, much of it in Broomfield Park.
- **Trolleybuses in North Finchley and Barnet** – this 1961 film showed these iconic local buses in action towards the end of the trolleybus era.
- **St Paul's School, Winchmore Hill** – a record of the old school in Church Hill, the stone laying ceremony of the new one in Roundway, and its official opening by Princess Alexandra in 1961.
- **The North Circular Road and New Southgate** – a film by local enthusiast Doug Laundry in 1964, with views of the old roundabout at Colney Hatch Lane, Pinkham Way, the Line Path, between the railway and Friern Hospital and diesel trains through New Southgate & Friern Barnet station.

These films seemed to stir many memories in the audience, and showed that we have a valuable archive of material, which we need to preserve for future generations.

A DVD I had hoped to start the evening with includes early short films made by local cinema pioneer Robert Paul in 1903 and 1905, which were shot in the streets around his studio in Sydney Road, Muswell Hill. Perhaps this could be shown at a later date.

Colin Barratt

Southgate Films for Sale

The Trust have a few copies of the Edgar Chard film “Southgate—A Glimpse of the Past”, made in 1950, and recently also ordered “Southgate Celebrates the Coronation”, made in 1953. The 1950 film is on VHS tape and the 1953 film is on DVD. These are now with Janet Lane. The price for each one is £13, and they can be obtained from Janet (8886 3303).

Search for our own Coronation Queen

In the film of Southgate celebrating the Queen's Coronation in 1953, the pageant included a float with Southgate's Coronation Queen, Constance Donnelly, plus her attendants.

At the History Group meeting David Cooper remembered seeing Connie at her sister's funeral in Winchmore Hill a few years ago. Does anyone know Connie? Is she still living locally? If so, it would be interesting to meet her and hear her memories of the event. Contact the Editors if you can help.

The Savoy Vaults and Family Connections

In last October's Newsletter I reported on the unveiling of an information board at the section in New Southgate Cemetery referred to as the Queen Victoria Vaults or Savoy Vaults.

Just three days after the unveiling ceremony in September 2006, the cemetery manager was contacted by a lady enquiring about the location of graves of several of her ancestors, named Poland who, she was told, had been re-interred in New Southgate from the graveyard of the German Lutheran Chapel in the Strand. She was just hoping to find the graves, so that she could visit and tidy them up, if necessary. This lady, Henrietta Morgan, was unaware of the vaults, and she was thrilled to be given the details of nine members of her family, all in one of the vaults (no.XXVII). The manager forwarded the e-mails to me, and I continued the correspondence.

Henrietta said that four of the Poland family were her direct ancestors, and that a distant cousin in Spain had been researching the family for three years. Unfortunately, the cousin had only confirmed the location as being New Southgate two days after the ceremony, but she also had copies of various documents which confirmed my information that the re-interments had taken place in 1875, and also confirmed the story that Queen Victoria had paid for the vaults. The Duchy of Lancaster, on behalf of the Queen, had paid the cemetery company £354 7s 6d to purchase the area used for the vaults, plus £250 to maintain the ground and monuments in good order.

The Poland family originated in Hof, Bavaria, and were fur merchants going back several generations there. Two brothers, Peter Raymond and John George, came to London in the 1780s, and both started up separate and successful fur merchant businesses, in the Strand and the City. Peter's business here lasted for nine generations.

Peter married Sarah Hatch, a London girl, in 1787, at St Martin in the Fields. Peter, John and Sarah are among those buried in the vault at New Southgate, and Henrietta has sent me portraits of Peter and Sarah. There can't be many of us who could boast of having pictures of our ancestors from 200 years ago! They also remind us that the vaults are not just a list of names and dates, but the remains of real people, who lived, worked and died in London.

Colin Barratt



SARAH POLAND (NEE HATCH)
1761 to 1820

PETER RAYMOND POLAND
1762 to 1827