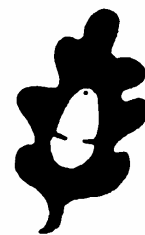


Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter
No. 242
Oct. 2017



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COMING EVENTS

OPEN MEETING

Sat. 28th October 2017 at 2.30pm

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

“LONDON RECORDED BY CAMERA”

Street Photography in the East End

A talk by Stefan Dickers,
Special Collections and Archives Manager
at the Bishopsgate Institute.

See page 5 for details



Photo: Courtesy of Bishopsgate Institute



HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 14th November 2017

at 8.00pm

Friends Meeting House, Church Hill, N21

“Rural Life” - Customs of Another Era

A film obtained from the
Independent Cinema Office.

See page 5 For details

MEMBERS FREE, VISITORS £2.00

Other Dates for your Diary: See page 3 for Spring Open Meeting, AGM etc.

Contributions to the January 2018 newsletter should be sent by Friday 8th Dec. 2017

to the Editor: Colin Barratt, 48 Maplin Close, Winchmore Hill, 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 January 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**).



CIVIC VOICE UPDATE

Civic Voice has moved to Birmingham. Their new address is: Civic Voice, The Coffin Works, 13-15 Fleet Street, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, B3 1JP. Tel: 0121 792 8177

There seems to be rather a lot of news that is relevant to Southgate District Civic Trust (SDCT) at the moment!

Civic Voice Regional Forum

[Jane Maggs](#) has joined the Civic Voice Regional Forum, representing SDCT. The last Forum meeting on 20th September was held in their new offices at The Coffin Works in Birmingham.

The meeting was preceded by a tour of the museum at the Coffin Works, showing the history of the Newman Brothers factory from Victorian times until it closed. Fascinating to see where the coffin furniture was made for the funerals of Joseph Chamberlain, Winston Churchill and the Queen Mother.

This museum shows such an unusual facet of our industrial heritage, so we are hoping to organise an SDCT tour in the near future.

After this interlude, it was down to business!

The forum brings together representatives from a range of different civic societies across the country. This mix of experience helps ensure Civic Voice is 'grassroots led'.



Discussions at the meeting were centred on the lessons that can be learnt from other civic societies in recruiting new members, plus the major impact on conservation and the historic environment due to the loss of conservation officers from local planning departments.

The loss of conservation officers is becoming a major national concern across the civic movement. Recent research published by Historic England shows that the number of historic environment advice specialists in local authorities has continued to fall over the previous twelve months, whilst the workload in terms of the number of planning application decisions and Listed Building Consent decisions has grown. The number of full-time equivalent historic environment specialists providing advice to local authorities in England has fallen by 36% since 2006.

The group agreed that this is such an important issue, with such a wide impact, that our next Regional Forum meeting in December will consider this issue with a full day discussion. Historic England will be invited to present their evidence.

Photos courtesy of Civic Voice

Civic Voice Convention & AGM

This year the Convention will be held in Wakefield on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st October 2017. Some of our members will be attending again this year, as we always find it a great opportunity to meet other civic societies, as well as learn from the workshops and presentations.

This year the highlight of the convention will of course be the presentation by SDCT members [Chris Horner](#) and [Jane Maggs](#) on **Southgate Civic Week 2017**. We will be telling delegates from other societies across the country about our Civic Week, what happened, how it was organised, lessons learnt and what we plan to do next.

For more information on the convention, or if you are interested in attending, then see the Civic Voice website or e-mail me via info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk.

(continued over)

50 years of Conservation Areas

Did you know Southgate Green and Winchmore Hill Conservation Areas are both 50 next year? SDCT plan to mark this milestone with an event on Conservation Areas in early 2018. (See below).

The concept of conservation areas was introduced in England, Wales and Scotland by the Civic Amenities Act 1967, through a private members bill led by Lord Duncan Sandys. When conservation areas legislation was introduced there was widespread public concern over the pace of redevelopment in our historic towns and cities. Today there are over 10,000 conservation areas in the UK, with 22 in the London Borough of Enfield and 10 in our area of interest.

The roles of conservation and the historic landscape are as important now as they were 50 years ago. So with all the concerns highlighted by Historic England and the civic movement, this seems an appropriate time for us to discuss this further.



We are delighted to announce that **Ian Harvey**, Director of Civic Voice, will be speaking at our Conservation event in 2018. As Ian Harvey says 'Together we can make change happen if we come together and say "My Conservation Area Matters".'

More details of the event will be in the next newsletter.

Photo of Ian Harvey: courtesy of Civic Voice

All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Civic Societies

This APPG was established to represent the civic society movement in Parliament and help make the civic movement's voice heard. As members of Civic Voice, all our members are entitled to attend their meetings, which are normally held in Parliament. The APPG was re-registered following the General Election and will be chaired by Craig Mackinlay MP. New dates for meetings will be announced at the Convention in Wakefield.

We are extremely pleased that our new MP, Bambos Charalambous has agreed to join this APPG and look forward to seeing him at the next meeting.

Free National Trust Day Pass

Through our membership of Civic Voice SDCT members are eligible to a free day access pass to the National Trust (worth up to £14). If you are already a member this pass can be given to a friend or relative. To take advantage of this benefit, please send an SAE to Civic Voice, mentioning that you are member of SDCT. NB: you are entitled to two passes as our membership is by household.

Jane Maggs

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Spring Open Meeting 2018 - Saturday 24th February at 2.00pm. (Note earlier start time)**

The Conservation Conversation: Celebrating 50 Years of Conservation in the Southgate District

We are delighted to welcome **Ian Harvey, Director at Civic Voice** as our keynote speaker for this event.

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

NB: as there will be a full programme for the afternoon, the meeting will be starting slightly earlier than usual at **2pm**.

- **Annual General Meeting - Saturday 28th April at 2.30pm**

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

- **Other Dates: on the website**

Take a look at the **CALENDAR** page of the SDCT website (www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk) for more diary dates. We have started adding dates for the rest of 2017 and early 2018, but as not all the details are available yet, we will be adding the information as it becomes available. So please keep looking at the site.

COMMEMORATION OF LOCAL RECIPIENTS OF THE VICTORIA CROSS IN WW1

As part of the commemorations of the 100th anniversary of World War 1, the Government has set up a programme to honour all recipients of the Victoria Cross during this war. Specially made paving stones are being given to local councils, who are being encouraged to hold events for UK soldiers who were awarded the VC, and who were born within their area. The intention has been to hold each event as close to the birthplace of the recipient as possible, and on or close to the 100th anniversary of the action which resulted in the award being given.

There are two VC recipients who will be commemorated soon in the Borough of Enfield. One of these is in the SDCT area, Grove Road, New Southgate, and the other is in Pymmes Park, Edmonton.

Captain Allastair McReady-Diarmid, of the Middlesex Regiment, was born in Grove Road in 1888, and was originally named Arthur Malcolm Drew. He was awarded a posthumous VC, following his brave actions on 30th Nov. and 1st Dec. 1917, which resulted in him losing his life.

A short commemoration event has been planned for **1st Dec. 2017 at Grove Road**, on the restored Open Space, with the assistance of the Trust, which will start at 11am. All being well, attendees will include the Mayor, our MP, various other dignitaries and members of the Middlesex Regiment. We also hope that a descendant of McReady-Diarmid will be able to come. Anyone is welcome to attend, but be aware that parking will be severely restricted, so try to come on public transport, if you can.

Colin Barratt

LAMAS LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE 2017

The annual LAMAS Local History Conference will be held on Saturday 18th November, at the Weston Theatre, Museum of London, from 10.30am to 6.00pm. The theme is **“Pastimes in Times Past: Entertainment in London”**. Tickets are £15, or £12.50 if ordered before 1st November. Details of the programme can be viewed on the LAMAS website, (www.lamas.org.uk).

PALMERS GREEN FESTIVAL - 3rd Sept.

The Trust again had a stall at this Festival, and it was a good community event. Although our stall was tucked away in a corner, we had a good number of visitors, and interesting conversations. Three people joined our membership, and several signed up as supporters. This is one of the festivals we should continue to support, and publicise ourselves.

COMMUNITY MODELLING PROJECT AT PYMMES BROOK



Working with Thames21, a group of local residents are getting involved in a project aimed at improving the water quality of Pymmes Brook. It will involve working with a computer programme to model changes along stretches of the river to determine which will have the most/best impact on water quality.

The group had their first meeting, to learn more about the project, on 19th September at Palmers Green Library. However, more meetings are planned, as this is only the beginning of the project, which is scheduled to continue until March 2018.

More volunteers are needed, but no prior experience is necessary – just a willingness to learn new skills, develop basic computer knowledge and help improve London’s rivers.

If you are interested, there is more information on the Thames21 website (<https://www.thames21.org.uk/community-modelling/>) or e-mail Rosie Nelson, the Community Modelling Officer at Thames 21: Rosie.Nelson@thames21.org.uk), or telephone 07826 913261.



OPEN MEETING – Saturday 28th October 2017

London Recorded by Camera: Street Photography in the East End *A talk by Stefan Dickers*

Our speaker will be Stefan Dickers, Special Collections and Archives Manager at the Bishopsgate Institute. He will present a history of street photography in the East End of London, from the 1850s to the present day.

Stefan looks after its numerous collections on London History. He started at the Institute in 2005 and has previously worked in the archives of the London School of Economics and Senate House Library.

The East End of London has played a central role in the development of photography where the social conditions of the area and its people have fascinated generations of photographers in their work. Using the extensive collections on London History held at Bishopsgate Institute, this talk will explore the development of street photography from the 1850s, when fledgling photographers attempted to catch the flourishing docks and shipyards of the Isle of Dogs, to the work of their contemporary counterparts.

PLANNING GROUP REPORT

31st May – There were 10 applications, including one for a proposed fourth cottage next to No. 3 Woodside Cottages on Church Hill, N21. There was an application for demolition of Capitol House, Green Lanes, N21 and a development to flats. Representatives from the development were invited to discuss it with us at our planning meeting. This is not in a Conservation Area, but was considered in an important position in our area for us to comment upon. There was a Hadley Wood Study Group update.

5th July – There were 7 applications, including 1 & 2 Station Parade, Southgate Circus, N14, for a change of use to a Nando's Chicken Restaurant. Included also was 106-110 Crown Lane N14 for installation of a shop front and security shutter for the proposed extension to the existing shop of Fio's Food Centre. 106 Crown Lane had a separate application to be added to Fio's Food shop, having been a restaurant. Both of these are in prominent positions on corner plots in view of the listed station in Southgate Circus. There were applications for four new style telephone kiosks in close proximity to each other in Southgate Circus CA, and we objected to them.

2nd August – There were 5 applications. One was for a new house build proposed on Public Open Space in Hoppers Road, N21 that had been sold by the Council. The proposed Cottage on Church Hill, N.21 had been refused planning permission. 1 Station Parade N14 was granted approval.

30th August – There were 5 applications. 1 & 2 Station Parade was pursuant to plant equipment on the roof of the building.

Irene Stone
Group Chairman

HISTORY GROUP MEETING 14th NOV. - Britain on Film: Rural Life (75 mins.)

This film takes audiences down the country lanes of the past, meandering through the dwindling customs of another era. Relive the work of the local blacksmith preparing shoes for the horses that will plough the fields, and the shepherd's trials as he protects his flock from an encroaching storm. Be swept up in the homemade entertainment and giggles of children at the country fair and the joyful freedoms of the dance in the village hall.

Touching on all the technological, industrial and social changes that affected our countryside throughout the 20th century, these films evoke and encourage not only nostalgia, but also broader and more meaningful reflections on the nature of rural life and village communities in the UK today.

HISTORY GROUP MEETING SEPT. 2017

“Enfield Local Studies & Archive”

by John Clark

This collection of historical documents was started locally in the 1950s with David Pam. He was joined in the 1970s by Graham Dalling, located in the basement of Southgate Town Hall in Palmers Green. More recently the Local Studies and Archive was re-located to the Dugdale Centre in Enfield Town. The archive now comes under the Libraries department of Enfield Council. It is an extensive collection, with a card index file by name and subject. 40% of the enquiries at the archive relate to local history.

The oldest document in the collection dates from 1271, which John had brought with him and circulated. To preserve material such as this the storage area in the archive is temperature and humidity controlled, and documents are kept in lightproof archive quality boxes, which also prevent damage from gases such as sulphur dioxide. Materials also have to be protected from pests. Insects will eat cellulose and leather, while mice chew up anything. Another item brought from the archive to show us was the Enfield Vestry Minute Book from 1671-91, so this book was in use just after the Great Fire of London. This was the first Council in the area.

It has been suggested that all our archives could be digitised, and accessed remotely. In fact, this is a complicated, risky and expensive process. Photographs, documents and books can be scanned, but need a platform to index and catalogue them. However, the process has been started. There is a new catalogue platform, which Enfield Archives are using, called CALM, and about 33% of Enfield's records have now been catalogued. This is ongoing, with the help of volunteers, but it is very time consuming. There are 200 plans and maps, mainly covering Southgate and Enfield, and many of these have to be sent away for scanning, as they are so large. The documents scanned so far can be accessed on the Libraries page of the Enfield Borough website.

Another problem with digitisation is what media to store the material in. Over the years, various media becomes obsolete, such as cassette tapes and DVDs. Archivists would like to be sure that the digitised material will still be readable in the future, but this will depend on whether digital readers still exist to read it.

Digitisation will preserve and protect the material in documents, but is no substitute for holding the actual object. An example John showed was a Log Book of Chesterfield Primary School from 1944. This had been found in rubble after a V1 bomb had fallen nearby in WW2. The damage to the covers from the blast could clearly be seen and felt.

There is an accreditation system for local archives, run by The National Archives, and Enfield are complying with this. The archive also supports other heritage projects. These include the commemoration of local Victoria Cross winners from World War 1, (see page 4 of this newsletter), and next year's celebration of 100 years since women were first allowed to vote.

If we were interested in having a tour of the archive, John offered to take groups of seven or eight round it on a Monday or Friday, when it was usually closed to the public. (Contact me to register your interest). This talk gave us an insight into the complexity of preserving archive material, but how valuable it is as a resource for present and future generations.

Colin Barratt

GRANGE PARK METHODIST CHURCH



The Methodists in Grange Park are proud to worship in a striking Art Deco building, built and opened on June 18th 1938. The architect was Charles H Brightiff A.R.I.B.A.

Art Deco began in Europe, but by 1939 there were examples in every continent and almost every city. The inter-war period saw development of large areas of suburbia and Grange Park was one such area.

Art Deco was not a style much associated with religious building, because the 20's and 30's were not a period of church expansion. However, in a series of books written by Arthur Mee about the English way of life and the English people entitled 'The King's England' the volume about Middlesex reads:

"At Grange Park there is a fine church building built by the Methodists called THE CHURCH IN THE ORCHARD". The site was once an orchard and an apple tree carved in stone above the entrance reminds us of that.

A quote from Pevsner "Architectural Guides London North" says 'A striking Art Deco building on a corner site; brick built with square buttresses, a square West tower and rectangular windows in emphatic surrounds. The plain cubic forms relieved by stone carving of a Tree of Life over South and North doorways. Attractive and consistent interior; with gently ramped nave, ceiling with undulating profile, pretty pierced timber screens above the transepts and lower east end. The windows all with geometric patterns of yellow glass'.

The Church has Sunday Morning services each week at 11.00am and is open every Wednesday for visits between 10.00am and 11.30am. Classical concerts are held monthly during the spring, summer and autumn, everyone is welcome.

Contact the website; www.grangeparkmethodistchurch.com

Eileen Nicholls

Have you thought about Christmas presents yet?



I know it is only October and it might seem a bit early, but as this is our last newsletter in 2017, it seemed a good time to make a pressie suggestion!

Why not give a gift of membership to Southgate District Civic Trust to your friends and family? As a special offer, if you buy membership now, it will last right through to 31st March 2019.

It has to be better than new socks or hankies!

For an application form or more information e-mail info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk, or go to the [MEMBERSHIP](http://www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk) page on the website (www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk).

