

Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter
No. 248
April 2019



www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk

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COMING EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **Saturday 27th April 2019 at 2.30 pm** Walker Lower Hall, Christ Church Parish Centre, 7 The Green, Southgate, N14

Please come to the AGM, and tell us what you think about the Trust, and its work. Details about the meeting and election of officers are on **pages 2 and 3**. Please note particularly the message from our Chair, Graham Davis.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

This year all members will have received renewal forms in the post.

See Joe Studman's note on **page 4**.

HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 14th May 2019
at 7.30pm

Friends Meeting House, Church Hill, N21

“Rural Life”

A compilation of films from the Independent
Cinema Office

(See **page 11** for details)

MEMBERS FREE, VISITORS £2.00

Other Dates for your Diary:

Mon. 6th May	Christ Church May Fair	(See page 11 for details)
Sun. 1st Sept.	Palmer's Green Festival, Broomfield Park	
Tues. 10th Sept.	Local History Meeting at Friends Meeting House	(Details TBA)

Contributions to the July newsletter should be sent by Friday 14th June 2019

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 July 2019**.

Southgate District Civic Trust ~ Established to conserve and enhance the environment in Southgate, New Southgate, Cockfosters, Palmer's Green, Winchmore Hill and Hadley Wood.
(Registered as an amenity society with **Civic Voice**).

SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 27th April 2019 at 2.30 pm
Walker Lower Hall, Christ Church Parish Centre
7 The Green, Southgate, N14 7EG

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is essential to the successful functioning of the Southgate District Civic Trust (SDCT). It is when our members elect the officers and committee for the coming year. It is also an opportunity to talk about our projects, help plan the coming year and SDCT's future strategy and campaigns. Please come to support your Executive Committee, who are working on your behalf.

The meeting will follow the procedure started last year, which made the AGM more interesting and quicker, without losing oversight by members. We intend to keep to fewer and shorter reports, so that they do not repeat information already reported in the newsletters. The reports will be distributed by e-mail *prior* to the AGM rather than being read out in full at the meeting. For members without e-mail printed copies will be available at the meeting. These changes will give the majority of members an opportunity to read the reports in advance, so the meeting can focus on questions or important decisions.

After the formal business of the AGM, there will be a presentation of the *Graham Beech Memorial Award*.

Following a break for tea or coffee and cake, we will be showing a selection of local history films about the area.

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2019/2020

Message from Graham Davis, Chair:

Jane Maggs stepping down from the post of Secretary leaves us with a major problem. A successor has not emerged. We desperately need one or probably several people to take on some of Jane's role at the centre of our organisation. If members do not volunteer to help it will be difficult to keep the Trust functioning as it has been. This would be a great loss to the local community. We consistently punch above our weight, raising and commenting on issues of local concern. So this is a plea. Please offer to help, even if only in some small way. Jane or I would be happy to discuss how you might help.

The following positions are elected at the AGM:

President

Vice-Presidents

Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Newsletter Editor

Publicity Officer

Committee Members (6 in total)

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

We would like to invite nominations for the position of **Publicity Officer**, as this post has been unfilled for many years and only partially covered by other members of the committee. Now that we are involved in so many more campaigns and projects, we need to broadcast to the world what we are doing.

The role of the Publicity Officer is to publicise the work and activities of the SDCT, working with the web master and others to create appropriate material for social media, posters and advertising.

Also, a reminder: I will **NOT** be standing as Secretary at this AGM. So, we need someone to take on some or all aspects of this role.

As well as committee members we do need volunteers to help. You may not want to join the committee, but could you help with the Newsletter, Planning Group, marketing, website, organising talks or visits.

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

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

Jane Maggs

NOMINATION FORM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 27th April 2019

To: Secretary Southgate District Civic Trust 108 Chelmsford Road, Southgate N14 4JL	From: (Your name & address)
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Or via info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk

I wish to nominate _____ for election as:

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

A Member of the Executive Committee

(Delete as appropriate)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

I agree to be nominated for the above position.

Signed: _____

Address: _____

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2019/20

By now you should have received a personalised renewal form in the post for you to complete and return using the s.a.e. enclosed with it.

If you did not receive yours please contact the membership secretary urgently.

THANK YOU

for those forms already returned and your generous donations.

Joe Studman, Membership Secretary
Southgate District Civic Trust
15 Calder Close, Enfield, EN1 3TS
info@southgatedistrictcivictrust

CIVIC VOICE & WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

We are delighted that Sarah James from Civic Voice is on *The Planner* Women of influence list for 2019. Having worked with Sarah for a number of years, I know this is a well-deserved award.

The aim of the Women of Influence list, released every year on International Women's Day, is not to tell us who they think the 'best' women in planning are, but to celebrate the impact of women on planning and planners. As a result, some women are on the list because they've had a significant influence on national planning policy, others because they've inspired the planners who work with them.

To see more about this years list and the amazing women included see:

<https://www.theplanner.co.uk/features/women-of-influence-2019>



Sarah James

Photo: courtesy Civic Voice

Jane Maggs

DRAFT LOCAL PLAN AND DRAFT HERITAGE STATEMENT

On 4th February a group of members met to discuss our response to the Enfield draft local plan and heritage statement. We had a lively and productive debate on a range of issues and concerns with the plans. Following this meeting SDCT pulled together everyone's views and sent a response to Enfield Council on behalf of members.

We now await the next stage in the process.

Our response is too large for the newsletter, but if you would like a copy, please contact me and I will send it on to you.

Jane Maggs

SOUTHGATE TOWN HALL STAFF WAR MEMORIALS

Unveiled in their new home



The Southgate Town Hall Staff War Memorials, originally situated in the main entrance to Southgate Town Hall, commemorate employees of Southgate Council who died in action in the two World Wars. They now have a new home in Palmers Green Library, Broomfield Lane, Palmers Green N13 4EY.

The memorials were formally unveiled by The Mayor of Enfield, Cllr Saray Karakus, as part of a moving ceremony in the Palmers Green library at 11am on 30th January 2019, in the presence of relatives of some of the fallen. The names of all the men commemorated were read to the assembled gathering, as well as readings from 'For the Fallen' and the 'Kohima epitaph'. The bugler sounded 'The Last Post'.

We were pleased to be joined at this ceremony by members of Southgate District Civic Trust, staff from Enfield Library and Enfield Museum, local community groups, as well as Civic Voice. Joanne McCartney our Assembly Member and a number of Councillors representing wards that formed part of the old Southgate Municipal Borough were also present.

The military were represented by members of the 4th Battalion, Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and a bugler from The Welsh Guards.

The War memorials were removed from Southgate Town Hall in 2012, by Museum of Enfield staff when the building was acquired for residential accommodation. They remained in storage until they were placed in the Palmers Green Library, next door to the old Town Hall on 9th November 2018.

We are delighted that through the work of Southgate District Civic Trust members, staff from The Museum of Enfield, Enfield Library and the Local Studies team these memorials have been restored and are back on display.

Southgate District Civic Trust have produced a booklet to mark the event, which includes details of all the fallen, with a brief biography of each person. This was presented to everyone who came to the ceremony. We will make further copies available at future meetings.





POSTSCRIPT

It was known that there would be relatives of three of the men on the memorials at the ceremony, but it came to light that, unknown even to herself until the event, someone present was connected to another of the men, whose name was Tom Barry. It was his nephew's wife, Cllr Dinah Barry, who was at the ceremony in her capacity as a Ward Councillor on Enfield Council.

When she saw the information about Tom Barry in the booklet about the men, Dinah spoke to Eileen Bostle, who had done the research for it, and said she thought Tom, who came originally from Bradford, might be related to her husband John, whose family background is in the same city. This seemed fairly unlikely given that Barry is quite a common surname in Bradford, but discussion by email involving Dinah, her husband's sister Diana Kent, and Eileen, soon established that Dinah was right and that John is Tom's nephew.

Amazingly, Tom and John Barry came to Southgate for completely different reasons and at totally different times. Tom was appointed by Southgate Borough Council to the post of Superintendent at Barrowell Green Swimming Pool in 1940, and lived in the adjacent Bath Cottage with his wife and daughter. He was called up into the Navy the following year, and died when his ship was bombed during the Dieppe Raid in 1942. His body was brought back to Southgate, and he is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission section of the cemetery in Waterfall Road. His nephew John grew up in Maidstone and attended London University, where he met Dinah. They lived in various places in North London before coming to Enfield in 1980, knowing nothing about Tom's connection with the area.



The final coincidence is that the north side of Barrowell Green, where the swimming pool and Bath Cottage were, is in Winchmore Hill ward which Dinah represents.

Thanks to Diana Kent we now have a photograph of Tom Barry, with his wife Elsie and daughter Sheila.

Elaine Tyler

WILLIAM MORRIS (AND A FEW FRIENDS) IN SOUTHGATE

Spring Open Meeting Saturday 23rd March 2019

At this Open Meeting we were based in Christ Church Southgate, for a whole afternoon devoted to **William Morris**, the English Arts and Crafts designer and early socialist.

The afternoon started with a tour of Grade II* listed Christ Church by **Fr Chrichton Limbert**. As there were considerably more people than we had expected, it was a bit of a challenge to lead so many people round the church, but as Chrichton was such a great speaker, we all managed to see the wonderful artworks and building. He gave us a real insight into the history of the church, it's context socially, as well as showing us works by William Morris, Burne Jones, Ford Maddox Brown and Rossetti, including the Morris self-portrait. It was fascinating to understand how they came to be in the church and the pioneering processes used to create them, even if in one case it cost the church an extra 10 shillings!



After the tour, we all took our seats in the pews to hear **Ainsley Vinall**, Assistant Curator at the William Morris Gallery talking about William Morris himself. He started by outlining Morris' early life as he had originally been training for the church. While at Oxford, Morris mixed with poets and artists, so decided on a change of direction, not exactly welcomed by his mother. It was during this time he met many of the artists he would work with closely in the future. We were given a fascinating description of his life, family, art and politics. However in the end what made him stand out and be so successful was his business acumen.



Ainsley then talked about the award winning William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow, opened in 1950 by the local MP, Prime Minister Clement Attlee. It is based in the Grade II* listed building that was the home of the Morris family from 1848 to 1856. In 2012, after a major redevelopment the museum reopened to the public. Ainsley talked about their archive, the ethos behind the collections and some of the exhibitions arranged both at the gallery and abroad.

During the course of the afternoon we all gained a unique insight into these jewels of Southgate and the man behind them. It was a splendid afternoon – thank you to our speakers and everyone involved.



The William Morris Gallery is well worth a visit, so SDCT is arranging a **curator tour** for the afternoon of **Saturday 11th May**.

The tour will be free, but you must book. There are limited places available, but we may arrange two tours if enough people are interested.



To book please contact me by e-mail at info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk or phone on 020 8882 4253.

Jane Maggs

Photos: courtesy Mervyn Maggs

A NEW CONSTITUTION

During the 2018 AGM, members voted to change our Society's name to *Southgate District Civic Voice*. This change has meant a review of many aspects of our society, with one of the most critical being our constitution.

The last review of the Constitution was 26 years ago in 1993; a lot has happened since then! So, this seemed an ideal opportunity to bring the whole constitution up to date in order to reflect how we see our role today. Not only that we wanted to use a plainer, more relevant language.

The intention of the Executive Committee is that there will be a motion raised at the AGM to accept this new Constitution.

A copy of the draft is attached with this newsletter for you to review before the meeting. The current constitution can be found here on our website: http://southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk/?page_id=138. If you do not have access to the website, please call me (020 8882 4253) and I will send you a copy. Copies of both current and proposed constitutions will be available at the AGM.

If you have any comments please let me have them as soon as possible so the Executive Committee can consider any possible revisions.

info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk

Jane Maggs
020 8882 4253

SDCT VISIT TO PIXEL PRESS

In last October's newsletter, we explained how a large number of letterpress printing plates had been donated to the Trust and that a printer had been found who was able and willing to print them for us. He invited a group to visit his works (Pixel Press) and try the equipment for themselves.

SDCT had a brilliant afternoon printing images from some of the Palmers Green Gazette printing plates that were donated.

We all gained a fascinating insight into how these plates were originally printed in the newspaper and the images considered newsworthy at the time. There are quite a few plates, so we plan to print some of them for display at future meetings.



We are grateful to both David and Julieta, from Pixel Press who gave us so much of their time and expertise. We also have to thank Stan Rondeau, who found David through his Huguenot connections!

Pictures: courtesy of Mervyn Maggs

Jane Maggs



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP (APPG) FOR CIVIC SOCIETIES

These APPG meetings are organised by Civic Voice and chaired by Craig Mackinlay MP. As a member of Civic Voice, SDCT is able to attend these meetings in Parliament. It is a mark of the influence Civic Voice now has, that the speakers are MPs, Ministers and peers from across all parties.

25th February 2019: Putting communities at the heart of high streets

The meeting was quite brief, but packed with information from a knowledgeable group of speakers.

Jake Berry MP (Minister MHCLG for High Streets) discussed the Governments thinking on High Streets. The Portas report is about eight years old and since it was written much has changed on our high streets, particularly the impact of online shopping. The government has commissioned the Timpson report for a new strategy intended to rethink the High Street.



He asked what is our high street for? What will it look like in 5, 10, 15 or 20 years? Stating that it is key that local people and local groups are involved in any decisions and planning.

There were a number of questions raised from the floor, in particular about permitted development rights (PDR) converting offices into housing. Inevitably he stated this policy has created many new homes, but did not respond to the comment that PDR conversions are building the slums of the future. He seemed to dismiss the genuine concerns raised and implied that it was a London centric issue, not relevant elsewhere. However, an audience member, a RIBA architect, stated that PDR is removing sub standard offices, but raised concerns about the financial viability of conversion. An interesting view on this controversial policy.

The other speakers were: **Louise Brennan** (Historic England – Midlands) and **Emma Robinson** (Barnes Community Assn. & town centre manager). They both talked about the role heritage can play in the High Street as a ‘pull’ factor - breathing life back into our towns and cities. We were given lots of interesting and practical ideas based on their experiences working with the local community to regenerate high streets. It was very clear that it takes time and energy, but they had some useful ideas to make things happen.

27th March 2019: Public participation in the Planning System

There was standing room only at this meeting, with a group of speakers, who generated a meaningful debate with the audience.

Roberta Blackman-Woods MP (Shadow Minister for Planning) talked about the Labour Planning Commission (www.labourplanningcommission.co.uk).



This interesting new commission is consulting with all groups involved in planning, including community groups. Whilst recognising some recent Government ideas are good, they had a number of concerns. The commission’s aim is to get back to basics and drive up standards to plan for the future. As she said, everyone understands the need for housing, but it must be of sufficient high quality.

The other speakers: **Gavin Parker** (Professor of Planning Studies, Reading University), **Andrew Taylor** (Director, Countryside Properties), **David Knight** (Director, DK-CM) and **Nick Raynsford** (President, Town & Country Planning Association) explained other aspects of the current planning system, which they compared to the system in other countries. Andrew Taylor gave a different perspective i.e. from the developer's viewpoint, a helpful insight.

The conclusions were that the Local Plan is important in reflecting what is key to a particular area, plus people need to believe their concerns are taken seriously and will not be ignored.

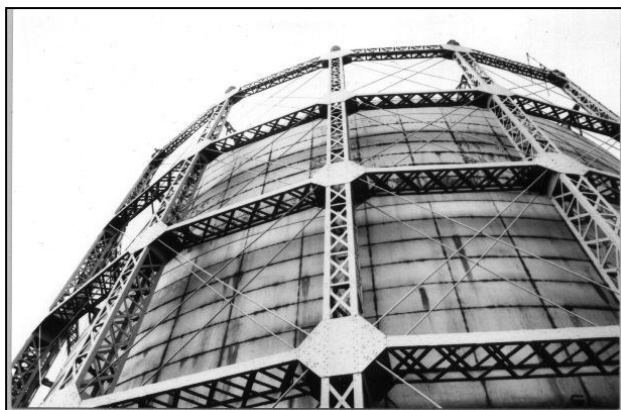
Jane Maggs

Photo: Jake Berry MP & Craig Mackinlay MP courtesy Civic Voice

PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF A LOCAL LANDMARK

In 1859 the district of Colney Hatch was expanding. The main reasons for this were the opening of the huge Pauper Lunatic Asylum in 1851 and a new rail station being opened next to it. Gas was needed to supply the new houses being built in the area, so a gas works was built next to the railway, just south of the station, so that coal could be delivered by rail to the works.

It had the grand name of The Southgate and Colney Hatch GasLight and Coke Company, but was only a small operation at first, with just 65 consumers and 3 miles of mains. It produced about 1.5 million cubic feet of gas in its first year and had two small gas holders to store it.



In the 1870s the district had been renamed New Southgate and by the early 20th century the works had increased production to 105 million cubic feet a year and two new larger gas holders had been added. Then in 1912 the largest of the three holders was built. After another forty years production was over 1500 cubic feet a year, but in the 1960s, when natural gas was discovered in the North Sea, it was the beginning of the end for traditional coal gas and the works at New Southgate closed in 1972.

The site was demolished and a Homebase DIY store and car park was built over it. The only remaining link with the former gas works was its largest gas holder, overlooking the North Circular Road, which continued to be used for storage of natural gas until 2001. It was then decommissioned, but remained in a working condition, in case it was needed again.

At that time, it was intended to demolish it in the near future, so my Local History Society arranged with then owners Transco for a guided tour of the site before it disappeared. For whatever reason the demolition never happened. However, in the last few weeks it was announced by current owners National Grid that they now intend to demolish this iconic gas holder.

They are keen to give local groups an opportunity to remember the gas holder in some way. Some of the things that they have done on similar projects have included holding heritage events where local people have come along to talk about their memories of living near the gas holder and record them for posterity, saving parts of the gas holder for museums or local heritage groups and working with local schools to have tours of the site and create artwork of the structure.

Another tour has been arranged for a small group from the Local History Society and others who used to live near it. I expect this really will be the last time the site can be visited and with the Homebase store also closing earlier this year, that corner of New Southgate will soon look very different.

Colin Barratt

LOCAL HISTORY MEETING Tues. 14th May 2019 at 7.30pm.

“Rural Life” - a DVD from the Britain on Film series

This DVD is a compilation of films obtained from the Independent Cinema Office, in conjunction with the British Film Institute. These films provide an evocative look at the customs of another era: the blacksmith, the shepherd, country fairs and dancing. It covers the technological, industrial and social changes in Britain through the 20th century. It lasts 75 mins.



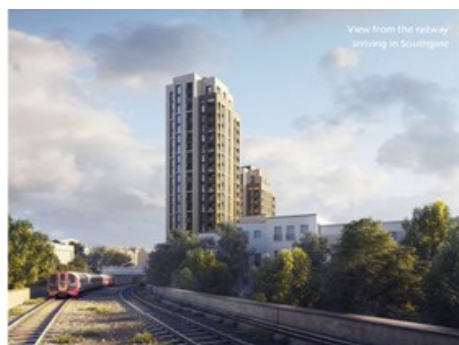
Please note that we have been able to return to the earlier start time of **7.30pm**, which will allow us time for refreshments and a chat afterwards.

Colin Barratt

SOUTHGATE OFFICE VILLAGE, CHASE ROAD

The owners of the Southgate Office Village have for some time been exploring options to redevelop this site. Recently they held a public consultation to present their ideas to the community.

The plans include a mixed-use development with both offices and housing. Something that should be positive for our town centre. However, these plans have caused real concerns to all of us living in the area. They include three high-rise buildings, the largest of which is 18 storeys. The plans do not include any sustainable measures, such as solar power, green roofs or much in the way of open space. They also do not take into account the historic nature of the area, the conservation area and the iconic station.



Enfield Dispatch in March contained an article about Southgate Office Village, and included a quote from Jane Maggs on behalf of Southgate District Civic Trust: <https://enfielddispatch.co.uk/hundreds-of-new-homes-planned/>

SDCT is working on ideas to produce an alternative vision for the site and will be sending out e-news information in the near future.

Jane Maggs

CHRISTCHURCH MAY FAIR Mon. 6th May 2019

The Trust has booked a stall at the Fair again this year. We will be taking the opportunity to publicise the Trust, its projects and publications. We will need help from members to put up and man the gazebo throughout the event.

If you can help, even for an hour, please contact Richard Purver (020 8882 0123 or via info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk).

