

Southgate District Civic Voice

Newsletter No. 252
April 2020

www.southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk

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Due to the Coronavirus pandemic our meetings shown below, scheduled for this Spring, have been cancelled or postponed:

Sat. 28th March - Open Meeting, the talk by Nick Dobson on “An Underground Guide to Historical London”. We hope to rebook Nick for a future date.

Tues. 12th May - Local History Meeting. We are hoping that the meeting on Tues. 8th Sept. will still go ahead.

Sat. 16th May - SDCV AGM and talk by Dr Helen Fry. Postponed until a later date. (See page 3).

Please Stay Safe

Follow the Government’s instructions, to reduce the chances of our members and our community suffering from this virus.

(See page 3 re Coronavirus Scams)



Curious cows at Slopers Pond Farm, during the tree planting day.

(See page 7)

We still intend to produce a July newsletter and contributions should be sent by Friday 19th June 2020
to the Editor: Colin Barratt, 48 Maplin Close, Winchmore Hill, London, N21 1NB
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Copies will be emailed, hand delivered or posted during week commencing **6th July 2020.**

Southgate District Civic Voice ~ 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

This is Civic Voice's 10th year, so there was a lot planned, but like all other organisations, they have changed their plans for the coming year. As a result, the APPG in March was cancelled and the 10th Year Conference in Blackpool has been rearranged for 4th & 5th September. More details when they are available.

Civic Voice Members and Board Awayday 29th February



On Saturday 29th February, about 20 of us went to Birmingham for a discussion on civic society issues and concerns. This meeting forms part of Civic Voice developing a new 3-5 year strategy.

Photo: Delegates at the Civic Voice awayday, courtesy Civic Voice

Over the past three years, Civic Voice have been making the organisation more resilient, by focusing on a set number of campaigns, strengthening the role of the APPG for Civic Societies and managing the decline of programmes that no longer fit into the longer-term aims. This has been challenging, but has meant that it has become a more resilient organisation, and enhanced its reputation with Government.

Where next is the key and the purpose of this event. With the increased focus on town centres, conservation areas and housing, we considered what should be the priority, as well as how they continue to support civic societies. The answer is that there is no easy answer and nor should there be, but what is important is that we as members remain confident and committed to what Civic Voice is doing. Civic Voice is just one part of the civic movement, but working together makes us all stronger. More on this in future newsletters.

Civic Voice AGM

A number of SDCV members attended the Civic Voice AGM on 21st January at the magnificent Senate House.

At this meeting, the Civic Voice 2019 review was launched. It was gratifying to see that our Southgate Office Village community workshop was featured. To see the full report go to:

<http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/resources/civic-voice-review-2019/>



Giving power back to the people

Responding to local concerns about a proposed 17-storey tower in the centre of Southgate, Southgate District Civic Voice (SDCV) organised a community planning workshop to help people understand the proposed proposals and have their say.

Hosted by SDCV and independently facilitated by Civic Voice, the Civic Day event on Saturday 22 June enabled visitors to take part in facilitated workshops and special hands-on activities, view an exhibition of the proposed site, meet other members of the community and share local knowledge.

The event, which was open to the public and widely advertised, was an overwhelming success with over 300 people participating including local residents, businesses, councillors, the local MP and the Deputy Mayor for London. The event helped the local community to discuss, debate and share local knowledge to inform a community response to the planning application. It also raised the profile of SDCV and led to new members. There was also an associated online survey about attitudes to the scheme, which attracted 240 responses.

Civic Voice analysed all the feedback and presented the results to a second public meeting on Monday evening. Overall SDCV were supportive of redevelopment of the site, on what they see as a sustainable location, but felt that the engagement with the community had not been as meaningful as it could have been. The feedback has been submitted to Enfield Council and the developer and it is hoped that the scheme will be revised to be more in keeping with the character of the area.

It is clear that by working with civic societies and using local networks a huge amount can be achieved.

As the community workshop demonstrates to us that communities, when given the opportunity and support, can come together and put forward appropriate recommendations. For the planning developers have accepted this local community we will continue to make the case for the enabling role of civic societies.

For more, Executive Director, Civic Voice

As the enthusiastic response to the weekend demonstrates how much people care about the future of Southgate. The challenge remains as to how we can move the conversation away from confrontation into one of collaboration. In doing so, rebuilding public trust about the future and confidence of the planning system.

see: Mayor, Southgate District Civic Voice

This report came out just before the Southgate Office Village planning panel. So I was able to show it to the panel and let them know that what happened on this site was being watched by civic societies around the country, as well as MPs, peers and government ministers!

Jane Maggs

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – important update

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) due to be held on 16th May has been postponed. It will be rearranged as soon as it is appropriate to do so and all members will be informed.

As a temporary measure, all those on the Executive Committee will remain in post until the AGM is held. We will not be meeting in person for the time being, but are exploring other appropriate ways to keep the organisation running as smoothly as possible.

In the meantime, perhaps consider joining the committee. Meetings are held approx. every two months, with e-mail discussion and updates between members in between. Importantly, the post of Secretary remains vacant - perhaps **you** could volunteer! Although we have managed during this year, it is clear that our society does not run as smoothly without a secretary. Please give it some thought!

If you would like to discuss further please e-mail info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk and I will be happy to chat.

Jane Maggs

SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC VOICE MEETINGS

Sadly due to the coronavirus we had to cancel the Spring Open Meeting and at present cannot arrange any future meetings. We hope to return with a new programme of events as soon as is possible, but it is clear that we will be unable to meet for some time.

We hope that everyone stays safe and well during this exceptional time.

SDCV will continue to send E-news updates and post on Facebook and Twitter at intervals. If you do not receive E-news updates and would like to, please send your e-mail address to info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk.

Jane Maggs

CORONAVIRUS SCAMS UPDATE

A recent message from Cllr Dinah Barry, sadly reminds us that there are people out there who are taking advantage of the situation. The advice from police: do not click on links or attachments in suspicious emails; never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for personal or financial details.

Be extremely wary of anyone offering you a deal out of the blue. If an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is. Always question it.

You can report fraud or cybercrime to Action Fraud any time using its online reporting tool at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk>

THE POUND IN FOX LANE

The Pound in Fox Lane, at the junction with Bourne Hill and near the Woodman pub where its last Pinder, Henry Reed was landlord, is a reminder of the days when the district had a population of farm animals, horses and a miscellany of domestic species. If animals went astray and were successfully apprehended they would be kept at the pound awaiting their owner, to whom they were released for a fee.

Southgate Urban District Council took over the Pound in 1904, the last year it was in use and its successor Borough of Southgate commemorated its history on a small plaque placed to the north of the enclosure. This bears the borough's coat of arms, one I missed in my survey of surviving examples in Newsletter 238 (October 2016).



There are detailed accounts of the pound in *The Story of Southgate* by Tom Mason (1948), Alan Dumayne's *Once Upon a Time in Palmers Green* (1988), Southgate District Civic Trust newsletters for April 1997 and April 2000 and in an article *Taking Care of the Pound in Oakleaves 3* (SDCT, 2004), which describes its restoration and improvements to the setting by Enfield Council. This was achieved with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (£20,000), the Trust (£1,000) and Fox Lane and District Residents' Association. The Trust was consulted by the council about the plans for the restoration and material for the associated interpretation panel which had text provided by the Local History Unit.



A photograph in *Oakleaves 3* shows the then Mayor of Enfield, Yasemin Brett at the opening ceremony for the restored pound on 17 April 2002 in company with an 'impounded' Shetland pony and a goose from the Wildlife Rescue Animal Sanctuary at Trent Park (the goose being described as "belligerent" and "intent on escaping" in contemporary newsletter reports).

Repairs to the fence were carried out after a car went into the south side of the pound in January 2016, taking the interpretation panel with it. Enfield is currently a funding focus area for the National Lottery Heritage Fund and a project proposal for a replacement has been put forward for consideration by them under the linked Call for Projects scheme which is being co-ordinated by the council's Heritage team.



Richard Purver

MEMORIES OF BROOMFIELD PARK RUNNING TRACK

We received these memories of the running track from Peter Owen, a former Treasurer of Southgate District Civic Trust, following Richard Purver's article in the last edition:

As a six year old my family arrived to live in Ulleswater Road in 1948 when the firm, for whom my father worked, re-located to London from The Wirral. Ulleswater Road was very convenient for me spending time in Broomfield Park, even at the young age of six.

In that summer I spent some time sitting on the concrete seating (steps) overlooking the new running track. This was an official training track for the London 1948 Olympic Games. I was lucky enough to see a number of athletes training there in preparation for the London Olympics. The athlete I watched and noticed most of all was McDonald Bailey practising his start and speed from his sprint blocks *. This took place near where I was sitting. As you can imagine this was very exciting.

I was also very lucky as my mother took me to the 1948 London Olympic Games, at the White City, if I remember correctly. (I was also lucky enough to attend Super Saturday of the 2012 London Olympics). I did not see McDonald Bailey running, but I do have memories of a tall, fast Dutch lady running and winning the 100 metres (Fanny Blankers-Koen, I think her name was). She had very large baggy shorts. One of the fond memories of my first year (1948) in London.

When I was a few years older I played a small part in the "Three Elizabeths" pageant when I was still at Hazelwood Junior School. Many other Junior Schools took part in this pageant as well.

Later I got to run officially on the track when I was at Arnos Secondary School, as that was the only cinder track available that we were able to use in the early to mid 1950s in the area of Southgate B.C. (That was the venue for many years at school for our annual sports day before we had one built on the new playing field on the school site). We really appreciated the cinder track in those days so that we could break school records. We thought we were very good competing at what we thought were really fast times!!!! Well they were fast times then!!

When I left school I was lucky enough to enter cross country running competitions with Southgate Harriers (changing room for local events was a small hut near Hilly Fields – long gone now!) Lots of interesting memories – now many years distant.

Peter R Owen

* (Editor - McDonald Bailey was born in Trinidad, but competed for Great Britain. In the 1948 London Olympics he reached the final of the 100m, but finished sixth and last. However, he later went on to jointly hold the world record for 100m in the early 1950s at 10.2 secs).

ARTICLES FOR OAKLEAVES 6

Oakleaves 1, our local history bulletin, was produced in 1987 and was followed by Oakleaves 2 in 1996, Oakleaves 3 in 2004, Oakleaves 4 in 2009 and Oakleaves 5 (winner of the LAMAS local history publications award) in 2014. All the issues have been edited by Peter Hodge, with the support of the Publications Sub-committee.

Oakleaves 3, 4 and 5 are still available and we are working on reprints of numbers 1 and 2. Pending a possible Oakleaves 6 we have published local history articles in the newsletter over the last few years but would welcome contributions from members to help us get started on a new edition. Contact me at richardpurver@hotmail.com if you would like to follow this up.

Richard Purver

SOUTHGATE OFFICE VILLAGE UPDATE

Planning Panel

The planning panel for the Southgate Office Village (SOV) development took place on Thursday 23rd January at Highlands School. This was a key meeting to allow the community and councillors to question both Enfield Planning Team officers and the applicant about the development.



The meeting was well attended and included residents and owners of local businesses, many of whom are members. Although, not everyone had an opportunity to speak, questions and statements on many different aspects of the development were asked. We are pleased that several members of our Planning Group were able to speak and ask questions. To see the minutes of the meeting go to: <https://governance.enfield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=125&MId=13294&Ver=4>

Our Campaign to Increase Feedback to the Planners

After the Planning Panel, we noticed a number of messages, which showed that there were local residents who were still unaware of the proposed development. In order to raise awareness and encourage more people to write in to the council, the SDCV Planning Group started a new campaign.

In addition to our normal E-news and social media, we were delighted that members (of all ages) were able to distribute close to 2,000 leaflets to homes and businesses in the local area. Thank you to everyone who helped out it was a brilliant campaign, which successfully generated a lot of response.



Photo of leaflet deliverer courtesy of Andy Stebbing

Planning Committee Meeting

We do not know when the planning committee will formally consider this application. Their meetings are continuing, because they are a statutory requirement for the council, but due to understandable safety concerns, members of the public are no longer allowed to be present. The SDCV Planning Group will continue to monitor the situation and will let members know any news via SDCV E-news bulletins.

Jane Maggs

THE LONDON FORUM OF AMENITY SOCIETIES

Southgate District Civic Voice is a member of the London Forum of Amenity Societies. They produce a regular newsletter and other information that will impact civic societies in London. To see their latest newsletter go to: <https://www.londonforum.org.uk/newsforum/newsforum84.pdf>

TREE PLANTING AT SLOPERS POND FARM on Saturday 14th March

Stephen Haywood from Thames21 returned with volunteers to Slopers Pond Farm, the farm of Elaine & Robert Hayward, to plant trees as part of the Salmons Brook Natural Flood Management project.

The volunteers planted nearly 2,000 trees that day, which will help to ‘slow the flow’ in flood conditions and improve biodiversity in the Greenbelt. It was a great, but muddy day out in the countryside, but with lots of sun and fun.



We look forward to the next lot of tree planting in the autumn!

Jane Maggs



Photos: courtesy Mervyn Maggs

CIVIC VOICE & WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

We are delighted that for the 4th year in a row, Sarah James from Civic Voice has been selected by *The Planner* as a ‘Planning Sector Women of influence’ for 2020.

Sarah has provided much needed help and support to SDCV over a number of years. This is a well-deserved award.

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

<https://www.theplanner.co.uk/features/women-of-influence-2020>



Photo: Sarah James at the Southgate Office Village Community Workshop; courtesy Mervyn Maggs

Jane Maggs

