

Southgate District Civic Voice

Newsletter No. 254
Oct. 2020

www.southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org

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COMING EVENTS

OPEN MEETINGS (on Zoom):

Autumn **Tues. 20th October 7.30pm**
“Enfield Chase Restoration Project”

Winter **Sat. 14th November 2.30pm**
“An Underground Guide to Historical London”

Spring 2021 **Sat. 27th March 2.30pm**
“150 Years of the Great Northern Railway”
(on Zoom or perhaps in person)

(See pages 4 and 5 for details)

SEE ALSO INSIDE:

A Wetlands for Oakwood Park (page 4)

This Local Landmark Is No More (page 7)

History of St Andrew’s Church and School (pages 8-11)

Contributions to the January newsletter should be sent by Friday 14th December 2020
to the Editor: Colin Barratt, 48 Maplin Close, Winchmore Hill, London, N21 1NB
Tel: 0208 360 3979. e-mail: newsletter@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org

Note:- Copies will be emailed, hand delivered or posted during week commencing **11th January 2021**

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**).

THE 2020 SDCV VIRTUAL AGM

After a strange year, where everything has been paused, SDCV finally held the AGM delayed from April. As we are still in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the AGM was held virtually for the first time, via the wonders of Zoom.

We were pleased that over 20 signed in to the meeting.

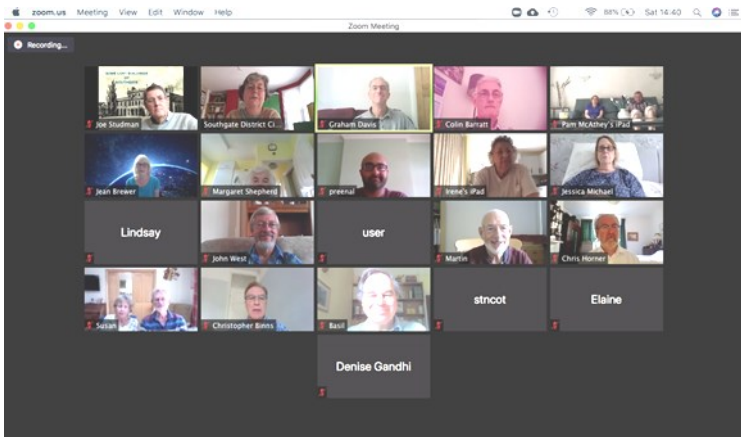


Photo: screen shot of some of the attendees

I am relieved that after we sorted the hand raising and waving, it all went relatively smoothly. My thanks to the patience and good humour shown by all.

Meeting reports and the minutes from last year were sent out electronically to members prior to the AGM. Printed copies have been included with printed newsletters posted to members without email addresses.

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2020/2021

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

President	<i>remains vacant</i>
Vice-Presidents	Audrey Kirby Peter Hodge Chris Howell
Chair, Executive Committee	Graham Davis
Secretary	<i>remains vacant</i>
Treasurer	Elaine Tyler
Membership Secretary	Joe Studman
Newsletter Editor	Colin Barratt
Publicity Officer	Preenal Gondhea

Committee Members (up to 6 members)

Chris Binns	Eileen Bostle
Chris Horner	Jane Maggs
Richard Purver	

We are delighted to welcome Preenal Gondhea (new Publicity Officer) and Chris Binns to the committee.

Regrettably the post of Secretary remains unfilled, but if you are interested in taking on any of the SDCV admin, please contact Jane Maggs.

Vice Chairs are agreed by the Executive Committee at the first meeting after the AGM. Both Chris Horner and Jane Maggs have agreed to stand again.

The formal part of the AGM was followed by a talk from **Joe Studman** on “*Some lost buildings of Southgate*”. Joe gave an interesting and entertaining look at some of the buildings around our area that have been lost to development, or in some cases because local landowners just decided to improve the view. It was fascinating to see the changes over the years, but also how some of these places live on in street and building names.

Jane Maggs



CIVIC VOICE UPDATE

The main focus of Civic Voice at the moment is the Government White paper on planning. They are discussing with local civic societies, Regional Forum members, others in the planning and heritage sectors about the implications of the white paper. The results of these discussions are contributing to the briefings sent out to their member societies like SDCV and to their response to the consultation.

Civic Voice have organised a series of free webinars, to go beyond the headlines in the press and explore what is actually being proposed. The main themes so far are zoning, design and strategic planning. The list is increasing as new ones are added, so rather than including an out of date list, I suggest you check out <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/campaigns/planning-for-people/>. The webinars so far have been really interesting and insightful. This is such an important change to our planning system; it is worth watching the webinars.

The Government is consulting on the proposals until 29th October 2020, but Civic Voice is aiming to submit their consultation response by w/c 19th October. The **SDCV Planning Group** is working on a response to both Civic Voice and to the Government. If you wish to be involved in the discussion, please e-mail info@SouthgateDistrictCivicVoice.org.

Jane Maggs

HEALTH AND COVID 19

Lockdown and the Covid-19 pandemic have been tough for everyone, but especially for those already battling with their mental health. A Facebook post by a friend was a timely reminder of the charity MIND, and their 24 hour helpline: 0300 123 3393.

You can find more information on their website: www.mind.org.uk

OAKWOOD PARK CONSULTATION

The council are consulting on an ambitious plan to construct a new wetland in Oakwood Park. Did you know the **Houndsdon Gutter**, runs in a culvert along the eastern edge of the park? The proposal is to un-culvert the stream, allowing it to return to a more natural flow, thereby creating an opportunity to develop various wetland areas.

There is a very clear video you can watch about the plan at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12fjPE2WTS8>

A couple of screen shots from the film showing the before and after are below:



This is an interesting proposal, and follows on from the success of wetlands in Firs Farm, Grovelands Park and Broomfield Park. It would be great to see more of the Houndsdon Gutter back in the open air.



The consultation starts on 23rd September and runs until 9th October – go to www.enfield.gov.uk/consultations to see more information and make your views known.

Jane Maggs

SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC VOICE OPEN MEETINGS

Due to the continuing coronavirus restrictions, we are still unable to meet in person. However, we are continuing with a more limited programme for the rest of 2020, using Zoom.

Zoom meetings have a limit on the number of participants, so it is important that you register in advance. Joining instructions are then sent out by e-mail a few days before the meeting.

I would appreciate, because it makes the administration easier, if you could register via Eventbrite, see links below. However, I am aware that some people had difficulties booking the AGM, so if you do have problems, please email me via info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org.

Autumn Open Meeting: Tuesday 20th October at 7.30pm

Ian Russell (Principal Engineer, Structures and Watercourses at Enfield Council)
Enfield Chase Restoration Project - Woodland Creation In Enfield



Ian will talk about an ambitious new project, with a vision to create a publicly accessible, sustainable woodland within the rural area of Enfield. This new woodland will benefit the local community as well as improve the environment of Enfield and will initially start in the Salmons Brook Valley.

The new woodland composed of mixed native species, will allow natural flood management, but will preserve the historic context of the area.

Join us to find out more about all the different aspects of this project.

To book go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/enfield-chase-restoration-project-woodland-creation-in-enfield-registration-111405952202>

Winter Open Meeting: Saturday 14th November 2.30pm

Nick Dobson - An Underground Guide to Historical London: a virtual tour of London by tube, stopping off to look at places of historical interest.

To book go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-underground-guide-to-historical-london-registration-111406872956>



Please be aware this meeting is *filling up fast*. So, to ensure some of the tickets are reserved for members, a new ticket category has been added - 'SDCV Member'. The category 'General' remains, so if you have already booked, you do not need to do anything else, as I already have you listed.

Spring 2021 Open Meeting: Saturday 27th March 2021 at 2.30pm.

We will confirm whether this will be held in a hall or via Zoom, by the next newsletter. If it is to be via Zoom, booking details will be included.



Dave Cockle – Marking 150 years of the Great Northern Railway opening their Wood Green - Enfield branch through Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill on 1st April 2021.

The coming of the railway had a profound impact on this area at the time and arguably continues to play a major role in many peoples lives. This talk will be part of our commemoration of this 150-year milestone.

SDCV are looking at a range of other ways to commemorate this event and there will be more in future newsletters.

SDCV will continue to send E-news updates and post on Facebook and Twitter at intervals about talks and other topics of interest. If you do not receive E-news updates and would like to, please send your e-mail address to info@SouthgateDistrictCivicVoice.org and I will add you to the mailing list.

Jane Maggs

Picture credits: Mervyn Maggs; Nick Dobson; Govia-Thameslink-Railway

NEW RIVER LIFE

The *New River Life* mural at Palmers Green station was painted on site by street artist Mark Anthony – known as ATM – and completed in June 2020. The six metre-long board shows species which could be present in a fresh-water environment like the New River: orange-striped stonefly; caddis fly; mayfly; grey wagtail; smooth newt; cyclops copepod; grass snake; daphnia water flea with eggs; gammarus freshwater shrimp; water shrew; pike; three-spined stickleback; banded demoiselle damselfly and kingfisher.



The mural was commissioned by the Palmers Green Action Team and funded by Govia Thameslink from its Passenger Benefit Fund as part of planned improvements to the station, which have also included to date a new hand-made station sign and box planters on the northbound platform.



I can't claim to have noticed any of the wildlife from the mural during my lockdown walks along the New River this summer (though I have seen dragonflies and kingfishers there before and possibly grey wagtail) but did come across a cormorant and a nesting coot in the stretch which leads from Hazelwood Lane to Hazelwood Recreation Ground (both pictured in May).

Richard Purver



THIS LOCAL LANDMARK IS NO MORE



In last October's newsletter I gave an update on the progress of demolition of the gas holder in New Southgate. This structure would have been a familiar landmark to countless thousands of people passing along the Pinkham Way section of the North Circular Road since the road opened in 1933. National Grid had hoped to complete the dismantling by June or July this year, but Covid-19 delayed the work.

The contractors started clearing the site in May and by September had cut up and removed the storage dome and associated structures and sucked away the water and sludge under it.

For some people this will be a welcome removal of a rusty eyesore and a blot on the area. To others it will mean the loss of an old friend, one of the few remaining links to our past local heritage. Your point of view will probably depend on how much of an emotional attachment you have



Rusty Framework

with this corner of our borough. My family's connection with New Southgate Gas Works goes back almost 140 years, and I was born literally in the shadow of this gas holder, so I was sad to see it go, although it had outlived its purpose and the land will be needed for other uses.



Partially cut up dome

On Monday 21st September they started dismantling the framework by cutting up sections and lifting them down with a large crane. Later that week I went over to watch the operation, which was fascinating. By the end of September the whole frame had been removed. Developers have already prepared plans for a residential and commercial scheme on this site. Details can be found on the website: www.yoursay.online/gasholder-site.



Dismantling the frame

As I said previously in the update article, National Grid were keen to involve the local community in remembering the gas holder and gas works here and I have discussed with them the idea of installing an interpretation board nearby, which would explain the history of the gas works and gas holder. I have also asked them for one of the finials from the top of the columns to be saved and set up next to the board as a physical reminder of the structure. This has been agreed. The Trustees of New Southgate Millennium Green opposite the site have agreed for the board to be installed on part of the Green, next to a main path through it.

It will be good to have a permanent reminder here for the present local residents to see, who may have no idea of the history of this area.

Colin Barratt

THE HISTORY OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH AND SCHOOL, SOUTHGATE

It is the Rev'd James Baird of Christ Church Southgate we have to thank for the presence of St Andrew's Church on Chase Side, a large red brick edifice at the gateway to Southgate's busy high street. A building which sits so prominently on the roundabout, and which so many people travel past and yet often goes unnoticed. A building with Edwardian restraint but beautiful proportions which only reveal themselves fully once inside. It is a building I fell in love with the moment I saw it, a monument to brick with a nod to the medieval, having a monastic ambulatory behind the high altar, transepts and flying buttresses.



St Andrew's Church now

I grew up in Friern Barnet and played for Southgate under 11's Cricket Team when I was a boy. Little did I know then that I would become the Vicar of St Andrew's Southgate with my own children attending St Andrew's Primary School.



Southgate Charity Boys School, Powys Lane

In 1875 The Rev'd J. Baird purchased what was known as the Iron Chapel on the Southgate Chase and erected it on a site, which he also gave, in Old Farm Avenue. This would be the beginning of St Andrew's. But for the full story we have to go back a little further.

The Walker family founded a boys' school on the Arnos estate in 1810 "to teach the surrounding peasantry reading, writing and arithmetic". The building consisted of one large room. Drinking water had to be fetched from Arnos Grove and sanitary arrangements consisted of earth closets. There was no playground so the children played in the road.

In 1836 the Walker family built a school for girls at Southgate Green. In 1840 an infants' school, managed by Rev'd Baird and a committee which included Mrs Baird, herself a member of the Walker family, was established in the same building. This building was later known as the Walker Memorial Hall. The girls and the infants occupied different sides of the building. The children, starting from 3 years old would progress from Christ Church Infants' School to either the girls' school on the same site or the boys' school in Powys Lane.

By 1868 the school had become known as the Southgate Boys' Church of England School but needed a new site. On 24th March 1885 the Rev'd Baird, signed a Trust Deed on behalf of the people of Southgate for the purchase of a plot of land in Chase Road belonging to the estate of Valentine Poole, for the purpose of building a new school, with the money raised by the people of Southgate. It had one main room, two smaller classrooms, a porch, playground and gardens. It cost £1,633. The architect was A.R.Barker who would also design St Andrew's Church.

By 1895 the infants' school was too far from the bulk of the population and so a new school was built for them next to the boys' school in Chase Road. It cost £1,500 and was financed by a government grant, an endowment and voluntary contributions. It consisted of one large room and two smaller rooms with a separate playground. On January 13th 1896, the Farm Road School and the Christ Church Infants' School amalgamated to form Southgate C.E. Infants' School in this new building. With the removal of the infants the girls had the school on the Green to themselves. In 1903 a management committee was set up to manage all three schools, the chairman being the Vicar of Christ Church.



The Infants School in Winter showing the footpath at the side to the Boys' School



Original design of St Andrew's Church

Now, as I mentioned, Mr Barker, the architect of the school building was also the architect of St Andrew's Church. Arthur Rowland Barker had been a pupil and then assistant to the well-known church architect, Ewan Christian. He became Winchester Diocesan Surveyor and designed several other local buildings including the St Paul's Institute, Palmers Green town hall and the Southgate Club in Chase Side. As the population grew in Southgate so there arose a greater need for a new church building to accommodate worshippers. St Andrew's was to be a daughter church within the Christ Church Parish. So by 1903 the building of our present Church was begun; designed with Narthex and three nave bays in the Perpendicular Gothic Revival style with elements of Arts and Crafts.

The Foundation Stone of St Andrew's was laid, apparently in inclement weather, by Mrs F.S. Bevan of Trent Park in 1903. Building continued quickly and the first phase was completed for dedication by the Bishop of Islington on 26th May 1904. The site and a generous donation to the building fund had been given by Mr. V Walker. Fund raising, including a grand floral bazaar, continued in 1904 to meet the building cost of £3,450.

A public meeting called in July 1908 in the Village Hall considered the completion of the Church by the addition of the chancel. Originally the villagers had wanted a tower and steeple but as the Great War developed, the Bishop of London, the Rt. Rev'd Arthur Foley Winnington Ingram, decided that steeples were an extravagance during a time of great hardship. Enough money was raised for the completed Church, minus steeple, to be dedicated by him on 11th May 1916, designed by Barker (junior) and Kirk.



Early view of St Andrew's Church

From across Chase Side one can still make out, to the left of the centre porch, the architectural remnant of the intended tower. The hammerbeam construction of the roof is of particular interest and the main reason for St Andrew's becoming a Grade II listed building in 1980.

St Andrew's was completed in 1915. The stained glass windows in the chancel, Lady chapel and baptistery designed largely by Cakebread Robey and Co, a firm that supplied materials to the building trade, founded in 1882 but also relatively well-known for its glass products. The only other church where their glass is extensively found is at St Andrew's Whitehall Park in Holloway. The central window in the baptistery was replaced in 1988 following a break-in. The design by Michael Coles was also used as the basis for the Christmas card by Robert Runcie, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury. The open screen at the entrance to the chancel with wide, plain divisions and attractive swirling wrought ironwork was dedicated in 1920 in memory of parishioners who died in the First World War.

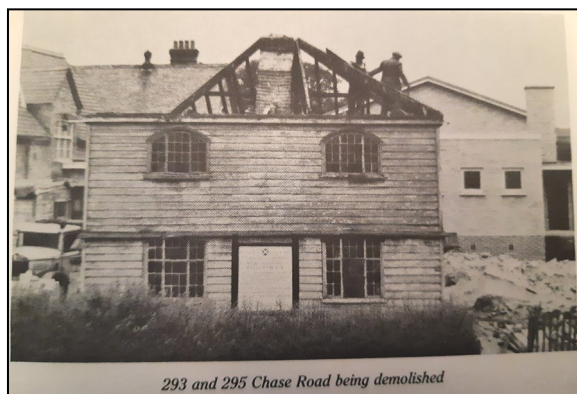
The organ was originally built by the famous "Father Willis" in 1867 for the second Duke of Wellington and stood for nearly a hundred years in the church on his estate, Stratfield Saye, in Berkshire.

Mr Barker was for many years, a Church Warden of Christ Church. I have often contemplated how Mr Barker would have sat week after week in the pews of Christ Church with its glorious Victorian features and then designed such a different sort of building for the other side of Southgate and a new era.

St Andrew's would become a parish church in its own right in 1929 at which point the first Vicar of St Andrew's, Rev'd William H.I.Simpson (Now buried in Southgate Cemetery along with his wife and son), took over as chairman of the school managers.

In 1933 the girls' school on the Green closed and most of the girls transferred to the new school in Chase Road, known then as Oakwood Secondary Modern School. Alterations were then made to the boys' school to allow for junior girls to be admitted. In 1937 the boys' school and the infants' school were amalgamated to become a junior mixed and infants' school, the children over 11 going to Oakwood Secondary Modern or grammar schools.

This is how the school stayed during the war years. Two air raid shelters were erected on the orchard and a good thing too as three incendiary bombs hit the premises in 1940. Two fell on the playground and one started fire in the girls' toilets. In 1945 the school closed for two days to celebrate Victory in Europe, the same year that the school became officially known for the first time as St Andrew's C.E. Primary School. In June 1946 each child was given a toy and an ice-cream purchased by the Southgate Education Committee for the victory celebration. Many cold winters in the post war years revealed a great need for improvements to be made to the building as open fires were used for heating and lighting was still by gas. Pipes froze, toilets froze and even the ink wells froze!



In 1951 the managers applied for Aided Status as set out in the Education Act 1944. The managers could then apply for a substantial grant to change the school to a one form entry junior and infants' school in 1953 once the building was up to regulation standard. In 1954 the people living at 293 and 295 Chase Road were rehoused and the site acquired, but it was not until 1956 that work started and in 1963 a second phase of remodelling began. For a time children had to be taught in various annexes and even St Andrew's Church vestry. On the 24th October 1964 there was an official opening of the school. The building cost altogether £62,000. £40,000 from Government funds and the balance paid by the Church authorities.

Of course this is only the beginning of the history of St Andrew's Church and School, and we continue to make history as the church serves the community in a myriad of ways, welcoming hundreds of visitors for all sorts of activities each week and St Andrew's school continues to nurture a fresh cohort every year and create lasting memories. When we are not in the middle of a pandemic the church building is open daily.

The information in this article largely came from sources compiled by Pam and Tony Dean, Sylvia Twohey (Headteacher), Diane Stratton and Betty Clarke

Fr Edward Turner

Vicar of St Andrew's Southgate

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OAKLEAVES REPRINTS

As announced in the July newsletter, the first two editions of our occasional publication "Oakleaves", printed in 1987 and 1996, with 20 and 24 pages respectively, have been reprinted. We decided to get this done so that these editions could be enjoyed by our members, many of whom wouldn't have seen them before. We ordered a limited run of 50 copies of each publication, which have come out very well. They would make great Christmas presents! So if you would like one, email us or ring me on 0208 360 3979.

Colin Barratt



LET'S TALK SOUTHGATE

Southgate's long promised regeneration is finally looking like it will happen. Enfield Council has launched the **Let's Talk Southgate** project to hear our thoughts about the area and how we can improve the town centre.

Our ideas and comments will contribute to the Southgate Town Centre Action Plan, and the short, medium and long-term goals to make Southgate a vibrant and welcoming place for everyone.

How to get involved

Go to the Let's Talk Southgate webpage (<https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/southgate>) and add your comments to the online map.

The area covered in this consultation is shown in this map from the website.

Do add as many comments as you can, the more we have the better the discussion!

Jane Maggs

