

Southgate District Civic Voice

Newsletter No. 262
October 2022

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60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LUNCH

(See pages 2 and 3 for a report of the event)



Plaque for oak tree, to be planted
in November on Southgate Green.
Restored Georgian Cottages are
in the background



SPRING OPEN MEETING

Sat. 14th January 2023

The 90th Anniversary of the Piccadilly Line Extension to Cockfosters



In March 1933 the Piccadilly Line reached Southgate and Enfield West (Oakwood). This talk by TfLs Heritage Managers will mark this anniversary.

See pages 4 and 5 for details.

Contributions to the January 2023 newsletter should be sent by Friday 9th December 2022.
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 9th January 2023.

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**).

60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LUNCH

On Saturday 8th October we held our 60th Anniversary Celebration Lunch at Church House, Waterfall Road, Southgate. The Executive Committee were all involved in various ways in organizing this event, plus Christine Davis, co-opted to arrange the catering and cake. 37 members attended, each of whom were presented with a copy of our newly printed book, highlighting our first 60 years.



Several of us contributed to this book, but its excellent compilation, layout and printing was largely due to the efforts of Jane and Mervyn Maggs, without whom it wouldn't have happened, and will be a fitting reminder of our activities. So thank you both.



We mounted an exhibition of photos and pages from our newsletter archives to remind our members of the many and varied activities and campaigns we have been involved in over this time. The new display boards were bought with a legacy kindly donated by two late members, Eric and Shirley Brown. These will allow us to create more professional displays at future exhibitions and festivals.

Lunch was provided by a local not-for-profit organization, Cooking Champions, who reinvests its profits in supporting the local community. They also cut up and distributed the 60th Anniversary cake.

After the lunch our Chairman, Graham Davis, welcomed everyone and reminded them of how we started, in April 1962, when 46 people attended the inaugural meeting of the Southgate Civic Society. They had come together to campaign to save from demolition the Georgian cottages, nearby on Southgate Green. Although it took many years, the campaign was ultimately successful and they were restored in 1980. This campaign was important, not just locally, but also nationally, influencing the passing of the Civic Amenities Act 1967, which introduced Conservation Areas.

This was the first of a number of planning and environmental campaigns we have been involved in. We have been giving our views to Enfield Council on planning applications and conservation areas for many years. This activism has been recognized by Civic Voice, our national body, who awarded us national awards in 2016 and 2017 for Civic Day and Civic Week.

We have produced a number of publications on local history over the years, including our series of award winning Oakleaves books. Examples of these were displayed at the lunch, together with our awards.



Graham announced that the SDCV Graham Beech Award for 2022 would be presented to our former Chair, Alison Cathcart, who served us in this post between 1994 and 2005. Unfortunately, Alison wasn't able to join us, but the award will be sent to her.

One of our founder members, Chris Howell, was hoping to be present, but wasn't well enough to join us. However, Graham announced that Chris had been awarded Honorary Membership, in recognition of his longstanding commitment to SDCV.

As part of our celebration, we had arranged with Enfield Council for a young oak tree to be planted on the Green to commemorate our 60th Anniversary. This will happen in November, but we already had an engraved granite plaque made, which would be set at the base of the tree.



Just before our lunch a group gathered on Southgate Green, where the plaque was put down to show how it would look when the tree is planted, across the road from the restored Georgian Cottages.

After lunch, our Celebration Cake was brought out, before being cut up and enjoyed by everyone.

We received a glass of prosecco or elderflower drink and Graham invited us to toast SDCV and our new King.

We hope that we provided a fitting celebration for our 60th Anniversary and we look forward to further achievements by SDCV in the future, with the help of our members.



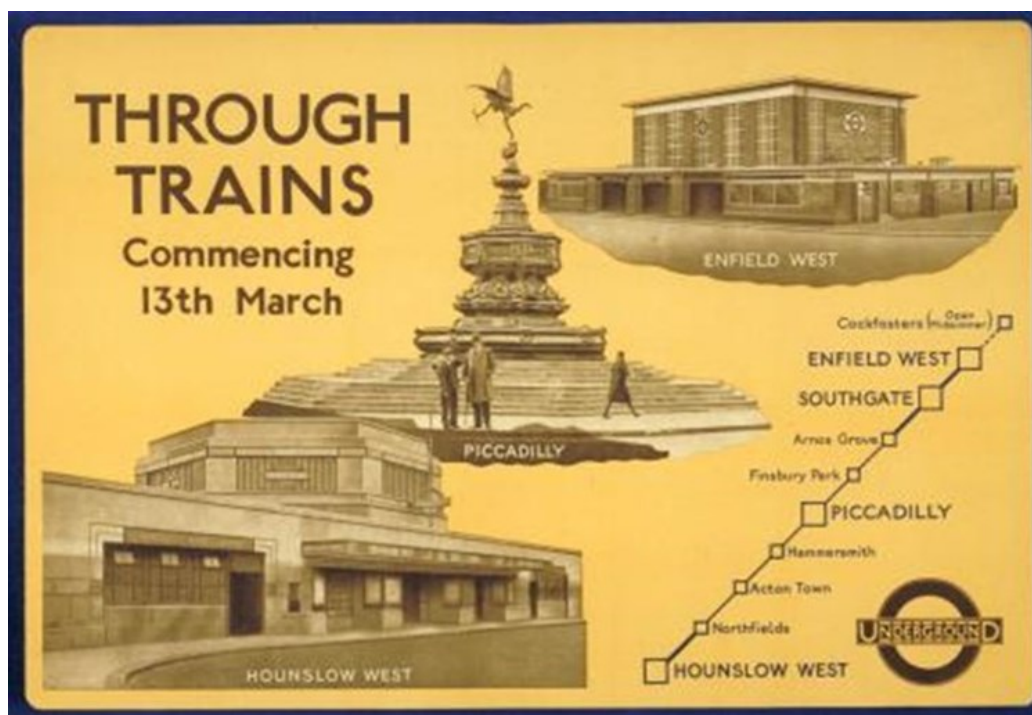
Colin Barratt

SDCV SPRING OPEN MEETING - HOLD THE DATE!

Saturday 14th January 2023 at 2.30pm
Southgate Club, 17 Chase Side, Southgate, London N14 5BP

A talk to mark the 90th anniversary of the Piccadilly line extension north of Arnos Grove to Southgate and Cockfosters

On **19th September 1932** the first phase of the Piccadilly Line extension to Arnos Grove opened. The line was then further extended to Enfield West (Oakwood) on **13th March 1933** and finally to Cockfosters on **31st July 1933**.



This means that the various Piccadilly Line stations in our area of interest are coming up to their 90th anniversary. The original openings went ahead with no ceremony, so it seems fitting to mark their latest milestone.

SDCV are delighted that **Transport for London's (TfL) Heritage Managers Gareth Leslie and Edmund Bird** will be presenting a talk about this stretch of the line and Southgate station in particular, its renowned architect Charles Holden and its design and architectural features which have been recognised by Historic England's Grade II* designation – one of only five at this grade on the 272 station network.





They will discuss the challenges of maintaining and adapting a station of this age, distinguished architectural pedigree and outstanding heritage protection status as a modern transport hub and retail offer will also be appraised.

This talk will be held in the *Southgate Club* on Chase Side, close to the station. The club was established by 1820 (or perhaps earlier), see their website (www.southgateclub.com) for more information on the club's history. So, it makes a fitting venue to hear about other aspects of our local history.

Everyone is welcome to this talk, which is free to members of SDCV. For non-members tickets cost £5 (including a non-refundable booking fee).

To register, please go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sdcv-meeting-90-years-of-the-piccadilly-line-extension-passed-arnos-grove-tickets-426636861337>

Do please pass this on to anyone who may be interested.

Jane Maggs

INDEX OF NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Have you ever thought, "I remember an article on this subject, but I don't know which edition of the newsletter I saw it in". Now we can help you find it. On our website there is a Newsletters tab which takes you to all the editions published since 2017. (Earlier ones will be added later). Underneath these you can click on the link "here" which will take you to the alphabetical index of articles. This will tell you who wrote the article, which edition and which page each is in and you can then select that edition and find the article.

For instance, if you remember that there was an article about Arsenal at Grovelends, look in the index under A and you will find it, written by Richard Purver in edition no.239, January 2017, on page 7.

The index will be updated after each edition, so why not have a browse through it and remind yourself just how many articles we have included over the years. There will probably be some you will like to read again.

Colin Barratt

OAKWOOD PARK WETLANDS - LATEST UPDATE

Earlier in the year, plans were announced to create a wetland in Oakwood Park, which included removing the culvert for the Houndsden Gutter to allow it to flow overground again. Full details of the plan can be found on the Enfield Council website: https://www.enfield.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/10082/oakwood-park-wetlands-consultationv2.pdf

Work is now well underway, with the wetland areas dug out. Sections are staked out for planting a mixture of native wetland plants, with others marked for sowing wildflowers.

Admittedly it was looking a bit bleak and bare at one point, but groups of volunteers have started to bring it to life.



Photo: after the earth moving

Thames21 has been co-ordinating the volunteer sessions. During the latest session on Saturday 1st October, volunteers planted in one of the wetland cells, located in the south east corner of the park.

It had rained heavily overnight, so it was rather muddy, as you can see from the state of the volunteers! We were pleased to be joined by Cllr Ergin Erbil, a member of the 'Climate Change Task Force', who also got well and truly muddy.





Taking a well earned rest!

Look out for more sessions on the Thames21 website: www.thames21.org.uk.

Jane Maggs

Photos: Mervyn Maggs & Jane Maggs

OUR CELEBRATION GIN “MINCHENDEN OAK”

As part of our 60th Anniversary celebrations we had a special gin made for us: **Artisan Dry Gin**, created by Spirit of Hertfordshire and named after our famous Minchenden Oak.

Bottles of various sizes were available to purchase at the Celebration Lunch, but can now be obtained direct from the suppliers. For gin lovers these would make great Christmas presents! For every bottle sold, SDCV will receive a donation.

Here is the link:

<https://spiritofherts.co.uk/product/minchenden-oak-artisan-gin/>

This is how it's described on the website:

“This London Dry Gin is inspired by the Minchenden Oak, which has provided quiet shade beneath its majestic canopy for over 800 years.

Acorns are aged for a year to extract notes of vanilla, caramel and spice, while aromatic oakmoss lichen lends depth to traditional flavours of zesty citrus and juniper.

This gin helps to support the Southgate District Civic Voice and Friends of the Minchenden Oak”.



ENFIELD COUNCIL'S NEW PROPOSALS FOR BROOMFIELD HOUSE AND BROOMFIELD PARK



Photo: Colin Younger

Enfield Council has now shared a document with the Broomfield House Trust and the Friends of Broomfield Park, which outlines the scope of a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for funding new proposals for Broomfield House and Park. What follows are extracts from the draft (in italics) and some of our comments on the draft.

This follows the rejection of our proposal to construct a building on the site of Broomfield House replicating the house exterior as it was when it was purchased by Southgate Urban District Council for public use. Funds for this would have come partly from a limited housing scheme in the Stableyard. As well as housing a café, it could at a later stage incorporate a reconstruction of the oak staircase and sections of the Lanscroun murals.

The new bid is intended to: -

'Kick-start the rejuvenation of Broomfield Park by dismantling the derelict shell of Broomfield House, and reconnecting the park and House through memorialisation, interpretation and landscaping. Heritage engagement activities over 2 years will involve the community and result in a shared vision & memorialisation of their memories of Broomfield House.'

The Council's intention is to submit a Round 1 Application between May and August 2023. If confirmed, the project will then go to the Development Phase (August 2023 – March 2025) leading to the submission of a Round 2 application in March 2025. If approved, the Delivery Phase of the project would be between September 2025 and August 2027.

The Development Phase is intended to: -

- (i) Develop a shared vision for the park, agreeing plans for memorialisation of Broomfield House, interpretation, and landscaping around the former house with our communities*
- (ii) Involve the community by collecting their memories of the park and house*
- (iii) Employ a Heritage Engagement Officer to lead on community engagement and pilot activities*
- (iv) Consult with statutory consultees and secure planning permission which will require Approval by Secretary of State*
- (v) Resolve legal issues around a covenant on the building*
- (vi) Prepare briefs and obtain quotes for dismantling the remains*

(vii) Catalogue and assess the condition of the remains of the staircase and timbers salvaged and currently stored in shipping containers, Broomfield House and in situ features e.g. fireplaces, shutters. Assess significance of the remains and Lanscroom murals in the context of a dismantled House. Find solutions for ownership, permanent storage, and listings.

The process and timetabling of such a bid are complicated and stringent conditions will need to be met if it is to meet the National Lottery Heritage Fund's requirements. The programme will also have to be integrated with the views of Historic England, given the Grade II* listing of the house and the need for Listed Building Consent (for demolition) from the relevant Secretary of State.

The Next Steps

The Council will be creating a consultation list for stakeholder groups beyond the Broomfield House Trust and Friends of Broomfield Park. They have proposed another meeting of the working group in December to discuss how to frame the project as a Heritage Fund application.

There are many issues which we will want to have clarified as the Council process moves forward. The Trust and Friends of Broomfield Park are of course extremely disappointed that this Grade II* house has been lost through years of neglect and are concerned about exactly how it will be "memorialised" – a word we detest for its negativity and wish to be abandoned. We prefer the sentiment in the title being proposed for the project, '*Unlocking Broomfield Park for the Community*,' which is much more positive.

The draft notes that

'The significance of the house is the relationship with the Park and Stableyard'

and goes on to say that

'The Park is the area's only cultural hub, hosting year-round community events.'

In our view it is therefore critical that the Development Phase must include briefs to ensure creative solutions covering the landscape/archaeological/design/heritage aspects of the proposal to ensure that these links are made clear. We have also asked to be consulted on these briefs. At the moment the plan only refers to briefs for the demolition of the House.

The Council have been advised not to include the Stableyard in this bid, but to take a phased (10 year) approach to maximise the chances of this bid's success. While we understand this advice, it leaves the listed Stableyard at risk, just as delay and neglect sealed the fate of Broomfield House. We would like to see what ideas there are about the Stableyard both in the short term for maintaining and safeguarding the buildings, and in the longer term for its future use. We believe it should be developed in a way which allows public use and makes a positive contribution to the park and its users.

[We understand that the sections of the Lanscroom Murals which we had reconstructed and conserved, will be displayed in the Museum of Enfield in some way.](#) However, we remain concerned about the future of other elements salvaged from the house after the first fire, particularly additional material from the Lanscroom Murals and the oak staircase, which have been in store for so many years. There may be other elements salvaged from the house which should, if possible, be preserved and displayed.

The Broomfield House Trust and the Friends of Broomfield Park

STORIES OF ENFIELD

Enfield Council received a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver their Stories of Enfield programme, which comprises 14 community projects exploring diverse elements of Enfield's cultural heritage and history. The projects started in September 2021 and continue until November 2022. A touring exhibition about Stories of Enfield is at Broomfield Park from 11 to 25 October.

Four of the projects particularly relate to our area:



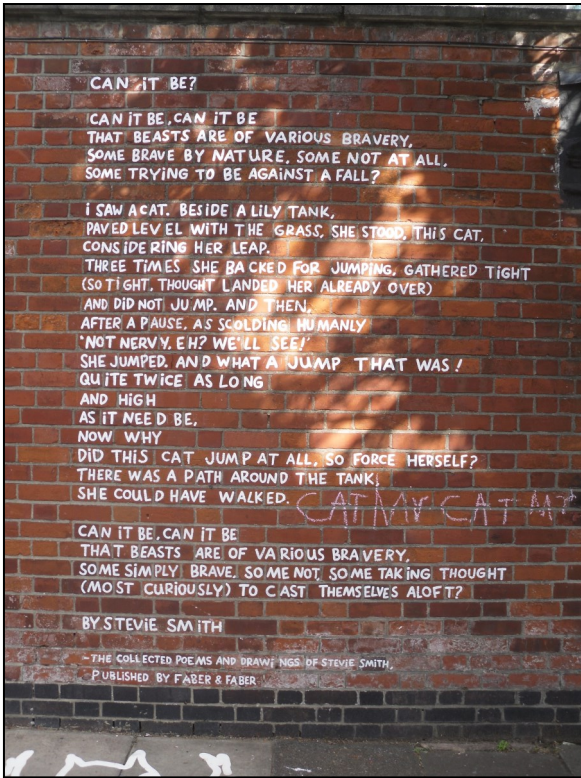
Poetry in Palmers Green: Palmers Green Action Team have placed a permanent art installation featuring a four-line poem, *The Pleasures of Friendship* by local author Stevie Smith at the junction of Aldermans Hill and Green Lanes, designed by artist Ruth Hallgarten. They are presenting an evening showcasing Stevie Smith's poetry and discussing the artwork, *Galloping Cats & The Pleasures of Friendship* at St John's Church Hall in Bourne Hill on 16 October and children at a poetry and drawing workshop decorated cut-outs of the distinctive Peter Pan collars she habitually wore.

Christ Church Southgate Pre-Raphaelite Windows: the aim of this project is to celebrate and share the history, art and craft of the beautiful Pre-Raphaelite windows and to enable engagement with the stories behind them through stained glass workshops and talks during October and November.

Grovelands Heritage Audio Bench: the Friends of Grovelands Park and Enfield Council originally installed this memory bench to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. By pressing buttons on a panel you can sit and listen to a short history of the park as well as a selection of treasured memories of people who have known Grovelands Park over many years, including our member Mary Castro.



River of Stories: Pymmes BrookERS will be showing their film *Pymmes Brook River of Stories* at the Culture Palace in Enfield on 22 October at 6pm. Although this project mainly covered Upper Edmonton and Edmonton Green, the group's work on restoring and protecting the Pymmes Brook also benefits our district as it flows through Palmers Green.



DEVONSHIRE SQUARE

To fall in with the Stevie Smith theme Jan Kattein Architects and Enfield Council have inscribed another of her poems, *Can it Be?* on a wall at the Green Lanes end of Devonshire Road with connect-the-numbers-by-chalk cat shapes and paw prints on the pavement. This is within a small area to be known as 'Devonshire Square' as part of the Palmers Green Town Centre Action Plan, involving additional al fresco dining space for the cafes on either side of the road, children's play, informal seating and street planting, with the aim of contributing towards the creation of a more attractive, green and diverse streetscape.

Richard Purver

MINCHENDEN OAK GARDEN

Some of you will have driven down Waterfall Road in recent weeks and wondered why the entrance to the Minchenden Oak Garden had metal fencing and gate in front of it. Sadly, a few months ago, the entrance gate and the two memorial plaques on the side pillars were stolen. Enfield Council are having discussions with Southgate Green Association about replacing them. There are photos of the plaques, which can be replicated, but I don't know if the gate will be replaced to the same design. We wait to see what happens.

Colin Barratt



