

# Southgate District Civic Voice

Newsletter No. 263  
January 2023

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## COMING EVENTS

### SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC VOICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday 29th April 2023 at 2.30 pm**

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

Please come to the AGM, and tell us what you think about our activities. Details about the meeting are on **page 6**.

### SEE ALSO INSIDE:

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Spring Open Meeting - 90th Anniversary of Piccadilly Line extension | <b>pages 2-4</b>   |
| Public Art Coming to Southgate                                      | <b>page 5</b>      |
| 60th Anniversary Celebration - part 2                               | <b>pages 7-8</b>   |
| The Poetry of Fireworks   | <b>pages 12-13</b> |
| The Bell of St Paul's   | <b>pages 14-15</b> |

**Contributions to the April newsletter should be sent by Friday 17th March 2023**  
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**Note:-** Copies will be emailed, hand delivered or posted during week commencing **10th April 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**).



# SDCV SPRING OPEN MEETING

## 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023

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

The talk by Transport for London's (TfL) Heritage Managers **Gareth Leslie** and **Edmund Bird** was a fascinating insight into the heritage of the underground system and Southgate Station in particular.

It was also incredibly popular!! Anyone who attended will have noticed that the Southgate Club was completely packed (in fact beyond packed!). We sold out all the tickets online and still had a waiting list we could not accommodate. In the end there were well over 100 people, some coming considerable distances to join us.

The talk opened with Edmund Bird reminding us that this year is also the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the underground network. He gave us an overview of the history and development of the network with some fascinating facts. This article cannot cover all that was discussed, but here are some of the highlights.



London had the world's first underground railway – the Metropolitan. With Baker Street station opening in 1863. As well as showing us some early train line maps, he also took us through the evolution of station styles, as ideas changed and new architects were employed. There were some beautiful tiles included in the schemes, combining good design with function. This was particularly apparent where tiles were used to differentiate the stations for those that could not read the station names.

Edmund then went on to discuss Charles Holden's influence and show examples of the different buildings and stations across the network that he was responsible for designing. We then came to the Piccadilly Line extension to Cockfosters and of course our local stations.

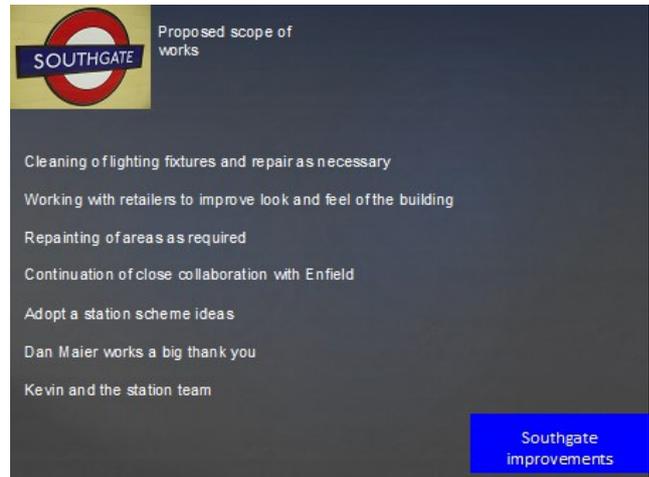
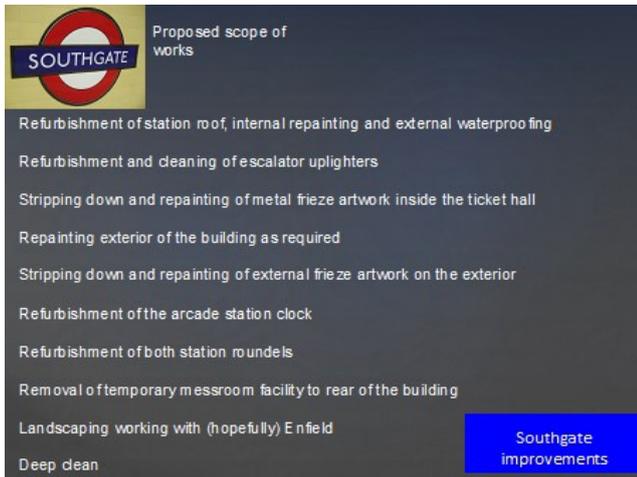
Before closing, Edmund also talked about the changes being made to the network and TfL land. The addition of lifts and improving step free access was a topic followed up in the Q&A. This is something that was never considered during the original planning, as even stations with lifts often had steps! Introducing lifts remains particularly challenging in listed stations, but they have now been installed at Oakwood and Cockfosters, with Arnos Grove in progress. Southgate has been considered, but there are too many complications.



Edmund was then followed by Gareth Leslie, taking us through his recent work restoring various heritage artifacts. The before and after photographs were fascinating, both from the look of the restored object, but also the variety of ephemera conserved.

Gareth went on to discuss the proposed works at Southgate Station. As many of us are very concerned about the station, this was extremely interesting.

He listed and discussed the various works in progress or planned for this financial year.



Above are the slides shown at the talk. Gareth explained that not all this work will be completed by the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, particularly those dependant on the roof works being completed first . Shortly, the station roundels are to be removed for renovation elsewhere, but at least we can be reassured that anything removed will be coming back!

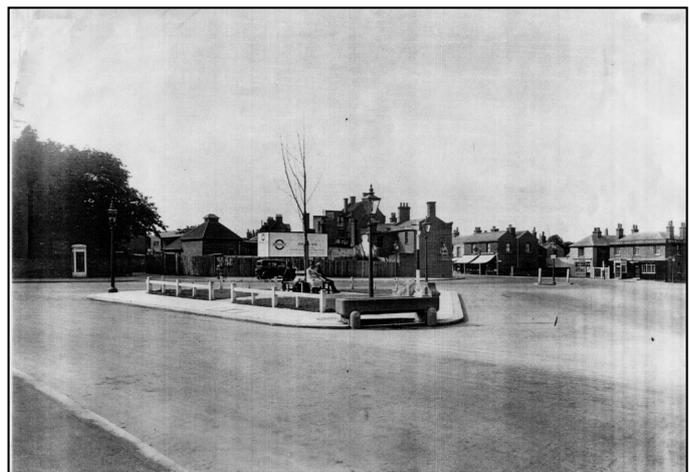
We were also assured that the gold ball on top of the station will be restored to its former glory. However, that will be in the next financial year – so we must wait a bit longer for that final piece.

After the two speakers, there was time for a Q&A. Questions were asked about funding for the refurbishments. They were both clear that it is more difficult in the current financial climate. There has been some external funding, which helps. However, the stations are getting older which creates more challenges. Their listed status makes a difference, as there is a legal requirement to maintain the heritage.

A question was asked about the reaction from Southgate residents and the council to the arrival of the station in the 1930s. The speakers were not able to answer this, but we hope a member will be able to enlighten us.

This was a fascinating afternoon enjoyed by all who attended. As there were quite a few people who wanted to attend, but were unable to join us, we are hoping to repeat this talk later in the year. Further details will appear in a later newsletter.

(One interesting question from the floor which wasn't quite resolved was whether the council would have objected to the tube station being sited in the quiet village of Southgate. In fact the transport and local authorities had to liaise closely about the Piccadilly Line extension and the latter welcomed the opportunity it gave to expand the existing development of the area (although some residents' lives were disrupted in the process, eg by demolition of property and heavy lorries going along side roads). The council was particularly insistent that Enfield West station be renamed as Oakwood to recognise its location within the borough (rather than outside, as the original name implied) and panels displaying the Borough of Southgate coat of arms were placed along the platform, one of which survives in the London Transport Museum.)



## Display of Southgate images

We made the most of the space at the newly refurbished Southgate Club and included a display of photographs of Southgate before the arrival of the station, after its arrival and more recently. These were sourced from the SDCV archive, Ralph Kley's collection, Mervyn Maggs and Dan Maier.



## Celebrating 90 years

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 1933, Southgate Station opened quietly, with no fuss. So, 90 years on we want to mark this amazing event in our local history. There will be a number of events throughout the year, but the next celebrations will be on the weekend before the anniversary.

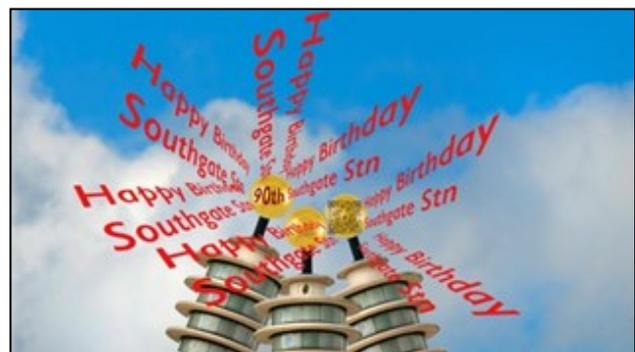
Events will include singing *Happy Birthday* – originally this was suggested as a joke, but then we thought ‘why not?’. So, come and join in. There will be music, probably cake, and singing. Final details have not been settled, so an E-news will be sent with more information and details nearer the time.

Transport for London (TfL), have agreed to conduct a number of tours of areas of the station not normally open to the public. These are planned for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March and will have to be booked via TfL. I am awaiting details and will send these out as soon as available.

Other events include a fashion show with students from Winchmore School, art and poetry workshops are planned along with other events.

These events are intended to kick start a regeneration of Southgate Town Centre – so hopefully one of the outcomes will be a *Friends of Southgate Station* group. If you are interested let me know.

There will be more in the next newsletter.



Jane Maggs



# PUBLIC ART COMING TO SOUTHGATE



## Tell us what you think!

**Curate Enfield is a Grassroots Public Art Project** to create new public artworks in five Enfield town centres: Southgate, Palmers Green, Angel Edmonton, Edmonton Green and Enfield Town. Each town centre artwork will be developed by 'Public Art' champions based in the area.

Working together a young art champion (under 25 years) and a local community champion have received training and mentoring support from a local artist-mentor. Together they will commission the new public art for their town centre.

For Southgate the art champion is Poppy Medenis, a local art student, who also runs poetry workshops in Palmers Green. The community champion on behalf of SDCV is Jane Maggs. We are fortunate to be supported by Dan Maier, the local artist responsible for the Enfield Winter Lights installations that lit up Southgate Station and The Southgate Club.

This project is being piloted by Enfield Council, supported by Arts Council England, with funding that is only available for this project.

## Celebrate Southgate!

For Southgate we are looking at five potential sites for new artwork to celebrate our town centre. Rather than concentrating on just one site, we would like to create an art trail throughout the town centre with a heritage and literary theme, so are considering artworks at several sites.

The five sites we have identified are:

Outside Southgate Library – a community space allowing access to literature and history



Southgate Library



Southgate Circus

On Southgate Circus – close to the important nationally listed station

On the pavement by the former police station - next to Southgate Club, which was originally a Reading Club



Outside former Police Station



Outside Halifax Bank

On the pavement by Halifax bank

On the pavement by Cynergy bank – opposite St Andrew's church at the 'Asda' end of the town



Outside Cynergy Bank

We want to know what you think of all these sites and our idea for an art trail. So, please would you fill in a short online survey, using the link below.

Link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdwNP5zPcR6OVZ8BChOxg9CgPOH53kqzbbg1Gb4oYKHn5Q15g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdwNP5zPcR6OVZ8BChOxg9CgPOH53kqzbbg1Gb4oYKHn5Q15g/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Do feel free to pass this survey on to anyone who might be interested.

Jane Maggs

# PLAY YOUR PART IN THE FUTURE OF SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC VOICE (SDCV)

After the success of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 2022 we look to the future of our society. The future looks to be full of interest. Below I mention just two examples of current SDCV initiatives.

As many of you will know Southgate station is 90 years old this year. We are working in partnership with Enfield Council to build on the celebrations associated with the station to develop a wider programme to celebrate and regenerate Southgate.

Later this year we expect Enfield Council to produce an amended draft of the local development plan for the borough. We commented on the previous draft plan and intend to consider carefully the Council's revised proposals.

To be active on a range of projects we need more members to get involved in a variety of roles. Specifically we need a new Treasurer and a new Membership Secretary to take over from Elaine Tyler and Joe Studman, who have carried out these roles for a number of years. Both responsibilities are straightforward and not time consuming. If you are interested in these roles, or in getting involved in SDCV activities, please contact me at [info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org](mailto:info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org)

*Graham Davis, Chair*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 2.30 pm**  
Walker Lower Hall, Christ Church Parish Centre  
7 The Green, Southgate, N14 7EG

This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in person at the Walker Hall. The AGM is essential to the successful functioning of Southgate District Civic Voice (SDCV), and 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 SDCV's future strategy and campaigns. Please come to support your Executive Committee, who are working on your behalf.

Reports from members of the Executive Committee 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.

We would also like to invite nominations for the position of **Treasurer**, **Membership Secretary** and **Publicity Officer**. The positions of **Treasurer** and **Membership Secretary** are vital to the running of SDCV. The position of **Publicity Officer** 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 SDCV, working with the web master and others to create appropriate material for social media, posters and advertising.

Following a break for tea or coffee and cake, we will be hosting a talk with details to be provided in due course.

Thank you for your valued support and we hope to see all of our members at the AGM.

*Preenal Gondhea, Secretary*



## 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LUNCH Part Two

As reported in the last Newsletter, on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October we held our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Lunch at Church House, Waterfall Road, Southgate.

After the lunch Graham Davis, our Chair, announced that *Chris Howell* had been awarded Honorary Membership, in recognition of his longstanding commitment to SDCV. Chris was one of our founder members and has been on the Committee in one role or another for all that time. Unfortunately, Chris was not well enough to be with us on the day, so, a memorial certificate was presented to him a few weeks later.

During the lunch we were pleased to be able to show a range of pictures from our archive. This was put together by Elaine Tyler and was a source of much discussion and reminiscing.

The lunch was followed by a quiz, compiled by Alec Tyler. He seriously tested our memory of the past 60 years with some light hearted questions.

Below are some photos from the day.



*Jane Maggs*

Photos: Mervyn Maggs

## 60th ANNIVERSARY LOCAL WALK

SDCV's 60th anniversary celebrations continued on Sunday 9th October with a Southgate walk provided by Joe Studman, starting at the tube station and proceeding via High Street, Blagdens Lane and the footpath round the Walker Ground to Christ Church and The Green, stopping at historic points of interest along the route. Richard Purver then offered to lead an unscheduled addition to Joe's walk to see the plaque for Dame Flora Robson placed at The Lawe, 65 The Mall by Southgate District Civic Trust and Palmers Green High School in 2010, passing on the way the one commemorating the role played by Southgate Civic Trust in saving the cottages at 23-31 The Green.



Photo: Dan Maier

## GRAHAM BEECH AWARD



Our Chairman, Graham Davis, announced at the 60th Anniversary lunch that the Graham Beech Award for 2022 had been awarded to our former Chair, Alison Cathcart, who served us in this post between 1994 and 2005. Unfortunately, Alison wasn't able to join us at the lunch, but a few weeks later Graham met up with her, on one of her visits to London, and presented her with the award.



## CIVIC VOICE UPDATE

Civic Voice is the national charity for Civic Societies and will be celebrating its 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April. *Southgate District Civic Voice* has been a member from the beginning and been able to call on their considerable expertise over that time. Many of you will know that I was fortunate to become a trustee nearly two years ago and continue to assist keeping this important charity moving forward.

After a turbulent 2022, Civic Voice has announced a new program of events for members. Regrettably, Sarah James has moved on to pastures new, which is a great loss to the whole movement. Ian Harvey remains as Executive Director and continues to work extremely hard on our behalf.

The new program of events includes Membership Mondays and meetings of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Civic Societies. Full details can be found at <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

All these events are interesting and useful. As members, we are able to access these insights and discuss issues with other societies. I highly recommend them.



### All Party Parliamentary Group for Civic Societies: Levelling Up Pride in Place

This event took place on 10<sup>th</sup> January at Parliament. It is always awesome to walk through Westminster Hall on the way to the meeting room, so a bonus to the event!

The meeting started with speeches by **Ed Dorrell, Director at Public First** and **Jack Shaw of The Bennett Institute**. Both discussed their recent research into community views on civic pride. Including the importance of heritage and how it shapes people's opinion of where they live. They talked about industrial heritage and how people want their history to influence the way towns develop. These speakers were followed by Julia Parnaby, from The National Lottery Community Fund, who talked about their new report on boosting pride in place.



The choice of speakers allowed an interesting contrast between the academic research of the first two when compared to the details of actual community projects being funded.

The final speaker was Griff Rhys Jones, the renowned broadcaster and Civic Voice President, who delivered a powerful and passionate speech on the importance of pride in place.

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‘Communities have pride in place, but they lack power’ Griff said, emphasising the significance of empowering communities to shape their own futures. Many attendees agreed, including Jack Shaw who stated, ‘We need onward devolution - not just government giving local councils more power, but local councils giving communities more power!’

‘Government need to realise that civic pride is more than just liking where you live’ Griff explained. ‘It’s about giving communities the tools and resources they need to make a genuine difference in their high streets and towns’. He went on to say that ‘It is critical for the government and local councils to recognise that the vitality of our town centres is directly related to the vitality of our communities. By investing in our town centres, we also invest in our civic pride’.

Following questions from the floor, the meeting also discussed the critical role that civic societies play in encouraging community engagement and empowering citizens to take action on issues that are important to them. These are themes that are at the heart of the work SDCV has been trying to develop in our community, particularly working towards regeneration in Southgate Town Centre.

*Jane Maggs*

Image: courtesy of Civic Voice:

L to R: Jack Shaw, Ed Dorrell, Julia Parnaby, Craig Mackinlay MP (chair of APPG) & Griff Rhys Jones

The reports by Public First, The Bennett Institute, and The National Lottery Community Fund can be accessed below:

**Public First: Heritage and Civic Pride report**

<https://www.publicfirst.co.uk/heritage-and-civic-pride-public-first-report-for-historic-england.html>

**The Bennett Institute: Townscapes: Pride in Place**

<https://www.bennettinstitute.cam.ac.uk/publications/pride-in-place/>

**The National Lottery**

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/news/press-releases/2022-11-22/new-report-reveals-how-national-lottery-funding-boosts-sense-of-local-pride-and-belonging>

## RE-OPENING OF THE DUGDALE

After a long closure the Dugdale Arts Centre, on the corner of London Road and Cecil Road, reopened in December 2022. It has completely changed inside. It contains a 150-seat studio theatre, the Museum of Enfield, workshops and small-scale performance spaces and an award-winning cafe restaurant specialising in locally made and sustainable food.

The venue is open Tuesday - Sunday during school term and Monday - Sunday during school holidays, with exhibitions, workshops and community gatherings. We are hoping that our publications will be displayed there again soon. If you visit, let us know what you think of the changes, positive or negative.



## CIVIC VOICE - STOP PRESS

### Civic Voice's Executive Director appointed as a Fellow of the RSA

Ian Harvey, Joint-Founder and Executive Director, has been appointed as a Fellow to the Royal Society of Arts (RSA).



The invitation to be a Fellow of the RSA follows from Ian being named a Senior Fellow at the *Institute of Place Management* in 2021. It recognises his long-standing contributions to assisting communities in improving their town centres and high streets, as well as his advocacy for the importance of meaningful community engagement and the value of civic pride.

The Royal Society of Arts (RSA) is a prestigious organisation whose mission is to enrich society through ideas and action. The RSA has been at the forefront of significant social impact for over 260 years. Its Fellows are a diverse group of individuals from various fields such as business, the arts, and the public sector who are committed to making a difference in the world.

Ian said, 'I am honoured to be a part of such a dynamic and forward-thinking community, and I am looking forward to working with my fellow Fellows, several of whom I know and who are very inspiring individuals. I intend to combine this position with my Senior Fellowship at the Institute of Place Management, and I'd like to see how I can use both roles to highlight the importance of place leadership in addressing some of society's most pressing issues.'

Martin Hamilton, Chair of Civic Voice and Director of Leeds Civic Trust, stated, 'Civic Voice is honoured to have Ian represent the civic movement as an RSA Fellow. We are confident that he will make an important contribution and will use his position to continue to make a case for the importance of the active citizens, particularly how volunteers across the country are supporting Civic Voice to deliver our vision of a society where every individual can say "I am proud of where I live.'

Photo: Mervyn Maggs - Ian Harvey at the Southgate Office Village community workshop

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Your SDCV subscription for the year 2023/24 is due on

**1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2023**

and remains unchanged at £15 for the year.

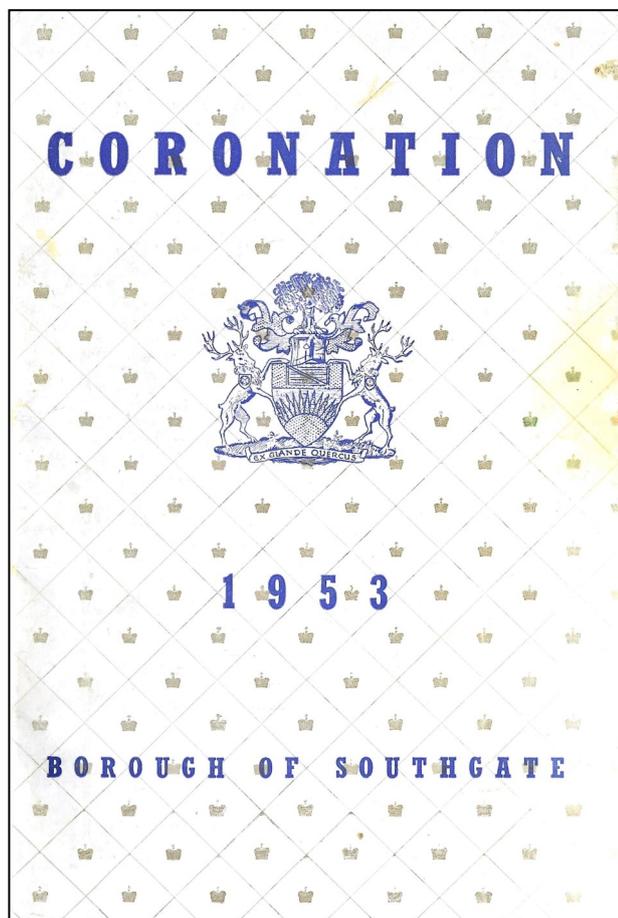
A renewal form will be sent to you at the beginning of March 2023

# THE POETRY OF FIREWORKS

The BBC documentary *The Queen and Us: 1950s*, the first part of a series about the life of the Queen which was made available after her death in September 2022, includes an extract from our DVD edition of *Southgate Celebrates the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II*. By agreement with all parties when the documentary was being prepared in 2016 the credits include Enfield Local Studies & Archive [where the original film master is held], Gateway Television Productions [the company which made it as Gateway Film Productions, in collaboration with local amateur group Planet Film Society] and Southgate District Civic Trust (although 'Civic' erroneously appears as 'Civil!'). The film can be accessed on the London's Screen Archives website and BFI Player (where it is described as 'wonderful'), though we continue to have copies of the DVD for sale which have become something of a collector's item in this internet age.

## Coronation Week

The brief clip from the film can be glimpsed at seven minutes into the documentary. It shows people queuing at the television tent in Broomfield Park to watch the coronation ceremony on Tuesday 2 June 1953, where Frank Phillips (a famous BBC wartime announcer) tells us in the film commentary 'two large screen television receivers bring the stirring scenes in Westminster to those who do not possess a set of their own'. The seats were reserved for elderly folk of the Borough and a collection was held for the United Appeal for the Blind.



## CORONATION WEEK FINALE

### Grand Firework Display

BROOMFIELD PARK

SATURDAY, JUNE 6th  
at 10 p.m.

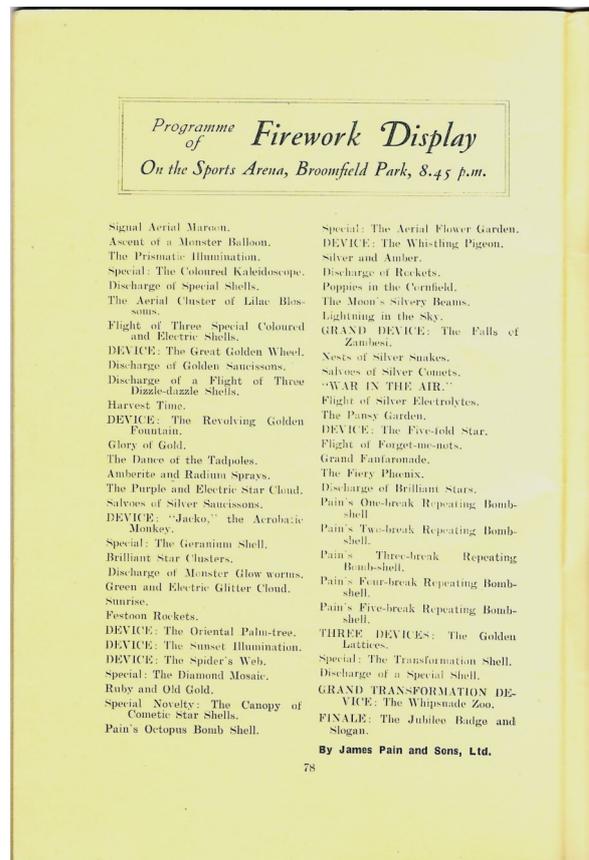
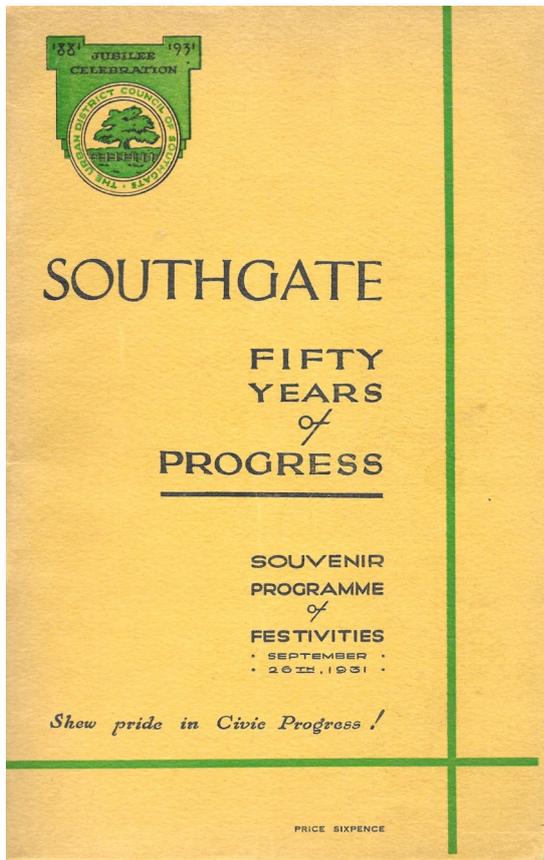
THE commencement of the display will be announced by the discharge of a Signal Aerial Maroon, which explodes at a great height with a loud report.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Discharge of a Signal Aerial Maroon.               | Salvo of Three Large Shells.                    |
| Grand Opening Barrage of Brock's Coloured Rockets. | The Coronation Shells.                          |
| Magical Illumination.                              | Mammoth Fire Wheel.                             |
| Clusters of Gold and Topaz.                        | The Humming Birds.                              |
| The Guilloche Wheels.                              | Cascade of Mother o' Pearl.                     |
| Magnificent display of Giant Plumes.               | Flight of Kingfishers.                          |
| Flight of Columbine Rockets.                       | Discharge of Special Shells.                    |
| Pandora's Box of Jewels.                           | The Giant Thundercloud.                         |
| Flight of Celebration Rockets.                     | Jewelled Flowers.                               |
| Futuristic Fire Device.                            | Aladdin's Jewelled Tree.                        |
| Opalescent Bubbles.                                | Martian Comets.                                 |
| Flight of Imperial Rockets.                        | Cascades of Crimson Aerolites.                  |
| Discharge of a Salvo of Special Shells.            | Silver Aurora.                                  |
| The Whirligig.                                     | Sapphire and Ruby Coruscations                  |
| Battery of Roman Candles.                          | Eccentric Cobras.                               |
| Flight of Golden Glory Rockets.                    | Explosion of Large Mines.                       |
| Emerald and Diamond Coruscations.                  | Display of Large Tourbillions.                  |
| Salvo of Three Large Shells.                       | Barrage of Sun Star Rockets.                    |
| Salvo of Colossal Shells.                          | Weird White Waterfall.                          |
| Cascade of Lapis - Lazuli and Cornelians.          | Devil's Tattoo.                                 |
| The Lattice Poles.                                 | Medley of Glittering Jewels.                    |
| The Jewelled Web.                                  | ROYAL PORTRAITS.                                |
| The Wild Rose Shells.                              | SPECIAL WORD DEVICE :<br>" GOD SAVE THE QUEEN." |
|  | Grand Girandole.                                |

To be followed by

COMMUNITY SINGING ROUND THE GIANT BONFIRE

79



This was one of several events which took place in the park during Coronation Week (31 May to 6 June), including the arrival of the procession featuring 'Southgate's own Coronation Queen' Constance Donnelly (who was still living locally in April 2008, as reported by Colin Barratt in Newsletter 204) and the 'Merrie England' and 'Three Elizabeths' pageants (our late member Peter Owen took part in the latter as a schoolchild, as mentioned by him in Newsletter 252, April 2020). There was also a service of prayer and dedication, a 'Women of England' presentation by the Townswomen's Guilds, dancing, sports, museum and art exhibitions, film shows, gymkhana, horticultural show and fun fair, all culminating in a finale at 10pm on Saturday 6 June with a grand firework display 'watched by an immense crowd', followed by community singing round the giant bonfire.

### Ever-changing Colours

One delightful aspect of the film is that it was shot in colour, heightening enjoyment of the costumes worn, the flowers in the park and the delicate tints of the fireworks' showers of light at the end (their 'ever-changing colours mak[ing] a fascinating pattern' as stated in the commentary). Complementing this I think are the poetical names given to individual items in the firework display in the official coronation programme (and also in the one produced for the jubilee celebration held in the park on Saturday 26 September 1931 to commemorate fifty years of local government in Southgate). There are so many it's difficult to choose between them but among my favourites are Gold and Topaz Clusters, Wild Rose Shells, Sapphire and Ruby Coruscations and Cascades of Crimson Aerolites.

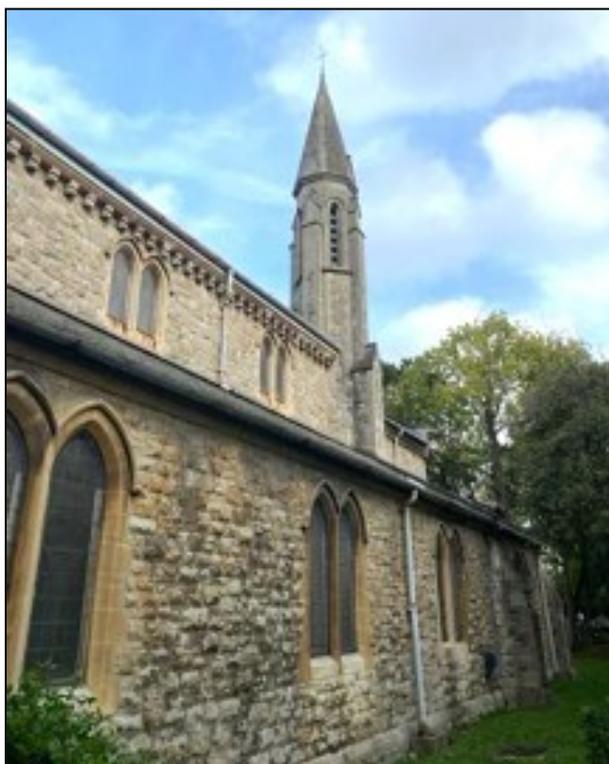
*Richard Purver*



## THE BELL OF ST PAUL'S

No, not St. Paul's Cathedral, but St Paul's Parish Church, New Southgate. I was christened at this church and have gathered material on its history over the years. I set up a local history display in their church hall in 1998, on its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Many local churches have bells in their steeples or towers, but these structures are usually quite substantial and spacious, often including a platform for the bell ringers, but St Paul's has a small slender pencil-like tower and steeple, as the photo shows. Just a few months ago I discovered that this also had a bell in it, which was rung every Sunday before morning worship services.



St Paul's Church



Looking up inside the tower

I only found this out because the vicar told me that someone had recently contacted him about the bell and asked to come to the church to examine it, as part of a project to record details of church bells in north London. The vicar sent me his report.

The bell is at the top of the tower and is quite large, at 29 inches diameter, only just smaller than the inside of the circular tower! It's hung dead and doesn't move, but is chimed by a levered internal clapper. The chiming rope travels from the lever, through a pulley and down the tower to ground level.

The inspector described that the inside of the tower resembled a very narrow tunnel and he had to climb a 41 rung wooden ladder to reach the bell, 40 feet up. This was not a job for the faint hearted! He was just able to squeeze around it to see the inscription cast into it, which reads "MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1873". This date corresponds to the year the church was consecrated, which shows that the bell was cast for this church and is therefore 150 years old!

(continued over)



Founder's name cast into bell



Wear mark on bell



View from the louvres at top of tower

Another observation he made during the inspection was he could see that the opposite side of the bell had a wear mark. So at some time in the past the levered clapper had been turned and now strikes the other side of the bell. A clue to when this may have been done is shown on an engraved plaque at the base of the tower. This reads "ST PAUL'S BELL, RESTORED IN MEMORY OF GORDON WATSON 1920-2001 RIP". The restoration included a new rope and pulley, so it seems likely that the clapper was also turned then, around 2001. The louvres at the top of the tower also allowed the inspector a clear view towards central London.

It was interesting to learn about this feature in the church, which I knew nothing about. I've now been asked to join a small group there to work on a history display for its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in July 2023. More details will be given in a later newsletter.

*Colin Barratt*

## THE LAKES ESTATE CONSERVATION AREA

The Lakes Estate is a designated Conservation Area (CA), selected because of its well-preserved, characterful Edwardian properties. The area includes Alderman's Hill, Fox Lane, Broomfield Avenue and Old Park, Conway, Ulleswater, Derwent, Lakeside, Harlech and Grovelands Roads. Conservation Areas are valued because they are attractive, unique and their character is protected from damaging development.

The Friends of Lakes Estate do important work promoting the conservation area, educating residents and helping the council ensure that damaging changes aren't made to properties. They also work to protect trees and other aspects of the built environment (such as shop fronts and pavements).

The Friends have had a willing group of volunteers, but now need more people to join and bring fresh energy and ideas to enhance and protect the CA.

If you want to see how you could help please email: **[contact.lakesestateca@gmail.com](mailto:contact.lakesestateca@gmail.com)**

**<https://www.pgweb.uk/friends-of-the-lakes-estate-conservation-area>**

*Adrian Day*