

Southgate District Civic Voice

Newsletter No. 264
April 2023

www.southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 29th April 2023 at 2.30 pm

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

Please come to the AGM, and tell us what you think about our activities. Details about the meeting and election of officers are on **pages 5 and 6**.

Note: Following the meeting there will be a talk by Andrea Bugli, of Enfield Council's Town Centre Development Team, giving us an update on their plans to Regenerate Southgate. See our website and Facebook pages for more details.

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Contributions to the July newsletter should be sent by Friday 23rd June 2023
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 **10th July 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**).

SOUTHGATE STATION—THE FIRST 90 YEARS

On 13th March 1933 Southgate Station finally opened to passengers. For the community who had watched it taking shape, it seemed like an extra-terrestrial craft had arrived to transform their small village of Southgate, which was even then still surrounded by fields, woods and farmland.



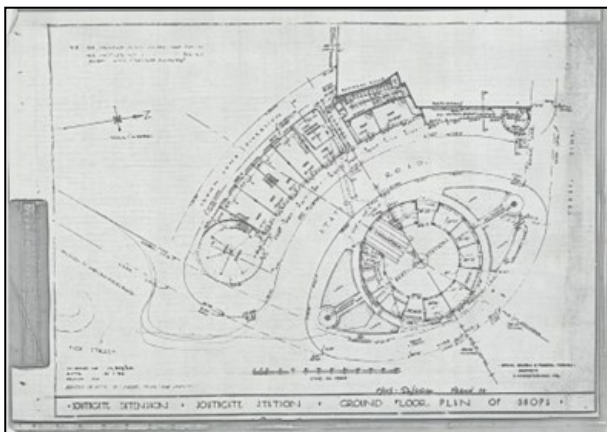
The Piccadilly Line, originally terminated at Finsbury Park, however, soon after the line opened it was clear that this was a mistake. The campaign to extend the line really gathered pace after the First World War and it was finally agreed to extend it to Cockfosters at a cost of £4.5m at 1933 prices. At last, in December 1929, plans were submitted to local authorities and the work began in 1930.

by Charles Holden. Together they promoted functional modernism for the new station designs, taking advantage of newly available materials.

Our station is built in the Art Deco/Streamline Moderne style using brick, reinforced concrete and glass. The building is circular with a flat projecting concrete roof, a raised central section that gives the illusion that it is supported by just a horizontal band of windows. The whole building is topped by an illuminated feature resembling a Tesla coil - to be restored to its original gold in 2024.



In their planning Pick and Holden carefully considered the activities that take place at and around stations to be incorporated into their urban design. As a result, at Southgate, where the site was large enough, a bus lay-by wraps around the station. Arriving and departing travellers could quickly transition between modes of transport, and the station became a focal point in the town. To further benefit passengers shop units were included, which helpfully provided the Underground group an additional retail income.



As an echo of the cylindrical forms, it was proposed to include a small round florist's kiosk on the south east lawn (corner of Crown Lane and High Street), which would be converted to a plant nursery and seating area, complete with sculpture. Sadly, this enhancement to the original plans never transpired.

Southgate station, has retained many of its original features, so is listed at Grade II*. This makes it amazingly special, as one of only five at this grade out of 272 stations on the underground network.

The station is located on a hill, so while the platforms at the stations on each side are on the surface, those at Southgate are in a short section of tunnel. In fact, Southgate is the only station in London where you can see the end of the tunnel from the platform.

So back to the opening of the line; according to the 'The Gazette' published on Friday, March 17, 1933, 'The first passenger train left Enfield West [now known as Oakwood] at 5.40 a.m., and carried about eight passengers, while another half-dozen or so joined the train at Southgate Station.' The reporter told readers that he shivered, while waiting for the train, but expected to be cold standing on 'the highest point in Europe in a direct line west of the Ural Mountains in Russia'. After his trip to Piccadilly Circus, he returned on the first train back and was in Southgate in time for breakfast!



According to the intrepid reporter, at the time the underground trains on this line were the fastest in the world, averaging 25 miles an hour, including station stops. The service provided 131 trains each weekday, although on Sundays the service was limited to 98. At the time the opening of this section provided the longest Underground journey in London, the distance from Enfield West (Oakwood) to South Harrow and Hounslow West being 24 miles.

During the 2½ years of building this stretch of line, employment was provided, directly and indirectly, for over 20,000 men. More than 80,000 tons of iron and steel were used on the extension, 20,000,000 new bricks were laid, and 45,000 railway sleepers handled.

The coming of the Tube made Southgate fully accessible, and the developers started moving in to complete its final transformation from village to suburbia. The house building started slowly following a slump in land values, but by 1934 planning applications were being submitted and by May 1935 around seven hundred and fifty houses were due for completion. This was just the beginning to Southgate's transformation over the last 90 years.

More recent events in our station's history are of course the temporary rename in July 2018 to 'Gareth Southgate', recognising the England football manager during the FIFA World Cup. Then in early 2022, the Winter Lights Festival lit up the station when Dan Maier designed a bespoke window installation, brightening up our darker months.

The first day that the trains ran, passed quietly (apart from our intrepid local reporter), read elsewhere how Southgate celebrated the event 90 years later, on Sunday 12th March.



Jane Maggs

This is a revised and extended version of an article that appeared in the March edition of the Enfield Dispatch.

Images: SDCV archive and courtesy Dan Maier

UNEARTHLY HAPPENINGS IN SOUTHGATE!

I happened to be out at the unearthly time of 3.45 am near Southgate Station on 9th February 2023 and noticed some strange goings on. I have been told that when the Station was built 90 years ago, it was as if a spaceship had landed.

The scene before me suggested this might possibly be true. There were people of no earthly origin coming out of the Station, and yet looking very much at home in Southgate.



I surmised that the person in the white suit, who waved to me, could be the night commander of the station or maybe even of the spaceship? I did try to talk to them, but they never replied, as though they were deaf, but just carried on their way home (it was cold that night).

The night was clear with a full moon, but strangely the top ball had been restored to its former gold appearance. Does this happen often, has anyone seen this before?

I could only surmise that this might be a special occurrence to coincide with the 90th birthday of the Station. Or could it be a regular occurrence?

Mervyn Maggs

With thanks to Kieran Barton-Allan, Ben Gonsalves, Jane Maggs, Chris Ridley, Peter Smith, Phillip, Sue and Vicky.

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

This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at our usual venue at the Walker Hall. The AGM is essential to the successful functioning of Southgate District Civic Voice (SDCV). It is when our members elect the officers and committee for the coming year. It is also an opportunity to talk about our recent and future 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 critical to the running of SDCV, and it is vitally important that these roles are filled. It is hard to see how our society could continue to operate efficiently without a Treasurer.

The role 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 vacant 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.

Any nominations for the vacant positions will be greatly appreciated.

Following a break for tea or coffee and cake, there will be an update on Southgate Regeneration by Andrea Bugli of Enfield Council's Town Centre Development Team.

Thank you for your valued support and we are looking forward to seeing as many of our members as possible at the AGM.

P Gondhea

SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC VOICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following positions are elected at the AGM:

President

Vice-Presidents

Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Membership Secretary

Newsletter Editor

Publicity Officer

Committee Members (6 in total)

The role of Vice Chair is elected by the committee.

Executive Committee (EC) meetings are held approx. every two months, with e-mail discussion amongst members in between.

NB. You will need a valid e-mail address to be a member of the EC.

NOMINATION FORM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 29th April 2023

To:

Secretary

Southgate District Civic Voice

Harwood, The Vale,

Southgate, London, N14 6HN

Or return to: info@SouthgateDistrictCivicVoice.org

I wish to stand as a member of the Executive Committee:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Address:

Email:



CIVIC VOICE UPDATE

The latest program of events including meetings of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Civic Societies and the convention can be found at <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/get-involved/events/>. As members, we can attend these meetings, which are always interesting and informative.



All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Civic Societies

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Civic Societies was established to represent the civic society movement in Parliament and help give greater voice and awareness to the work of civic societies. Our MP Bambos Charalambous is a member of the APPG. We are very fortunate that this group meets in the Houses of Parliament, as I am always awestruck when entering Westminster Hall on the way to the meeting.

The last meeting on 21st March, included key stakeholders and policymakers who shared their approaches to revitalising town centres. The event aimed to consider how we can ensure that all heritage high streets and town centres receive support and adopt strategies for meaningful community engagement.



The meeting was chaired by *Martin Hamilton*, Chair of Civic Voice. The speakers included *Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay*, The Minister for Arts and Heritage from Department for Culture, Media and Sport, *Kelcey Wilson-Lee* from The Architectural Heritage Fund and *Owain Lloyd-James* from Historic England.

However, for me the standout presentation was from a team of three from Bromsgrove. The speakers were *Cllr Karen May*,

Leader of Bromsgrove District Council, *Jo Slade*, Bromsgrove Society and *Lyndsey Berry*, Town Centre Manager. They showed how a partnership between council, civic society and town centre management has allowed the development of strategies to regenerate and revitalise their town centre, ensuring its viability and sustainability for future generations.

It was little wonder that Bromsgrove recently won a prestigious Visa 'Let's Celebrate Towns' competition. Talking to one of the judges of this competition, he told me that Bromsgrove had won because of the effective partnership they had established. I was very struck by what can be achieved when the council and their community work together and the vital role that collaboration and partnerships, formal and informal, play in revitalizing a place. A lesson for all of us!

Civic Voice Convention 19th & 20th May

Civic Voice is teaming up with YHACS (the Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies) and Halifax Civic Trust to hold this convention in Halifax.

The event will include a full programme of activities, including town tours, an evening dinner on Friday 19th May, and a one-day convention focused on 'Pride in Place' on Saturday 20th May. Pride in Place is Civic Voice's key theme for 2023, and the convention will explore how communities can take pride in their local area and work together to protect and promote it for future generations.



More information on the event is available here: <https://www.civicvoice.org.uk/news/civic-voice-spring-convention-19th20th-may-at-the-piece-hall-halifax/>

Jane Maggs

Images: courtesy of Civic Voice and Jane Maggs

APPG image shows L to R: Lyndsey Berry, Martin Hamilton, Kelcey Wilson-Lee, Jo Slade, Cllr Karen May and Owain Lloyd-James

GRAHAM BEECH AWARD 2022

As reported in the January newsletter, our Chairman, Graham Davis, met up with our former Chair, Alison Cathcart, to present her with the certificate for the Graham Beech Award for 2022. Alison has sent a letter of thanks to the Executive Committee, which is printed below.

Dear Graham,

Please convey my thanks to the committee and general membership for the presentation plaque. I was very pleased to receive it and apologise again that I could not be at your function in person.

I wish the group success for all future endeavours.

Alison Cathcart



SOUTHGATE STATION CELEBRATES ITS 90th BIRTHDAY Sunday 12th March 2023

Wow – Sunday 12th March 2023 - *what an amazing day!* The day that Southgate came together to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the opening of its iconic station.

When the station originally opened, there was no fanfare or event, just the gates opening early in the morning. Members of Southgate District Civic Voice decided something more should be done to mark the 90th anniversary. So, why not sing *'Happy Birthday'* to the station? Then of course there has to be *cake*.

Out of this mad idea, developed a whole day of activities organised by Southgate District Civic Voice (SDCV), the Town Centre team from Enfield Council and Transport for London (TfL).

So, what happened

Hundreds of people turned up and had a great day. There was specially designed bunting which we even used to cover up the manky bike that has not moved for ages!



The day started at the station, where there were tours of the bits not normally open to the public, led by Kev Eva (Station Manager) and Ann Gavaghan from TfL. In all, over 200 people came on these tours and there was still a waiting list! We even noticed one of our younger members, Rafi, on the tour.



We were visited by the hugely popular heritage bus, an RT 3933 from the Epping Ongar Railway (www.eorailway.co.uk), who took passengers on a quick trip to Palmers Green and back. They even created a route 29 destination blind especially for the day.



In the afternoon, we all sang *'Happy Birthday'* to the Station.

This was introduced by SDCV Chair **Graham Davis**, who first spoke about the importance of the station and SDCV's vision for the future.

The singing was led by the Busker Department of London's **The SKAM**, with choir members from **St Andrew's church**.



As it was a party, there was a stunning cake from Wilton's. We were honoured that it was cut by Enfield Mayor, **Cllr Doris Jagge**, accompanied by **Kevin Eva**, the Southgate Station manager, who has done so much to champion our station. Also cutting the cake was our own member **Stan Rondeau**, who had also turned 90.

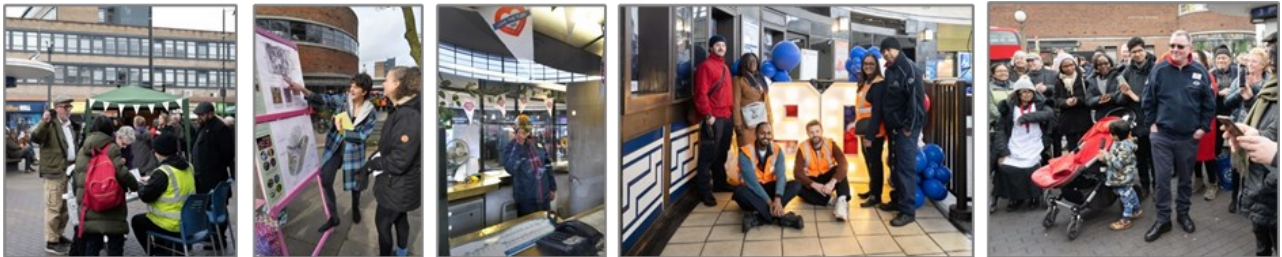


Stan became the star of the day – everyone seemed to be taking his photograph!



Further down Chase Side, the Southgate Club hosted a display of historic photographs, which generated interesting discussions of how Southgate has changed since the station arrived.

In other parts of Southgate, Doodle Design created a place for children to reimagine Southgate, there were discussions on how to improve the green spaces with Jan Kattein Architects and the Bee Friendly Trust. The Southgate public art project (*A Portrait of Southgate*) was on display, generating great feedback and ideas.



There was a fair bit of discussion about Southgate in the present, with various different concerns raised about the area around the station and Southgate in general. For all that it is quite clear that the people who live and work in Southgate care about our town and our station.

The top quote of the day: *'This is the best community celebration of a station I've seen'* Sue Lofthouse, TfL Head of Customer Services Piccadilly Line.

Finally, it is important to remember that days like this only happen because of the people who volunteer. I would like to thank a few of those that helped behind the scenes or mucked in on the day.

So, in alphabetical order ...

Nick Agnew
 Angus Barnett
 Colin Barratt (SDCV)
 Eleanor Bentall
 Edmund Bird (TfL)
 Andrea Bugli (LBE)
 Andrew Carn
 Andrew Catcheside (LBE)

Graham Davis (SDCV)
 Kevin Eva (TfL)
 Ann Gavaghan (TfL)
 Nadia Georgiou (TfL)
 Neeta Jacob (TfL)
 Gareth Leslie (TfL)
 Dan Maier (SDCV)
 Mervyn Maggs (SDCV)

Poppy Medenis
 Clare Moloney (LBE)
 Marek Pospieszalski
 (Southgate Club)
 Fr Edd Turner
 Elaine Tyler (SDCV)
 John West (SDCV)

Jane Maggs

Images curtesy of Mervyn Maggs & TfL's photographer – Eleanor Bentall

SOUTHGATE STATION - WHAT NEXT?

So, what next for celebrating Southgate Station ...

... SDCV is working with Enfield Council officers to apply for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This will be used to fund community-based events over the next 18 months, exploring the past, present and future of the Station with schools, colleges, adults from our diverse community, elderly people and local businesses.

We will work with TfL and Enfield Council Heritage Teams to look at the past history, the design and memories of the Station. This will feed into a programme of Art based activities (workshops, art installation, exhibition and fashion show) which will reinterpret and share this knowledge.

Later phases will include imaging the future for the station and its surroundings.

We do not know if the bid will be successful, but there will be updates on progress in future newsletters and e-news bulletins.

In the meantime, TfL are continuing with their refurbishment programme and we will work with them to keep members informed of progress – including the regilding of the Tesla Ball!

Jane Maggs

PAINTING OF SOUTHGATE STATION



This painting was created by Bob Sharrock, a keen local photographer and artist, who sadly died last August. He was a member of Southgate Methodist Church and the family donated some of his paintings to the church. We don't know if this one was based on a photo or from his imagination. Either way, it's an impressive view of the station and Circus from the past.



Southgate District Civic Voice

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your subscription for the year 2023-2024 is due on **1st April**.
The subscription remains unchanged at £15 per household for this year.

How to pay:

- Standing Order** payable on the **1st April** each year to:
Southgate District Civic Voice (a Santander Business account)
Sort code: 09-01-55
Account No: 28328603
Reference: **MEMB** [plus your] **POSTCODE** (essential to identify your payment)
- Direct Payment** to:
Southgate District Civic Voice (a Santander Business account)
Sort code: 09-01-55
Account No: 28328603
Reference: **MEMB** [plus your] **POSTCODE** (essential to identify your payment)
- Cheque** made payable to "**Southgate District Civic Voice**" and included with your renewal form.

Please complete, sign and return this form to:

SDCV, Membership Secretary, 15 Calder Close, Enfield, EN1 3TS
membership@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org

SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC VOICE Membership Renewal Form 2023

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 email: _____
 Phone: _____

I have paid my 2023-24 Subscription: £ 15.00

Plus a donation of: £ _____

Total: £ _____ by: *SO/Direct Payment/Cheque*

Signature: _____ Date: _____

We rely on our members for all our activities.

Can you help us with:

Administration
Publications

Conservation work
Publicity

Newsletter delivery
Social events

Would you like to be involved in the activities of our groups:

Conservation & town planning - Local history - Publications - Publicity

Please contact us via: info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org

Many thanks for your continuing support.

SDCV MEM03 2023

