

Southgate District Civic Voice

Newsletter No.267
April 2024

We cover Southgate, Winchmore Hill,
Palmers Green, New Southgate,
Cockfosters and Hadley Wood
(Registered as an amenity society with Civic Voice)



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 18th May 2024
at 2.30pm

Walker Lower Hall,
Christchurch Parish Centre,
7 The Green, Southgate, N14

Come and hear about our recent
and future projects and have your
say about our activities.
See page 5 for more details.



TALK AFTER THE AGM

Dolly Shepherd
'The Edwardian
Lady Parachutist'
by Kirsten Forrest

See page 6 for details

ENFIELD LOCAL PLAN: MEETING OF SDCV MEMBERS Wednesday 24 April 7.30pm The Fox public house, Palmers Green

SDCV members are invited to a presentation and discussion about the Enfield Local Plan in the meeting room at the Fox public house on 24 April. We will focus on the most controversial aspects of the plan, including the proposed loss of Green Belt land and proposals for tall buildings in Southgate and Palmers Green. The discussion will inform the SDCV submission and representations by individual members to the planning Inspector. John West and Graham Davis will lead the discussion. We hope to see you at the meeting. See page 7 for more details.

Contributions to the July newsletter should be sent by Friday 21st June.

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Note:- Copies will be emailed, hand delivered or posted during week commencing **Monday 8th July**.

www.southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org

Twitter (X): @southgatevoice

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southgatevoice

Contact us: info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org

SDCV FEBRUARY OPEN MEETING - 3rd February 2024

A talk on the Piccadilly line extension north of Arnos Grove to Southgate and Cockfosters

In 2023, we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the opening of the Piccadilly line extension to Cockfosters. One of the highlights was a talk by Transport for London's (TfL) Heritage Managers **Gareth Leslie** and **Edmund Bird** about the heritage of the underground system and Southgate Station in particular.



This talk was incredibly popular and sold out pretty quickly!! So, we decided to run it again to mark the end of our celebration year. The room at the Southgate Club was again packed with attendees from across London and even further afield.



Unfortunately, at the last minute Gareth was unable to join us, but Edmund was able to deliver a fascinating talk. He covered the history of London Underground and in particular the heritage aspects.

He started with an overview of the history and beginnings of the London Underground network covering the people, places and transport across London and beyond from its beginning in 1863 as the world's first underground railway, right up to the present day with the opening of the Elizabeth Line.

This was followed by a look at how the network was extended in the 1930s from Finsbury Park to Cockfosters. Naturally this included Charles Holden's influence and Edmund showed examples of the different buildings and stations across the network that Holden was responsible for designing.

Then some of the work being done to restore the historic features of our stations and their environs. Plus, how the stations are being upgraded to meet the demands of now, but still maintaining the historic features. He of course mentioned the work on Southgate, including the restoration of the clock in Station Parade.

After the talk there were questions from the audience, covering the introduction of more step-free access on the network and the provision of toilets which present a challenge at some stations.

There was discussion of the impact on TfL's revenue during the pandemic and how passenger numbers have not yet increased to match pre-2019 levels. Edmund explained that in addition to TfL budget, they do receive funding for some key capital projects through grants from heritage organisation and other external sources.



This was a fascinating afternoon enjoyed by all who attended.

Jane Maggs

Photos: Mervyn Maggs



CIVIC VOICE REGIONAL CONFERENCE Wakefield 12-13 May 2024

Following 2023's successful Civic Voice Spring Convention in Halifax, this year, civic societies from across the country will be in Wakefield for the 2024 Spring Convention.

The theme for 2024 will be 'regeneration' - how do we regenerate our cities and towns in these challenging times? Across the Wakefield district, both heritage and culture are being used to transform local places, to bring new life, new interest - and new money - into the area - and local civic societies are playing their part in working with the local council, developers, businesses and others to bring about change.

Civic Voice is partnering with Wakefield Civic Society and YHACS (the Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies) to organise this unique event in Wakefield, long known as 'the Merrie City'.



With a fascinating history and examples of built heritage that span from medieval times to the present day, there is much to see across the city centre. Of particular interest will be the Westgate High Street Heritage Action Zone, a 4-year £4m + project funded by Wakefield Council and Historic England together with local business owners to refurbish some of the significant heritage properties along this key route into the city centre.

A full programme of activity includes tours of the city centre and an evening dinner on Friday 12th April, and a one-day Convention focused on 'Heritage and Cultural-led Regeneration' on Saturday 13th April.

The line up of guest speakers will offer local and regional perspectives on these subjects and will consider how civic societies across the country can use their knowledge, expertise and influence to help shape their own towns and cities.

The event is open to anyone interested in these themes - you do not need to be a member of a civic society to attend.

To register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/civic-voice-spring-convention-2024-tickets-815223725107?aff=oddtcreator>

This will be a fascinating convention with many themes of interest to us here in London.

I will be attending and it would be great to meet up with other members there. If you would like any further information, please contact me via info@SouthgateDistrictCivicVoice.org.

*Jane Maggs
Civic Voice Trustee*

SPRING OPEN MEETING

Saturday 20th April at 2.30pm

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

A talk by Matt Burn on ‘New Homes in Enfield: Addressing the Borough’s Housing Needs’

As Enfield begins the next stage of the emerging Enfield Local Plan, where housing has become a key topic, we are delighted that **Matt Burn**, representing *Better Homes Enfield*, will lead an engaging discussion on this pressing topic.

This informative session aims to explore critical housing development issues within our community. The talk will cover:

Urgency and Importance:

As Enfield experiences population growth and housing shortages, addressing housing needs becomes paramount.

Sustainable solutions are essential for our community’s well-being.

Strategies for Success:

Matt will delve into innovative approaches, including compact town planning and sustainable development.

The delicate balance between preserving Green Belt land and utilizing Brownfield sites will be discussed.

Attendees will gain insights into the advantages of apartments versus houses.

Community Engagement:

This talk coincides with the final stage of community consultation on Enfield’s new Local Plan.

Members will better understand the plan’s implications for housing development.

Better Homes Enfield is a community organisation campaigning for sustainable, quality housing solutions for our community. To find out more: www.betterhomes-enfield.org.

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 if booked via Eventbrite).

To give us an idea of numbers (so we have enough cake!) we would appreciate you registering with Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sdcv-meeting-new-homes-in-enfield-addressing-the-boroughs-housing-needs-tickets-868414139067>

Do please pass the details of this meeting on to anyone who may be interested.

Jane Maggs

SOUTHGATE DISTRICT CIVIC VOICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 18th May 2024 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 the Walker Hall on Saturday 18th May. 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 discuss SDCV's future strategy and campaigns.

Do come to support your Executive Committee, 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. The aim is to give members an opportunity to read the reports in advance, so that the meeting can focus on questions or important decisions. It also means the AGM is more interesting and quicker, without losing oversight by members.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, we do not currently have a **Secretary**, which is making the life of our committee, who are all volunteers, much harder than it should be! There are a few roles that are vitally important to the efficient running of SDCV and the **Secretary** is definitely one of them! The role need not be arduous. It is mainly about keeping track of our work and ensuring everyone on the Committee is kept informed.

We also have the perennially vacant position of **Publicity Officer**, which is only partially covered by other members of the committee. We are involved in so many campaigns and projects, so need to broadcast to the world what we are doing.

Please consider standing for one of these roles! If you would like to discuss how you could help SDCV please contact either Graham Davis, Chair, or Jane Maggs, Vice Chair, at info@SouthgateDistrictCivicVoice.org.

After the formal business of the AGM, there will be a presentation of the **Graham Beech Memorial Award** for outstanding service to SDCV and the local community.

Following a short break, **Kirsten Forrest**, Curatorial & Interpretation Manager at Alexandra Park & Palace Charitable Trust, will talk about '**Dolly Shepherd: the Edwardian Lady Parachutist**'. (See details on page 6).

Jane Maggs (on behalf of the Executive Committee)



Dolly Shepherd 'The Edwardian Lady Parachutist' by Kirsten Forrest

The fascinating story of a top-drawer star of our entertainment heritage at Alexandra Palace is Dolly Shepherd 'The Edwardian Lady Parachutist'. Elizabeth, nicknamed Dolly as a baby because of her doll-like look, became famous for jumping out of balloons and floating back to earth in front of crowds of admirers. She was a daring performer who made her first and last jumps from Alexandra Park, North London but had a successful career nationally and unlike many of her aerial pioneer friends survived accidents, going on to serve in both the First and Second World Wars.

Kirsten Forrest, Curatorial & Interpretation Manager at Alexandra Park & Palace Charitable Trust.

SDCV OAK TREE ON SOUTHGATE GREEN

We have a new oak tree to replace the one planted to commemorate our 60th anniversary in 2022. The first tree died because of a lack of water. The new tree has been planted by a contractor for Enfield Council.

The Council's Arboricultural officer has informed us that the tree planting contractor is paid to water the tree every two weeks and every week in very dry weather. However, this is not enough in extreme dry weather conditions and the Council will need the help of SDCV and other members of the community.

We should do our best to look after our tree. One local resident has kindly offered to water the tree from time to time. It would be good if SDCV members who live near Southgate Green would also check to ensure that the tree has enough water, particularly in dry spells.

Graham Davis



ENFIELD LOCAL PLAN, APRIL 2024

During a long and often fractious Council Meeting the draft Local Plan was approved for the final round of consultation, known as Regulation 19. This is the most important stage as all submissions that are made will now be passed to a government appointed Planning Inspector. The Inspector will hold a public 'Examination' of the Plan, probably later this year. Civic groups such as SDCV and other interested parties will have the opportunity to be represented at the Examination alongside the Council and developers who are anxious to develop sites.

SDCV and some individual members submitted comments during the consultation period during 2021. These comments will **not** be given to the Inspector as, in theory, the Council has considered them and either amended the Plan or dismissed the views expressed.

We all acknowledge that there is a housing crisis and that there are difficulties in young people buying their own home. There is a serious shortage of both affordable and social housing. The Council's arguments are based on the need for more homes, the number of families in temporary housing and the cost to the Council of providing temporary housing in hotels, hostels etc. To solve this problem, the Council's Plan proposes to develop housing on extensive areas of the Green Belt. This includes Vicarage Farm to the east of Trent Park and land at Crews Hill including Crews Hill golf course. In addition, the Council's tall buildings policy is being clarified allowing the construction of tall buildings at both Southgate Circus and Palmers Green.

At Regulation 18, SDCV submitted detailed comments setting out our objections to Green Belt development and questioning whether these sites will provide the type of housing that Enfield needs. Building on the edge of the urban area encourages car-led developments. This is not in accordance with the Mayor's strategic plan to develop sustainable development with 80% of journeys being made by public transport, walking or cycling. We noted that both the Mayor and TfL objected to the Green Belt development at Regulation 18. We also expressed concern about the development of tall buildings in or on the edge of Conservation Areas such as Southgate Circus and the Lakes Estate in Palmers Green. Nothing has changed in the current proposals other than very minor modifications. We will be making further representations as part of the current consultation and will seek to be represented at the Examination. We will also be making the point that research by CPRE, the countryside charity, and other agencies suggests that there are sufficient available brownfield sites in Enfield to meet the housing need and many of these are much better located in terms of public transport accessibility and other facilities.

The formal consultation period started on 28th March and runs until 20th May. Further details will be available on our website and there will be links to the Enfield Society and the Enfield RoadWatch sites that also provide further details. The Enfield Society has produced a proforma that is easier to complete than the Council's form and gives ideas on the type of valid planning objections.

As announced on the front page, we have arranged a consultation meeting with SDCV members on 24th April to inform our submission to the Inspector. **We encourage all our members to make individual submissions.**

John West

SOUTHGATE IMPROVEMENTS 2024

SDCV members were present on Saturday 9th March at events to celebrate the launch of two projects and to discuss future improvements to Southgate town centre. We are collaborating with Enfield Council on these projects.

The **first project** was a celebration of new artwork at Southgate library by **Dan Maier**, local artist and SDCV member. The art covers the windows to the front of the library.



It was commissioned by Enfield Council as part of the *Festival of Industry*, and has invigorated this building with a stained-glass effect artwork designed to bring warmth to the grey streetscape and lift spirits in the area.

library site until 1933. The art also reflects the journey of James Cuthbert to London in 1797 to seek his fortune.

Dan is a firm believer in the positive impact public art can have on people. *“I’m over the moon with the response. Seeing the beaming faces of both library staff and users as they describe how the artwork cheers them up is the ultimate reward.”*

The launch of the art was attended by Enfield’s Deputy Mayor and by Bambos Charalambous, the MP for Enfield Southgate.



The **second project** was the launch of Ashfield Parade parklets. The parklets include a variety of trees as well as drawings developed by local young people at a workshop in February at the Alan Pullinger Centre. The workshop was run by Christina from Doodle. SDCV had earlier attended the presentation of their design ideas and been very inspired by their work.

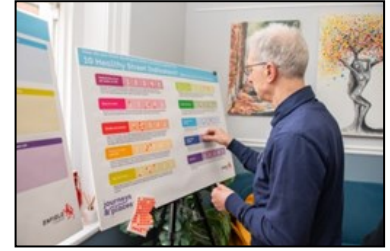


This project has been financed by the Government’s Levelling Up Fund.

Refreshments and food were provided for participants by two restaurants near the parklets in Ashfield Parade.

(Continued over)

The **third event**, held at the **Southgate Club**, was a presentation of future projects for *Southgate Town Centre* to be delivered this year.



One project is to improve the pocket park on the High Street near Nandos. A concept design which includes seating has been prepared. Enfield Council is drawing up a maintenance agreement with Transport for London which owns the site.

A second project is the creation of three rain gardens on Chase Side. Participants in the event were invited to give their views to Enfield Council on ways in which the local environment might be further improved.



Site 01 - Streetview



Site 02 - Streetview



Site 03 - Streetview

Finally, there was an opportunity to talk to the artists Alex McHallam and Liz Taranti, about their ideas for the *Portrait of Southgate* project. SDCV was part of the commissioning team, so were delighted to see how their ideas are taking shape.

Later this summer, this project will bring a public art trail to Southgate. The artists have already started engaging with local groups and schools to make sure they include what is important to this community. More in the next newsletter!



It was a great day, with lots of inspiration for the future of Southgate's town centre.

Graham Davis & Jane Maggs

Photos: Mervyn Maggs, Dan Maier & Natalie Gee

CAN YOU VOTE IN THE LONDON ELECTIONS?

Do you have the right voter ID?

London goes to the polls on **Thursday 2nd May** to elect a **mayor** and **25 London Assembly members**. It is our chance to decide who will be in charge of running the capital for the next four years.

Are you registered to vote? The deadline to register is Tuesday 16th April.

Once you are registered you can vote in person at a polling station on 2nd May, or by post or by proxy.

Can you vote in person? The rules have changed, so if you wish to vote in person at the polling station (including those acting as a proxy on behalf of another person) you **must show the correct photographic ID** to prove your identity.



To find out all the information you need - go to <https://www.enfield.gov.uk/voter-id>

Don't lose your democratic right to vote. Have the right ID!

REPLACEMENT GATE AND PLAQUES FOR MINCHENDEN OAK GARDEN

In the October 2022 newsletter we announced the sad news that the gate and plaques at the entrance to the Minchenden Oak Garden had been stolen. We are pleased to report that these have recently been replaced and are shown here. They look as good as the originals.



VISIT BY DESCENDANTS OF THE WALKERS OF SOUTHGATE

Jane Maggs was contacted recently by Rob Ruxton, a descendant of the Walker family. In the 19th century the family lived at the house then known as Arnos Grove, now the Southgate Beaumont care home, on Cannon Hill. Rob and four other members of the family planned to visit Southgate on Saturday 23rd March to look at places associated with their ancestors. The five family members were all descended from one of the sisters of the famous seven cricketing Walker brothers. They had contacted the care home manager at the Beaumont, who had agreed to meet them and show them round. Richard Purver and I joined Jane at the Beaumont to meet the family and give them a bit more history of the Walkers and the house. They were very impressed with the house and its sympathetic restoration. They particularly liked the magnificent Lanscroun murals around the stairwell and ceiling.

The manager provided tea and cakes for us and we had a good conversation with the family. Glasses of wine were given out to toast the memory of the Walker family and a photo was taken of everyone. The manager was intending to contact the local papers about the visit.



Outside the house I took a photo of the group in front of the plaque commemorating the seven cricketing Walker brothers.

Following the visit to their ancestral home the family wandered up to Waterfall Road to explore other Walker history. They were very lucky, as Christ Church was open and the Chair of the management committee and the curate were there. They showed them around everything connected with the family. The family also visited the pavilion in the Walker Ground and the bar manager was pleased to tell them about the history of the grounds. So they felt it was a very successful day.

Colin Barratt

HACKNEY HISTORY FESTIVAL

Hackney Society, Friends of Hackney Archive and many other groups are organising the first Hackney History Festival in May 2024.

This will be a month of activities across the borough including guided tours of some of our iconic buildings, historic walks and 3 days of talks on May 10 – 12 ending with a quiz night. Local historians and residents discuss Hackney's long tradition of dissent, women's' rights, entertainment, migration, regeneration and belonging in the most diverse borough in Europe.

It will comprise a combination of free and low-cost events – tickets available now here: <https://hackneyhistoryfestival.org/>

It is hoped to make this an annual event.

