

Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter
No. 215
Jan. 2011



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COMING EVENTS

HISTORY GROUP MEETING **Wednesday 2nd March 2011** **at 7.30pm**

At Friends Meeting House, Church Hill,
Winchmore Hill, N21

“A View of Bethnal Green” **by Harold Neville**

Recollections of the East End,
including meeting the Kray brothers.

ALL WELCOME

OPEN MEETING **Saturday 5th March 2011** **at 2.30pm.**

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

“Heritage and Enfield Council - **Challenges for the Future”** **by Cllr Bambos Charalambous**

ALL WELCOME

See inside for: The activities of Civic Voice
The latest news on the New Southgate Masterplan
Planning applications in our Conservation Areas
A possible new museum for Enfield

Dates for your diary:

Mon. 2nd May **May Day Fair on Southgate Green** - SDCT will again be represented with a stall
Wed. 4th May **History Group Meeting “A Different View of Enfield”** Friends Meeting House
Sat. 7th May **Annual General Meeting** Walker Lower Hall 2.30pm

Contributions to the April newsletter should be sent by Friday 18th March 2011

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Notice to Newsletter Distributors:- We hope to deliver the next newsletter to distributors during week commencing 11th April 2011

Southgate District Civic Trust ~ Established to conserve and enhance the environment in Southgate, New Southgate, Cockfosters, Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Hadley Wood.
(Registered as an amenity society with **Civic Voice**).

PLANNING GROUP REPORT

Since my last report to the Newsletter in September, the group have had four meetings and have dealt with 38 town planning applications, covering all our Conservation Areas. With a few exceptions we are usually notified of the decisions as to whether they have been refused or granted permission by the Council's planning department, and the reasons in either case. When we are told that any of the applications that have been refused permission are going to Appeal, then it is possible to add to anything that we have written previously, within a set time, if we wish to do so. If we require a copy of the Appeal results, then we have to make a special request.

At our December meeting we had 15 decisions which was quite a lot at one time. I read out any decisions and appeals at the beginning of our meetings, so that members have a feed back on previous work that we have done.

In November there was a meeting/workshop regarding the future of Broomfield House. The purpose of the workshop was to invite thoughts and ideas on key issues. There will be further public workshops in the future.

BT Cabinets. To date we have had three in our Conservation Areas. On adjacent land opposite to Minchenden Court N14; The Green, N21 and outside 1 Cannon Hill N14. We have been given guide lines regarding any objections, and they can only be about 'siting and appearance' because it is "permitted development". We had no problems in using these reasons in our objections and they have been refused permission. We do however, expect more, none of which will preserve or enhance the special character or appearance of any of our Conservation Areas.

As we begin 2011, I am hoping that some of our members of the Trust will make a New Year Resolution to join our Group and spare one evening a month to support us in the work that we do. It is a friendly, informal meeting, and they are all held at 6, Eversley Mount, N21. At 8.00pm. Tel No. 020 8364 3500. The next one is on 26th January, 2011.

*Irene Stone
Chairman*

HISTORY GROUP MEETING – November 2010

“HUMOUR IN THE ROYAL PALACES” by Major Peter Horsfall

In this talk we were treated to a rare insight into life in the House of Lords. Peter had a wealth of stories relating to his work there, the famous people he met, and the many amusing incidents he experienced. These featured occasions when he met the Queen, Prince Philip, the Queen Mother and Margaret Thatcher, among others. It was a fascinating evening.

Colin Barratt

NEW SOUTHGATE MILLENIUM GREEN

TREE PLANTING

As part of National Tree Planting Week, the Trustees of the New Southgate Millennium Green arranged to plant two native trees on the Green on Saturday 27 November. These saplings were an English Elm and a Ginkgo Biloba. Local dignitaries and residents were invited to attend, with the offer of a free barbeque! The weather was kind, if cold, and about 30 people came to the event, including the Southgate MP, David Burrowes, and one of the Enfield Councillors for the area, Henry Lamprecht.

The two holes had already been prepared, and before the Ginkgo was planted, the ashes of James Irvine were tipped into the hole. He was one of the long-term volunteers, who died of cancer earlier this year, and was the brother of Andrew Irvine, Secretary of the Trustees. Their mother and James' daughter were also there to witness the ceremony.

It is hoped that these trees will survive to add to the many trees and shrubs which have been planted in the ten years since the Green was created. More native species will be added in the future.



The Trustees are also planning to bury a time capsule on the Green next year, to further mark its tenth anniversary, which will contain information about the Green and the local area, for future generations to discover.

A NEW MUSEUM FOR ENFIELD?

On 17 November Mary and I were invited to attend a meeting at the Enfield Local Studies Unit in Thomas Hardy House. It was arranged as a preliminary informal discussion between representatives of local voluntary groups with an interest in the local history of the borough, and was chaired by an experienced museum consultant, who had been engaged by the council to consider the options and report back.

The background to this is that Enfield's museum and local history collections were currently displayed and stored at Forty Hall Museum. This was closed at the end of November 2010 for major refurbishment. When it reopens, most of the collections will have to be stored elsewhere, and the display facilities will be reduced.

The Museum Service was considering creating a new museum in the Dugdale Centre/Thomas Hardy House. Some external funding has been secured for this project, but it was thought important that the views of key local groups be taken into account. This could be the start of an exciting opportunity to provide a modern museum in the centre of Enfield, worthy of such a historic and diverse borough.

The attendees were very supportive of the idea, and made a number of suggestions for the type of facility required, and the help they were willing to give. However, the spaces at the Centre which would have provided an adequate location for a museum have all been allocated for other uses, and it appeared that the new museum, if it goes ahead, will only have a small and cramped display area. This was very disappointing for all of us, and the point was made strongly that, if a museum is thought to be worth creating here, then enough space and modern display facilities should be provided.

We were told that the consultant will be presenting his report to the council soon, so we are waiting to hear the response.

Colin Barratt

NEWS FROM CIVIC VOICE

Localism Bill

Civic Voice has been actively involved with the Localism Bill, which received its first full debate in the House of Commons on 17th January. A copy of their final briefing to MPs can be found on the Civic Voice website (www.civicvoice.org.uk) or via the link on the SDCT website.

Civic Voice have already drawn attention to some potential risks to conservation areas and listed buildings and engaged the Minister in thinking sympathetically about a community right of appeal among other things. There is a great deal in the Bill that they feel can be welcomed, especially the overall aim of delivering a “power shift” to local communities and the series of new rights, including the right to prepare neighbourhood plans.

In order to make most impact they need to include the practical experience of local groups. In particular examples of:

1. Efforts to develop sympathetic planning policies or development proposals for an area which have been rejected by local councils and which would be helped by the new arrangements for neighbourhood planning
2. Planning applications where developers have not involved you until much too late in the day
3. Community assets, such as civic buildings or open space, being sold off by local authorities without thinking enough about their social benefit
4. The loss of important local shops and other services, such as pubs, because no planning application was required to change the use of a building
5. Weak local authority action to tackle illegal advertising or graffiti.

The Civic Voice is looking at arranging a series of workshops on this legislation. If anyone is interested in this, please let me know.

Street Pride

Street Pride is Civic Voice’s national campaign supporting local action to help rid our streets of unnecessary clutter. They are gathering evidence to support a national call for action to create more streets we can be proud of. If you would like to get involved there is information on the Civic Voice website.

Broadband Boxes

Civic Voice is campaigning to ensure broadband Britain is beautiful too.

Two thirds of homes will be passed by superfast broadband by 2015 as part of a major investment programme in broadband infrastructure. This requires thousands of green boxes (or “street cabinets”) to be installed in streets across the country. Civic Voice is finding too many of these broadband boxes are being poorly located, inflexibly designed and made unnecessarily intrusive.

The new broadband boxes stand 1.6 metres high and do not require planning consent. Even in conservation areas, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty local planning authorities need only be notified of proposals. A legal presumption that such infrastructure should be underground in conservation areas is seemingly ignored on the grounds of questionable “technical difficulties” and “huge cost”.

If you are concerned by the impact of broadband boxes being installed in your area then let Civic Voice know at info@civicvoice.org.uk.

Abbey Road

Tony Burton, Director of Civic Voice has supported the Government's announcement that Abbey Road's zebra crossing will be given official protection saying "Following on from Abbey Road studios themselves being listed in February, we are pleased to hear the Abbey Road zebra crossing - forever linked with the Beatles - has been listed".

Jane Maggs

Open Meeting 16th October 2010

A CENTENARY OF THE RAILWAY FROM ENFIELD TO CUFFLEY (1910-2010) by Dave Cockle and Roger Elkin

Dave Cockle and Roger Elkin gave us a fascinating history of the railway extension from Enfield to Cuffley and its impact on the local area. There was something in this presentation for everyone, as we were given information on the railways, local history, social history or just generally interesting facts.

They started their project looking at this aspect of the railway in 1998. During this centenary year they have been involved in various events, culminating in a popular exhibition at Forty Hall.



Before the work on this extension could start, it needed an Act of Parliament, which was finally passed in 1898. The original route proposed had to be amended following objections from Theobold's estate, as the original plan would have interfered with their pheasant shooting activities! The extension finally opened on 4th April 1910.

We were treated to fascinating photos of the building of the different sections by various teams of navvies. Particularly interesting were the photo's of the various bridges and viaducts that had to be built without the aid of cranes, just poles and pulleys. Dave and Roger showed us photos and maps of the extensive goods yard at Enfield. While most of it is now built over, the original road layout around it still exists. I was fascinated to learn that Fyffes bananas had a large ripening plant in Enfield, not something I had expected.

The railway extension had a profound impact on our area. The introduction of workman's tickets allowed many families to move out of the crowded central parts of London to a new life in the country. When the train reached Cuffley, there were no shops, apart from the post office, and few houses. It was deliberately developed in the 1930's with new housing. Similarly, Crew's Hill nurseries which were developed after the war, were able to expand and exist, because of the close proximity of the railway.

This talk gave us so much information and detail, it is not possible to give it full justice in a brief article. The material presented was wide ranging, covering many areas of interest. Judging by the questions and discussions later, everyone was fully engaged and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Jane Maggs

Miscellany

Lost Treasures – Cinemas, Theatres and Music Halls of Enfield

In our last edition, we reported that the project to create mosaics of now lost architectural gems in the borough had been completed, and showed the only one from our area, the Coronation Cinema in New Southgate. The commemorative booklet of the project has now been published, which contains photos of the original buildings, and each of the mosaics created, plus brief histories. The organisers decided against producing a DVD, due to the expense. Copies of the booklet are now in local libraries and the Local History Archive.

Forty Hall Restoration

This Grade 1 listed building was closed in November for a £4.5 million restoration. It will be returned to its original 17th century layout, and access will be improved. The Victorian staircase will be replaced with a replica Jacobean one, and the original kitchen on the ground floor will be returned to its former glory. The house should be reopening in Spring 2012. However, the café and grounds remain open.

World War One Soldier's Diaries

The diaries of First World War veteran and Winchmore Hill resident Reginald Shipway, who died in 1977, had been donated by his granddaughter to the archives at Palmers Green Library, but had become lost until rediscovered in 2009 when the archives were being moved. These diaries described daily life in the trenches in WW1, and provide a valuable insight into the life of a soldier then. The diary can be read online on the Enfield Council website (www.enfield.gov.uk).

Southgate Flower Bed *Jane Maggs*

As many have noticed the flower bed in Southgate, outside the Wimpy Bar, has been cleared. I have been informed by the local council and Enfield in Bloom that they cleared the bed because it was so overgrown, it had become a hazard to pedestrians, as drivers turning off the roundabout, could not see them crossing Chase Road.

I have been assured that the flower bed will be replanted with shrubs and flowering plants. The SDCT plaque which had been completely buried in the shrubbery will be staying put.

NEW SOUTHGATE MASTERPLAN

In our July 2010 newsletter, Graham, our Chairman, set out the details of the Draft Masterplan, as published by Enfield Council in March 2010, as a Supplementary Planning Document. Residents and others interested, including organisations such as National Grid and English Heritage, were given three months to submit comments. Following this, a Masterplan Consultation Report was published in November 2010, and a Masterplan Neighbourhood Panel arranged for 24 November to discuss the comments and what changes had been made to the draft document.

Graham and I attended this Panel meeting, and the following is a brief summary of the projects which were considered to be the highest priority:

Ladderswood Estate – a short list of two contractors has been made, and these will submit their final schemes in early 2011. When the preferred developer is selected, they will apply for planning permission, and start the building work in early 2012.

Red Brick Estate (this is a local collective name for the various estates built around Station Road and High Road in the original 1970s re-development) – safety and environmental improvement here was one of the most popular projects, and it was hoped this would be the first to be done.

New Southgate Station – improvements to the station and the area around it were considered a priority, including parking facilities.

Arnos Grove Station and nearby Library – access improvements to the station and a new public square were welcomed, as long as buses are accommodated. The library is also a listed building, and this facility will not be moved.

The High Road – plans to improve the remnant of this road and the existing open spaces around it were welcomed.

A Youth Facility – the lack of youth provision was mentioned by almost all respondents, and a new youth club has now started at St Pauls Church Parish Hall, in the High Road.

The Masterplan was due to be presented to the Cabinet of Enfield Council on 15 December, following which a Delivery Strategy would be prepared, showing which projects would go ahead, and the timescales. We are still waiting to hear the results, but the present financial restrictions will mean that the budget for this will be reviewed, and work is likely to concentrate on just the priority projects in the near future. When the Final Masterplan and timings are published, Graham will study it in more detail, and give his responses in the next Newsletter.

Colin Barratt

MY TRIP TO RHIWBINA, CARDIFF

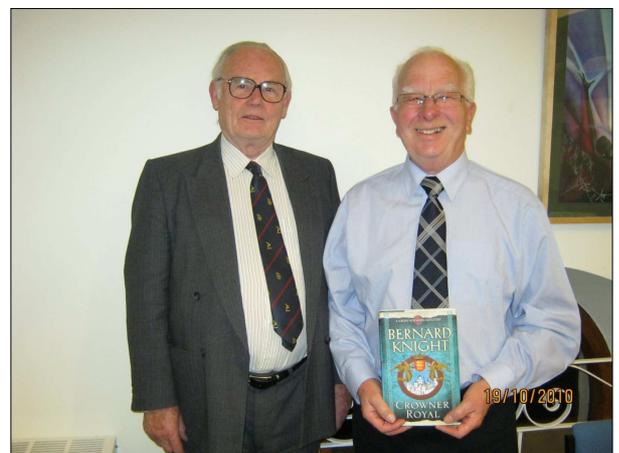
I had three reasons for going, and being an honorary member of their Civic Society gave me the opportunity to go.

- 1 To visit the second place my brother and I were evacuated to during the war, in 1940/41. This is the house, and Rhiwbina Garden Village is as beautiful as ever. I thought how lucky we were to have been billeted there, and with such a nice couple.



- 2 Then to talk to the children at the local primary school where I attended; my older brother went to the secondary school. That went very well. They were full of interest and asked a lot of questions, one being 'what were the dinners like?'

- 3 Then in the evening I went to the Civic Trust talk by Professor Bernard Knight, a famous forensic expert, (Fred West case was one), also one of my favourite crime writers. His talk on how he put his stories together was very good and went down well with the packed audience. Needless to say I gave the Southgate District Civic Trust a mention, and how much our problems were the same as theirs.



Then on the day I came home, a Trust member gave me a guided tour of Cardiff, so all in all it was a great success.

Stan Rondeau