

Newsletter

Southgate District Civic Trust



No. 198 October 2006

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12 Norman Way,
Southgate N14 6NA
Tel: 020 8886 3303

COMING EVENTS

OPEN MEETING Saturday 28th October 2006 at 2.30pm.

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

“Restoration Designs for Broomfield House”



Peter Riddington BSc (Hons), B.Arch RIBA, the architect responsible for the restoration proposals for Broomfield House, is coming to talk to the Trust about his plans.

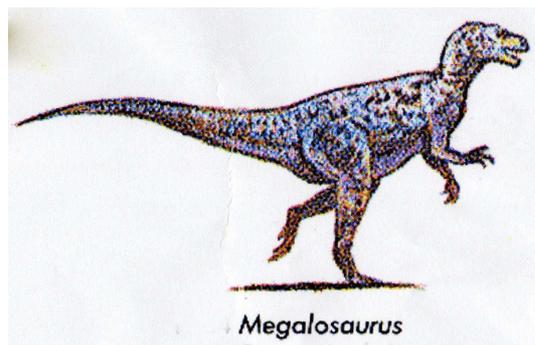
Long-standing members will remember Peter's enthralling account of the restoration of Windsor Castle which he gave to the Trust in 1997, and we are very pleased to welcome him back to describe a project much nearer home and of great local interest.

The position on the Covenant, which Audrey Kirby mentioned in the last newsletter, will not have been resolved by the time of the Open Meeting, so the rehabilitation of the house will still be a positive and hoped-for possibility. Everyone welcome.

MEMBERS' ANNUAL LUNCHEON
Wednesday 22nd November 2006
at 12.00pm.
Southgate College Restaurant

(See note on page 2 for details)

HISTORY GROUP MEETING
Wednesday 1st November 2006
at 7.30pm.
Friends Meeting House,
Church Hill, N21
ALL WELCOME



Megalosaurus

He would love to make friends with you on 1st. Nov.

“The Geological Story of Winchmore Hill” by Stuart Delvin

Contributions to the January newsletter should be sent by Monday 4th. December 2006
to the Editors: Mary and Colin Barratt, 13 Beardow Grove, Avenue Road, Southgate, N14 4DG
Tel: 020 8882 2246 e-mail: colin_barratt@yahoo.co.uk

Notice to Newsletter Distributors:- We hope to deliver the next newsletter to distributors during week commencing 15th January 2007.

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 the Civic Trust).

LAMAS Local History Conference—Saturday 18th November 2006

This year's annual conference will have the theme *Lost London*, and the lectures will explore this in various aspects. The titles are: The Tower of London - a Lost Palace; Lost Churches and Convents of Mediaeval London; Disused Underground Stations; Lost Rivers of London; Lost Vibrancy and Squalor; The Abercromby Plan - a Lost Opportunity.

As always, many of the affiliated societies will be displaying their publications and local photos etc., including Southgate District Civic Trust. The displays will be open at 10am, and the conference starts at 10.30am, closing at 5pm. Tickets are available at £7 from *Local History Conference, 36 Church Road, West Drayton, UB7 7BX*. Make cheques payable to *London & Middlesex Archaeological Society*, and enclose an SAE with your application.

Members Annual Luncheon

Our Annual Luncheon has once again been booked at Southgate College, for Wednesday 22nd November. The anticipated cost will be approximately £9, to include coffee. All members are very welcome.

It starts at 12 noon and anyone wishing to come should ring Janet Lane on 020 8886 3303.

Bon appetit!

New River Walk

On August 28th, a gloomy Bank Holiday Monday, eleven optimistic members met at Broxbourne Station for our annual New River Walk, under the leadership of New River enthusiast, Christopher Royall. We were well rewarded, as under sunny skies we walked northwards along the east river bank admiring not just the clarity of the water, and the wildlife, including an early brood of little coots, but also on the west bank the wonderful houses. Some of these lovely houses had gardens right down to the river, but no moorings for boats, as boats are not allowed on the New River.

We then turned right across some rough land, passing a new industrial estate, a permanent site of mobile homes and a level crossing to Dobbs Weir, where we stopped for refreshment. Eric Brown, in our party, told us he remembered hearing how, in days gone by, people from the East End of London came here for days out, so as to enjoy the country air and the river. The River Lea offers cruises for all tastes, including cream teas, evening dinner etc., and we stopped at a lock whilst the skipper of a cruiser operated the lock gates (with the help of two sturdy Trust members!).

It was all great fun, and we strolled along the River Lea back to Broxbourne, where we discovered an old water-wheel hidden behind a church. A most enjoyable afternoon and our thanks, as ever, to Chris Royall.

Janet Lane

News from CIVIC FOCUS - The Suburbs.

CIVIC FOCUS is the quarterly magazine produced by the Civic Trust. The Civic Trust is the leading UK charity dedicated to bringing vitality sustainability and high quality design to the built environment. It is the umbrella body for 850 civic societies, of which the SDCT is one, across the country.

Recently Civic Focus covered the subject of the suburbs entitled 'The suburbs - would you want to live there?' Members of the SDCT do indeed live in a suburb, whether or not we wish to do so, and our January 2006 newsletter contained an account of the fascinating exhibition then being held at MoDA (Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture) called 'In Search of Suburbia' with many exhibits and photos of the way Enfield has developed from a collection of villages to a London suburban area.

Civic Focus examined various aspects of suburban life, and asked "when 86% of the country's population live in the suburbs, why are we pouring all our energies in to improving city centres and saving the countryside? At the start of the 21st century, suburbs are where in some towns riots happen, ghettos form, and where the car brings as much alienation as it does freedom. They are isolated yet congested, leafy yet environmentally unsustainable."

Their problems and possible solutions are explored in the magazine articles which include:-

Residential development. As an example of 'ex-urbia', the post-war attempts to solve the acute housing problem with mediocre high-density high-rise building on out-of-town aprons, were at the root of the creation of ghettos, isolation and loss of neighbourhood spirit. Since then suburban local authorities have endeavoured to correct these by replacing the multi-storey blocks with low-rise but still high-density development, which remains 'ex-urbia' and in many cases destroying the leafy environment of the original suburbs.

Other articles are on the green belts - for and against; and on transport - suburbs having developed along the main radial routes out of city centres, and the growing problem of cars and commuting. The conclusion reached is for us to create viable, distinctive, and thriving suburbs by mixing land uses and communities so that people can meet most of their needs locally.

The most interesting article is that entitled 'The Village in our Hearts'. It says:-

"Everyone has a deep felt need for neighbourhood, and the link between neighbourhood and the land, home, work and social system is not only strong but seamless. But for a long time now such vital connections have been weakening and breaking family networks, often caused by lack of affordable housing and work opportunities. With technical inventions – mobile phones, email, internet etc, vital neighbourhood connections are perhaps irrelevant. But, people who attend Civic Trust community building workshops consistently show a heartfelt sense of 'village' which provides lasting motivation towards a sense of place, belonging to a community, living there.

Since 1997 neighbourhood renewal policy has done much to galvanise a sense of community, but all neighbourhoods however small should provide services and market places - their 'market offer'. This includes everything from food to education, entertainment and spiritual care.

Only 25-30 years ago we would have expected much of these to be provided and consumed in the neighbourhood, as it had been for centuries. Now we consume these things at the workplace, in other people's neighbourhoods, in the town centre or out-of-town malls.

Government policies, neighbourhood renewals, education, economic and planning policy all fail to see that with a poor 'market offer' the end is a dormitory. Less than 10% of the U.K.'s neighbourhoods function as preferred shopping points. We have become a nation of second-rate local shopping parades.

Why does this matter? Because consuming in the neighbourhood means there is always the potential to exchange more than just goods and services, to make and reinforce contact between people who are not acquaintances, friends or family. It keeps money and information circulating locally and strengthens a sense of belonging."

The article concludes by urging Government to do more in its regeneration policies to nurture these elements of neighbourhood: "marking and caring for a neighbourhood's gateway points and local shopping parades (Enfield has already done this for all its old village areas and local shopping centres), encouraging more multi-cultural community ceremonies, and retail social enterprises (which Enfield has also endeavoured to do), and sharing the wealth created by land development more equitably and locally".

Local Authorities, urged on by central government's recent document "Why Neighbourhoods Matter" are making efforts to maintain and create viable neighbourhoods, but big business usually wins – by cut-prices in supermarkets, and freeholders' persistently high levels of rent in local shopping parades defeating small shopkeepers. We need central government to adopt a new stance as well as issuing advice. But will this happen?

Frances Cook

The Savoy Vaults at New Southgate Cemetery

On the plan of New Southgate Cemetery there is an area referred to as the Queen Victoria Vaults, also known as the Savoy Vaults. This is an area of large flat stones engraved with well over 200 names. They have an interesting history dating back to the end of the 17th century, although the cemetery itself was only opened in 1861. The remains of those in the vaults were re-interred at New Southgate in the 1870s from their original resting place at the German Lutheran Chapel in the Savoy Precinct, The Strand, and have links with the Royal Hanoverian Court of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

In 1993 the Anglo-German Family History Society asked two of their members, Lilian Stone and the late Pam Freeman, to find the vaults and record the engraved details. This they were able to do after discovering the much overgrown area and clearing it to reveal the stones.

More recently I suggested to the cemetery manager that an information board should be erected at the vaults to explain their history to visitors. Eventually this was agreed and I was able to order the board and produce the graphics for it. We informed the Anglo-German FHS of this and an unveiling ceremony was arranged for 9th September. The board was installed at the end of August and the ceremony took place as planned. The event was organised by the Friern Barnet & District LHS, with refreshments provided and display material set up.



Lilian Stone and Susan Cooper unveiling the board

A group of over 20 was there for the ceremony and a great deal of interest was shown in the vaults and their history. The unveiling of the board was performed by Lilian Stone together with Susan Cooper, a direct descendant of one of those interred who had died in 1832.

I hope that the board will help to show future visitors that this small area of our local cemetery has an interesting story to tell.

Incidentally, just three days after this ceremony, the cemetery manager had an e-mail from a lady enquiring about the location of the graves of several of her ancestors who, she was told, had been re-interred in New Southgate, from the graveyard of the German Lutheran Chapel. This lady was unaware of the vaults, and was just hoping to find some graves she could visit and tidy up, if necessary. She was thrilled when the manager replied and gave all the details of the family, from the records we had provided from the vaults.

Colin Barratt

Events at MoDA (Middlesex University, Cat Hill)

The six month exhibition at MoDA, “What’s for Dinner? - half a century of eating habits in Britain”, will come to and end on 29th October. If you haven’t visited it yet, please do - it’s worth it! They have also arranged a study day on this subject on Saturday 14th October. Contact MoDA for details.

The next Exhibition will be “Come Out to Live - Come In to Play”, which runs from 7th November 2006 to 3rd June 2007. This is a celebration of suburbia, featuring posters on loan from London’s Transport Museum. These advertisements encouraged Londoners to move to the new suburbs served by the expanding transport network, but to return to the capital’s centre for entertainment and shopping.

Town Planning Report

During these last few weeks Winchmore Hill has seen more than the usual number of applications for Telecommunication Masts, varying from 8m to 11m high, all proposing to look like a mock telegraph pole, notwithstanding the fact that they have base cabinets and ancillary development. The applicants do not seem to want to share their masts with other companies, so some of the masts proposed are near to each other. We always object and the Council always refuses permission, and now we have a list of Appeals pending.

The following are just a few of the 46 town planning applications that we have received since the AGM, and which may be of interest; some will be remembered from previous reports.

36-38 Eversley Park Road, N21. Again in spite of so many unsuccessful Appeals there is another recent application for flats on this site.

Abbey Homes Flats Development, Southgate Green, N14. This development now with retail units on the Ground Floor has received planning permission. The Appeal that was pending has been withdrawn.

Duchy Road, Hadley Wood. This was for demolition of No.4 to create a back land development of six 4-bed semi-detached houses, and was granted permission. We have now received an application for two of the houses to be allowed basements to increase their size.

22 Wades Hill, N21. (This was Stan Smith's house). It has now received another refusal for its persistent applications for a fourth flat, having received permission for three.

17 & 18 Barber Close, N21. They are both fronting Wades Hill, and have both applied for side extensions, and it is hoped that they will be able to unify their requirements so as to keep that important corner of the street scene looking attractive.

Walker Grounds, Southgate Green, N14. There are ongoing internal discussions by user groups and interested parties, but we have not seen any new drawings to date.

Middlesex University, Trent Park, N14. It is probably widely known now that the University has withdrawn its application to expand in Trent Park, but there are still applications being made for alterations to the main house etc.

Cedar House, 698 Green Lanes, N21. I quite often receive queries about Cedar House, and there has been a recent application for an amended scheme. It requires demolition of part of the existing building and nursery, and change of use of the remaining building from offices to residential, involving erection of a part 2-storey part 3-storey extension, to provide 9 flats. At the rear of the site another 3-storey block of 11 flats is proposed.

The Group meets regularly every four weeks at 6, Eversley Mount, N21, and any member is welcome to join us. If you wish to find out more details please telephone 020 8364 3500.

*Irene Stone
Chairman, Town Planning Group*

CONTACTS

MP David Burrowes.

David Burrowes will be running five advice surgeries a month, as follows:

1st Friday at Bowes Library, 4 - 6 pm on a first come, first served basis.

2nd Saturday at 1 Chaseville Parade, Winchmore Hill, 10.30am - 12.30pm on a first come first served basis.

3rd Friday at 1 Chaseville Parade, Winchmore Hill, 10 - 11.50am on an appointment only basis.

4th Friday at Winchmore Hill Library, 3.30 - 5.15pm on an appointment only basis.

The last Saturday at Southgate Town Hall, next to Palmers Green Library, 9.30 - 11.30am on a first come first served basis,

To make an appointment for the 3rd and 4th Friday, please ring 020 8360 0234. If you have any difficulty with these times, David is introducing a mobile surgery so you should ring the same number to make an alternative arrangement.

Winchmore Hill Police Station - Opening Times

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|------------|
| Monday | 10am – 2pm | Thursday | 10am – 2pm |
| Tuesday | 10am – 2pm | Friday | 10am – 2pm |
| Wednesday | 10am – 2pm | Saturday | Closed* |

* If there are enough volunteers to man the station, Saturday could be open. To check the current situation telephone 020 8345 4625/6. To find out more about the volunteer service telephone 020 8345 3360.

Community Enforcement

If you want to report **ABANDONED VEHICLES, ILLEGAL STREET TRADING, LITTER PROBLEMS** or **FLY POSTING, NUISANCE CAR REPAIRS** on the highway, **DOG FOULING, FLY TIPPING, UNLICENSED** and/or **UNLIT SKIPS, UNAUTHORISED FOOTWAY CROSSING** or **CROSSOVERS, OFFENSIVE GRAFFITI, GENERAL OBSTRUCTIONS**, or any other problem that you think the Community Enforcement Team could deal with, you can telephone them on 020 8379 2147 or write to **Environment Direct, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, EN1 3XA**.

These types of problems can also be reported to the Council by email by logging onto www.enfield.gov.uk/greenq.htm and filling in the "Green Card Online". Postage-paid-and-addressed green cards are also available from Libraries.

Useful Contacts

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Planning enquiries | 8379 3820 |
| Street cleaning | 8379 1770 |
| Southgate Police Station | 8366 1212 |
| Age Concern | 8345 5577 |
| Council Contact Centre | 8379 1000 |

Local Ward Councillors

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Grange: | Terence Neville; Glynis Vince; Chris Joannides. |
| Highlands: | Jonathan Kaye; Anne Pearce; Don Delman. |
| Palmers Green: | Charalambos Charalambous; Christopher Cole; Henry Pipe. |
| Southgate: | Edward Smith; Robert Hayward; Terence Smith. |
| Southgate Green: | Alan Barker; Henry Lamprecht; Ann Zinkin. |
| Winchmore Hill: | Elaine Hayward; Ertan Hurer; Martin Prescott. |

Safer Neighbourhood Teams (Police)

To contact Local Ward Officers call:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Grange | 8721 2686 |
| Highlands | 8721 2687 |
| Palmers Green | 8721 2682 |
| Southgate | 8721 2792 |
| Southgate Green | 8721 2680 |
| Winchmore Hill | 8721 2681 |