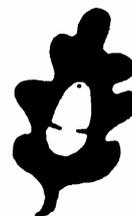


Southgate District Civic Trust

Newsletter
No. 234
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COMING EVENTS

OPEN MEETING

Saturday 17th Oct. 2015
at 2.30pm Walker Lower Hall,
Christchurch Parish Centre,
7 The Green, Southgate, N14

“Magic Lantern to Multiplex”
by Richard Gray

See page 5 for details

ALL WELCOME

HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 10th Nov. 2015
at 8.00pm Friends Meeting House,
Church Hill, N21

“The Festival of Britain in 1951”
by David Berguer

"The Festival of Britain saw the birth of a new optimism in Britain following six years of war and four years of austerity afterwards. David Berguer explores the exhibition, from planning to execution to its transformation to a more dynamic economy."

ALL WELCOME

**MEMBERS’
ANNUAL LUNCHEON**
Wednesday 18th Nov. 2015

**12.00pm at the Cherry Tree,
Southgate Green**
(Ring Janet Lane to book a place)

Other Dates for your Diary:

Fri. 30th Oct. **Tour of the BBC Television Centre**
(Contact Janet Lane)

Contributions to the January newsletter should be sent by Friday 4th December 2015
to the Editor: 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 **11th January 2016**. Emailed copies should be available for members w/c **4th January**.

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**).



UPDATE FROM CIVIC VOICE

War Memorials

The Prime Minister, David Cameron has announced funding for Civic Voice, War Memorials Trust, Historic England and the Imperial War Museums to "*help local communities to repair, protect and conserve war memorials across the country*".

The campaign to save the nation's war memorials is now well underway. Civic Voice have asked member groups: Are you involved? Have you identified where your local war memorial is? Do you know its condition? Have you applied for funding to restore it? *SDCT would like to know if you would like to be involved in a local war memorial project?*

60th anniversary of Green Belt

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Green Belt becoming government policy, CPRE (Campaign for Rural England) have launched 'Our Green Belt' campaign (www.ourgreenbelt.cpre.org.uk).

It is clear that local authorities are coming under increased pressure from Government Planning Inspectors to allow building in the Green Belt to meet new targets for supplying land for housing. So this is a timely campaign.

Part of what CPRE are asking the Government, is to be more specific on the limited circumstances in which Green Belt boundaries can be changed through local plans. As well as to call in or direct local authorities to refuse damaging developments in the Green Belt.



The first stage is to start demonstrating public support by launching a '[digital hub](#)' to gather positive examples of how people use and value the Green Belt, as well as news on threatened Green Belt. The site will be live for at least six months so please submit material.

Locally we are aware of threats to the Green Belt, so SDCT are actively monitoring the plans submitted for London Road and Trent Park.

"How do we create a better built environment?" - Committee asks

The new House of Lords Committee on National Policy for the Built Environment has issued a call for written evidence, setting out the scope of its inquiry and asking for evidence submissions. Issues around housing and the built environment are a pressing concern in England with parts of the country facing acute housing shortages and an affordability crisis; while the legacy of poorly planned and designed developments can blight communities.

The Committee will seek to establish what steps can be taken to ensure better planning and design and whether we have the right balance between national policy and local accountability for planning decisions. It will examine the need for appropriate homes for a changing population, bearing in mind that decisions taken today will have continuing effects in the years to come.

More information on these and other news items on the Civic Voice website.

www.civicvoice.org.uk | 0151 707 4319 | info@civicvoice.org.uk | [twitter](#) @civic voice

PLANNING GROUP REPORT

There have been thirteen planning applications that the group dealt with since the last report. There have not been many applications in our areas at all.

That does not mean things have not been happening, and we have been involved. Regarding the Local Heritage Review and Local List, one member of the group has volunteered to be trained to survey and assess the borough's Local List grouped under three themes, historic value, townscape value and local cultural value. I understand that there are other members of the SDCT who have volunteered.

The borough has been sectioned into street areas so that no street is missed by the volunteer who is surveying that area. The technical criteria to survey the streets of the borough are in accordance with Historic England's best practice guidance.. Survey work is hoped to be completed by November 2015. Data will then be evaluated and formulated into a local list document. The draft list will be subject to public consultation, prior to being formally approved by the Council in spring 2016.

Hadley Wood Conservation Area is one of the areas we cover. It is only part of the Hadley Wood Area and a Neighbourhood Planning Forum was applied for by residents to Enfield Council under the Localism Act 2010. They are concerned about land in the area and parts of the surrounding open land. They received approval in July, and I have asked the Council what our group's position will be as there cannot be another association's planning group in the area under the agreement. I have had no answer as yet.

There is a summary of the key findings of the draft Conservation Management Plan issued by the Broomfield Partnership Board members for Broomfield House that will be available to be seen on the Council's web site from 4th September, and there is a questionnaire available. Phase 1 of public consultation has taken place with an exhibition in Broomfield Park at the Palmers Green Festival. The Phase 2 consultation is programmed to take place in early 2016.

We have representatives at meetings regarding the Green Belt and Enfield has been a borough that did not allow building on any land in the Green Belt. However there is now a doubt on this continuing because of the proposed use of Green Belt land on Enfield Road, N14 for residential housing and a new secondary school by Fairview builders. The Council could be tempted by the proposed school and we will see if that prospect outweighs the obvious opposition that is expected.

Continuing with the Green Belt, I have been told that Trent Park Campus has been sold and also that the site no longer has educational status and it is proposed to build houses in Trent Park. (See article on page 4). We know that the conservation team at Enfield and Historic England (previously English Heritage) and the Conservation Advisory Group will have some involvement, because of the Mansion House and its curtilage. Trent Park is a conservation area and the Trent Park Conservation Committee, who we are closely involved with, will keep us informed so our members will be updated by us.

If any members would like to join our planning group and be able to give their comments regarding any proposed developments either now or in the future then they will be welcome to come to 6 Eversley Mount, Winchmore Hill, N21 1JP to a meeting at 8pm. We meet monthly so for the next date telephone 0208 364 3500, or email irenestone@blueyonder.co.uk

Irene Stone.
Group Chairman

FREE NATIONAL TRUST DAY PASSES

A reminder that although the summer might be ending, you can still enjoy a day out on Civic Voice! Southgate District Civic Trust members are eligible for a free day access pass to the National Trust (worth up to £14).

In order to obtain a National Trust pass please send a stamped addressed envelope to the Civic Voice office at **60 Duke Street, Liverpool, L1 5AA**

CIVIC VOICE AGM & CONVENTION 2015

The Civic Voice AGM and Convention will be held in Bristol on 23rd & 24th October. The program includes led walks, workshops, presentations and networking opportunities galore. The full program can be viewed on the Civic Voice website (www.civicvoice.org.uk).

This year, Chris Horner and Jane Maggs will be representing SDCT. If you have any questions or suggestions for subjects we can raise, please let us know (info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk).

A report on the event will be in the next Newsletter.

TRENT PARK LATEST NEWS

As has been widely reported the Trent Park Campus has been sold unconditionally to the Berkeley housing group.

A spokesman for the housing group said: “Berkeley can confirm that they have exchanged contracts with the administrators of Trent Park and are hoping to complete the acquisition of the site imminently. Berkeley are committed to working with the community and Enfield council to develop the most appropriate proposals.”

We understand that pre-planning negotiations have been held with London Borough of Enfield. The site no longer has educational use and the group will be allowed to build houses in the green belt. However, at the moment it is not clear if this means replacing the existing old Middlesex University buildings or will include housing in new areas of the site.

Berkeley housing group have retained Mr Henry Lamprecht, associate director of Curtin & Co, to oversee the relationships between the owners and the public.

Mr Lamprecht told a meeting with Friends of Trent Park that the site would be open to the public and the post war educational buildings would be demolished. Berkeley housing group plan to return the site to the condition that it was immediately post war under the ownership of Sir Philip Sassoon. This will include protection of the daffodil lawn, the north lawn, the stable block and most of the Historic England listed items.

Mr Lamprecht also said he was instructed to create a council of local people as described in The Localism Act 2011 to advise on the campus site future. We await further information on this council.

SDCT will be following developments closely, with the Planning Group commenting on any planning applications.

Jane Maggs

OPEN MEETING – Saturday 17th October 2015
Magic Lantern to Multiplex - Richard Gray

Richard Gray will be the speaker at our Open Meeting in October, who is Chair of Casework for the Cinema Theatre Association. This is an organisation that helps to ensure that the best of cinema architecture and design survives when the buildings are put to other uses.

In this talk, *Magic Lantern to Multiplex*, Richard Gray will tell the story of buildings for film from the earliest days when the Lumière brothers arranged for their films to be shown at the Regent Street Polytechnic in 1896, through to the arrival of the first multiplex.

Richard will be including some of our local cinemas in this talk.

This meeting is open to **all**, so please invite your friends and family.

Date & time: Saturday 17th October 2015
at 2.30pm

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



Photo: Ritz, Bowes Road SDCT archive

Jane Maggs

LAMAS 50th LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE 2015
“MIDDLESEX: OUR LOST COUNTY”

This year's Local History Conference will be held on 21st November in the Weston Theatre at the Museum of London. The programme of lectures can be seen on the LAMAS website. Tickets are £12.50. the Trust hopes to have a stall there to publicise it and sell its publications.

PALMERS GREEN FESTIVAL

For the second year the Trust booked a stall at the Festival. We were given a plot almost opposite the bandstand, which was challenging at times for conversations, with the loud music, but we had a good number of visitors, and were able to show our activities.

CONSULTATION ON ENFIELD LOCAL STUDIES

London Borough of Enfield (LBE) has set up a public consultation into the future of the Enfield Local Studies and Museum. The Council wish to make efficiencies to the service, so are proposing to make changes to the operational arrangements.

In brief the proposals are:

Local Studies Centre

The Enfield Local Studies Centre identifies, acquires, and preserves archival materials that document the history of the London Borough of Enfield. These records are available for the benefit of all its partners, residents and visitors.

The Centre is based at Thomas Hardy House and is open Monday to Friday (9.30am to 5.00pm). Currently, you can visit the Centre at Thomas Hardy House in Enfield Town to access most of the resources available, or contact them by telephone, email or post.

The proposal is to scan the resources and make them available online to a wider number of people. However, access to the experts within the Centre will be by appointment only.

Museum

The proposal is to move the Museum from the ground floor to the first floor of the Dugdale Centre. The ground floor space, which was the Museum, can then be used for a variety of other purposes.

Consultation details

For more information on the proposals see the LBE website at:

www.enfield.gov.uk/info/867/current_consultations/3896/enfield_local_studies_centre_and_museum.

The council would like your views and have provided access to an online questionnaire via the consultation page.

The closing date for providing feedback is **18 October 2015**.

The Enfield Local Studies Centre is a fantastic resource available to all residents. It is important that our views are given to ensure that the historic records of the area remain available for the future.

A number of concerns have been raised with us about the practicality of digitising the whole resource, access to items donated in the past, as well as a range of other issues. We are currently collecting feedback to provide a response from SDCT, in addition to our individual responses, so do not hesitate to contact us with your views via info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk

ENFIELD ROAD DEVELOPMENT IN THE GREEN BELT

Plans are afoot to develop land in the Green Belt along Enfield Road. Fairview New Homes are developing plans to build a new secondary school, community facilities and homes on the site.

Information on a public exhibition in late September was circulated to members via an SDCT e-mail Alert and Facebook, as it took place before the newsletter publication. If you attended the exhibition the SDCT Planning Group would like your views, as we will be following this development and registering comments with the planning department.

Please send any comments to Planning Group via info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk.

HISTORY GROUP MEETING - MAY

“A Look at Betjeman” by Terence Atkins

John Betjeman was born in 1906 and died in 1984. He was one of our favourite poets and has a memorial in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey. The origin of his unusual name is Dutch. The speaker read from two of Betjeman's poems; “Middlesex” and “English Architecture”.

Betjeman wrote a book on London's historic railway stations, and helped to save St Pancras station from demolition in 1966. A statue of him was erected at the redeveloped station, and the Betjeman Society read poems there each year on his birthday.

We heard his poem “The Outer Suburbs”. He lived in our suburb as a young man, in Oakleigh Park, and worked at Heddon Court School in Cockfosters as Cricket Master, although he admitted to knowing nothing about the game! He used to walk to the school from his home. The school was demolished in the 1930s. One of his best known poems, Miss Joan Hunter-Dunn, was inspired by his time at the school, and this was read to us.

Betjeman was married at Edmonton Register Office, but later the couple drifted apart and she travelled to India, trekking alone. He appeared on television from its earliest days in 1937, and was often heard on radio programmes.

The evening concluded with some recordings of Betjeman himself reading some of his poems.

Colin Barratt

HISTORY GROUP MEETING - JULY

“Bugging the Nazis at Trent Park in WW2” by Helen Fry

Shortly before the outbreak of WW2 the head of MI6, Thomas Joseph Kendrick, set up a bugging unit, ready for the war. He had been a spymaster in Vienna in the 1920s and 1930s. In August 1938 Bletchley Park was purchased. Kendrick started bugging operations on prisoners at the Tower of London but, anticipating that there would be a large number of prisoners of war arriving, he thought this would not be big enough.

Trent Park was requisitioned in January 1940, and was set up with a staff of over 500. The most valuable prisoners were taken here. During WW2 over 10,000 POWs were bugged. By 1941 Trent Park was thought not to be big enough. Latymer Park and Witton Park were requisitioned, for lower rank prisoners, who only stayed there for a few days.

From May 1942 Trent Park was reserved for German Generals. Between 1942 and 1943 it held eleven Generals, which rose to 59 by the end of the war. They lived there in relative luxury, being treated to outings to London, for lunch at Simpsons or the Ritz! This was all to make them feel comfortable and relaxed, and boost their egos, so that they had unguarded conversations, all of which were picked up and recorded. There were a team of Secret Listeners, English people who were very fluent in German. Later they needed native German speakers to help with technical language.

The most important information obtained was in 1943, when a secret weapon was mentioned, together with Pienemunde and the V1. Churchill ordered the bombing of Pienemunde, which set back the V1 bomb plans by several months.

The listeners also picked up details of atrocities committed, but it was decided that these would not be used in the later war crimes trials, as the Government wanted to keep the operation secret, due to the Cold War starting. Helen's opinion was that the information gathered at Trent Park was as important as that from Bletchley Park.

Colin Barratt

SDCT ALERT E-MAILS

We continue to send out irregular e-mail news to members on a range of subjects, which we hope you find interesting or useful. The content of some of these mails will be in the newsletter, but often they are immediate alerts or reminders that relate to something happening before the next newsletter is sent out.

Everyone who has provided an e-mail address on their joining or renewal form should receive these messages. Unfortunately, we have had a few mail addresses 'bounce', so if you are not getting these mails, please let me know at jane.maggs@btinternet.com

If you have not supplied an e-mail address and would like to start receiving these mails, let me know.

Jane Maggs



CYCLE ENFIELD PLANS AND CONSULTATION



London Borough of Enfield (LBE) is consulting on Cycle Enfield proposals for the A105, London Road/Green Lanes. This major road cycling scheme is being delivered with funding provided by Transport for London (TfL).

Cycle Enfield is a programme of measures designed to bring about a transformation not only of the roads, but the street scene as well.

The A105 consultation is due to end on **9 October 2015**, with an online questionnaire found at www.consultations.cycleenfield.co.uk/traffic-and-transportation/a105scheme/consultation. Consultation documents in hard copy and accessible formats can be requested from the Civic Centre reception or by phoning 020 8379 3573/ 3634.

Within the consultation, you can view detailed plans of the individual sections of the route, and provide comments on each. It may be useful to know that you are able to save and return to your consultation response should you wish.

Whatever your view of the plans, there is no doubt that the £30 million scheme is the most significant transportation project for Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and the A105 corridor. The scheme covers just over three miles through a mixture of shopping and residential areas between Enfield Town and the North Circular Road. The route is relatively flat – which makes it well suited to cycling local journeys, as well as passing Palmers Green and Enfield Town stations, and within 500m of Winchmore Hill station plus the various shopping centres. There is a great deal of very detailed information on the consultation site, which it is not practical to include here.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, SDCT has been represented on the board meetings and has taken, what we believe, to be a balanced view of the whole scheme. It is clear that the proposals will be a major development for the area. The bonus as we see it, is that in addition to any changes to the roads, the environment and street scene will be greatly enhanced, something members have been wanting for some time. Clearly, improving the look of our town centres will make them a far more attractive place to shop and socialise, which has to be good for everyone.

(continued)

There have been various concerns raised, as seen on the various community websites and in the local papers. Inevitably, any change to roads will have positive and negative impacts depending on your mode of transport and how you want to use it. I would urge you to look at the detail, to see whether the changes will significantly change your ability to reach a shop, parking space or bus or even walk around the area more safely. The roads and street scene in the area covered by the scheme are not perfect at the moment, so perhaps some of the changes will improve matters. This is an opportunity for a large investment into the area, which LBE would be foolish to lose. However, it needs to be right – so whatever your views make them known on the consultation.

Jane Maggs

CYCLE ENFIELD - WHAT THE TOWN CENTRES COULD LOOK LIKE



Palmers Green



DESIGN INGREDIENTS

- 1 Re-organised road layout creates large new public spaces. Space could be filled with trees and seating areas to create a pedestrian friendly destination replacing the current, traffic dominated junction. New trees and greenery could be planted to improve the attractiveness of the area and create more of a 'place' function. Potential for enhanced cafe spill out areas.
- 2 On street parking retained on the east side of Green Lanes and shopper parking to be created in nearby Fords Grove Car Park.
- 3 Cycle parking provided in the newly created public spaces.
- 4 Loading bays on Green Lanes.
- 5 Cycle paths are at a different level from the carriageway to help provide a feeling of greater comfort and safety. Different colours and materials are also used to distinguish them clearly from the footway to minimise any conflict with pedestrians. These high quality facilities will encourage a much broader cross-section of local residents and workers to make short local trips by bike.

Winchmore Hill



DESIGN INGREDIENTS

- 1 Palmers Green Triangle – a more people-friendly Triangle with less clutter, more greenery and easier access including a new crossing on Green Lanes.
- 2 If the scheme goes ahead, co-design workshops could be held for the community to influence the specific look and feel of the Triangle, including public art and interpretive signage celebrating the history of the Triangle.
- 3 Cycle lanes in both directions provide an attractive and safe environment.
- 4 De-cluttered and reorganised pavements to improve the public realm.
- 5 New trees and greenery could be planted to improve the attractiveness of the Triangle area, and create more of a 'place' function.
- 6 Seating retained and enhanced in the Triangle.
- 7 Advanced Stop Line (ASL) for cyclists at signalised junctions.
- 8 Original features such as the old signpost retained in the new layout to celebrate the heritage of the Triangle.
- 9 New wide crossing provided across Green Lanes to enhance pedestrian movement in the area.
- 10 Raised table road treatment to visually highlight pedestrian priority in the area.
- 11 On-street parking incorporated along Green Lanes. Increased parking in a re-designed Lodge Drive car park.
- 12 Right turn lane moved to south of the island to accommodate pedestrian crossing on Green Lanes.

BOWES ROAD AIR RAID SHELTER

Shortly before Graham Beech's article about the recently-discovered air-raid shelter in Bowes Road appeared in the January 2015 Newsletter I started doing some research into the shelter's history for John Clark at Enfield Local Studies. Graham suggested that it would be good to turn the information I found about the shelter and the wartime role of the adjacent council buildings into another article for Southgate District Civic Trust, and John was in agreement.

On 18th May 1939 Middlesex County Council formally opened the library, school swimming pool and juvenile employment bureau (which provided careers advice) at 269 Bowes Road. Only three months later, as it became apparent that war was inevitable, Southgate Borough Civil Defence requisitioned the ground floor on 25th August for use as a stretcher party depot (in the rooms attached to the swimming pool), emergency ambulance depot (in the juvenile employment bureau area) and decontamination depot. The latter did not materialise on the site at this stage. There were five stretcher parties, with five personnel in each, and they and their equipment were in very cramped conditions in the small space they were allocated. The ambulance crews were able to park their vehicles - not only ambulances but also cars for less seriously injured "sitting cases" - in the generous parking space on the site. Most of these vehicles were purchased second-hand and adapted for their wartime function, and they must have formed a motley fleet as the ambulances had largely been commercial vehicles of various sorts before the war. The cars were mostly limousines, including a Daimler and a Buick. Another vehicle based at 269 Bowes Road was a mobile kitchen, which could be taken to places where bombing incidents occurred. The equipment on board could then be used to turn a hall or other suitable premises nearby into a feeding centre for up to five hundred people.

In 1940 Middlesex County Council requested the return of the Bowes Road building for its original purposes, so Southgate Civil Defence sought alternative premises. Two shops and the flat above one of them at Waterfall Parade, on the corner of Bowes Road and Waterfall Road, were taken over and adapted at a cost of £88, and the stretcher parties and ambulance crews moved there in November 1940. Some of their vehicles were able to park outside, but the ambulances continued to park at 269 Bowes Road.

The smaller building there was planned by Middlesex County Council as a school clinic, and it was agreed that the Borough Council's Maternity and Child Welfare clinic could share the building, moving there from Grove Road Baptist Church Hall in New Southgate. Because the two councils were involved the clinic at Bowes Road was called the Combined Clinic, and services started there in 1941. Part of the building was adapted at a cost of £485 as a wartime first aid post and public cleansing station, opening on 5th August 1941. All its interior surfaces were treated with gas-resistant paint, and the inside of its windows fitted with blast walls. The cleansing station, which had separate facilities for men and women, was for the use of people who came into contact with unpleasant or dangerous substances during air-raids, or whose domestic water supply had been disrupted by bombing incidents. If poison gas had ever been used the unit would have served in efforts to decontaminate people who had been exposed to it. A Civil Defence mobile casualty unit vehicle was based at the clinic and could be taken to the site of bombing incidents, where the equipment it carried could turn any available premises into a treatment centre in which even surgery could be performed.

As realisation of the probability of war had grown in the late 1930s, local authorities had begun making preparations to defend the population from attack. On 22nd May 1939 Southgate Borough Council received a letter from the Home Office ARP Department approving an application for three public trench shelters already dug in the borough to be made permanent, and more to be constructed at further sites. The shelters were to be "Zinn" or "Mono" type precast units, as approved by the Home Office. One of the new sites was behind the council buildings at Bowes Road. It would accommodate three hundred people, and became known as "Site no.10".

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From the start the trench shelters had a problem with water leakage. This was the case nationwide, but in Southgate the nature of the soil made it particularly severe. Various measures were taken to try to improve the situation at the Bowes Road shelter, including the installation of an electrical pump in April 1940 at a cost of £20. In June 1941 drainage work was undertaken, described as "6 inch agricultural drain av. depth 10' 6" and gradient 1 in 27, 1 in 33 and 1 in 100 falling to north-east corner and pumped into an existing drain with necessary inspection chambers etc., the surface to be drained from the centre falling to a channel discharging at the north-east corner". In the autumn of 1941 asphalt carpeting was laid over the roof of the shelter. The following year false floors were laid by H C Leach of Waltham Cross at 18/- per yard run and the walls and ceiling were treated with lime and cement wash at 2/7½ per yard run.

Safety considerations had to be taken into account, and low-level electric lighting was initially provided in Southgate's trench shelters. This was upgraded to full mains lighting late in 1941. Oil-lamps were purchased as back-up lighting in case of disruptions to the power supply. In March 1940 an illuminated sign indicating the way to the Bowes Road shelter was put up outside. Two months later fencing and sliding gates were installed. In September 1941 covers were fitted to the emergency exits, and the brick and concrete hood was built over the entrance.

Chemical closets had been provided from the time the shelter was built, and partitions between them were fitted by Ernest Knifton of Edmonton in spring 1940. Initially there were no doors to the individual closets and hessian curtains were provided to pull across, but doors were fitted at the end of 1941. By that time many of the toilet seats were broken and had to be replaced.

As time went on various amenities were provided to attempt to make time spent in the shelter more comfortable. At the beginning it was fitted with a small amount of seating by Southgate Council's own workforce, and in the spring of 1940 a total of 6000 feet of wooden bench seating was installed in Southgate's ten trench shelters by Messrs Newby's of Chase Road. When the Blitz started in the autumn of that year it was decided to provide a hundred and two bunks for overnight shelterers at Bowes Road.

Until the autumn of 1941 there was no heating, but then a total of a hundred and forty-four "Cura" stoves were purchased for all the borough's shelters, trench and surface, at a cost of £1/3/6 per stove. A few months later it was necessary to replace the existing fencing at Bowes Road and extend the fenced-in area because children had been getting in and damaging the felted hoods over the stove ventilators.

In March 1942 expenditure of £204 was made for the provision of piped water in all Southgate's trench shelters, together with "cubicles and shelves". It is not clear what these were for, but as they were budgeted for at the same time as the water supply it is probable that showers or wash-basins were provided. Reconditioned boilers were purchased to heat the water for all the shelters at a total price of £59/0/6

The question of providing refreshments for shelterers was raised at a meeting of the Middlesex Civil Defence Committee. The answer was that Primus stoves had been issued to all the shelter marshals in the county for their own use, and it was up to them to decide whether to provide anything for people using the shelters. No record has come to light of this being done at Bowes Road, and it is hard to imagine that the marshals could have made even a cup of tea for up to three hundred shelterers with a Primus.

There were several bombing incidents very near the shelter during the Blitz. On 18th September 1940 a high explosive bomb fell on Bowes Road, and although it failed to explode the impact ruptured a gas main. The road was closed for four days between Telford Road and Arnos Road before Bomb Disposal were able to deal with it. On 25th October major damage was caused by another high explosive, which exploded at the junction of Bowes Road and Ravenscraig Road.

(continued)

On 16th November Bowes Road was bombed near the junction with Palmers Road and a gas main damaged and ignited. The explosion made a huge crater in the road, fracturing sewage and water pipes and damaging electricity cables. The road was closed between Brookdale and Wilmer Way, and did not re-open until 21st December.

By 1945 far fewer people were using air-raid shelters than earlier in the war, as enemy attacks by then were in the form of V2s which arrived with no warning at all. In April Bowes Road shelter's pump broke down. On the 19th of that month Southgate's Borough Engineer and Surveyor, J T W Peat, wrote to the London Civil Defence Regional Technical Adviser saying that the pump was beyond repair, the shelter was flooding, and as there were two surface shelters available nearby the decision had been taken to close it and remove the bunks and electrical fittings. The shelter went into hibernation and began to fade from local memory, to be rediscovered just at a time when seventieth anniversary commemorations of the war were taking place.

Main sources:

Medical Officer of Health for Southgate. Annual reports. Wellcome Library

Southgate: public trench shelters. The National Archives

Schedules of requisitioned property: Southgate. London Metropolitan Archives

Middlesex County Council Civil Defence Committee minutes. LMA

County Council of Middlesex. Log book of air-raid incidents 1939 -1945: Southgate. Enfield Local Studies and Archive

Eileen Bostle

ENFIELD LOCAL HERITAGE LIST

Local heritage listing provides an opportunity for communities to have their views on local heritage heard. It recognises that the importance we place on the historic environment extends beyond the confines of the planning system to recognise the community-based values that contribute to our sense of place.

Enfield Council (LBE) is currently working with a number of local groups to review the Local Heritage List for the whole borough. The current list seems rather short for a large borough, with such a rich culture and history, so this review is very welcome.

Volunteers have been recruited through various local organisations in order to identify suitable candidates for inclusion on Enfield's list. Over the summer a number of volunteers, including SDCT members, attended training run by Urban Vision on behalf of LBE.

During the training the various criteria for inclusion were explained, as well as the key information and particularly the evidence needed to nominate an asset for inclusion on the list. The selection criteria are based on historic value, townscape value and local cultural value. The latter may be less obvious, but is just as important because it includes social and communal value, aesthetic merit and literary or creative association. The criteria reflect those in the excellent Historic England 'Good Practice Guide for Local Heritage Listing', which can be found at www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/local-heritage/local-listing

To make the task manageable, the whole borough has been divided into a number of smaller areas. The volunteers were allocated a specific area for review and are even now tramping the streets looking for those buildings, open spaces, cultural centres, landmarks etc to be included. This nomination process finishes on 2nd November 2015.

(continued)

Urban Vision believes the process will cover all the assets of importance. However, if you know of any cultural or historic assets that fit the criteria and want to be sure are included, SDCT can still ask for them to be reviewed. You can send details with a justification for inclusion to us via info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk.

Once the list of nominations is completed, the decision on whether to include an asset in the Local Heritage list will be made by LBE based on the recommendations of a panel comprising members of local conservation bodies, Heritage Officers from Enfield Council and their professional advisors. However, the new list is not the end of the story - this is just one phase in a continual review process.

Jane Maggs

HISTORY GROUP MEETING – SEPT. “Old Films of Our Area”

This was a presentation I gave of short films and clips spanning almost 60 years, from the dawn of cinema in 1896 to the Queen's Coronation in 1953. Starting with a few examples of local film pioneer Robert Paul, they showed transport over Blackfriars Bridge and ladies cycling through Hyde Park in 1896. This was followed by a brief comedy sketch by Paul, showing a country yokel frightened and running away from a film of an approaching train. (This was filmed at New Southgate station). Then Paul's technical interest is apparent in showing a switchback railway on the hill at Alexandra Palace in 1898.

Moving forward to the early 1930s, a film from the London Transport Museum looked at how and why the Underground stations from Finsbury Park to Cockfosters were built.

From a compilation of local films obtained from Enfield's Local History Unit, there was the Dorimar Parade (1936), a fund raising event with a mixture of dancing and acrobatics at St John's Hall, Palmers Green, then a Ponders End Gala, consisting of athletics events. Moving on to the early 1960s we saw “Our Parks”, featuring Grovelands Park. This included a comedy sketch on the golf course, with a young couple collecting clubs and balls from the hut, then the young man swinging and missing the ball every time, much to the amusement of the old men watching. To our surprise, one of our members in the audience said “That's me!” He was the young man. He worked for Planet Films at the time. This compilation was rounded off by “Diesel Railcars”, with views of Aldermans Hill, Palmers Green station and Grange Park.

A silent film from 1948 traced a housewife and her baby around Crouch End on both a shopping trip with her ration book and applying for a new house.

As this History Group meeting was shortly after the Queen overtook Victoria as our longest reigning monarch, I returned to Robert Paul, with two of his scenes from the parade at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, and this was followed by the final film, “Children's Coronation”, from 1953, which had some of the 1700 schoolchildren who were chosen by ballot from around London to line the Embankment to see the Queen's Coronation procession pass by. This featured groups from three Enfield schools: Enfield Grammar, Suffolks and George Spicer, and they were seen boarding their buses at Enfield Marketplace.

This compilation of old films showed how valuable historical local films are. One of our members works with London's Screen Archives, and she appealed for anyone who has films which are not archived to let London's Screen Archives know, who can copy and preserve them. (Look at their website for details).

Colin Barratt

OSIDGE – THE SIR THOMAS LIPTON MEMORIAL HOME

What does the future hold?

The Sir Thomas Lipton Memorial Home at Osidge closed last summer. Since then the charity responsible, Friends of the Elderly (FotE), have been reviewing their options for this site. As previously reported it was advertised in March 2015, in Estates Gazette as a ‘Development Opportunity’. This is a cause for concern, so Southgate District Civic Trust (SDCT) has continued to monitor the situation.



SDCT asked Friends of the Elderly, for an update on their plans. In response, in September 2015, FotE told us:

‘We have carefully considered the options available to us and have taken professional advice about the future of the home and the underlying value of the Sir Thomas Lipton Trust’s assets. As a result of these considerations, and with the full knowledge of the Charity Commission, we have explored various options and identified an outright sale of the site as being in the best interests of the Trust. The Charity Commission has approved this approach to vary the Trust scheme, subject to local public notice of variation and the intention to sell, in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission and the Charities Act 2011. We are presently seeing a suitable purchaser for the premises.

The proceeds of the sale will continue to be held on the same terms, for the benefit of the same beneficiaries of the Trust. It is hoped that within the next two to three years the proceeds can be reinvested in a new development for the provision of residential care for older people, and to secure the long term protection of the capital of the Trust.

The sale of the property will, by virtue of steps we have taken, result in a much wider range of services being made available to the beneficiaries of the Trust.’

As previously reported, there remain a small number of artefacts from Osidge. FotE propose to relocate these to a future re-provision of the Sir Thomas Lipton Home. In the meantime ‘they are considering if they can be usefully placed on loan to local museums or libraries.’ SDCT will discuss with them the most appropriate option that will allow local residents an opportunity to view these artefacts.

It is now clear that there will be a development of the Osidge site in the near future. SDCT remains committed to working with all groups to ensure an appropriate outlook for this historical site in the heart of Southgate. Further information will be sent to members as we find out more. If you have any information or comment, please contact us via info@southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk.

Jane Maggs

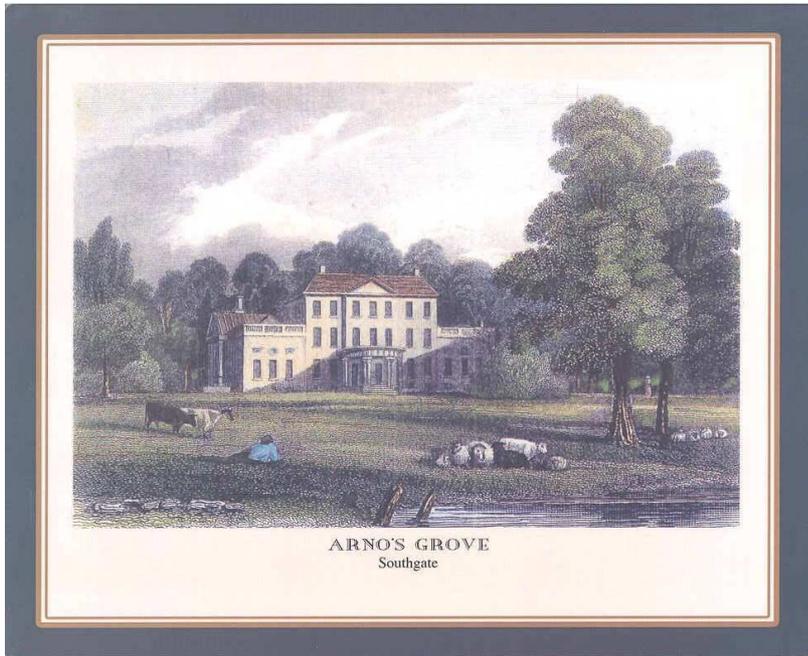
PLACEMATS

Trust member Sean Rigg has organised the production of a collection of placemats decorated with illustrations of historic buildings in Southgate and the locality, mainly sourced from our archive. The nine views are of Christ Church, Beaver Hall, Trent House, The Old Smithy, Minchenden House, Arno’s Grove, Cullands Grove, Weld Chapel and Broomfield House.

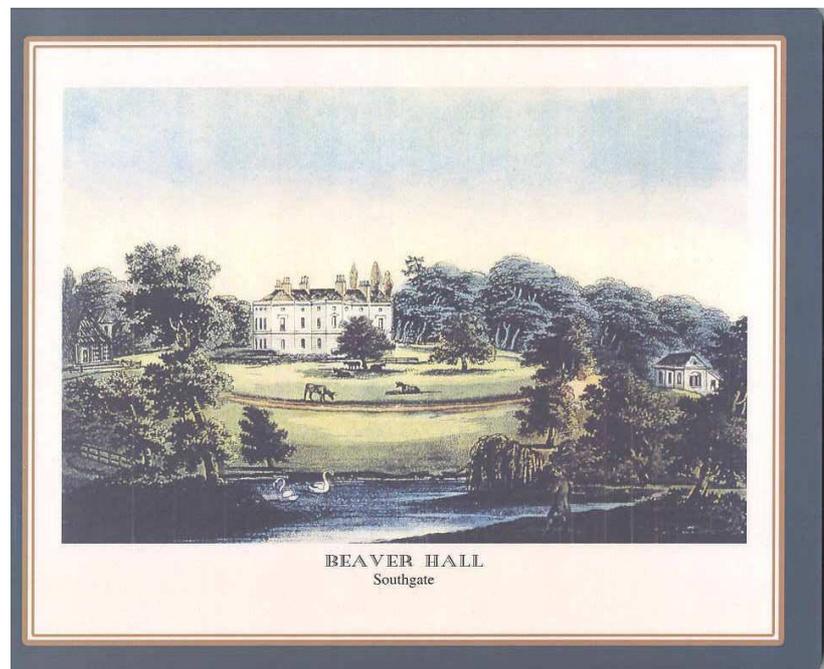
See next page for examples of the placemats.

The placemats make an attractive item and would be an ideal gift. They can be chosen in any combination at £4 each or £3.50 when six or more are purchased, and will be available at Trust meetings.

Richard Purver



EXAMPLES OF PLACEMATS



FLOODING OF ARNOS PARK

On Wednesday 26th August the Pymmes Brook burst its banks and inundated part of Arnos Park. In this case the Pymmes Brook had been partially blocked by a fallen tree and its banks were overwhelmed with water from heavy rain. Just the kind of conditions that sweep undesirable matter into our streams and rivers - sewage from misconnected houses, oils and heavy metals from road surfaces. A photo of the scene was posted on the Bowes and Bounds website.