



# CIVITAS TOTTENHAM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TOTTENHAM CIVIC SOCIETY  
[www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk)

## **Welcome. . .**

*. . . to the spring edition of Civitas. Like the season, it has taken a while to arrive, but hopefully it was worth waiting for.*

*Thanks go to all those who have contributed by sending in information and news, we always appreciate articles and updates on what's happening in and around Tottenham.*

## **Planning Updates**

Matthew Bradby

After several largely very quiet months on the planning front, things now seem to be getting back into gear, with new proposals coming in, and also work happening on several important buildings in Tottenham.

Work on the former Tottenham Town Hall, the Grade II listed building on Tottenham Green in 'Edwardian Baroque' style, has begun. At least, the building has disappeared inside a huge polystyrene tent, and we assume good things are happening inside!

The Town Hall scheme is a good example of heritage-led regeneration. Developer Newlon plans to erect new blocks of flats around the historic buildings on the site. The historic buildings will be sensitively restored providing continuity and context, and facilities which we hope will be accessible to community groups. Who knows, the Society could meet in the restored Town Hall one day.

On the other hand, developer Grainger persists in its hugely unpopular scheme to do away with the historic fabric of Wards Corner. The matter is currently still in legal proceedings, after the Wards Corner Community Coalition was granted leave to appeal the High Court's decision. Grainger loses no opportunity to blame these court proceedings for its lack of

progress on the site. However, even without legal obstacles, the barriers to the Grainger scheme ever happening are immense. They claim that their scheme is the only one that is economically viable, but the risks are huge in such an over ambitious project. A sensitive restoration of the existing High Road frontage and the Victorian houses at the rear would have enjoyed community support from the outset and we might already have been admiring real work being done by now. Grainger's Ward's Corner scheme real pity and a prime example of developer arrogance and the problems for communities that it causes.

Let's hope that Tottenham Hotspur FC's architects learn their lesson from the contrasting cases of the Town Hall and Ward's Corner. The football club's plans have been roundly criticised by, among others, SAVE Britain's Heritage, The Victorian Society, the Georgian Group, The Ancient Monuments Society, The Evening Standard, The Council on Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), Tottenham Conservation Area Advisory Committee, and of course this Society. English Heritage has been noticeable by its silence, but they cannot support the scheme – it would go against the foundation of their existence. We hope soon to be able to report that sanity has prevailed in this case.

Scotland Green has been a hive of activity recently. The former Prince of Wales public house, badly damaged by fire, is under wraps and we hope that a butterfly will emerge from the chrysalis some time this year. A four storey block of flats is rapidly taking place next to it, and looks promising. Four planning applications are in for properties to the immediate south. The first two concern the former Titanic Café (608-610 High Road), for a sensitive rebuild as two flats, which will involve removing the white plastic cladding from the façade and restoration

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of the original Victorian building underneath. The flats themselves will be tiny, in strict accordance with modern space standards, so the new tenants must either be very small, or very close friends, or both.

596-606 High Road is also the subject of a revised planning application, following on from a rejection by the Planning Inspectorate last year. There are still major concerns about this scheme, including the permanent loss of 598 High Road, the former home of Thomas Shillitoe. English Heritage has stipulated that the site should have an archaeological investigation, as it could have formed part of the original Quaker burial ground, and the origins of 598 High Road go back 400 years. The Fire Brigade have also expressed concerns that they would have difficulty getting access to the rearmost properties in the development.



Moselle House (707 High Road) left, on the opposite side of the road to Tottenham Hotspur, Grade II listed and a very handsome building, is also the subject of a planning application. We were

worried that an application was likely to be received to build on its generous garden, which runs down the side of Church Road, but so far this fear appears to be unfounded. The application is for conversion from sheltered accommodation into regular flats.

The Swan public house, the last remaining pub on Tottenham Green, has also seen development recently. Readers may remember

that we applied for this pub to be nationally listed, which was unfortunately turned down. Although the Swan dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century and has connections to Izaak Walton, English Heritage inspectors were unable to find any of the original fabric remaining. The structure that currently stands is a much altered early 19<sup>th</sup> C building.

New flats are being built next to the Swan on Philip Lane, built from London stock brick in classical style so they should fit into their historic context. The Swan itself has been repainted, but currently stands empty; those interested in becoming pub landlords should apply!

Also good news is that The Beehive PH on Stoneleigh Road has been nationally listed Grade II! This despite some recent unfavourable alterations in the wooden structure of the bar. English Heritage listed the building on the grounds that it is a very rare little-altered survival of that much maligned style of architecture known as 'Brewer's Tudor'. The building dates from 1927 and whereas almost all pubs in this style (of which there are many) have been radically altered by their owners over the past few decades, the Beehive has survived almost totally intact. It has a wonderful selection of rooms each with original numbered doors. It could do with some sensitive investment in the interior (particularly the lighting on my last visit), and also the garden would benefit from a bit of work, but it is well worth going to have a drink and have a look.

Sad then that the owners of The Fountain PH have put in yet another planning application to build houses over most of the rear garden of the pub. We objected to the planning application last year to build flats on the garden, and this was turned down by the Planning Inspectorate. We have not have time yet to consider the plans in detail but our view is likely to be that this is unwelcome overdevelopment in an area with precious little green space. The Fountain is a lovely building with a great setting. It should be cherished as a permanent benefit to the community in which it stands, not asset-stripped for short term gain.

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## AGM Report

Joseph Nicholson

The 2010 Annual General Meeting was held in the upstairs gallery at Bruce Castle Museum on Sunday 11 April, had Chris Protz as a featured guest speaker, and agreed a number of minor amendments to the constitution.



From left to right, Chris Protz, Joseph Nicholas and Matthew Bradby

Chris Protz is the author of *Tottenham: A History*, published last autumn, and a book which no one interested in the history of the area should be without. (This ought to include every member of the Society, of course....) She spoke on the High Road, tracing its use as a thoroughfare from its Roman origins as part of Ermine Street to the present day. As she pointed out, concerns about its built up and heavily trafficked nature are not new: Daniel Defoe, in his *A Tour Thro' the Whole Island of Great Britain*, complained volubly about the number of carts and wagons on the road and the closeness of the new houses to it.

The constitutional amendments were circulated to Society members with the Winter 2009 issue of *Civitas*, and were framed to "tidy up" the infelicities and inconsistencies in the version adopted four years ago. That was based on a model provided by the now-defunct Civic Trust, which had some odd repetitions (two separate requirements for committee members to declare potential conflicts of interest) and omissions (no powers of sanction against members who spoke against the Society; no power for the committee to co-opt members to fill vacancies). The

amendments were adopted as a package; if anyone would like a copy (paper or electronic) of the revised constitution, please let us know.

The meeting also received reports from the officers and elected the new committee. The statement of account for the year to 31 March showed total income of £1552.64 and total expenses of £1024.85, to leave a balance carried forward of £527.79 (compared with the previous year's balance carried forward of £422.64). Membership as at 31 March 2010 was 101, comprising 61 renewals, 38 new members, and 2 organisations.

The retiring committee was re-elected nem con, with the addition of Jane Wardlaw as an ordinary committee member. This leaves two vacancies, which can be filled either by the new power of co-option....or by readers who wish to offer their services.

The meeting also agreed that the minutes of the committee meetings, which are currently circulated through the Yahoogroup, should also be posted to the website. The TCS web honchos, Joseph Nicholas and Ann Robertson, will be taking this forward.



The audience listening intently at our AGM

*If you are interested in becoming a committee member or would like further details about what it entails, then please either come along to a committee meeting or contact us by one of the methods in the contacts box on the back cover.*

## TCS Events Programme 2010

### **Green Lanes Harringay History walk**

10.30am Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Walk Leader: John Hinshelwood. Local historian and Harringay resident  
Green Lanes, Harringay, became on a major North London shopping parade when it was developed at the end of the nineteenth century. The walk will start at the oldest pub, the Beaconsfield Hotel, and make its way to the most celebrated pub, the Grade II listed Salisbury Hotel, and then back again. On the way the Harringay Gardens will be explored, and on the way back the Harringay Ladder and Passage will be visited.

**Meet** at the Beaconsfield Hotel, Green Lanes, N22 7AY (opposite Arena Retail Park). Nearest tube station Manor House. Bus 141, 341, and 29 to Endymion Road.

### **Heritage-led Regeneration on Tottenham High Road**

11.00am Sunday, 13 June 2010

Walk leader: Yvette Chin, Regeneration and Conservation Projects Officer, Haringey Council  
Over a number of years, Haringey Council regeneration and conservation departments have accessed funding from English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund and various other partners to carry out a major heritage-led regeneration programme to repair the external façade of historic buildings in Bruce Grove on Tottenham High Road, which include the magnificent 1907 Windsor Parade, 538-554 High Road. Yvette Chin will lead a tour of the buildings that have benefited from grant funding and explain how the Council has worked extensively in partnership with external funders, and various key stakeholders to improve and preserve the historic fabric of Bruce Grove town centre.

**Meet** at the Bruce Grove exit of Bruce Grove railway station (near San Marco Restaurant). Buses 243/123 from Wood Green tube station or 123 from Turnpike Lane tube station. There are several bus routes on Tottenham High Road which stop at Bruce Grove Station.

### **Alexandra Palace to Bruce Castle: a walk across the old parish of Tottenham**

11.00am Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Walk leader: Joyce Rosser, Heritage & Conservation Officer, Haringey Federation of Residents Association

This five-mile walk starts at Alexandra Palace, goes through nine parks and seven conservation areas (Alexandra Park and Palace, Wood Green Common, Trinity Gardens, Noel Park, Tower Gardens, Bruce Castle, Tottenham Cemetery), takes in various listed buildings and ends at Bruce Castle Museum at about 1.00pm. Light refreshments will be available at Bruce Castle. You might wish to bring a packed lunch.

**Meet** in front of the BBC TV Tower at Alexandra Palace, N22 7AY. W3 bus from Finsbury Park or Wood Green tube stations.



Houses in the Tower Gardens Estate

### **Tower Gardens: Tottenham's Hampstead Garden Suburb**

11.00am Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010

Walk leader: Matthew Bradby, Chair of Tottenham Civic Society

A tour of the Tower Gardens Estate and Conservation Area. Tower Gardens Estate is the most successful housing achievement of the early London County Council. One of the first

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Garden Suburbs, heavily influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement, its diverse cottages are full of inspiration; modest but evocative, practical and beautiful.

The walk will show the various stages of the development, pre-1914 and post -1914, focusing on the architectural detail of the homes, materials used, significance of street names, surviving original tree planting, some social history, as well as modern threats to the estate's character.

**Meet** by the gates of Lordship Recreation Ground, Lordship Lane (opposite Waltheof Road), N17. Bus 243 from Wood Green tube station or bus 123 from Turnpike Lane tube station.



View of the River Lea

## Boat trips along River Lea with Friends of Tottenham Marshes

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010  
A six hour trip on the River Lea. Buffet provided.  
Cost £12. Further information and booking details from Rita Cottridge 020 8808 1341  
rita.cottridge@yahoo.com  
www.tottenhammarshes.org.uk

## Redemption Brewery

2.30pm Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2010  
Tour leader: Andrew Moffat, Founder  
Redemption Brewing Company started brewing in Jan 2010 bringing commercial brewing back to Tottenham after a long absence. The brewery is relatively small and focuses on producing quality cask ales full of flavour and

crafted in a traditional manner using only the best natural raw materials. The brewery is committed to sustainability and all its power comes from renewable energy, while its main waste, the spent grains and hops, is delivered to a local allotment to be used for composting. They currently produce two beers, Redemption Pale Ale and Urban Dusk. There will be an opportunity to sample the beers.

**Meet:** Unit 2, Compass West Estate, 32 West Road (turning off Brantwood Road), Tottenham, N17 OXL

## TCS Summer Garden Party

25th July from 4pm (see page 6 for further details). Come along and meet other members in the relaxed setting of Matthew's garden

## Architectural walk around Tottenham Green conservation area (this is an Open City event)

11.00am Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
Tour leaders: Matthew Bradby and Stuart Chapman  
External historical guided tour around the buildings of Tottenham Green, including C18 Georgian houses, C19 Jewish Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital and Holy Trinity Church, ancient High Cross Monument, old Swan pub, Edwardian Town Hall complex, recent housing developments, new Bernie Grant Arts Centre and recent Banksy mural. In this small area there are 17 national listed buildings and over 50 locally listed buildings. Tour will last up to two hours with optional visit afterwards to Book House Turkish Restaurant for refreshments.  
**Meet:** outside Old Tottenham Town Hall, Town Hall Approach Road, N15 4RY. Nearest tube is Seven Sisters, numerous buses along the High Road.

*Although all reasonable care is taken, people taking part in TCS events do so at their own risk.*

For information about other TCS events, phone: 020 8347 7684 or email: jrosser@lineone.net  
Details of all our forthcoming events can be found on our website:  
www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk/events.htm

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## 100th Member Target Reached!

At the Local History Fair, held at Bruce Castle Museum in February this year, we achieved our goal of recruiting our hundredth member. We did it in style though with, not one, but two people smashing the three figure barrier jointly.

Thanks to Jean Pursell and Sherry Nichols (pictured below left and centre, respectively, with Matthew Bradby) and three other new members, the total of members at the AGM in April came to a splendid 101.



More thanks go to everyone who has renewed their membership so far this year and a very big welcome to all our new members. Our membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March. If you haven't managed to renew yet and have lost or misplaced the form we sent out

in early March (with the AGM papers), please use the form on the back cover of this newsletter.

We appreciate and value our membership. Without your support we would be unable to produce a regular newsletter or the news in it. The website, reaching out to people anywhere with an interest in Tottenham, would be unaffordable. We would not be able to pay the cost of hiring rooms for general meetings. All these ways of keeping members informed about issues concerning Tottenham and what is happening in and around the area would simply disappear.

Please consider renewing your membership, if you haven't already done so, and help the Tottenham Civic Society to carry on making difference.

### TCS Web Site

Have you checked out our revamped website yet? It is a brighter place to visit, packed with information, which is regularly updated, for you to access at your leisure.

What do you think about it? How can it be improved? Is it user-friendly? Give us your suggestions and ideas.

[www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk)



## Brazil Comes to Tottenham!



Matthew Bradby is once again taking on the role of gracious host and inviting all members to the TCS annual Garden Party to be held at his house. He is planning a Brazilian theme with traditional food (feijoada) and drinks (caipirinha) and the music will be samba and forro, from resident DJ Doctor Ricardo Pereira. Please bring a bottle and a contribution of food.

Mark the date on your calendar, 25th July from 4pm, and RSVP to Matthew by phone: 0208 352 2354  
email: [Mattbradby@hotmail.com](mailto:Mattbradby@hotmail.com) or post to: 21 Gospatrick Road, Tottenham, London N17 7EH



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## **Tottenham CAAC 2009/10 Annual Report**

Tottenham Conservation Area Advisory Committee has just produced its 2009/10 report. The CAAC monitors the planning applications for all of Tottenham's twelve conservation areas. The report describes these conservation areas, explains what CAACs do and outlines the main areas of work over the past year. Copies of the report can be obtained either by contacting the CAAC secretary [jrosser@lineone.net](mailto:jrosser@lineone.net) or 020 8347 7684 or by downloading it directly from TCS website: [http://www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk/groups.htm#Planning and Conservation](http://www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk/groups.htm#Planning%20and%20Conservation) (scroll down the page to the third paragraph under Planning and Conservation).

## **Do You Remember Saturday 7th September, 1940? Were You in London?**

If so I would love to hear from you!

Testimony Films are making a commemorative television documentary about the first day and night of the Blitz during World War Two and are looking to hear from anyone who remembers this date. By Sunday morning around 450 Londoners had been killed and 1,600 seriously injured. The main target was the London docks

and the worst hit area was the old East End. Some bombs however were dropped on other parts of the capital including the West End. We want to build up a detailed picture of what happened in the first 24 hours of the Blitz which left so many dead, injured or homeless.

If you have any memories of this day, perhaps you or your family were injured or survived a near miss; perhaps you lost a loved one or your home. Or perhaps you were involved in the emergency services or maybe you were a child. If you have a vivid memory and stories to tell, I would love to hear from you. Please contact Amy Dunn in confidence on 0117 925 8589, email: [amy.dunn@testimonyfilms.com](mailto:amy.dunn@testimonyfilms.com) or write to Blitz Appeal, Testimony Films, 12 Great George Street Bristol, BS1 5RH

### **Tottenham Festival**

The Festival will be held on June 19th from 12 noon. TCS is having a stall on the lawn outside Bruce Castle Museum. Matthew and Joseph are unable to run the stall this year. Would you be able to offer an hour or two helping to set up beforehand, to man the stall during the event or with packing up afterwards? Any help will be most appreciated.

Contact Ann Robertson with your offers on: 0208 801 9654 or email: [Robbotwix@aol.com](mailto:Robbotwix@aol.com)

### **Your Committee Needs You!**

As reported on Page three, we elected a committee at our AGM in April but we are short of two members. Would you be interested? You can find out more by coming along to one of our committee meeting or by contacting us (see the Contacts box on the back cover of this newsletter).

Our committee meetings are held every other month, are open to all members and last around two hours. The next two dates are: 20th May and 22nd July. Both meetings will begin at 7.30 pm and will be held at the Book House/Kitap Evi Turkish Restaurant, 410 High Road, N17. The venue is between Bruce Grove railway station and the Tottenham police station, with plenty of buses passing from the direction of Seven Sisters or White Hart Lane.

Why not give one of the meetings a try? Eating and drinking at the restaurant is optional, but there is a great variety of dishes and drinks on the menu and the cost is very reasonable, making our meetings a combination of business and pleasure.

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## Join Us!

I/we would like to join the Tottenham Civic Society (TCS). Annual membership will provide four quarterly copies of the TCS newsletter CIVITAS and the opportunity to participate in ventures undertaken by TCS to promote and preserve the interests of Tottenham's history and future.

I/we enclose a cheque for the following amount:

£5 unwaged, students and retired people

£10 individuals

£7.50 per person with two or more members in the same household

£15 for organisations with under 100 members

£20 for organisation with over 100 members

Name.....

Organisation.....

Address.....

.....

Tel.....

Email.....

Do you want to join the TCS email network?  
(Keeps members updated on news and events between newsletters)

Yes

No

Do you prefer to receive your copy of Civitas by post  or by email

Please make cheques payable to:

The Tottenham Civic Society

And send them to:

TCS, 61, Durban Road, Tottenham, N17 8ED

Thankyou

## Haringey 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre Restaurant

Why not take yourself to the Sixth Form Centre for a slap up three course meal in their fully licensed restaurant, The Gallery? At a cost of £7.50 for the whole meal (drinks extra), or less if you wish to eat one or two courses, it is well worth a visit. The food is presented beautifully in a formal dining area. Staff and students are very friendly and helpful and if you have special dietary requirements, efforts are made to adapt the menu (best to discuss this before booking though).

The Students, taking NVQ trainee Level 1 and Level 2 NVQ Food Preparation & Cooking and Food & Drink Service, prepare and serve the food as you would experience it in a real working environment.

The Restaurant is open on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12noon (last orders to kitchen by 1.30pm) between 20<sup>th</sup> April –20<sup>th</sup> May and then 8<sup>th</sup> June-17<sup>th</sup> June. Booking is essential and can be done by phoning The Gallery restaurant: 020 8376 5891 or emailing: [reservations@haringey6.ac.uk](mailto:reservations@haringey6.ac.uk) Their address is: White Hart Lane, Tottenham, London N17 8HR

## TCS Contacts

### Joyce Rosser TCS Events Organiser:

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### Ann Robertson Newsletter Editor & Membership Secretary:

Phone: 0208 801 9654

E-mail: [Robbotwix@aol.com](mailto:Robbotwix@aol.com)

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### TCS Email Network:

[TottenhamCS@yahoogroups.co.uk](mailto:TottenhamCS@yahoogroups.co.uk)

### TCS Website:

[www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk)

### Please Note:

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter, are not necessarily those of Tottenham Civic Society.