



Spurs plans for Bulls Cross deferred

A specially convened Planning Panel was due to meet on 12th December to hear from both objectors and supporters of Spurs' proposals to build a training centre and youth academy and also a community facility on over 60 acres of Green Belt land at Bulls Cross. The planning application would then have been considered by the full Planning Committee early in January

On 7th December we were told that the Panel meeting had been cancelled on account of problems with the application as submitted. Apparently the application has not been withdrawn but has been deferred; we are reliably informed that it will not be resubmitted for at least three to five months.

Many of our members, as we suggested, wrote to the Leader of the Council with their own objection to Spurs plans, adding to the groundswell of opposition from all sections of the community.

The idea behind the proposed community facility, to provide coaching and educational support for

youngsters and the disabled, is admirable, but not on Bulls Cross Open Space which is totally within both the Green Belt and the Forty Hill Conservation Area, on the northern fringe of Enfield.

The proposed exclusion of the general public is unacceptable, as is the proposed large sports hall with ancillary accommodation which would be an eyesore and a gross intrusion in this setting. This facility, with its comparatively modest land requirement, could easily be accommodated on a brownfield site, or in the Lee Valley, which would be far more accessible for those having to travel from within our own Borough, from the Borough of Haringey and from Essex, which are the main target areas to benefit from this scheme.

Also unacceptable is the separate proposal, on Green Belt land west of Myddelton House, to build a youth wing, first team wing and an indoor pitch within a massive single structure measuring 119m x 70.5m with a maximum height above ground level of 9.8m. This, together with a groundsman's building (30m x 20m), all-weather pitches and floodlighting are all to be constructed on agricultural land which is part of the historic Forty Hall Estate, within a designated Area of Special Character, and on land which formed part of the 375 acre deer park of



It is 70 years since EPS was formed in March 1936, and to mark the occasion our next (Summer) issue will be a bumper edition reviewing the Society's work and achievements over the years.

In the meantime, you can join the celebrations by attending our 70th Anniversary Supper on 10th March (*see below*).

Elsyng Manor House, created by Thomas Manners in the mid-16th century.

In the last issue of *EPS News* we said that the majority of this land was within the Forty Hill Conservation Area. This was incorrect - only part of this main site is currently in the Area. However, the Character Appraisal for the Forty Hill Conservation Area, commissioned by the Council from a specialist consultant last year, recommends extending the Area at Bulls Cross westwards to include the whole of this site under threat. This Appraisal has been approved by Enfield's Conservation Advisory Group and by the Planning Committee and we await the overdue final ratification by the Council.

Colin Pointer

A gourmet meal at our Anniversary Celebration

Tickets are still available for our 70th Anniversary Celebration on Friday 10th March at the British Legion Hall in Holtwhites Hill.

In the previous edition of *EPS News* this was described as a 'fork buffet'. In fact it will be a splendid gourmet meal, as you will see from the menu right. A licensed bar will be available.

The Management Committee, together with our President, Dr Chris Jephcott, and our previous Chairman, Monica Smith, would be delighted to meet you at this function. Also present will be Cllr. Tony Dey, Deputy Mayor of Enfield; Joan Ryan, MP for Enfield Town; and Michael Rye, Leader of Enfield Council (together with their partners).

The talented local keyboards player, Chris Saussman, will provide entertainment throughout the evening.

Use the Booking Form enclosed to reserve your place(s) at the Celebration; applications need to be received by February 20th.

This will be a great evening - come along and make it something to remember!

MENU

- Chilled Chicken and Avocado Salad with Spinach and Blue Cheese Dressing and Crispy Pancetta.
- Roasted Salmon with Cucumber and Asparagus Salad with Sweet Mustard Dressing.
 - Caramelised Onion & Caraway Tart.
- New Potato salad with Spring Onion and Chives.
- Mixed Baby Leaves with Toasted Nuts and Seeds and Honeyed Balsamic Dressing.

* * *
- Chocolate and Rum-soaked Cherry Gateaux.
- Coffee and Brandy Trifle with Raspberries.
 - Orange and Passionfruit Salad with Orange Flower Water and Cointreau Syrup.

* * *
- Coffee or Tea and Petit Fours

Conservation Matters

Middlesex University at Trent Park

Following our long article in the last edition of *EPS News*, the University did not come up with satisfactory undertakings that the conservation aspects of the proposed expansion and redevelopment would receive guaranteed funding. Consequently EPS was obliged to oppose the planning applications.

We have now learned, though still waiting to be notified officially that the Planning Committee refused permission for the development. We await with interest the next move on the part of Middlesex University.

Enfield Town

Work on the PalaceXchange shopping development proceeds apace. Some recent modifications to the scheme, in particular to the treatment of the rear (south) facade of the car park, now to be western red cedar slats to match the other sides, and the surfacing materials for the pedestrian areas and pavements, were approved by the Development Control Committee.

The 40x40cm square paving blocks in London Road have merely been relaid. The extended Fountain triangle will now have a uniform treatment in a more upmarket stone effect, eliminating the awkward and artificial straight division along the centre previously proposed, with standard grey, ASP paving slabs throughout the rest of The Town replacing the current reddish blocks.

Elaborate pedestrian guardrails have been purchased, unfortunately without any public consultation on the design, and we are informed that the style of street lamp standard for the town has also been chosen. The new traffic circulation seems to be slowly settling down. There are still no firm proposals for the future of the Evangelical Free Church.

Other matters

At the same time as the Conservation Advisory Group was informed about the surfacing materials for The Town we were consulted on proposed resurfacing of Gentlemans Row. York stone, which I had put forward as a suggestion in view of the historic importance of Gentlemans Row, would cost double the standard pavers - an extra £40,000, not a practical proposition.

The point was made that there was no historical precedent for this anyway; probably the nearest to the original would be resin-bound gravel replacing the current tarmac, and this

was the favoured option of the Group.

Planning consent was refused for the grossly oversized and out-of-keeping black fascia at 25/27 The Town, formerly *Ciro Citterio*, which had been put up without permission. This is in the centre of one of the most attractive stretches of frontage in Enfield Town. The applicant has now appealed and EPS has written in strong support of Enfield Council's action.

I have heard today (23rd January) that the appeal has been dismissed as detrimental to the interests of amenity (that word again!).

We have also drawn attention to another new blot on the conservation area - the garish, illuminated fascia of the Nationwide, replacing the former Howards.

Conservation Area Appraisals

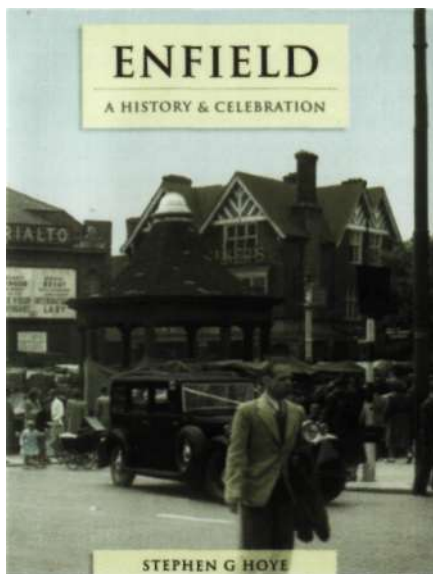
The long process of drawing these up has been referred to in the last few

issues of *EPS News*. Public consultation has finished and the documents are now with Mike Brown, Enfield's new Conservation Team Leader.

In the meantime, however, government guidance, issued through English Heritage, has changed the format for meeting the Best Value targets which determine so much local government action these days. The recommendations will now be issued as separate documents called Management Proposals. This means further delays, but it is right that the end result should be as effective as possible.

In the meantime, one of the important recommendations, to bring in Article 4 Directions dealing with such aspects as windows and roof materials and covering 800 properties in eleven conservation areas, is to come before the Council for approval next week.

Chris Jephcott.

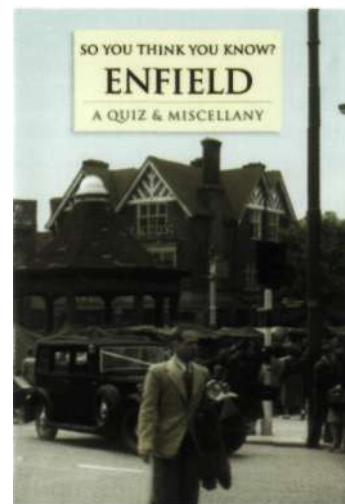


New books about Enfield

It is not often that books are published specifically about Enfield, so we are pleased to be able to recommend two recent publications which, as it happens, are the work of EPS Hon. Secretary Stephen Hoyer.

The first, *Enfield - A History & Celebration*, is a lavishly illustrated book which presents a fascinating history of the borough. But, importantly, it relates to what is still extant today.

The authoritative and highly readable text covers stories and events that have influenced present-day Enfield. It includes information about personalities past and present - benefactors, tradesmen and businessmen - whose energy and innovation have played a vital role in



shaping the borough as we know it today.

History is not just a phenomenon of the past - it is in the making now. The author celebrates the living organism that is the community today and gives an appreciation of the Enfield that is developing before our eyes.

The second book - *So You Think You Know Enfield* - is both a quiz and miscellany and was produced by Stephen Hoyer in conjunction with the publishers, Francis Frith.

It contains questions (and answers) on matters of local history, fascinating local facts and evocative photographs with amusing and enjoyable insights into local history and heritage.

This book is a treasure trove of local facts and trivia, and indicates why areas have the name they have, or where a tradition started. There is also a general history quiz for added enjoyment.

Both books are available from Ottakar's at £15.99 and £8.99 respectively.



Enthusiastic volunteers - including Enfield's Mayor - at work at Woodcroft.

Wildlife project for Winchmore Hill

An ambitious project is under way to convert a disused sports ground behind houses in Woodcroft, off Broad Walk and close to Grovelands Park, to a community nature reserve.

Enfield Council has granted the Friends of Woodcroft a 125-year lease on the five-acre site, which should save it from predatory developers (the value of the site for development has been estimated at £8 million).

It could take five years to fully develop the site, which will include short nature trails through woodlands, marshland and meadows; school field trips will be encouraged.

The project will also include the creation of a new Wildspace Centre, which will be a comprehensive multi-functional building with teaching, field study,

meeting/ exhibition and refreshment/cafe areas, as well as a themed soft play/ sensory room, plus modest indoor and outdoor auditoria. There will be full disabled access.

A not-for-profit community Wildspace Trust has been established. All that remains now is to raise the estimated £2 million cost of converting the site!

EPS has sent a donation on behalf of its members, and anybody who would like to make either practical or financial contributions can visit their website at www.woodcroft.org.uk or telephone 0870 950 3842.



The site off Broad Walk.

Fighting for green spaces and local amenities

The following item is extracted from an article that appeared in the Winter 2005 edition of newsforum, published by the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies.

Barnet is as old town, as its 800-years-old chartered market indicates, and owes its status to its position astride the old Great North Road, providing a staging post for coaches and riders on their way to and from London.

Barnet the town and its immediate surroundings, as distinct from the London Borough of Barnet, is strictly speaking Chipping Barnet ('chipping' meaning 'market'), and it is this area which the Barnet Society seeks to defend and improve.

This is often an uphill task, as council officers of the Borough of Barnet (based in Finchley) can seem unsympathetic to the needs and wishes of the town.

For example, the impending closure was recently announced of the magistrate's court and registry office.

There are also plans to close down The Bull, a former high street pub converted into a popular theatre school and arts venue, to avoid "unnecessary duplication" with the Council's expensively-built Arts Depot at Finchley.

How it all began

Sixty years ago, in the post-war drive for extra housing, developers were buying up land in the countryside between Barnet town and suburbs to the south. The society's founders were determined to preserve a green breathing space and campaigned strongly.

They were delighted when a large area of countryside, including land along the valley of Dollis Brook, was designated as Green Belt. Though this affords some protection, the designation has loopholes such as use for sports and recreational activities.

Those who devised the Green Belt policy half-a-century ago did not anticipate the possibility of a pitch

for a local football club being transformed into an all-seater stadium for a professional football club - Barnet Football Club. These proposals remain a threat to the local environment.

Town centre concern

Another big concern is the state of Barnet town centre, and in particular Barnet High Street. The plethora of banks, building societies and fast-food takeaways is compounded by the increasing number of ugly and inappropriate shop fascias which has become worse since the opening of the "impermeable" Shires shopping centre.

Barnet's ancient market, originally for cattle and now the home to retail stalls, has been sold for "redevelopment". The plans have received planning consent and include an area for a market, but this is unlikely to have the character of the existing market; small stallholders for commodities like 'fruit and veg' are unlikely to be able to afford the high rents.

So there is much for the Barnet Society to worry about, but then all civic societies - and EPS is no exception - are facing similar problems.

Future Walks

Note: Train details given below are correct at press date but EPS cannot accept responsibility for last minute changes. Please always check. For overground train enquiries/times telephone 08457 48 49 50; for London Underground / DLR and bus details telephone 020 7222 1234.

Reduced price train travel: If three or four adults travel together on WAGN or One railways, ask for Groupsave Cheap Day Return tickets. These allow three or four adults to travel together for the price of two adults. Even for travel to the start of linear walks, Groupsave Day Return tickets are normally cheaper than buying a standard price single.

Wednesday 22nd February

City of London and Clothworkers Hall Visit (details as per last newsletter). At time of going to press some places were still available. Please contact Brian on 020 8360 5593 to establish if these remain. *Leader:* Brian Pask.

Saturday 25th February

Meet **10.24am** at Crews Hill Station (10.19am train from Enfield Chase) for 9 to 9.5 mile circular walk with a lunch stop at Northaw. Shorter options of 5 or 6.5 miles or join the group in Northaw by **1.30pm** for the return walk of 4.5 miles. *Leader:* Colin Adams.

Wednesday 8th March

Meet **10.20am** at Chingford Station (313 bus terminus) for about 2.5 hour circular walk in Epping Forest. *Leader:* Norman Coles.

Saturday 11th March

Meet **10.25am** at Watton-at-Stone Station (**9.49am** train from Enfield Chase) for 7.5 to 8.5 mile circular walk in mid-Herts. Bring lunch or pub food probably available. *Leader:* Brian Wragg.

Wednesday 22nd March

Meet **10.20am** at Enfield Lock Village (at 121 bus terminus) for about 2.75 hour circular walk via Lea Valley Park, newly-opened Gunpowder Park, Waltham Abbey and River Lea. *Leader:* Ray Moss.

Saturday 25th March

London Visit. Meet **10.25am** by entrance to Platform 1, Liverpool Street mainline station, to explore ancient City churches and hear the story of London, including All Hallows by the Tower, Leadenhall Market, St Dunstons in the East tower and gardens, St Bartholomew the Less and St Dunstons in the West. Bring lunch or food available. Details 8360 5593. *Leader:* Brian Pask.

Wednesday 5th April

Meet **10.21am** at St Margaret's Station (9.46am train from Southbury Station, change at Cheshunt for 10.10am train) for 2.5 to 3 hour circular walk in Lea Valley. *Leader:* Brian Frear.

Sunday 9th April

Meet **10.30am** at The Arkley P.H., Barnet (307 bus) for about 9.5 mile linear walk via Shenley to Elstree, returning to Arkley by 107 bus. Shorter option of 5.25 miles. Bring lunch or pub food probably available. *Leader:* Stuart Mills.

Monday 17th April

Meet **11.04am** at Royston Station or **11.15am** at Royston bus station for car drivers (bus station is next to The Warren long-stay car park as you enter Royston from the south on A10). By train either 9.49am train from Enfield Chase, changing at Stevenage, or direct train at 10.11am from Finsbury Park or 10.21am from Potters Bar Stations. The walk will cover contrasting landscape scenery and villages. Bring lunch or pub food probably available. Enquiries 020 8360 0282. *Leader:* Roy Nicholls.

Wednesday 19th April

London Visit. Meet **10.10am** by entrance to Platform 1, Liverpool Street mainline station to discover more of London's story and visit ancient city churches including St Giles Cripplegate or St Mary Aldermary, All Hallows and St Dunstons in the East. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader:* Brian Pask.

Saturday 29th April

Meet **2.30pm** at front door of Forty Hall mansion for about 3 hour circular walk in Enfield's countryside. *Leader:* Monica Smith.

Monday 1st May

Meet **10.42am** at Chingford Station (313 bus terminus) for 8 to 9 mile circular walk in Epping Forest in Springtime. Bring lunch or pub food probably available. *Leader:* Colin Adams.

Wednesday 3rd May

Meet **11.00am** at Hammersmith Tube Station (by entrance to Tesco) for 6 to 7 mile circular walk via River Thames, nature reserve, Barnes Common and Chiswick House. Return to start by 4.00pm. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader:* Norman Coles.

Saturday 13th May

Meet **10.30am** at The White Hart P.H., South Mimms (either 10.18am 84 bus or 10.22am 398 bus from Potters Bar Station) for about 9.5 mile circular walk via London Colney and Watling Chase. Shorter option of about 4 miles. Bring lunch or pub food probably available. *Leader:* Stuart Mills.

Wednesday 17th May

Meet **10.25am** at Cheshunt Station (10.16am train from Southbury Station) for 2.5 hour circular walk via River Lea and Cornmill Meadows. Option to end at coffee break. *Leader:* Brenda Brown.

Sunday 21st May

Date reserved for possible coach walk. Details will be available on walks.

Saturday 27th May

Meet **2.33pm** at Potters Bar Station (313 bus from Enfield) for about 3 hour circular walk via Water End and North Mymms. *Leader:* Ken Cooper.

Monday 29th May

Meet **10.46am** at Amersham Station (9.40am or 10.00am Metropolitan Line trains from Baker Street) for scenic circular walk in Misbourne Valley and environs with lunch stop in the pretty village of Chalfont St Giles. Bring lunch or food probably available. *Leader:* Christine Fookes.

Wednesday 31st May

Meet **10.26am** at Crews Hill Station (10.21am train from Enfield Chase) for 6.5 mile linear walk via Northaw ending at New Cottage Farm for return to Enfield by 313 bus. Shorter options of 3 or 4.25 miles. Bring lunch or pub food available. *Leaders:* Carol Cope & Kinu Ohki.



Water hazard! Walkers at Arkley and Totteridge in January chose to bypass the water jump.

The President's Column



Another alternative name for EPS has been put forward for members to consider. How about The Enfield Association or The Enfield Civic Association, after the example of The Pinner Association? I am informed it is a society very similar to ours.

Obviously actions are more important than words, but words do colour reactions and the sort of comment we hear all too often is that the Enfield Preservation Society always opposes everything. Unfortunately there are quite a lot of things that need to be opposed, but I think our record over 70 years is essentially one of positive achievement, thanks to the hard work of so many members.

Chase Farm proposals

Words are also important in determining the role of EPS and where we stray outside it. We come within the category of 'amenity society' and one of our aims is "to preserve and improve the amenities of Enfield". But what is an amenity in our context?

This question was prompted by a long debate at the last Management Committee meeting about whether the Society would be correct in making representations about the current threat to the A&E Unit at Chase Farm Hospital, an undoubted amenity for the residents of Enfield.

The meaning of the word could be expanded to encompass almost any

aspect of our life, but as a registered charity we have to be careful to keep within the strict bounds of our terms of reference. Many members will have joined the protest march at Chase Farm, as I did, but strength of feeling cannot allow us to stray outside what the Charity Commission would consider our legitimate interests. Guided by our member with direct experience of the Commission, Peter Mackey, the Committee reluctantly agreed we could not make representations on behalf of the Society.

Chris Jephcott.

Meetings

JUBILEE HALL MEETINGS

Jubilee Hall, close to the junction of Parsonage Lane and Chase Side, is a great place to meet friends (old or new) and listen to interesting talks before chatting over refreshments.

Thursday evenings (7.30 for 8 pm)

16th February

From Pepys to Dickens: In the Footsteps of the Famous round High Barnet. A talk, with slides, by Paul Baker.

16th March

Alderman Thomas Sidney (1805-1889). A talk, with slides, by Rachael Macdonald, about the last incumbent of Bowes Manor.

April (Easter week) - no meeting.

18th May

The Hospitallers and Templars in the Enfield Area. A talk by Pamela Willis. *joint meeting with Edmonton Hundred Historical Society.*

June, no meeting (AGM on June 13th).

20th July

Travelling Theatre - The Murder of Dickens. A dramatic production by Geoff Hales.

August, no meeting.

21st September

China - the Dragon Awakes. A talk, with slides, by Stephen Gilbert.

Tuesday mornings (10 for 10.30 am)

28th February

The Vikings: Farmers, Traders or Looters? A talk, with slides, by Stephen Gilbert.

28th March

Bhutan - a Mountain Kingdom. A talk, with slides, by Anne Johnson.

25th April

How I became a Reel Old Sew and Sew. A talk, which is great fun, by Brenda Harley.

30th May

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. A demonstration by Don Alvarez.

27th June

Enfield Past. A talk, with slides, by Stephen Sellick.

Diary Dates

March 10th

EPS 70th Birthday Supper. See page one for details.

Until 26th March. An exhibition *In Search of Suburbia* at the Museum of Design and Architecture, Middlesex University, Cat Hill campus, Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday 2 to 5 pm. Admission free.

April to October. An exhibition *What's for Dinner - half a century of eating habits in Britain* at the Museum of Design and Architecture (opening times as previous item above).

June 10th-11th. Open Garden Squares Weekend. This year it is planned to extend the scheme to Greater London (details in a later issue of *EPS News*).

June 13th. EPS Annual General Meeting at the Carmel Centre, with a talk on Enfield Archaeological Society's research at Elysinge Palace.

September 9th-10th. Autumn Show, Town Park.

New members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Miss D. Bryans; Mrs P. Chesterman; Mr K. Day; Mrs I. Gristwood; Mr M. Hankin; Mrs E. Lack; Ms S. Lancaster; Mr A. Lawson; Mr R. Martin; Mrs C. Matthews; Miss J. Peters; Mr R. Riley; Mr & Mrs R. Scrivener; Ms. C. Walling.

Volunteers needed

We are looking for members who live within a few minutes drive of Jubilee Hall to be keyholders. This involves being available at a pre-arranged time for a hirer of the hall to call and pick up the keys and then drop them back after a meeting.

Our current keyholders have been doing a great job, and are really appreciated, but it would make their lives easier if more people could help.

Please contact Jubilee Hall (the telephone number is on the back page) and leave a message on the answering machine if you feel you may be able to assist in this way.

The text of even the 'best laid' newsletters can 'gang aft a-gley'. In our last issue we published a Correction to a previous item, but unfortunately compounded the previous error. For the record, John Pryor is Director of Environment, Street Scene and Parks, London Borough of Enfield; the Chief Executive is Rob Leak. Our apologies to all concerned.

One man's tribute to Enfield, in Devonshire

The following interesting story has been submitted by Mrs Valerie A. Kimsey, of Camelford in Devonshire, a former Enfield resident, who is to be congratulated on her painstaking research. The lifestyle described has a nostalgic Dickensian feel, and reflects an attitude to civic responsibility now sadly rather rare.

Having moved to Lewdown, Devon, at the end of October 2003, after being born and bred and having lived in Enfield, Middlesex, until then, my curiosity was stirred on seeing an article in the *Cornish & Devon Post* regarding the renovation of Enfield Park at Camelford.

I decided to write to the Post and ask why the park was so called. They published my letter, and I received a telephone call and letter from a Mr M. W. Mills of Delabole, with which were enclosed photocopies of newspaper articles printed in 1922/23. This began calls and correspondence between Mr. Mills and myself over the following months.

As I am still a member of the Enfield Preservation Society in Enfield, I contacted them, in turn, for information. Now, after eight months of research, the following story emerged.

Apprentice draper

A Mr Albert Carew Tingcombe was born in 1860. He served his apprenticeship in a drapery with a Mr W. H. Hayne; apparently, he was one of the best apprentices Mr Hayne ever employed.

In 1880, Albert Tingcombe decided to go to London to find employment in one of the great wholesale warehouses. He applied to over 40 shops around the city, and finally was taken on at £15 a year, to include board and lodging, by a draper in Shoreditch. After a month's employment, he received a rise of £6. He stayed in that job for only three months, having set his heart on entering a wholesale warehouse.

He then spent six months with a wholesale firm in Cheapside but again left, taking up employment with one of the largest warehouses in the City, called Cooks, at St. Paul's Churchyard. This particular company employed a large contingent of Cornishmen.

Work was very hard. In the busy season he worked from 8.30am until 10 or 11pm. His duties comprised collecting goods purchased and carrying them down 80 or 90 stairs to be packed and despatched.

After some time he became fifth

salesman in the department. His salary, which included living-in, was £20. Within seven years, he became third salesman. He was very dedicated to his job, never leaving until everything was quite finished.

After seven years, Albert Tingcombe was given a position which included travelling for the firm, twice a year, for a period of six to seven weeks. During this time he received a good salary, which he saved to start his own business. He even took a second job at serving in a retail shop on Saturday evenings to earn extra money and to gain extra experience.

He decided to leave Cooks to set up on his own, although the heads of the firm endeavoured to dissuade him. He was so well thought of that the firm presented him with a tea and coffee service after 11 years of employment; normally this was only given to employees of 25 years' service.

In 1892, he acquired a shop in Baker Street, Enfield, and began trading on his own account. Here he prospered beyond his expectations, and his one shop soon expanded to five. He began with three assistants, and ended with 26 over a period of 28 years.

Sadly, during this time Albert

Tingcombe experienced sorrow as well as success. One of his greatest regrets was that two nephews (one of whom had been with him some 21 years, and whom he thought would take over the business) were both killed in the First World War.

Also, his wife Mary died in 1917, aged 54. They had one adopted daughter, Dorothy. She was last heard of about 1950, living in Malta. Three years after losing Mary, he re-married. This was to his chief milliner, Nellie. They lived at 4 Graeme Road, Enfield, close to the business.

Albert Tingcombe suffered from diabetes. With his health failing and his business affected by the introduction of trams running from central London terminating in what is now Enfield Town Centre, in 1920 he decided to sell his business and return to Camelford.

He was a man who had been a noted athlete. For example, he ran one Sunday morning, with others, from Camelford to Launceston and back -16 miles each way. Apparently he also won several prizes for running in London.

In 1893 he had a series of articles published in a leading religious weekly, entitled *How to make a living in London*. He also advised his young assistants to be strictly teetotal, to be cheerful and willing in whatever they undertook, to live well within their income and take every means possible to improve their education.

Some years later the *British Weekly* published a series of articles on tradesmen who had been successful, and Albert Tingcombe was one of those selected to be interviewed. He



Alfred Tingcombe's drapers shop in Baker Street, Enfield

maintained an excellent reputation throughout his business career.

On his return to Camelford in 1920, having had a prosperous career, he purchased a field which he intended to lay out as a park and pleasure ground for the use of the residents of Camelford. He had a vision of running tracks, tennis courts, a bowling green and, for the children, a swimming pond (as it was then called).

The park was officially opened in August 1922. He named it Enfield Park because of his business success in "one of the most beautiful spots around London". Apparently the opening ceremony was the largest function since the Coronation (1911) owing to free tea being given to children, and the large attendance at a public tea.

Commemorative medals were struck for the occasion, and given to all children attending schools in Camelford and all others under 14 years of age residing in the parish of Lanteglos. The front of the medal bore the borough crest - a camel crossing a ford - with the words "For Rest and Recreation, No Laedamus" (do not damage it). On the reverse was inscribed "In commemoration of the gift of Enfield Park to Camelford by Albert Carew Tingcombe, August 1922".

A silver casket was presented to Mr & Mrs Tingcombe inscribed "From Camelford Town Trust to Mr & Mrs Tingcombe, in appreciation of the Gift of Enfield Park".

Extension to park

A further extension to the park (the field adjoining) was also given by Albert Tingcombe; this opened in June 1923. He was unable to attend the festivities in connection with this latter event, as a few days before he had travelled to London to seek the advice of a specialist; subsequently his leg was amputated in a nursing home.

He returned to his home, Penlea, in Camelford on a Tuesday, and passed away the following Saturday, aged 62.

His brother Joe, two years his senior, lived in Wood Green, London. He had attended the June park opening celebration, but was suddenly taken ill. Fortunately he recovered and returned to London. He saw his brother Albert onto the train at Waterloo on the Tuesday, but sadly also died unexpectedly on the following Friday so, tragically, the brothers died on successive days. Both were buried on the same day. Mrs Tingcombe died in 1950 after falling and breaking her arm.



Alfred Tingcombe with his wife Nellie (left) and other family members (?)

Albert Tingcombe's business was taken over and ran as a general drapers, milliners and children's' outfitters at 165/173 Baker Street, Enfield. As far as I can ascertain, this was latterly trading as Enfield Trading Co. and was still a draper's shop until it was demolished in 1973, when a small development of Anchor Housing warden-controlled flats was built, which still remains today.

Serious floods

In June 1958, the trusteeship of Enfield Park passed from the Trust to Camelford Parish Council. The park suffered two serious floods, in 1950 and 1958, which resulted in the reconstruction of the Park Entrance and Bridge. However, the archway over the gates was not reconstructed for some 20 years, when it was discovered half-buried in the back of a private garage. It was re-acquired and renovated by Mr. Harold Lane, and re-erected in October 1991.

The Park was then 70 years old, and a re-dedication ceremony was held on August 22nd. On that day a plaque was unveiled by Mr Tingcombe's niece, Mrs Blanche Heard. Councillor Graham Eustance, at that time Leader of Enfield Borough Council, also attended. Since then further renovation has taken place.

The name Tingcombe had been entered into the registers and records of the ancient town of Camelford for more than three hundred years. Although families die out, the name of Albert Carew Tingcombe will always be remembered by the people of Camelford as a man of great public worth.

I have found it most interesting and rewarding to research Enfield Park and I am hoping that the people of Enfield will find it of interest.

I must express my utmost thanks to Mr Wes Mills, Dr Leonard Will, Enfield Preservation Society Research Group, Mr John Andrew, and the wife of Mr Harold Lane, for without their help this article would not have been possible.

Our June coach trip goes North

For the past two years our annual trips have been to the south of Enfield, so it is meet that we change direction and head north this year, if only to avoid the traffic on M25!

On Sunday 4th June we shall visit Holkham Hall at Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk. Holkham Hall has been the home of the Coke family and the Earls of Leicester for nearly 250 years.

It was built between 1734 and 1754 by Thomas Coke, 1st Earl of Leicester, based on a design by William Kent, and is a fine example of 18th century Palladian style, constructed mainly of yellow brick with a magnificent Entrance Hall of English alabaster.

The State Rooms on the first floor contain both Greek and Roman statuary and paintings by Rubens, Van Dyke, Claude, Poussin and Gainsborough as well as original furniture.

The House is set in a 3,000 acre park, which has 600 head of fallow deer; on the mile-long lake are many species of wildfowl.

Two walks encircle the lake and agricultural buildings. Together with the Holkham Bygones Collection, with some 4,000 items of farming equipment housed in 19th century stables, and an exhibition entitled History of Farming in the former Porter's Lodge, there is much of interest to be seen during our visit.

We shall leave Holkham Hall at 5.00pm and hope to persuade our coach driver to journey home via Wells-next-the-Sea to perhaps have a breath of North Sea air.

The cost of the trip is £21.50 per person which covers entry to Holkham Hall, coach and driver's gratuity. We leave from Ridge Avenue, Winchmore Hill N21 at the junction with Bush Hill Road at 8.15 am and Cecil Road, Enfield at 8.45am.

When booking please enclose a cheque payable to EPS and send it to J.R. Deamer, 32 The Orchard, Winchmore Hill, N21 2DH. Please note that bookings are confirmed ONLY if a sae is also enclosed. Some members book simply enclosing a note of their name with no address details - really not a wise move!

Jim Deamer.

CONGRATULATIONS to EPS member Nancy Tait MBE who received, in December, the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the Institution of Occupational Health for her research into mesothelioma, which is caused by asbestos fibres.

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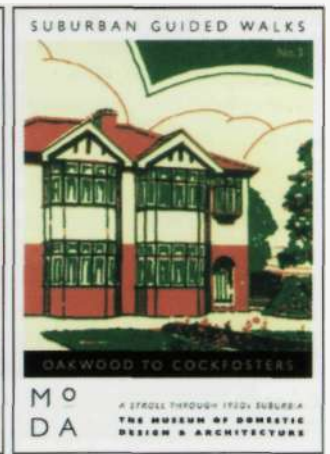
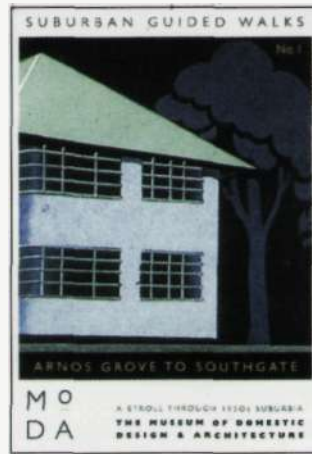
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A stroll through Metroland

The 1930s saw a rapid expansion of suburban housing in the area from Arnos Grove to Cockfosters. MoDA (The Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture) at Middlesex University Cat Hill campus has produced three Guided Walks through the area: Arnos Grove to Southgate; Southgate to Oakwood; and Oakwood to Cockfosters.

These take the form of pocket-sized folding maps, with details of architectural, historical and local

interest on the reverse. Each walk takes in private and Council houses and flats, public buildings and open spaces; each starts and finishes at an Underground station.

They cost £1.99 each or £5.00 for all three. They may be obtained from MoDA, Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet, Herts EN4 8HT, telephone 020 8411 6639, or may be ordered online at www.mupress.co.uk.

Trees Group

Digging into the past at Forty Hall

Sir Nicholas Rainton, who completed the building of Forty Hall in 1633, died in 1646; ownership of the house passed to his great-nephew, also Nicholas Rainton.

About ten years later he purchased land to the north of Forty Hall which included the deteriorating remains of Elsyng Palace. Before the end of the century, a splendid double avenue of lime trees had been planted in the parkland, on both sides of Turkey Brook, stretching down from the House to Bulls Cross.

Inevitably, as the years passed many of the trees succumbed to disease or other malign influences, and the grand design was lost to succeeding generations. EPS was therefore pleased to accept an invitation from the Friends of Forty Hall Park to contribute to the cost of restoring the original avenue, and undertook to pay for 40 rubus-type specimens.

However, it emerged that the planting and replanting of some of the trees would impinge on the buried remains of Elsyng. Whilst this may not have bothered Nicholas Rainton very much in the 17th century, today English Heritage

insists on the protection of this site, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

There is therefore a conflict between preserving the foundations of an ancient palace, the remains of which will probably stay buried for evermore, and restoring the integrity of an important and historic 17th century lime avenue which would remain visible indefinitely.

It is likely to be some time before an acceptable compromise is reached.

Colin Pointer.

Nursery not ready yet

In previous issues of EPS News we invited members to donate young trees to a 'nursery' area where we would nurture them until they were of a sufficient size to be planted in Enfield's streets and parks.

Enfield Council kindly made available a suitable area, but as this had been derelict for some years, the brambles which had colonised the area had established substantial roots, and some mechanical deep-digging is required before we can usefully start planting.

We are assured this will happen very shortly, after which I will contact the people who have offered young trees and collect them if they are still available. My apologies for the delay.

Mike Gadd.