



## Management Committee Report and Financial Summary Statement for the year ended 31st December 2020

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### 1 Management

Members of the Management Committee have legal responsibility as directors of the Society as a Company and as trustees of the Society as a Charity. All Committee members must be members of the Society. During the year ended 31st December 2020 and up to the date of this report, the following served as members of the Management Committee:-

David Cockle (Chair)  
Tony Dey (Resigned 17 September 2020)  
Sue Grayson Ford MBE (Appointed 10 December 2020)  
Anna Maria Foster (Appointed 12 March 2020)  
Tony Foster (Hon Treasurer, Appointed 12 March 2020)  
Robert Fowler  
Stephen Gilbert  
David James (Hon Treasurer, Resigned 13 February 2020)  
Joyce James (Retired 17 September 2020)  
Nigel King  
Andrew Lack  
Janet McQueen  
Jan Metcalfe (Appointed 13 May 2021)  
Stuart Mills  
Hilary Morris  
Val Munday  
Anne Osborne  
Philip Page (Appointed 14 January 2021)  
Richard Stones (Hon. Secretary)  
John West  
William Wilson

The Joint Presidents (Monica Smith MBE and Colin Pointer) and Vice-Presidents (M J Saunders MBE, Alan J Skilton and Leonard Will) are entitled to attend Management Committee meetings.

### 2 Financial Results

Overall, there was a net increase in our total funds amounting to £61,787.

Our total funds at 31st December 2020 were £456,308 of which £308,757 formed our General Reserve, which can be used for the charitable purposes of the Society generally.

The Society has not been materially affected in financial terms by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have lost some income through being unable to let Jubilee Hall to other organisations for meetings, but this has been counteracted by a government Small Business Grant. Our income from subscriptions and donations has not been materially affected and the latter was increased by a substantial legacy. Publications income was reduced, but this was balanced by a payment from Publishers' Licensing Services for the use of our books by public libraries, universities and other academic institutions.

We continue to monitor the risks to the finances on a regular basis.

### 3 Review of the year and future developments

It has been quite a challenging year due to the changing COVID-19 restrictions. These have prevented us from holding our programme of talks in Jubilee Hall and from organising walks and other activities. We have however arranged a few talks by Zoom and a handful of walks have been organised, through a booking system, in order to control numbers. More details are given in the specific reports below.

During 2020 we saw David and Joyce James leave the Committee and their respective offices of Treasurer and Membership Secretary after many years of much-valued service. Sadly we must also record Joyce's sub-

sequent death in October. We will also miss the advice and experience of Tony Dey, who retired from the Committee at the AGM. We are very fortunate that another husband and wife team, Tony and Anna Foster, have come forward to join the Committee in the Treasurer and Membership Secretary roles. We are pleased that since the year end Sue Grayson Ford and Phil Page have agreed to be co-opted. Both have been Society members for some time.

Membership has continued at around the 1,800 mark. It is open to all and we hope the low membership fee would not prevent anyone joining the Society. Our award winning newsletter—Enfield Society News—continues to be sent to all our members four times a year. We additionally send out a monthly Enews to members who have supplied us with an email address. We encourage new members to join by advertising the Society on community notice boards as well as using our social programme of walks and talks which are free of charge to all members.

Our Architecture and Planning Group have been kept very busy with several major property developments proposed around the borough—these are described in more detail in the Group report below. Since the year-end a major concern has been the proposed redevelopment of the Palace Gardens Shopping Centre in central Enfield, including residential blocks which in the view of the Society would be of quite excessive height.

We have continued to work closely with the Council, meeting both the Leader of the Council and Council officers regularly. We have also worked closely with Civic Voice, Southgate District Civic Voice, Thames 21 and Enfield Museum Service on various projects.

We drew up a comprehensive alternative plan in an endeavour to persuade the Council to keep the Museum and Archive Service in their present locations at the Dugdale Centre. It is still not known exactly where the Archives will be located, though it seems likely that they will move to the Civic Centre.

We continue to be involved with developing a rescue package for the former Charity School building at Church Street, Edmonton. Work continues on registering the title to the property, which is occupied for the time being by “Live in Guardians”, in the name of the historic charity. It is then proposed that London Historic Buildings Trust will acquire ownership of the building and restore and adapt it for long term community use.

Other activities of the Society in 2020 are covered in the following reports.

### **3.1 Architecture and Planning Group**

The key priorities for the Architecture and Planning Group are to consider planning issues of strategic and significant importance in the London Borough of Enfield and to submit comments or objections as appropriate. The Group seeks to review all planning applications across the Borough and members of the group take responsibility for individual wards. Due to the large number of applications, the group concentrates on larger planning applications, but if an individual Society member or a community group contacts us on a particular matter, we will discuss the matter with them, review the application and submit comments if appropriate.

Over the last year there have been a significant number of major applications where the group has made comments including, Edmonton Green Shopping Centre, Colosseum Retail Park, 100 Church Street, Meridian Water, New Southgate Gas Works site, Arnos Grove tube station car park, Chase Farm Hospital site and Southgate Office Village. In addition, there have been major developments in relation to the approval of the London Plan, the Housing Needs Assessment and the proposals for redevelopment of Enfield Town Centre.

### **3.2 Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group**

Inevitably due to coronavirus restrictions, activities of the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group were severely curtailed during 2020. Our first outing of the year had been scheduled for 26th March but this was cancelled due to the lockdown which began on 23rd March.

Later in the year whilst observing the rule of six, that is to say no more than six participants, we did play our part in the rescheduled Great British Spring Clean organised by charity Keep Britain Tidy which instead of being held in the spring actually took place in September.

We also organised a small scale event at the beginning of December, again complying with the rule of six. This event was notable due to the fact that one of our volunteers discovered a bike hidden in some bushes. What was surprising was that this was not an old machine in neglected condition but a well maintained up to date model of a well-known make and no doubt of significant value. This discovery was promptly reported to the police who were able to re-unite the bicycle with its rightful owner who said it had been stolen from his garage in Cockfosters a week or so previously. Needless to say he was very pleased to get his bike back.

Finally, during 2020 there were two other litter-picking events organised by other groups in which Enfield So-

ciety members took part. These were in Palmers Green in September and in Pymmes Park Edmonton in December.

What was evident during 2020 is that coronavirus restrictions played little or no part in deterring persistent offenders from dropping their rubbish in our parks and streets. Indeed judging by the number of discarded face masks littering our streets, it might have made the situation even worse.

### 3.3 Conservation and Heritage Group

At the beginning of the year the Council decided to cease support for the Conservation Advisory Group (CAG) and to develop a new Committee bringing together CAG, the Green Belt Forum and the Transport Users Group. The Society had been represented on CAG for many years and while we regret the loss of this group, the Society is pleased to be represented on the new Environment Forum and we welcome the opportunity to bring together a wide range of environment matters many of which are closely linked.

The Society's Historic and Buildings at Risk Group (HARG) had in recent years played a major role in the development of the Enfield Local List of heritage buildings. Volunteers have also been involved in monitoring the condition of these buildings across the Borough. The new Environment Forum has a wider remit and will not focus solely on conservation matters. The Society's Management Committee therefore decided to extend the remit of HARG and replace it with a new Conservation and Heritage Group. Consultation took place with all members of both HARG and CAG, and the proposal received strong support.

The aim of the new group is to consider issues relating to conservation, heritage and shared planning concerns across the Borough. It will bring together all the local interest groups on a regular basis providing an opportunity to share experience and knowledge and identify areas of concern. Due to COVID-19 the Society has been reluctant to launch the new group with virtual meetings. It is therefore planned that the new group will meet as soon as circumstances permit.

### 3.4 Eastern Enfield Group

Although the group was unable meet due to the COVID-19 restrictions quite a bit of activity took place. The legal work to secure the long term future of The Charity School, in Church Street, is ongoing.

The Society has agreed in principle to fund improvement of St Alphage Church's green space by the installation of Swift Boxes on the church and cherry trees

planted within the site. The Church, on The Hertford Road, was recently Grade II listed.

Litter-picks took place in Pymmes Park and along the Boundary Ditch path. Following concerns about untidy land at the entrance to the Boundary Ditch path the Council took enforcement action and the area has been tidied up.

We have also been calling on Council services to plant more trees in certain parks and open spaces along the Borough's Eastern corridor. We have been speaking to The Council on extending the public footpath on the West Bank of the River Lea Navigation, from Millmarsh Lane, through to Lea Valley Road.

### 3.5 Footpaths and Open Spaces Group

The Society's walks programme was severely curtailed during 2020 due to the pandemic. Initially there were 10 walks with 214 participants but the remainder of the published programme was cancelled in mid-March. Thereafter, due to the constantly changing situation, we were unable to include a walks programme in Newsletters, although during some periods we did have an email-based pre-booked system of walks for very limited numbers.

However, the autumn and winter Newsletters had a series of self-guided walks covering the Merryhills Way Path, a 5½ mile circular walk from Chase Farm Hospital and a similar length linear walk between Cuffley and Gordon Hill Stations. The walks also appear on our website—each has shorter options and a detailed route description with comments on historical and topographical features, photos and an extract from the Society's map. They have been popular, with 366 downloads in the months of December 2020 and January 2021.

Throughout 2020 discussions have continued on footpath matters, including establishing a formal northern exit from Rammey Marsh, and clarifying the legal status of other paths. Where possible, rapidly growing vegetation adversely affecting country paths has been cut back. Autumn 2020 saw the commencement of the Enfield Chase Restoration tree planting and wetlands project.

### 3.6 Grants

During the year the Society made grants of £7,324 for projects which it considered would further the objectives of the Society. These included funding for the insurance of the historic Charity School Hall in Edmonton, for the improvements to the old Enfield Drill

Hall, and for the restoration of the Shell Memorial in Broomfield Park. We also supported Southgate District Civic Voice by contributing to the cost of a report on the proposed development at Southgate Office Village.

### 3.7 Historic Buildings Group

In 2020 there were evening talks at Jubilee Hall on *From Zion Chapel and Chase Side Chapel to Christ Church, Lost Buildings of Enfield* and *A History of the Telephone Service in Enfield*, before COVID-19 intervened. Later in the year two talks were given by Zoom—*Humphrey Jennings and the British Film Documentary Movement 1930–46* and *The New River*. Future evening talks after the pandemic depend on a volunteer coming forward, as mentioned below.

In the newsletter there were articles on Grovelands Southgate, The Fox Palmers Green in 1899, Southgate Green and Lower Edmonton and the Green before 1914.

### 3.8 Membership and Publicity

The pandemic lock-downs in March and later in November necessitated the cancellation of external events at which the Society might have otherwise attended. The last talk at Jubilee Hall took place on Monday 16th March and all subsequent talks at the Hall were cancelled. In the autumn five talks were offered over Zoom. Over 80 joined the New River talk in November. As some speakers did not wish to use Zoom, the Society took the decision not to offer more talks until Jubilee Hall could re-open. Stephen Gilbert stepped down as the evening programme organiser after 10 years. Despite frequent appeals for a successor, no one came forward in 2020.

In 2020 Angela Bowring stepped down from MPG as the Press Officer. Given the diminished influence of the press in the Borough, no successor is being sought. Instead, MPG has discussed how to use other means for publicity, e.g. social media. However, the Society did agree to support the Enfield Dispatch by becoming a sponsor at £10/month.

The Autumn and Winter newsletters were distributed to members by an external mailing company. We are very grateful to the small group of dedicated volunteers who previously prepared the newsletter for posting each quarter. The new distribution means the newsletter can be posted unfolded.

### 3.8.1 Website, Social Media and E-mail

Statistics from the web-site show sizable increases in visitor numbers in 2020 over 2019:

Period	Visitors	Visits	Visits by device
2019	11,573	15,553	Desktop, 54% Mobile, 33% Tablet, 13%
2020	26,560	33,241	Mobile, 48% Desktop, 43% Tablet 9%
2020 change	+129%	+113%	

The Society operates three social media feeds: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The number of followers on Facebook stood at around 1,600 at the year end. The Twitter account was opened in July 2020 and has attracted just over 200 followers so far. Instagram had around 1,000 followers at year-end. At the end of 2020 there were around 830 members listed to receive our monthly news e-mails.

### 3.8.2 Membership

Membership performance in 2020 was affected by the pandemic, especially renewals. As of 31 December 2020 total member numbers were 1,852 (1,032 Individual and 410 Joint). Despite not being able to hold our regular programme of talks and walks we recruited 83 new members. Of new applications and renewals 219 were made through our web-site, as compared to 85 in 2019.

### 3.8.3 Publications

The closure of bookshops and other shops and the cancellation of Society meetings and outside events where Enfield Society publications were sold resulted, as expected, in revenue from sales being down by 50% even though there was a big increase in orders online. However £2,016 was received from the Publishers' Licensing Services for the use of our books by public libraries, universities and other academic institutions, which with a generous donation from the sale of the Pymmes Brook Trail, resulted in £2,047 being added to the £1,090 profit on sales. The break-down of publications income was as follows:

Source	Income 2020
Publishers' Licensing Services	£2,016
Online store	£1,045
Sales through shop outlets (Waterstones etc)	£408
Member publication order form (Winter newsletter)	£400

The new online store, introduced in January 2020, performed well with total sales of publications of over £1,000 from 129 orders, up from 20 orders (total £180) in 2019. The biggest selling publication in 2020 was the Footpaths map, followed by the newly published Heritage Walk No. 5 (Clay Hill and Whitewebbs).

### 3.9 Records and Research

COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown has frustrated the work of the Records and Research Group this year. Collating and organising the history of the Enfield Society is a hands-on activity at Jubilee Hall.

Despite not being able to meet, all enquiries from members and the public were researched and answered. We continue to receive donations for our book and map collection. This year's highlights have been some maps and a PhD thesis on Elizabeth Sawyer the Witch of Edmonton.

Once the Group can meet again, we will progress with work at the Hall.

### 3.10 Trees Group

The Trees Group seeks to support tree planting initiatives across the Borough and to protect trees by monitoring tree maintenance and taking up any concerns with the Council. We try to ensure that trees with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and those in Conservation Areas are not removed without consent. We also work closely with Enfield Council to ensure the replacement of trees which need to be removed due to age or decay. Once trees are planted, we aim to ensure that they are protected and will thereby benefit future generations.

The Group maintains the Society's tree nursery at the Trentwood Side allotments. Our main priority is to encourage the planting of native British species. This involves bringing on saplings and planting them out at sites that need new or replacement trees. We work closely with the Friends of Parks Groups and the Council to identify suitable sites.

The spring planting season 2020 was affected by the national lockdown, but during the winter 2020/21 we have moved over 35 trees to Broomfield Park and Whitewebbs Park. We normally have over 100 trees at Trentwood Side including rarer trees such as the Black Mulberry and Walnut. We are grateful to our many members who have donated saplings allowing us to replace trees that are moved on. Trees normally remain at Trentwood Side for 2 to 3 years before they are ready for planting out.

The Group has regular allotment working party meetings to maintain the tree nursery and plan new initiatives. We are grateful for the support that we receive from our helpers and those who have provided saplings.

## The Enfield Society

### Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income & Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

	Un- Restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations and legacies				
Donations	67,063	-	67,063	9,141
Charitable activities				
Subscriptions and activities	9,887	-	9,887	7,976
Other trading activities				
Publications income	4,053	-	4,053	1,188
Investment Income				
Bank Interest	1,202	-	1,202	1,155
Rental income	3,544	-	3,544	8,530
Other Income				
Other income	10,000	-	10,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,749</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>95,749</b>	<b>27,990</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds				
Costs of Publications	1,278	-	1,278	1,491
Charitable activities	31,884	800	32,684	
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,162</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>33,962</b>	<b>30,381</b>
<b>Net income/ (expenditure) and movement in funds</b>	<b>62,587</b>	<b>(800)</b>	<b>61,787</b>	<b>(2,391)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Total funds brought forward	375,884	18,637	394,521	396,912
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>438,471</b>	<b>17,837</b>	<b>456,308</b>	<b>394,251</b>

A statement of total recognised gains and losses is not included in these accounts, as there are no recognised gains and losses other than the loss or surplus for the year.

The information in this document is extracted from the Society's full statutory report and financial statements. These are available on our website ([enfieldsociety.org.uk](http://enfieldsociety.org.uk)) and copies can be obtained by e-mailing the Secretary ([secretary@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@enfieldsociety.org.uk)) or by writing to him at Jubilee Hall.