



The Newsletter of the Enfield Preservation Society

A devastating threat to our Green Belt

It almost beggars belief, but earlier this year the Council Cabinet approved, subject to planning approval, a scheme which will blight a great swathe of the Green Belt - in blatant contravention of their own published policy (UDP).

The proposal by Tottenham Hotspur Football Club to create a training centre and youth academy on 56 acres at Bulls Cross presents the most serious threat to the Green Belt since the 1974 attempt by Wates to build a housing estate at Crews Hill, writes Colin Pointer.

The targeted site is to the west of Myddelton House, and is part owned by Lee Valley Regional Park Authority with the remaining majority of the land owned by our Council as part of the Forty Hall Estate and now farmed by Capel Manor College under an agricultural tenancy.

Spurs also propose to develop a 'community facility' on Bulls Cross Open Space. For undisclosed reasons, the Club has already bought Myddelton Farm which fronts onto Bulls Cross, next to the Pied Bull pub.

From information presented to the Green Belt Forum in September and from Spurs' own website, our total opposition to this catastrophic proposal is based upon the following main objections:

- All the land under threat is within the Green Belt. The land west of Myddelton House is beautiful countryside, a truly rural enclave rare in an area as built-up as this, and therefore something to cherish.

- The majority of this land is also within the Forty Hill Conservation Area.
- The Forty Hall Estate land forms part of the 16th century deer park of Elsynge Palace.
- The total surface of the whole site will be removed; playing areas will be resurfaced either with synthetic material or with a type of grass which may be alien to all wildlife.
- One totally-covered football pitch is proposed, flanked at either end by a Youth Academy Wing and a

- Traffic-calming measures are threatened for Whitewebbs Lane, a rural winding lane from which traffic should be discouraged.
- Hard-surface car parking is proposed for some 120 cars and coaches.
- The whole site will be fenced and guarded to ensure there can be no public access.

The public excluded

Not only is this land under threat, but also the well-loved Bulls Cross Open Space. The proposed community facility there will have a two-storey multi-purpose sports hall (40m x 25m) with associated parking areas. There will be changing rooms, etc., an education suite with 20 computer stations and two teachers' offices.

This will also be the head office 'for the administration of Tottenham Hotspur Community', apparently having at least 10 full-time staff.

How can the devolution of large tracts of Green Belt land from public ownership into private company hands be of "beneficial public use", especially when that land will be totally enclosed within a perimeter fence and guarded 24/7 to keep everybody out?

First Team Wing, with an adjoining First Team Pavilion; all of these are on three levels and cover nearly 6% of the site.

- A further 13 football pitches are proposed, including some with all-weather synthetic surfaces and some with floodlighting.
- There will be a new road of some length into the site from Whitewebbs Lane.

One artificial and three turf football pitches are proposed. The use and access will be reserved for local authorities' children and youths from other boroughs as well as from Enfield, to the total exclusion of the general public who have enjoyed unlimited access to this public open space for decades.

The community programme extends beyond football for youngsters to include health and crime diversion with breakfast clubs, after school clubs and the possibility of a late-night soccer league, as in Wolverhampton where they run dusk, twilight and midnight leagues!

The Open Space has a fine row of preserved Lombardy poplars, resulting from the Society's Enfield Tree Planting Week in 1964, as well as other trees along the western boundary provided by EPS at a later date.

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This plan from the presentation brochure presented to Enfield Green Belt Forum shows the size of the proposed two-storey training facility at Bulls Cross Open Space - from which Enfield's residents will now be excluded.

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For all the reasons listed, and for many others, the Tottenham Hotspur plans represent totally inappropriate development within the Green Belt and contravene Enfield Council's own UDP safeguards for our Green Belt land.

Having now been able to see the detailed proposals, it is difficult to understand how our Council Cabinet could have approved them earlier this year, subject to planning approval. The Cabinet papers recommended acceptance "to improve public access to parts of the land" (!) and quoted one member who "broadly supported the proposals which were compatible with Green Belt land which should be of beneficial public use" (!).

Yet on 7th October our Council's website quoted one of its Cabinet members as saying "I want to make it perfectly clear that this Council is determined to protect Enfield's Green Belt and will prosecute anyone who threatens it".

Not for the first time there is a

serious difference of opinion between EPS and the Council as to the protection of and real purpose of our Green Belt.

We intend to show Spurs a red card for foul play. Please support us and write, expressing your opposition to these proposals, to the Council at the address below. The Society's single voice could rise to many hundreds if enough individuals write in. We are, of course, also working with many other groups and organisations to coordinate our campaign.

Make your voice heard!

If you are opposed to the development described above, write to Councillor Michael Rye, Leader of the Council, London Borough of Enfield, PO Box 50, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3XA.

- *Another on-going threat to the Green Belt is the proposed expansion of Middlesex University in Trent Park. Details of the latest proposals are given on page 3.*

Help!

Most EPS activities are undertaken by the various groups shown in the EPS Directory on the back page. In common with many other societies, EPS is not replacing fast enough those group members who retire or leave and this is threatening the continuation of our work.

As a matter of urgency our groups are looking to the EPS membership to provide the additional numbers needed to enable EPS to function and, hopefully, even expand the range

and depth of activities.

EPS has over 2,000 members and there must be those who have wondered in the past whether they could contribute. A continuous renewal is vital to the health of any organisation and fresh thinking and new ideas are essential.

While specialised expertise is always welcome what is really needed is enthusiasm for the aims and objectives of the EPS. If you would like further information on a group that might interest you please give a call to the relevant contact listed in the Directory.

Happy Birthday, EPS!



In March 2006 the Society will be 70 years old, and to mark the occasion there will be a celebration for members on Friday, 10th March 2006, 7 for 7.30pm, at the Royal British Legion Hall, Holtwhites Hill, Enfield.

This will take the form of an anniversary supper comprising a fork buffet with meat, fish and vegetarian dishes, followed by a scrumptious selection of desserts, coffee, tea and petits fours.

It is hoped that a pianist or other instrumentalist will provide entertainment throughout the evening.

A ticket application form is enclosed with this copy of *EPS News*. A limited number of tickets is available, so if you wish to attend please return the form as early as possible.



Is this Enfield's ugliest building?

The Civic Environment Group is tackling the problem of the cluttered Enfield streetscape, starting with Enfield Town, but a short trip through almost any part of the borough shows the scale of the problem they face.

This example (above) on the corner of Nightingale Road and Hertford Road, N9, is without doubt a horror, but is it our most disfigured building?

Dennis Stacey, Chair of the Council's Conservation Advisory Group (CAG), is asking for entries for Enfield Design Awards 2005. Perhaps we should set up another competition - for the worst building in Enfield?

If you wish to nominate such a building, send details to the editor of *EPS News* at the address on the back page, with a photograph where possible.

Middlesex University at Trent Park: revised plans an improvement, but...

A decision now has to be reached on the latest and possibly final attempts by Middlesex University to update its Trent Park Campus. The previous application, considered at length in the Winter 2004 issue of EPS News, fell foul of the Mayor of London, who considered it incompatible with policy on the Green Belt.

The latest applications, an outline application for the whole works and detailed applications for the first of three phases, promises the same benefits as regards the heritage and conservation aspect, with reduced, though still significant, expansion of the teaching facilities.

There will be no increase in the overall 'footprint' compared with the present buildings (this has recently been queried and will need verification).

EPS involvement

It is relevant to consider the Society's involvement with Trent Park as a whole over the years. EPS has been actively represented on the Trent Park Conservation Committee since it was set up, by Douglas Dawson, in 1969. The trigger was the desecration of the renowned Long Garden by the new music block, which cut into the lily ponds and blocked the formal vista down to the lake, and the other building works at that time.

We have been able to witness the Polytechnic's, and later the University's, less than total commitment to the aims of that committee over the intervening years. In due course the Preservation Society was responsible for the whole of Trent Park being designated a conservation area, which has enormously assisted the process of ensuring that the area remains as pleasant as it still is, and that new proposals have to undergo such rigorous scrutiny.

Working with the Council's Conservation Advisory Group and the Conservation Committee we have been able to prevent or mitigate many horrors. The Conservation Committee has instigated many improvements, such as renewing the daffodil displays, and has been responsible for significant tree planting.

We have to look at the latest applications with the same approach. In formulating our response to Enfield Council's Planning Department we can only use



The fine Mansion in Trent Park. But if the University moved, could it become another Broomfield House?

arguments that are valid in planning terms.

Doubts as to the veracity of the University or its future intentions and as to whether it has the finance to carry through the proposals are not material considerations as far as planning is concerned and arguments based on them can carry no weight with the Planning Committee. We have to stick to our terms of reference and judge the applications as they stand, no matter how strongly we may feel about other aspects.

The benefits

There are both benefits and drawbacks in the revised plans. First, the benefits. They propose sweeping away pretty well all of the mediocre, insensitively sited, post-war buildings; in particular, the intrusive teaching blocks on the lawns below the Mansion, which should sweep uninterrupted down to the lake. They will allow the complete restitution of the Long Garden, recreating the vista from the Wisteria Walk (painted by Winston Churchill) down to the lake. The previous

proposals included residential blocks which would still have intruded into this vista. Under the current

proposals they are fewer in number and tucked well to the side.

A double lime avenue will be recreated which could link up via a bridge to the Japanese Garden. At the western side of the lawn it will be possible better to appreciate the arboretum collection. A pedestrian link will run from the at present rather forlorn gate piers next to the Mansion, through the site of the Jebb extension and on down to join the footpath near where it crosses between the lakes. The dew pond is now safeguarded.

The historic Listed buildings on the site will be comprehensively restored and unsightly clutter cleared away. This must include the forecourt to the Mansion, scandalously neglected up to now. The much-neglected stables will be restored as the Students' Union building.

Less car parking

Car parking will be significantly reduced, and students will no longer be permitted to bring their motor vehicles on to the campus. The Green Travel Plan has been much criticised, but it does go in the right direction, to rely less on the private car and make full use of public transport (significantly improved under the London Mayor). The internal bus shuttle service will be enhanced.

Detailed designs have been prepared only for the two buildings to be included within the first phase: the Learning Resource

Centre and the first of the three residential blocks. The modern style may not be to everyone's taste, but they have obviously been designed with care by a very reputable firm of architects.

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CORRECTION

In the report of our meeting with Chief Executive John Pryor and others in the Autumn 2005 issue of EPS News, relating to PalaceXchange, we attributed to him the remark "the current Administration had inherited unrealistic plans with no secure funding." We wish to make it clear that he was referring to the views of the Administration, not his own. A fuller transcript would read "The view of the current Administration at the Civic Centre was that it had inherited unrealistic plans with no secure funding". This was in response to our raising the issue of the downgrading of plans for the new Central Library and Community Centre. This was a very useful meeting and we certainly did not wish to intimate that any officer had behaved unprofessionally in any way.



The new Learning Resource Centre (left) and student accommodation, sited at the highest point of the campus.

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Much use is made of external timber cladding as in so many current new buildings. We would have preferred to see more brick, but apparently timber is now encouraged as being more sustainable. The Centre is the larger and more idiosyncratic of the two, and the façade facing towards the Mansion needs to be most carefully handled despite being considerably screened by trees.

Adjoining the Centre the academic blocks along the concrete spine road echo the never-built, southern wall to the walled garden, an interesting concept, if somewhat far fetched. Altogether, the new buildings in this location occupy a far smaller area and should have a greatly reduced impact compared with the previously proposed large serpentine block.

These applications are only the latest set of a series of proposals for the campus, but they display a greater sensitivity to the unique features and character of this outstanding site than any that have gone before.

It is no longer proposed to close the Cat Hill Site.

The drawbacks

The University is a large establishment inappropriately sited within the Green Belt Country Park. Its proposed expansion would therefore have to be judged as an exceptional case if the situation was thought to warrant it.

Although the changes are smaller in scale than in the previous unsuccessful application, they still envisage a significant increase in student numbers, and even if all would not be on the site at the same time, this is also the case at present. The footprint may remain the same but the total floorspace is increased. The residential students' places may be fewer than previously proposed

but still represent a substantial increase.

Half the new buildings, including the most prominent, the Learning Resource Centre, are sited at the highest point of the campus. Despite assertions to the contrary, it is likely they will be visible looking across from Bramley Road.

Also, it is difficult to judge how the Centre will appear viewed from the Mansion. Will this important façade pass the test of enhancing the conservation area?

Up to now the University has demonstrated very little sensitivity or commitment in dealing with its historic heritage. The intentions regarding it are less clear than other aspects of the development, which does not bode well.

For example, in relation to the repairs to the forecourt and terrace, both crucial elements, there is merely an intention to identify possible sources of finance.

The long access along Snakes Lane remains a drawback for an institution with so many members coming in from outside every day. We doubt whether the proposed shuttle service will operate for long enough or frequently enough, and there are safety issues around the turning point at the top of Snakes Lane.

Also, it has to be clearly demonstrated that there will not be increased pressure on parking in the streets around Oakwood Underground Station.

The University points in its literature to its ongoing expansion, which the previous proposals hoped to cater for. The picture may now be different, but for how long? If it is allowed to go ahead with the present plans, can we be sure that this is the accepted limit, and that future administrators or local planning departments will no longer feel bound by undertakings given by their predecessors?

Conclusion

The University is an established institution in Enfield which has benefited the locality to an appreciable extent. It may not be a material consideration, but would the site become another white elephant should the University move away? Bearing in mind the original attitude of the present administration towards Forty Hall, would Enfield Council feel inclined to come to the rescue with funds to put the Listed buildings to rights?

Would another body take on the burden? Could Trent Park Mansion become another Broomfield House? Are the new buildings more sensitively sited than those they replace? We say the answer is an unequivocal yes. Do they look better? The answer here is more subjective, but at least they are to a coherent design in place of the current hodgepodge. Carried through sensitively, the new proposal has roughly the same benefits as the previous applications, but the overall impact of their greatly reduced scale would be much less.

They have now been approved by the Mayor's Office and by English Heritage. They could pass the test of enhancing, rather than detracting from the appearance and character of the Conservation Area. But for this to be the case, watertight conditions would be needed to tie in very detailed commitments to restoring all the historic elements of this diverse site to a timetable, to ensure that they are carried out simultaneously and to an acceptable standard with the other works.

A legal agreement ring-fencing the funds would be a necessity. EPS will need to be fully satisfied on this matter before it could consider giving its support to these latest proposals, which do otherwise incorporate some good features.

Christopher Jephcott.

Edmonton Group

Despite heavy rains and flooding here were fifty people present at the joint meeting of the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society and EPS' Edmonton Group on 19th October. Everyone present much enjoyed Graham Dalling's entertaining and informative talk on Edmonton Before World War 1.

- *See also page 8 for information on a World War 2 Exhibition in Edmonton, arranged by Enfield Museum Service, an Associate Member of EPS.*

The President's Column



Three score years and ten and still going strong may not be the expected lifespan for a society, but having reached it is an achievement we shall be celebrating next March. The Enfield Preservation Society started in 1936 with a successful campaign to keep one of Enfield's cherished open spaces, Chase Green, and now we face another - to keep Spurs' hands off our vulnerable Green Belt countryside.

In between we have come a long way, with not a few successes as well as some defeats and disappointments - all as set out in Valerie Carter's eminently readable book *Fighting for the Future*. Something to congratulate ourselves on as we look forward to new challenges.

My comments in the last EPS News

on the Society's name attracted a limited response, which suggests there is no overwhelming desire for a change, though the 75th anniversary would be a suitable time if a change were to be decided on. The most frequently suggested and apt title 'The Enfield Society' has unfortunately been pre-empted by another, non-amenity group. Other suggestions were 'Enfield Civic Society' and 'Enfield Heritage Society'.

Obviously the title should contain the word 'Enfield', but I think I should make it clear in response to queries that this refers to the former Metropolitan Borough of Enfield. The EPS may on occasion become involved in important issues in other parts of the Borough or further afield,

but that remains our prime focus. Much of the criticism of the

focuses on the word 'Preservation' as giving a negative, regressive image. In this context it is interesting to recall the words of our first Chairman, the Reverend Geoffrey Daisley, Vicar of Enfield, in 1936: "We call ourselves the Enfield Preservation Society because our prime aim is to preserve everything that is historically interesting and of natural beauty in Enfield. But we have no intention of stopping progress; on the contrary, we aim at taking a hand in creative construction for the future". I think those words are still as true today.

Chris Jephcott.



Heritage postcard series

The picture above shows St. Andrew's Church, Enfield; it is the latest card in the Heritage series. It is available from EPS (price 15p) or from the Central Library, Forty Hall and some retailers.

The first colour view card in this series, White Lodge, was published in 1984 and is still available. Numbers 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 18 are out of print. Of these, no.7 (The Rose and Crown) has been replaced by no.17 and no.13 (Crown and Horseshoes) by no.24.

Below is a list of postcards currently available from EPS, all at 15p each. Other outlets do not usually stock the full range and may charge different prices. A pack of 20 different cards is available from EPS for £2.75.

AVAILABLE CARDS

1. White Lodge, Silver Street, Enfield.
3. Gentleman's Row.
4. Trent Park.
9. The Market Place.
14. River Lea at Enfield Lock.

17. Rose & Crown P.H.
19. Ponders End Recreation Ground.
20. Fallow Buck P.H.
21. Forty Hall.
22. Trinity Church and New River Loop.
23. Forty Hall and Lake.
24. Crown & Horseshoes P.H.
25. Public Offices, Gentleman's Row.
26. The Fountain, The Town.
27. War Memorial, Chase Green.
28. The cottages, Chase Green.
29. Library Green.
30. Whitewebbs House.
31. Government Row, Enfield Lock.
32. Millennium sculpture, Chase Green Gardens.
33. Enfield Grammar School.
34. St. Andrew's Church.

- *A booklet containing 11 postcards of places saved by EPS campaigns during its first 60 years can be purchased by members from EPS at the special price of £1.*

Handyman required

We are looking for someone to help out with small practical jobs at Jubilee Hall, such as putting up shelves, changing light bulbs and painting doors. This is not likely to be very onerous but is important, and we would be grateful if any member would volunteer to help maintain the hall, which is a really great benefit to the Society.

If any one feels they could help, please leave your name and telephone number on the answer phone at Jubilee Hall and someone will contact you. The number is 020 8363 9495.

Plaque for Stevie

EPS was invited by Palmers Green Bookshop and English Heritage to the unveiling by the Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion, of a blue plaque to Stevie Smith, who lived in Avondale Road, Palmers Green for 65 years, from the age of four until her death in 1971.

There were short speeches about the poet and her works, and Andrew Motion read some of her poems. She is now regarded as one of the 20th century's most distinctive and

original poets. Her first book of poems was published in 1937 and her best-known is probably *Not Waving but Drowning*. On her death *The Times* praised her talent as "wholly individual, unconventional and unpredictable".



Her novels are less well-known than her poetry but are also personal and contain pictures of life in Palmers Green in the first half of the 20th century, including her early education at Palmers Green High School.

A play by Hugh Whitmore, *Stevie*, based on her life, was staged at the Vaudeville Theatre in 1977 with Glenda Jackson in the leading role, and was later made into a film.

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.

Saturday 26th November

Norman, Medieval and Wren churches. Meet Brian at 10.10am by the entrance to Platform 1, Liverpool Street Station (9.34am train from Enfield Town) for a tour with a similar format to that of last September. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader:* Brian Pask.

Wednesday 30th November

Meet 10.15am at the Odeon Cinema, Barnet, (307 bus) for 2.5 to 3 hour linear walk via Hadley Woods to New Barnet Station. *Leader:* Ray Moss.

Saturday 10th December

Meet 10.43am at Rickmansworth Station (10.10am Metropolitan Line train from Baker Street) for 6.5 to 7 mile circular walk in the Come Valley. By car, about 45 minutes from Enfield via M25 (junction 18) and A404. Bring lunch or pub food available. *Leader:* Norman Coles.

Wednesday 14th December

Meet 10.15am at the front door of Forty Hall mansion for about 2.5 hour circular walk with coffee stop and, en-route, discover the missing building! *Leader:* Brenda Brown.

Tuesday 27th December

Meet 10.35am at Bayford Station or 10.45am in Bayford Village (please park considerately) for circular walk with lunch stop and option to end early in Hertford. Bring lunch or food probably available. WAGN expect to run a Saturday service on that day (i.e. 10.21am train from Enfield Chase) but it is essential to check. *Leader:* Stuart Mills.

Monday 2nd January

Meet 10.15am at The Arkley P/H, Barnet (307 bus) for circular walk in Barnet's countryside via Totteridge and Mill Hill villages. Shorter



A rest-break near a ford across the River Ash on a September walk.

options. Bring lunch or pub food probably available. *Leader:* Stuart Mills.

Wednesday 11th January

Meet 10.25am at Cheshunt Station (10.16am train from Southbury Station) for about 2.5 hour circular walk in the Lea Valley Park near Fishers Green.

Leader: Christine Fookes.

Saturday 14th January

Meet 10.30am at Gordon Hill Station for circular walk mainly in Enfield's countryside, ending by about 3.30pm. Option to end earlier at the Crews Hill lunch stop. Food

available or bring your own.

Leader: Monica Smith.

Wednesday 25th January

Meet 10.15am at Oakwood Station for about 2.5 hour circular walk in Trent Park.

Leader: Norman Coles.

Saturday 28th January

Meet 10.30am by the entrance to Platform 1, Liverpool Street mainline station, for a 7 to 8 mile linear walk

returning from Bromley-by-Bow Station. Many shorter options. Roy will relate tales which illustrate the triumph of the human spirit over adversity in this little known area beyond the City. Bring lunch or food available. Enquiries 0208 360 0282.

Leader: Roy Nicholls.

Wednesday 8th February

Meet 10.25am at the 313 bus stop on The Ridgeway opposite the entrance to New Cottage Farm for 2.5 hour linear walk via field paths, commons and Monken Hadley, ending at High Barnet for return to Enfield by 307 bus. Shorter options. *Leaders:* Carol Cope and Kinu Ohki.

Saturday 11th February

Meet 11.00am at the front door of Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane (210 bus from Finsbury Park Station) for a circular walk over the Heath Hiding by 4.00pm. Shorter options. Bring lunch or café and/or pub food available. *Leader:* Ken Cooper.

Wednesday 22nd February

London Visit. Meet 10.40am by the entrance to Platform 1, Liverpool street mainline station, and discover Lesser-known parts of the City, culminating in a guided tour of Clothworkers Hall. Bring lunch or Food available. As pre-booking is essential for this tour, please forward a cheque for £3 (made payable to B.J.Pask) to 161 Wellington Road, Enfield EN1 2RJ. No acknowledgements will be sent without SAE. Enquiries 020 8360 3593. *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.

OBITUARY

Val Adams

Society members and friends were shocked and deeply saddened to learn of Val's sudden death after a short illness in August.

For many years we have enjoyed the pleasure of Val's and Colin's company and their jointly organised walks. The rest of us often called upon their combined knowledge of plant and wildlife and many times Val's sense of humour came to the fore when the going sometimes got tough!

We will retain happy memories of Val but, of course, our thoughts are with Colin and their family at this most difficult of times. SM.

Essential work on New River Loop

Ever since the completion of the major restoration of the Enfield New River Loop, water has continued to leak from the initial River Front section. Despite numerous investigations and remedial works the cause has never been identified and therefore not cured.

The puddled clay has now been dug out, an impervious liner laid on the river bed and the clay reinstated along the total length of this section. This work should guarantee an adequate flow of water throughout the whole length of the Loop, subject to the operational demands of Thames Water who supply the daily requirement. This latter dependence has, in turn, led Council officers to start to investigate ways of obtaining an independent water supply. Even more urgent is the need to replace the revetments in the area between Church Street and Gentlemans Row bridges. These have deteriorated far more quickly than was anticipated and we have pressed the Council to include the replacement cost in the Budget estimates for financial year 2006/7.



Broomfield funding?

At long last progress is being made towards the restoration of this important Grade 11* listed building. A project planning grant application has been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund to part cover the cost of employing consultants to draw up a conservation management plan, a training plan and an audience and access plan - all essential requirements, with others, to prepare for a full application for a Lottery grant for repairing the House.

Funding has also been requested for a project officer to deal with all the detail and bureaucracy which is now required before there is any possibility of actually starting work on site. All this is going to take many months, but since the Council has done little to save Broomfield House in the 21 years since the major fire, perhaps we should be patient for a while longer!



Library Green

The Library Green is one of the most attractive features of Enfield Town, especially in springtime when the crocuses are in bloom, as captured in the above painting by Miss Ethel Hemsworth, kindly donated to Enfield Preservation Society in 2005 by Mr and Mrs D. Stone.

It was painted in the 1960s, and we are pleased that the scene has remained substantially unchanged since then. EPS has been involved in several proposals that would have affected the Library Green, as documented in Valerie Carter's book *Fighting for the Future*. She describes the first of these as follows:

"... Enfield Council had cast its predatory eyes on the Library Green in Church Street and in August 1937 it took the controversial decision to sell the green as a site for shops. The Library Green, with its fine trees, was once part of the garden of Chase Side House, the home for many years of Phillip Twells, MP for the City of London and a partner in the banking firm which became Barclays Bank... The Preservation Society protested against the decision to sell the Green urging that it should be kept as a permanent open space... Local opposition intensified, led by the Preservation Society and its

chairman Geoffrey Daisley. He was fond of describing the Library Green as a beautiful gateway into the centre of the town and one of the jewels of Enfield. Sixty years on, EPS members will endorse his frequently quoted opinion that 'We demur to the idea that Enfield is in such financial difficulties that it must sell its diamonds'."

New members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Mr & Mrs. G.Beat; Mrs B.Burke; Mr O.Buruncuk; Mr A.Cudworth; Mr M.George; Mr J.Grove; Mr P. Hawes; Mrs V.Henry; Dr. P. Kench; Miss E.Muir; Mr M.Perbe; Miss A.Toz.

Letters

To the Editor, EPS News

Sir, A change of name? No, never! There is so much to preserve.

We are very fortunate to have a considerable area of Green Belt land within the borough, as well as many parks. Much of the Green Belt land is farmed and at the same time is accessible for the public to walk in freely and to enjoy open country.

To counter the constant, insidious pressure of developers to acquire land to build on in Enfield needs an organisation that emphasises in its name its active determination to preserve Enfield's green and pleasant land for all time.

So stick with the title: Enfield Preservation Society.

Yours faithfully,

T. Connolly

Winchmore Hill, N21.

Sir, I feel that including the word 'Preservation' in the Society's name does have some negative connotations, particularly for younger members of the population. It also suggests an agenda which is limited to preservation when, if I understand the Society's aims correctly, it has broader aims than that.

I have two alternative suggestions to make: either 'Enfield Heritage Society' or simply 'The Enfield Society'. My preference is for the former since it is more specific, but suggests a broader agenda than the current name.

Yours faithfully,

R. Fowler

Old Park Avenue, EN2.

Sir, Does the word 'Enfield' in EPS stand for town or borough? If the latter, it seems to overlap with other societies.

Here, for example, we belong to the Southgate Green Association and the Fox Lane and District Residents Association, which have similar aims to those of EPS.

Yours faithfully,

A. Peeler

The Mall, Southgate, N14.

• See the President's Column on page 5 for comment on the above letters. Your views on this and any other matters concerning Enfield are most welcome. Send them to The Editor, whose address is on the back page.

EPS Directory

Hon. Secretary Stephen Hoye

Hon. Treasurer David James

Office 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield,
Middlesex EN2 OAJ.

Telephone 020 8363 9495

When there is nobody in the office,
messages left on the Answerphone will be
dealt with as promptly as possible.

Website: www.enfieldpressoc.org.uk

Helplines

For information on EPS activities or
to report matters you think need
investigation or action, please contact
the appropriate person below:

Architecture and Planning John
Davies **Conservation Areas, Listed
Buildings, Green Belt**

Chris Jephcott

Civic Environment

Philip Gooch

Coach Outings

Jim Deamer **Footpaths and Walks**

Shirley Cotton **Historic Buildings
Group**

Stephen Gilbert **Jubilee Hall**

Bookings

Pat Keeble **Membership**

Pat Atkins **Records and Research**

Leonard Will **Trees**

Mike Gadd

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Newsletter Editor

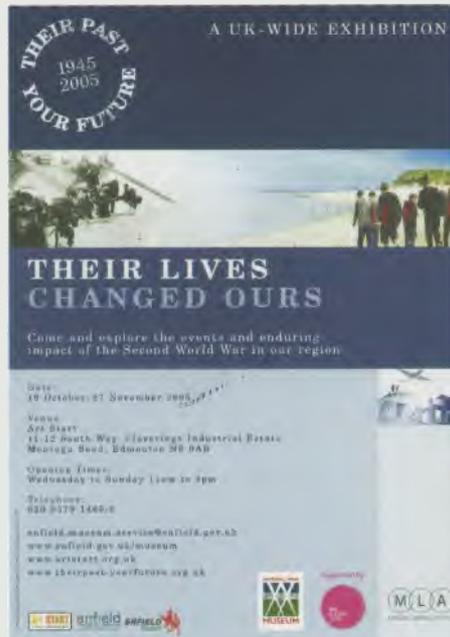
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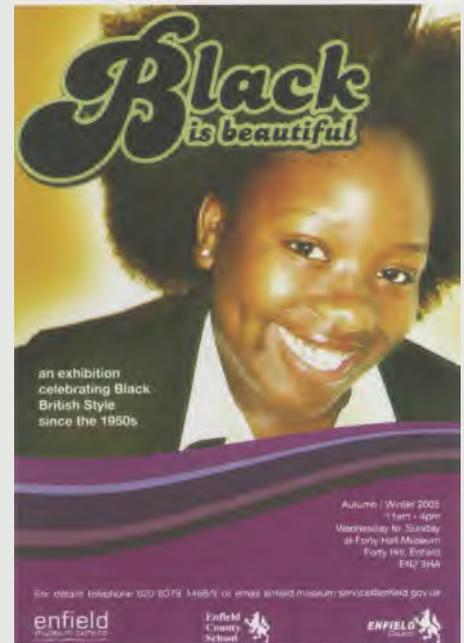
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Exhibitions



October to March. An exhibition *In Search of Suburbia* at the Museum of Design and Architecture, Middlesex University, Cat Hill Campus. Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm; Sunday 2 to 5pm. Admission free.

Until 27th November. An exhibition *Their Lives Changed Ours*, about the events and enduring impact of the Second World War on this borough.



At Art Start, 11-12 South Way, Claverings Industrial Estate, Montagu Road, Edmonton. Open Wednesday to Sunday 11am to 4 pm.

Until late November, an exhibition *Black is Beautiful*, a celebration of Black British style since the 1950s. At Forty Hall Museum, Forty Hill, Enfield. Open Wednesday to Sunday 11am to 4pm.

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)

17th November

The London Borough of Enfield in World War 1. A talk by Graham Dalling.

December - no meeting.

19th January

A Walk from Muswell Hill to Hampstead in Postcards - a talk, with slides, by Hugh Garnsworthy.

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), Last incumbent of Bowes Manor - a talk, with slides, by Rachel MacDonald.

April (Easter) - no meeting.

18th May

Joint meeting with the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society. The Hospitallers and Thmplars in the Enfield Area - a talk by Pamela Willis.

June - no meeting due to the EPS AGM.

20th July

Travelling Theatre - The Murder of Dickens. A talk by Geff Hales.

August - no meeting.

Tuesday mornings (10 for 10.30 am)

29th November

Walking in the Canadian Rockies - a talk, with slides, by Tony Freaque.

13th December

A light-hearted Christmas Quiz. Setting the questions: Joyce James.

24th January

The Story of the Cuffley Airship - a talk, with slides, by John Higgs.

28th February

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

28th March

Bhutan - a Mountain Kingdom - a