

*The newsletter of the Enfield Preservation Society*

## PalaceXchange



Artist's impression from planning application, 2001

Now that the shopping arcade is more or less open seems a good time for first impressions. And the first is how much the plans have changed since they originally went on display in 2001. Compare the original artist's impression of the civic facility/car park with how it looks today. Our thanks to REID architecture, the architects for the Phase II precinct, for letting us use this picture. They have also kindly supplied a further artist's impression that they would like us to use in the comparison. This shows the intended final appearance as of April 2005.

A shock is how transparent the wooden screen appears as built, though apparently it is as approved. I did not realize how much the glazed civic building has shrunk and the car park now extends well beyond the lift tower and bridge towards the corner. And the top floor is to be used as a call centre, which could just as well be anywhere in the world. The first floor is earmarked for the resited Local History Unit, but, as things stand at the moment, as well as the office only a reading/ research room will be available on site. The archive material will be stored elsewhere, largely negating the value of the unit. However, I have today heard from Mike Rye in response to our concerns with an update on the situation, as covered on page 4.

The lift tower is a story in itself. Notice the yellow brick. It was approved in red brick to match the rest of the centre. Only the south façade of the car park would be

in yellow brick in keeping with the Sydney Road houses. But, somehow, a misunderstanding led to yellow brick being used. By the time the Society pointed this out it was obviously impractical to change it, so as a compromise the remaining red brick area opposite the Catholic Church would be changed to yellow to match - but even then building using red brick continued, so that a section had to be demolished and rebuilt. Incidentally the quite attractive red bricks have now gone out of production and there are no more left in the UK. So it couldn't be changed in any event. Though no longer matching, I think the car park does look quite nice in yellow brick.

As to the precinct itself, not as bad as it might be is my verdict. The retro fifties architecture does not match anything in the town and the aggressively styled Millett's replacement opposite Barclay's Bank strikes a jarring note. The half completed wall of words is an interesting concept, if illegible, though the original attempt to make it interactive seems to have been abandoned. The illustration shows one of the "urban trees" decorating the mall. I prefer the silver birch behind Pearson's myself. The proposed, 7 metre, bright blue "Totem" sign at The Town entrance has rightly been refused permission.

*Chris Jephcott*



Artist's impression, April 2005



As built, 21st October 2006



An "urban tree"





## Shopfronts again

In this issue I am concentrating on Enfield Town. I referred in the last “News” to the problems of enforcement when planning permission is either ignored or never sought in the first place.

The pictures above show two more examples. “h-salons”, with its grotesquely high fascia and excessive glass was refused consent, confirmed at appeal, but is still there unchanged nine months later. Our requests to the Council’s enforcement team for an update on the situation are as yet unanswered. Woolworth’s have recently marked their new bright red fascia and projecting signs with a distribution of red balloons. Yet permission was refused

early in September. Previously Woolworth’s had done without their usual red in response to requests to respect the conservation area, but no more it seems.

It is not only events within Enfield Town that can influence it. The picture on the right shows New River House (originally Bovril House) looming over the buildings at the east end of The Town. Imagine it with an additional three storeys and widening out towards the top. Yet this is what is proposed in an application to construct 191 apartments in three blocks on the site. The Society has opposed this vigorously, not

only because of the overbearing effect on the conservation area, but as overdevelopment and as prejudging a plan for the area around the station.

*Chris Jephcott*



## Conservation Area management proposals

It is a pleasant surprise to find Enfield Council leading the country in conservation matters. Yet, with the release of the draft Conservation Area Management Proposals, one for each area, it has achieved a first. Supplementing the Conservation Area Character Appraisals, to quote Conservation Team Leader Mike Brown, “they set out the short and medium term actions and initiatives to ensure that the special character described in the Appraisals is properly looked after and improved”. The consultation period ended on 25th October. This is a very

comprehensive piece of work. Our quibbles are generally minor. The Trent Park Proposals, though, are weak, especially when it comes to looking after the Country Park and seem unaware of the recently issued Management Plan for the park. Particularly important in view of the loss of Green Flag status.

Once Cllr. Neville has signed off the proposals they will become part of a Supplementary Planning Document, the Enfield Design Guide, within the forthcoming Local Development Framework and will carry considerable weight when planning applications are decided (we have to get used to all the new terminology in the reorganised planning process).

*Chris Jephcott*

### Planning terminology

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act came into effect in September 2004, introducing new arrangements for development planning. It requires the Council to replace its existing Unitary Development Plan (UDP) with a new style of plan called a Local Development Framework (LDF) by September 2007.

Enfield’s LDF will not be a single document but a folder of Local Development Documents (LDDs). The first documents produced by the Council as part of the new LDF are the Local Development Scheme (LDS), the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The LDS can be seen at the Civic Centre and public libraries, or from the Council’s Web site at <http://www.enfield.gov.uk/856/index856.htm>



# Enfield Town Area Action Plan

This is another initiative relating to the Local Development Framework. Also a formal planning policy document "it will set out a strong vision for the future of the town in order to guide future development, promote high quality urban design, improve transport and the pedestrian environment and enhance the centre's historic and environmental quality". In other words a good thing.

To start the ball rolling in a process likely to take three years Enfield Council yesterday (20th October) held an Action Planning Day. Organised by Urban Practitioners, who are consulting with 'key stakeholders', about 75 people from organisations across the borough, planning officers etc, met at the Civic Centre to undertake walking audits around the town. Stephen Tapper introduced the event by quoting from the very evocative recent article in the Sunday Times Magazine by Jim Grace

about growing up in Enfield in the post-war years.

It turned out to be a very successful event, with innumerable problems and suggestions on post-its pinned to the wall afterwards and key priorities identified. Probably the most mentioned were to improve the street scene, removing clutter with well designed street furniture, to do something about the long vacant former Rialto Cinema, to replan the area round Enfield Town Station, setting it back to allow a transport interchange in front, to enhance Enfield Town's special character as a historic market town and thriving shopping centre and to make good use of the Fountain Island triangle. Stephen Tapper assured us that planning on this was well in hand, but because of the importance of the site it was important to get it right and not rush things. An encouraging start at least. The only disappointment was that no councillors were present, I was told, to witness the enthusiastic response, though it seems all were invited.

Chris Jephcott



One of the recommendations in the Enfield Town Conservation Area Management Proposals is to add the former Burtons the Tailor building (Now BBBS), prominent alongside the Market Place, to the local list. It is described as a well detailed, three-storey, stone faced building in the Beaux Arts style dating from 1920. Prominent in the streetscape with two principal elevations: the east elevation is a key statement contributing to the character and enclosure of the Market Place.

## Green Belt

### Spurs are defeated

At the deferred planning meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September, Councillors on the Planning Committee voted 11 to 3 to reject Spurs' application to build a very large Academy/Training complex on Green Belt land at Bulls Cross. Together with the Forty Hill and Bulls Cross Study Group, and a number of dedicated individuals, we had campaigned for a long time to protect this historic landscape. Tremendous support was also given by two of the Chase Ward Councillors, Annette Dreblow and Kate Wilkinson. At the planning meeting six of us were allowed to give five minute presentations, as "deputies", covering different aspects of our total opposition to the application, and the two Ward Councillors also spoke against it. It then became clear that the majority of the Councillors on the Planning Committee had not only studied in great detail the 52 page Officer's report but had checked this against all the relevant protection policies in the Borough's own Unitary Development Plan and in the Greater London Plan. Those Councillors were also very aware that the Government's own Planning Policy Guidance 2: Green Belts, required the existence of very special circumstances to justify this agreed inappropriate development in the Green Belt. Such justification had not been substantiated and therefore the Officer's report was flawed in recommending that approval be given for Spurs' proposals. Spurs of course have the right to appeal against the decision of the Council and have six months in which to lodge an appeal. If they do so, we are confident that we have a very strong case to defend the planning refusal, and we would expect to work closely with the Council in preparing and submitting that defence.

### The History Matters Declaration 2006

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

*"We believe that history matters. A society out of touch with its past cannot have confidence in its future. History defines, educates and inspires us. It lives on in our historic environment. As custodians of our past we will be judged by generations to come. We must value it, nurture it and pass it on."*

Let us hope that Enfield Council now accepts its responsibility to safeguard our historic past. On the 28th September the Planning Committee certainly did.

Colin Pointer

## Local History Unit

David Pam, a Vice-President of EPS, has kindly given his permission for a copy of the letter which he has written, in his capacity as President of Edmonton Hundred Historical Society, to the Leader of Enfield Council to express his views on the relocation of the Local History Unit. EPS shares his concern about the lack of space for both the Local History Unit and the Museums Service. When the moves were first mooted, the Central Library was scheduled to move into the new building and EPS suggested that the Local History Unit could be well housed in the vacated library building which has storage space and floors capable of bearing the weight of books.

*Monica Smith*

### *To the Leader of Enfield Council*

"Since I was instrumental, many years ago, in setting up a local history unit in the Borough, I have presumed to set out for your consideration my opinions as to the future of the Local History Unit and the Museums Service. When I was put in charge of both of these, as Museums Officer, the Borough had two museums, Broomfield and Forty Hall, and the new department was responsible for putting on exhibitions in both; some five or six were presented each year. The link between the Local History Unit and the museums was necessarily very close since old photographs, blown up and mounted, were widely used in all our displays, supplemented by items from the museum collection and others borrowed from the public and elsewhere. Thus an exhibition to display early elementary education, at Forty Hall, was illustrated with dozens of class pictures and furnishings from the board school era, discarded by some school in Wales. They included desks, a cane, a punishment cage and a mortarboard borrowed from an Enfield headmaster.

As to plans for the future, any separation of service from stock would render the Local History Unit unworkable as the service offered is very personal, because the searcher usually has no idea as to what material he might find, so he needs guidance and the opportunity to browse. Moreover, if stock were separated from service, the Council would have to pay staff at both ends which would prove expensive.

Any new Local History Unit would need adequate space and fire-resistant storage; the latter exists at Southgate Town Hall, although so inadequate that any archive offered to the collection would have to be refused. At this very moment there are boxes of valuable material on the premises which cannot be unpacked because of lack of storage space.

Adequate room for readers and a separate staff working area should also be provided – the present space proposed seems to be less than adequate which, considering that it is in a prime shopping area, is not surprising. Any suggestion of a separation between family history and local history is another absurdity, for one study leads into the other both ways.

Speaking without the responsibility of a Councillor, of course, I think that the ideal building for the Local History and Museums Departments would be the former Council offices and present Register Office in Gentleman's Row"

*David Pam*

In response to our query Mike Rye has sent us a copy of a letter from Peter Lewis, Director of Education, Children's Services and Leisure. He states it has long been the plan to house a new local history museum under the same roof as the local history library at the new civic facility in Enfield Town, now apparently named Thomas Hardy House. Because this building will be housing the Enfield Town Library service until it can move back into the refurbished Carnegie Library building this cannot take place until a projected date in 2009. The current use of Forty Hall for storage of the permanent collections cannot continue indefinitely, as the weight on the floors is potentially putting the building at risk. Ultimately all of the items will need to be stored elsewhere. Some will require environmentally controlled conditions. Storage space for everything in the collection will not be available at Thomas Hardy House. This still leaves some questions unanswered I am afraid.

*Chris Jephcott*

## Enfield Autumn Town Show 9/10 September

Once again EPS was represented at the Show on one of the most beautiful weekends of the year.

Attendance was high and the organisers, Ubique Leisure, did a first class job on both days. We took over £300 in sales and answered numerous questions from the public on various local issues, the most controversial being the new development in Enfield Town. Readers will not be surprised to hear that nearly all the comments were negative.

Grateful thanks to Jaga, Monica, Pam, Pat, Mavis, Doris, Sadie and Shirley who helped with transporting the stock and staffing the sales table, and to Derek and Cliff for erecting and dismantling the stall. We are always in need of volunteers for these events. If any one is interested please contact us at Jubilee Hall.

We had just one complaint ourselves. Our stall was very near the arena where the noise level was very high, so much so that at times we were unable to speak to or hear members of the public. This was caused by commentators for the various events shouting into hand-held microphones resulting in noise which was worsened by amplifiers around the perimeter. Although we recruited new members, we could have recruited more had we been able to get our message across. A letter has been sent to the organisers who, hopefully, will find a solution to this problem before next year's Show.

*Beryl Dorrington*



The EPS stand at this year's Town Show



## The President's Column



We have a Chairman. Colin Pointer has stepped into the breach, with Tony Langston as Vice Chair. Many members will remember Colin's earlier successful stint as Chairman from 1993 to 1996 and he was of course the prime mover in our very successful New River Loop restoration project as well as taking the lead in the so far successful Spurs campaign. I am very grateful that he has once again taken on this considerable responsibility. He asked me to continue with this column.

Also we are grateful to Bob Fowler who has come forward in response to our Situations Vacant column to help as Publicity Officer. But the other vacancies remain. In particular we really badly need someone to take on responsibility for

trees. With so many concerns about our trees, from the new threat to chestnuts to Enfield Council's Highway Verges Policy highlighted in our last issue, the lack of a Trees Person is a major handicap to the Society. There is also the stalled tree nursery project, with many saplings volunteered by members still languishing in their gardens. If a few people were willing to spend just an hour or two a week that could form the nucleus of a viable trees group.

To return once more to the issue of the name of our society. As Colin writes in this issue, we have decided to recommend we finally abandon the word 'preservation' from our title. Our nostalgic fondness for the title is outweighed by the negative, backward

looking image it conjures up in too many people and we accept the name is now a hindrance in getting our message across and being able to act effectively. As a replacement the word 'civic' does seem to sum up best what we are about. But the final say is up to members.

Finally I have to say a bit more about the decisive rejection of the Spurs Academy proposals. The groundswell of opinion against this threat to the Green Belt was evident from the number of telling contributions from objectors at the Planning Committee. Colin's was particularly convincing. We now have to be prepared to act should Spurs appeal.

Chris Jephcott

## Change of name for EPS

For 70 years Enfield Preservation Society has fought many battles and challenged many proposals which threatened to harm either the civic or natural environments of Enfield. We have taken many positive initiatives as well, but from time to time we have been accused, unfairly, of concentrating too much on preservation, as our name suggests, and not being prepared to accept change. Our main aim has not been just to preserve existing buildings and amenities, but to defend the very character of Enfield by trying to ensure that necessary changes are environmentally sensitive and actually improve our surroundings through good design and quality of construction. As members are aware, the Management Committee has in the past suggested the possibility of changing the name of the Society, partly to counter this unfair criticism of what we really stand for. Our membership continues to decline slowly and we need to appeal to a wider community. Therefore the Committee has now agreed on two major proposals; first, to change our name to "Enfield Civic Society", which reflects more accurately what we are and what we do, and then to update the aims and objects of the Society - these are written in the archaic language of the 1930s and are set out in our Memorandum of Association. These changes will be subject to the agreement of the Charity Commission and the requirements of Companies House, and

of course need the consent of our members at an extraordinary general meeting, to be convened some time next year.

We do not expect unanimous support, especially for the name change, but anticipate that a very large majority of members will agree with the Management Committee that the time is now right to bring forward these proposals.

Colin Pointer

## Folded newsletters save money

The EPS newsletter is now folded in half before posting, so that it fits into a smaller size of envelope. New postal rates mean that in the smaller envelope the postage cost is 23p, while if posted unfolded the cost would be 37p. We hope members will agree that it is worth having a crease in their newsletter to save the Society over £200 per issue.

## Jubilee Hall meetings

### Tuesday mornings 10 for 10.30 am

#### 28th November

*The history of the New River* – slides with a different look by John Cunningham

#### 12th December

Join Joyce James for *Mince pies and a fun quiz*.

#### 30th January

*The hidden historical treasures of Whitehall*, by Peter Lawrence, with slides

#### 27th February

*A day in the life of a tug on the Thames*, by Mr. R. Thomas, with slides

#### 27th March

*1920, A walk in Paris*, by Stuart Bale, with slides

### Thursday evenings 7.30 for 8 pm

#### 16th November

*Enfield in World War II*, by Graham Dalling

*December – no meeting.*

#### 18th January 2007

*Bulbs and herbaceous plants*, by Christine Murphy, with slides

#### 15th February

*St. John's Wood to Little Venice*, by Stuart Harvey, with slides.

#### 15th March

*Knebworth House and the Lytton Family*, by Clare Sleek, with slides.

*Unfortunately there will be no tea or coffee available at evening meetings because our previous volunteers are no longer able to prepare and serve it. If anyone would be willing to help in this way it would be most welcome.*

## Future Walks

*Note: Train details are correct at press date but the EPS cannot accept responsibility for last minute changes. Please always check: for National Rail train enquiries and times ring 08457 48 49 50; for London area Tube, DLR and bus details, ring 020 7222 1234.*

*Reduced price train travel: GroupSave Cheap Day Return tickets allow 3 or 4 adults to travel together for the price of 2 adults on First Capital Connect, Silverlink or One Railway. Even for travel to the start of linear walks, GroupSave Day Return tickets are normally cheaper than buying a standard price single.*

### Sat 25 November

*Either meet Roy at Platform 9, Kings Cross mainline station at **9.55am** (arrival time of 9.29am train from Enfield Chase) or **10.45am** at Woolwich Arsenal Station (from London Bridge) for a linear walk of about 6 to 7 miles ending at Falconwood Station. Follows parts of the Green Chain Link via Lesnes Abbey and Oxleas Wood. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader:* Roy Nicholls*

### Wed 29 November

*Meet **10.30am** at The Arkley Hotel, Barnet (307 bus) for a morning walk of about 2.5 hours through Barnet's countryside with an optional lunch stop at The Gate, Arkley, followed by a 1 hour walk returning to the start by mid-afternoon. Those wishing to leave from The Gate can return to start by 107 bus. *Leader:* Ken Cooper*

### Mon 4 December

*Car drivers meet at **10.25am** in Bayford Village and walk down to Bayford Station to meet the **10.34am** train (10.21am departure from Enfield Chase) for about 7 mile circular walk. Bring lunch or pub food available. *Leader:* Stuart Mills*

### Wed 13 December

*Meet **10.20am** Alexandra Palace Station (10.09am train from Enfield Chase) for 2.5 to 3 hour circular walk via Alexandra Palace nature reserve, new paths and ancient woods. Coffee break. *Leader:* Norman Coles*

### Sat 16 December

*Meet **10.15am** Hadley Wood Station (9.53am train from Alexandra Palace or 10.01am train from New Barnet Stations) for 8 mile circular walk via Northaw. 5 mile and other shorter options. Bring lunch or pub food available. *Leader:* Stuart Mills*

### Sat 30 December

*Meet **10.30am** outside front door to Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, NW3 (210 bus from Finsbury Park Station) for circular walk over the Heath and environs including hidden parts of Hampstead village. Lunch stop in Hampstead. To avoid high charges, recommend car drivers park in nearby roads and do not use West Lodge car park. *Leader:* Stuart Mills*

### Wed 10 January

*Meet Ray at **10.07am** (9.49am train from Enfield Chase) on platform 2 Finsbury Park mainline station (can be accessed from Piccadilly and Victoria lines) for 2.5 to 3 hour linear walk following the New River Path to Sadlers Wells with Ray explaining points of interest. Walk ends at the New River Head exhibition but shorter options. *Leader:* Ray Moss*

### Sat 13 January

*Meet **10.30am** at public car park on Honey Lane/Woodricken Hill (A121) near Volunteer PH (but opposite The Woodbine Inn) about 0.25 mile east of M25 junction 26 towards Wake Arms roundabout for 8 to 9 mile circular walk via Copped Hall and Ambresbury Banks. Lunch stop in Epping. Public transport 250 bus from Waltham Cross bus station at 9.57am. *Leader:* Colin Adams*

### Wed 24 January

*Meet **10.15am** Market Place, Enfield Town, for about 2.5 hour linear walk towards Winchmore Hill via some of Enfield's conservation areas and open spaces. *Leader:* Ken Cooper*

### Sat 27 January

*Ancient & Modern. Meet **10.45am** Tower Hill Tube Station (near ticket office) for linear walk to Canary Wharf and discover the changes that have occurred during 2000 years. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food probably available. *Leader:* Roy Nicholls*

### Wed 7 February

*Meet **10.15am** Gordon Hill Station for 2.5 to 3 hour circular walk hopefully coinciding with the snowdrop display near Forty Hall lakes. *Leaders:* Carol Cope & Kinu Ohki*

### Sat 10 February

*Meet **10.45am** Warwick Avenue Underground Station (Bakerloo Line) for linear walk exploring Little Venice, Regent's Canal, Regent's Park and nearby places of interest. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food probably available. *Leader:* Brian Frear*

### Wed 21 February

*Meet **11.00am** Ware Station (10.16am train from Southbury change at Cheshunt for 10.40am train) for 4 to 6 mile figure of eight walk exploring the New River,*

*River Lea, Chadwell Springs and Amwell. Finish by about 3.30pm. Lunch stop in Ware. *Leader:* Norman Coles*

### Sat 24 February

*Meet **11.00am** Richmond Station for a 6 mile circular stroll via heritage areas of old Richmond & Twickenham — one of London's most attractive nautical villages. Classic River Thames scenes. Shorter option of 4.25 miles. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader:* Christine Fookes*

*Stuart Mills*

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## Best-kept village in London

As you probably read in the local papers, *Time out* magazine of 16 August, rated Enfield the best-kept London village, scoring 80 out of 100 possible points. Barnes was second and Highgate third. The other "villages" reviewed were Hampstead, Kew. Blackheath, Walthamstow, Bow and Dulwich.

However, one must wonder if the high score was justified as seven points were given for "a sub-post office on the village green" and 10 for "the community police who pop in regularly – but not in a bad way" to the Old Wheatsheaf. Full marks were justifiably awarded to the parish church, St. Andrews which is described as having "a cracking church tower from the 14th century", to the village green, "large, leafy Chase Green" and to "the ivy-covered Old Wheatsheaf".

However, where did the reporters get their information in some areas where the score was low? For example, under Annual Fete: "Not as such. ... However the green is host to an annual classic car show". Only five points scored here and it is strange nobody mentioned the New River Festival or the Autumn Town Show, which are held in this area. The Town Park was obviously included in the walkabout as it contributed nine points for its cricket pitch. There was also a low score under "Village People" because "A quick walkabout revealed a fair smattering of Mercs and BMWs along the leafy canals [sic.] and twisting lanes – rural poverty this ain't".

Taking into account the pluses and minuses, perhaps the top rating was justified and, of course, we do not know how inaccurate were the assessments of the other eight London villages.

*Monica Smith*



## Cotswold Walk and Visit to Stratford-upon-Avon.

Members and friends of the Footpaths Group had a most enjoyable walk in the Cotswolds on Sunday 15th October. We had dry weather throughout with lovely Autumn sunshine from just before lunch.

We commenced the morning walk at Dover's Hill (nearly 750 feet above sea level). Despite the misty conditions, there were long distance views over the Vale of Evesham towards the Malvern Hills. From Dover's Hill we walked into the extremely picturesque stone built town of Chipping Campden before passing through typical Cotswolds countryside to reach Mickleton village for the lunch stop.

Afterwards the coach took us into Stratford-upon-Avon for an optional tour of interesting tourist sights, followed by a fish and chip supper.

Our thanks to Monica Smith for organising the day and leading the walks, to Christine Fookes for assisting Monica in route planning and acting as the deputy leader and also to Shirley Cotton for the behind-the-scene administration of managing the bookings etc.

*Stuart Mills*

### *Diary Dates*

#### **2nd October – 1st December**

*Black is beautiful*, an exhibition documenting the history of black style, fashion and beauty in Britain since World War II. At Weir Hall Library, Edmonton. Open Monday and Wednesday 9 am to 7 pm, and Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm.

#### **1st November – 3rd December**

Black History Month exhibition at Forty Hall Open Wednesday to Sunday, 11 am to 4 pm.

#### **7th November – 3rd June 2007**

*Come out to live – come in to play* – an exhibition celebrating suburbia and featuring posters on loan from the London Transport Museum – at the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, Cat Hill. Admission free. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and 2 to 5 pm Sundays (closed Mondays).

#### **9th December – 7th January 2007**

The Ice Rink returns to Forty Hall Courtyard (details from 020 8363 8196).



**Some of the participants admiring the street scene at Chipping Campden**



**Outside Shakespeare's birthplace**

### **Rare find by the Enfield Archaeological Society**

During a recent dig by members of the Society at a house in Bush Hill Park, a rare 3rd century Roman beaker was unearthed. There was a certain degree of damage but after contacting the British Museum who felt that restoration was possible at a reasonable

cost, it was decided to try to raise the amount required to preserve this unique artefact for the future. When asked for help, we were delighted to donate to this very worthy cause and look forward to seeing the Barbetine Beaker when it has been fully restored and on view to the public in Forty Hall.

*Beryl Dorrington*

## EPS Directory

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### *Helplines:*

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

*Architecture and Planning*  
020 8363 7707 (John Davies)

*Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings,  
Green Belt*  
020 8360 5677 (Chris Jephcott)

*Coach Outings*  
020 8360 8974 (Jim Deemer)

*Footpaths and Walks*  
020 8367 5168 (Shirley Cotton)

*Historic Buildings Group*  
020 8363 0031 (Stephen Gilburt)

*Jubilee Hall Bookings*  
020 8360 3873 (Pat Keeble)

*Membership*  
020 8886 3829 (Pat Atkins)

*Press and publicity*  
020 8360 0804 (Peter Mackey)  
020 8363 5732 (Bob Fowler)

*Records and Research*  
020 8372 0092 (Leonard Will)

*Trees*  
[vacancy - see box on right]

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Hoyer, David James, Tony Langston,  
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*Printed by Studio Projects Ltd*

## Letter to the Editor

### Greenery or visibility?

Dear Editor

The Society's autumn 2006 newsletter carried a striking front page article describing the Council's plans to raise the branch structure of street trees above the level of the lighting standards whilst reducing shrubs to waist height regardless of species or visual presence. What a sad example of how well-intentioned people can ignore key issues.

The Highways Officer responsible says that the Council must meet minimum driver visibility and sightline standards by law. A laudable aim it might be thought, except that it ignores visual amenity, habitat loss, atmosphere cleansing effects, local identity, and whether the obvious safety alternative: reducing traffic speed to 20 mph, might avoid the disadvantages of heavy pruning and add benefit: increased safety, calmer quieter streets, more independence for children, more cohesive communities. Of two things we can be sure: better sightlines will tend to increase traffic speed and, however short the sightline, easing a car into the road from a house drive is safe in a 20 mph zone.

When deciding the nature and range of planning law and regulation both Government and Council should ask first what are city streets for. Is their primary function to act as conduits for traffic, or are they part of home, places for the enjoyment of public space, a setting for quiet and safe access to neighbours and facilities? My guess is that most people would select the second option, but somehow during the long growth in traffic the needs of the car have come to dominate decision making. No longer a servant, now a master.

Among other things the Society aims to preserve and improve Enfield's amenities, protect any local place of beauty, encourage good design. Plants fit the bill. They soften buildings, enhance local identity, improve and cool the local environment, make a positive contribution to the environment generally. We must defend what we have and campaign for a more integrated approach to street and locality design.

Yours

David Hughes

## Situations Vacant

As highlighted in earlier Newsletters help is needed to enable EPS activities to continue. Specific job requirements will appear periodically in this Situations Vacant column in the hope that some members may be moved to volunteer for unpaid service, especially if they have relevant skills and experience. The following vacancies now exist; if a vacancy should interest you please get more information from the named contacts.

### Evening Meetings Organiser

To obtain speakers for nine Thursday evening meetings at Jubilee Hall and to manage the arrangements. These meetings are a popular EPS feature and provide pleasure and information for members. No previous experience is necessary.

For further information contact Janet McQueen (020 8367 7374)

### Trees Group Leader

A long established activity, the post provides the main contact between EPS and Enfield Council on all matters pertaining to tree management in Enfield. EPS also provides funding for the provision of trees in selected open spaces. A new initiative will be the development of the Society's proposed tree nursery to take shoots supplied by members and to grow them on until they can be planted out in the Borough. The Leader should be an enthusiast for and knowledgeable about trees.

For further information contact Mike Gadd (020 8366 6296)

## We want to hear from you

Contributions to this newsletter in the form of articles, photographs, letters to the editor and comments on current issues within the scope of the Society are most welcome, and should be sent to "[newsletter@enfieldpressoc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@enfieldpressoc.org.uk)" or by post to Leonard Will, 27 Calshot Way, Enfield EN2 7BQ.

We may not be able to publish everything, and the editor reserves the right to shorten or modify contributions. All items will be attributed to their authors – anonymous items will not be published.

## New members

*We warmly welcome the following new members:*

Mr & Mrs N. Barlow, Mrs P. Barnes,  
Mr N. Chatterton, Ms D. Coxon,  
Ms H. Crowne, Mr N. de Bois,  
Mrs J. Hall, Mr D. Hughes,  
Mr D. Landsberger, Ms S. Lea,  
Mr & Mrs M. Pearson, Mr E. Smith,  
Mrs C. Stacey