



The newsletter of The Enfield Society

Concern over our Museum

Since the loss of museum space in Broomfield House in 1985, when the disastrous fire occurred, the entire population of our large borough has had to be satisfied with just the museum at Forty Hall. This is in the far north of Enfield in a magnificent historic house but which has never had the accommodation or facilities to house and display the type of museum and exhibits which a borough, such as ours, deserves and needs. When the new extension to the Palace Gardens Shopping Centre was planned, provision was made for our Museum and Museum Service to move there, into what is now named Thomas Hardy House. Adequate space there would fulfil Enfield's needs and its facilities could outmatch those in the comparatively small towns of Hertford, Ware and Hoddesdon, all of which have outstanding centrally located museums. At the present time the first floor at Thomas Hardy House houses the Local History Unit, transferred from Palmers Green, and also the Central Library for the duration of the construction work at its premises in Cecil Road.

When the Library returns home it seems logical for the Museum and Museum Service to move permanently from Forty Hall into that first floor space. However it seems that there may be other plans afoot, perhaps to house a diluted museum centrally but not on that ideal first floor. Enfield, with its long and outstanding history, needs a major museum to illustrate that past and also the present, located in the heart of Enfield Town, adequately housed and resourced. This would then be in a position to nurture small satellite museums in other parts of the Borough if this was considered essential.

Colin Pointer

From the web site of the Enfield Museums Service:

We aim to reflect the history and cultural diversity of Enfield through advancing an understanding of our collective past and shared future, and by providing a forum for local people to participate in the development of the service.

By collecting, caring for and interpreting objects, we will create opportunities for everyone to experience, learn from and enjoy the past and present.

We are currently in a period of planning for the new museum which will form part of the planned development in Enfield Town by 2009. Over the next 2 years we will continue to work with the local community to further improve our services, and we welcome your ideas, views and feedback on the re-development and our work in general.

<<http://80.169.147.100/museum/>>



Have lunch in Middle Temple Hall on 15th September - see page 8

Relaunch of our Historic Buildings Group

This Group has been dormant for a long time, although Stephen Gilburt has been keeping a watching brief on the important buildings in the Borough as well as giving talks on the subject and building up his large collection of slides. Graham Dalling is now joining Stephen to relaunch the Group as an active branch of the Society, and an open meeting for members will be held on Thursday 1st October at Jubilee Hall at 7.30pm. Graham will give an illustrated talk on Enfield's listed buildings and the aims and proposed activities of the Historic Buildings Group will be explained. The replies to our questionnaire, earlier this year, showed that a considerable number of members were interested not only in our historic buildings but also in participating in the Historic Buildings Group. So we look forward to seeing many of you on the 1st October to join us in re-establishing the Group which has a vital role to play both for the Society and for the Borough of Enfield.

Colin Pointer

Planning appeals

Several recent appeal decisions, as reported to the Conservation Advisory Group, have reflected the Planning Inspectors' concerns that the character and appearance of conservation areas should be respected. A planned monopole telecommunications antenna with control cabinet on a grass verge next to Hoppers Road was turned down as an incongruous and highly visible feature.

A Council enforcement notice against numerous illuminated and non-illuminated signs on the building at 80 Church Street, N9 was upheld, one of the reasons given being that the Conservation Area Character Appraisal referred to a proliferation of signs being one of the issues facing the Conservation Area.

An extension to the Trent Boys School House adjoining Cockfosters Station was refused as an incongruous addition and again the Council's Conservation Area Appraisal is referred to.

Chris Jephcott

Conservation

The effects of the credit crunch are showing in the reduced number of planning applications for major developments. Details of plans already approved in principle are also slow in coming forward. The most significant to be approved recently are the latest proposals for 'enabling development' of apartments in the grounds of Truro House in Green Lanes, which will allow the restoration of this major listed house to proceed. Also recently submitted are detailed plans for residential development at the front of Arnold House Cheshire Home on The Ridgeway, following the appeal decision to allow the rebuilding of the main building in the garden behind, within the Metropolitan Green Belt.

Sadly we find the standard of the design of the new houses very disappointing.

The Society is still unhappy about the proposals for Southgate College as they affect the High Street frontage and listed cottages. By contrast, we welcome the restoration proposals for the gardens at Myddelton House, which even include replication of some stolen stonework items!

In Enfield Town it seems as though agreement on the type of stone facing for the new library has now been reached and likewise the latest plans for the new Little Park Gardens Day Centre seem generally acceptable. It is good to see that the Woolworths store is no longer empty.

Parks

We commented on the draft Open Spaces Strategy for London and the formal document has now been issued, just in time to guide Enfield Council in its formulation of a new Parks Strategy. A Stakeholder Working Group recently held its first meeting. The appearance of structures such as the blue MUGA in Enfield Town Park and the curious and very large construction in the ancient woodland in Grovelands Park referred to in the last newsletter [see letters, page 4] emphasise the need for a landscape architect to advise before major installations are considered in the parks.

Chris Jephcott

Publicity Group



The Enfield Society display and sales stand at the New River Festival

New River Festival 2009

We attended the New River Festival on Saturday 11th July with our stand in a good position attracting a steady stream of visitors. We gained 6 new members as a result and possibly more to come from those who took away the TES application form. Thanks to Monica Smith and her team for staffing the stand, and Derek Stone for 'put up' and 'take down'.

It was good to see the New River Action Group (NRAG) with a stand at the Festival. The Group has been inactive for some time, but following its recent AGM members are getting activities moving again. A number of walks are being arranged and the newsletter should appear again soon. Any TES members interested in joining NRAG should contact the Membership Secretary – Chris Royall, 27 Elm Park Road, London N21 2HP

Bob Fowler

TES Publicity

We have an updated poster in the Post Office in Church Street, in a more prominent position than previously. This poster is also appearing on 'Community' Notice Boards that are being placed at various National Rail Stations across the Borough. Thanks to Dave Cockle for organizing this.

Spare copies of *TES News* continue to be available from First Stop at the Central Library where our membership application forms are also displayed.

Enfield Town Show

We have booked space for our stand at the Town show, which takes place this year on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th September.

Trees Group

The Trentwood Side allotment plot has now been rotovated and the first few trees, container grown, have been planted. In the past various members have notified us of tree saplings in their gardens they wished to donate. Unfortunately until now it has not been possible to deal with their requests. I don't have a list of their names but if anyone would like us to consider such a request I can be contacted, though it has to be stressed that the condition and species of the trees would have to be considered to ensure that they were suitable for use. We expect to carry out planting within the winter months when the trees are dormant.

Regrettably the Conservation Advisory Group is still awaiting a report on Council policy regarding preserved trees. The latest agenda received today again has no tree item. It is interesting that Barnet's Tree Officer has, with his colleagues in the London Tree Officers Association, developed a system for ascribing value to trees according to size, health, historical significance etc. For example, an oak in Southgate has been valued at £267,000. This should help councils fight insurance claims. It is all too easy to point a finger at a tree when the real cause lies elsewhere.

Good news is that the proposal to fell the magnificent oak in front of 244 Chase Side, N14 has been refused.

Chris Jephcott
Convener

New members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Ms. P. Allbutt, Miss M. Bayliss, Mrs. C. Bowden, Mrs. Donegan, Mr. T. Dowd, Ms. C. George, Mrs. Y. Griffin, Mrs. K. Humeniuk, Mrs. S. Ives-Moiba, Mrs. M. Lacy, Ms. M. Lee, Mrs. C. Ranasinghe, Ms. M. Randham, Mr. A. Rogers, Mr. P. Starling.

Olive Sharman

Historic buildings

Christ Church United Reformed Church

Chase Side, Enfield, EN2 6NB

Christ Church URC will be open to the public from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday 19th September, to coincide with the Open House London weekend. There will be a display illustrating the architecture, history and activities of the church, which will be decorated for the Harvest Festival service the next day.

The Grade II listed Victorian Gothic church was opened in 1875 on the site of Zion Chapel (built in 1780), whose members had agreed to unite with the members of the adjoining Chase Side Chapel (rebuilt in 1830).

Christ Church is faced with Kentish ragstone on the outside and Bath stone on the inside. The reredos on the apse wall is a stone relief copy of Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper. Late 19th century memorial stained glass windows represent Christ the Saviour and the Good Shepherd, the four gospel writers, Peter and Paul, three 1st century Christian deacons and three Christian virtues.

For more information telephone (020) 8363 0031 or (020) 8363 4571, or visit online at www.christchurchenfield.org.uk.

Stephen Gilbert



Christ Church
(1874-5, extended 1885)
seen from the west



Chase Side Chapel (1830) and Zion Chapel (1780)
in the mid-19th century



Stained glass window representing,
from the left, Belief, Charity and Hope



Interior at Harvest Festival
looking towards the apse

Letters to the editor

In our last issue Tony Connolly wrote about the new climbing structure in Grovelands Park:

“This development is further damaging the natural woodland that remains in the park. It will have an adverse effect on the habitat and security that wildlife enjoys there and be ecologically damaging. The enjoyment of people who like to walk quietly among the trees will be much reduced.”

We have received the following letters in response:

From Valerie Martin (née Jemmett, ex-Latymer)

“Your summer ‘09 edition contained a letter regarding Grovelands Park ... a beautiful habitat, explored personally for more years than I care to remember.

We visited over the weekend of 9th-10th May with our son and two grandchildren and surveyed the new (to us) climbing facilities for 8-13 year old juniors. This did blend so well in the relatively small area provided and to our eyes had no injurious effect whatsoever. In fact, it was great to see the happy faces of all those around us. The remaining walks in the Park – including around the lake – surely must be more than adequate.

We do question ‘natural woodland’. This is an urban park, is it not? There is sufficient habitat (including the banks of the lake) to protect the wildlife.

Finally, a London park should provide as much enjoyment to the younger set, as well as their elders. ‘Long live the play area!’ ”

Another reader who asked that her name should be withheld, wrote by email:

“My husband and I have passed the area several times and were pleased to see young people enjoying the area in a sensible way. The playground area near the cafe is more suited to younger children. We cannot see why young people and wildlife cannot share the same area. After all the park is there to be enjoyed by everyone.”

Community matters

TES was selected by Waitrose in Enfield Town to take part in their Community Matters programme for the month of July. This is where customers at the check out are given a token to use in the selection of one of three charities for a share of a fund donated by Waitrose. The fund is allocated between the charities according to the number of tokens received by each. At the time of writing all three charities, including TES, were being well supported.

Tony Langston



“Risk experience” in Grovelands Park

Wheelie bins

From Mrs Mavis Cullingford:

“What a catastrophe if these monstrosities were to be forced on us in Enfield. Without saying, their presence would ruin our whole environment and drag us into slum conditions in no time at all. I hope that everyone will urgently revolt against this awful idea before it’s too late.

I have written to the Enfield in Bloom Committee, as I have serious concerns as to whether any residents would have the heart to beautify their frontages and enter their competition if gardens and pavements had to accommodate these huge ugly containers. Many friends already vow they will not co-operate with such a scheme.”

From Norman Bennett:

“I have read recently that the Council is introducing Wheelie Bins to Enfield sometime in September.

I am quite worried about the prospect of having three of said bins adorning the front of my house and wondered if the Society had raised any objections to this Council Policy. I would also like to know the timetable for their introduction if you have that information. Apart from anything else, after watching the Bin Men in action; I would have thought that it would take them about ten times as long to collect the rubbish and three times as long to collect the compostable and re-cycleable material.”

The Enfield Society understands that a pilot scheme is to be run in the Autumn. It has been discussed at some length at Area Forums and other open meetings and concerns have already been raised by the minority group in the Council. The Society will consider making a reasoned response when we know the result of the pilot scheme.



A new category: “Bins in bloom” ?

From <www.wheelie-bin-covers.co.uk>

Newsletter contributions

Contributions to the newsletter from members are most welcome, and may be in the form of letters, articles, news items, responses to previous articles, opinion pieces or photographs. We cannot undertake to publish everything, and we reserve the right to shorten or edit items before publication. Copy in electronic form is most convenient, and can be sent as an email attachment to newsletter@enfieldsociety.org.uk, but items on paper can also be accepted. Contact the Newsletter Editor, Leonard Will, at the above email address or by telephone at (020) 8372 0092 if you have any questions about making a contribution. The copy date for the next issue is 16th October 2009, but items can be sent at any time and having them in advance is most helpful. The newsletter is distributed about three weeks after the copy date.

Leonard Will

Jubilee Hall meetings

Tuesday mornings 10.00 for 10.30am

29th September

Belgravia and Kensington Palace Gardens by Peter Lawrence (with slides)

27th October

Dick Turpin – the reality by Margaret Bale (with slides)

24th November

The history of the Royal Gunpowder Mills by Richard Thomas (with slides)

15th December

Christmas quiz

Thursday evenings 7.30 for 8.00pm

August – no meeting.

17th September

Norfolk by Frank Bayford, with slides.

15th October

Libya revealed by Monica Smith, with slides.

19th November

Inland waterways by Richard Moules, with slides.

Sales table

The 2009 Christmas card is the view of the frozen New River towards Trinity Church on a cold February day when the pigeons perched on the railings were my only companions.

The price remains £1.50 for a pack of five of these cards with envelopes. The message inside is "With best wishes for Christmas and a Happy New Year".

The only packs of previous years' cards available are Forty Hall Dining Room decorated for Christmas and with the turkey on the sideboard and the painting by Emma Collins, a young local artist, of Trent Park House. Packs of four different cards are also on sale at £1, including envelopes.

The full range of books stocked is listed on the enclosed Order Form if you wish to order direct. Former residents of Enfield often appreciate books on the area as gifts – the latest publications are Graham Dalling's *The Enfield Book* and David Pam's booklets on Edmonton and Enfield Town. Small items such as pencils, pens and badges are useful stocking fillers.

Monica Smith



Frozen New River Loop



Forty Hall Dining Room



Trent Park House

The President's column



The national response to the news that the Civic Trust had gone into administration, referred to in our last News, reinforces the view that there is a need for a body to co-ordinate and represent the civic society movement nationally. A groundswell of support following the news has led to formation of the Civic Society Initiative. Launched in Convent Garden on 2nd June by its new Director, Tony Burton, it is appealing for £50,000 funding to be reached by the end of the year. Prominent among its supporters is Griff Rhys Jones, former President of the Civic Trust, and over 500 local civic societies have already said they wish to be kept in touch with the new venture. The Enfield Society has contributed £200

to the fund. Further details can be found on line at www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk.

The demise of the Civic Trust is a stark warning to charitable bodies on the dangers of becoming too reliant for funding on competing as providers for public services. When a contract is lost, as for running the Green Flag programme, the result can be disastrous for the charity. This is a problem, not only for amenity bodies but also in areas such as health and social service provision. Fortunately the Enfield Society has kept well clear of this risk.

Chris Jephcott

Diary dates

Until 6th September

Designer style: home decorating in the 1950s. Following the Festival of Britain there was an emphasis on good design for all aspects of home furnishing. The exhibition illustrates this by showing a wide range of wallpapers and textiles. The Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, Middlesex University, Cat Hill, EN4 8HT. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, Sunday 2 to 5 pm. Admission free.

14th August

Tatem Park butterfly and dragonfly walk (2 hours) with the Herts & Middlesex Butterfly Conservation Group. Meet at 2 pm by the speed skating track, Tatem Park, Hedge Lane, Palmers Green. The Parks Outreach Team.*

16th August, 3.00 to 5.30 pm

Hillyfields bandstand concert. Salsa with Merengada. Collections will be in aid of local charities. Full details are on the website <www.hillyfields.info>

23rd August, 10.00 am

Forty Hall circular walk. (4-5 hours) through Forty Hall grounds, Gough Park and Whitewebbs. Meet at Forty Hall Car Park. The Parks Outreach Team.*

5th-6th September, 10.30am to 6.00pm

Autumn Show, Town Park. Visit the Enfield Society stand.

12th September, 12.00 noon to 4.00pm
Grand Finale and Centenary reunion, Enfield County School Old Girls Association. MC Sharp Building, (enter from Silver Street). £10 per person to include buffet lunch and wine. Book by 4th

September with ECSOGA Treasurer, Ann Wickert, 84 Hoodcote Gardens, N21 2NE (020 8360 5573)

19th-20th September

Open House London weekend. Details available from mid-August on <www.openhouse.org.uk> or local libraries.

20th September, 10.00 am

Walk from Albany Park to Trent Park (London Loop section 17). 9 miles. Meet at Albany Swimming Pool car park, Hertford Road. Free transport back provided. The Parks Outreach Team*

26th February 2010, 7.30 for 8.00 pm

Joint meeting with Edmonton Hundred Historical Society on John Keats. The poet's association with Edmonton is commemorated by a plaque and a bench in Church Street, and the meeting will be held in the nearby Charity School Hall.

***Contact details: The Parks Outreach Team.** Phone (020) 8441 8272 or email alan.mitellas@enfield.gov.uk.

Future walks

Train details are correct at press date but we cannot accept responsibility for last minute changes.

Enquiries: for operating train companies' enquiries and times ring 08457 48 49 50; for TFL London area Tube, DLR, London Overground and bus details, ring (020) 7222 1234.

Reduced price train travel: Groupsave Off-Peak Day Return (previously Cheap Day Return) tickets allow 3 or 4 adults to travel together for the price of 2 adults on First Capital Connect, London Midland, Southeastern, Southern, Chiltern or National Express East Anglia. Even for travel to the start of linear walks Groupsave tickets are usually cheaper than buying a standard price single but you must travel as a group.

Please bring your Freedom Pass / National Bus Pass with you as we might use a bus for access.

Please wear walking boots or stout walking shoes – trainers are not usually suitable, even for London parks.

Sat 22 Aug. New & Old. Meet **2.30pm** at front entrance to Forty Hall Mansion for 3 to 3.5 hour circular walk including New River, the Whitewebbs & Forty Hall Estate and newly created bridleways just over the border in Hertfordshire. *Leader: Stuart Mills*

Sat 29 Aug. Three Villages. Meet **2.20pm** The White Hart, South Mimms, (84 & 398 buses from Potters Bar Station) for 3 to 3.5 hour circular walk via Ridge village with tea break in Shenley village. *Leader: Ken Cooper*

Bank Holiday Mon 31 Aug. Roding Valley. Meet **10.40am** Theydon Bois Station (Central Line, about 30 minutes from Liverpool Street Station) for 10 mile circular walk via Abridge and Lambourne. Shorter option or return by bus from Abridge (lunch stop). Bring lunch or food available. *Leader: Brian Frear*

Wed 9 Sept. Capital Ring. Either travel with Dave from Enfield Chase on the **9.34am** train to Moorgate, then via Northern Line to London Bridge mainline station for frequent trains to Woolwich Arsenal Station. Alternatively, join group by **10.55am** in the ticket hall of Woolwich Arsenal Mainline Station (not DLR). *Note: if you use the DLR to reach Woolwich Arsenal, please go to the mainline station.* From the Thames, the Capital Ring heads inland through a succession of parks, commons and woods to end at Falconwood Station. Lunch stop en-route (bring lunch or food probably

available). Full route about 7.5 miles but many shorter options. Details: 8366 2242 or 07948 204 025. *Leader: Dave Cockle*

Sat 12 Sept. River Quin & River Rib Valleys. Meet **10.30am** at public car park in Huntsman Close (off High Street) in centre of Puckeridge village (6 miles north of Ware via A10) for about 9 mile circular walk in scenic countryside with lunch stop in the pretty village of Braughing. Possible to shorten route to about 5 to 6 miles by ending at Braughing and returning to start by either bus or 1 mile walk. Bring lunch or pub food available/village shop. *Leader: Stuart Mills*

Tues 15 Sept. London Visit to Middle Temple Hall. Brian Pask has arranged with The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple for a professional guided tour of this magnificent Elizabethan Hall. Booking essential as numbers limited. *Please note this is a smart dress event, not a walk.* For full details see page 8.

Mon 21 Sept. Enfield's Countryside. Meet **10.10am** Gordon Hill Station (access by W8, W9 (5 mins walk) & 610 buses or 10.01am train from Enfield Chase Station). About 2.75 hour linear walk (with 1.5 hour option) using many of Enfield's rural field paths via Tingey Tops, East Lodge and Holly Hill Farm and ending at Botany Bay. Both options return to Enfield by 313 bus. *Leader: Carol Cope*

Sat 26 Sept. Hertfordshire Swallow Holes. Meet **2.25pm** Potters Bar Bus Station, adjacent rail station (2.01pm 313 bus from Cecil Road, Enfield Town) for 3 to 3.5 hour circular walk via North Mymms with tea break in Water End village. This part of the valley of the Mimmshall Brook is noted for having exceptionally varied geological features. *Leader: Ken Cooper*

Wed 7 Oct. From 1066 to an Olympics Site. Meet **10.20am** at the main front entrance to the Abbey Church, Waltham Abbey (frequent buses from Waltham Cross bus station – 5 mins journey time), for about 3 hour circular walk from the Abbey grounds via the arboretum, Lea Valley Park, Fishers Green and waterways. After walk: choice of eating facilities in Waltham Abbey &/or be a tourist and see the Abbey, Abbey gardens and the Epping Forest District Museum (free admission) in Sun Street. *Leader: Norman Coles*

Sat 10 Oct. Lea Valley Park & Waterways. Meet **10.44am** Broxbourne Station (10.14am train from Southbury Station change Cheshunt for 10.39am train) for a maximum 8.5 mile circular walk (with shorter 6 or 7 mile options) via New River, Rye House, lakes and

River Lee. Bring lunch or pub/café food available. *Leader: Christine Fookes*

Mon 19 Oct. Mid Hertfordshire. Meet **10.45am** Watton at Stone Station (10.21am train from Enfield Chase Station) for 8 to 9 mile circular walk in the attractive Upper Beane Valley which, although close to Stevenage, remains unspoilt and remote. Possibility of shorter option by using buses. Bring lunch or pub food probably available. *Leader: Stuart Mills*

Sat 31 Oct. Lower Ash Valley. Meet **10.25am** Ware Station (9.44am train from Southbury Station change Cheshunt for 10.09am train) for 8 to 9 mile circular walk via River Ash Valley & Wareside. Possibility of shorter option by bus. Bring lunch or pub food probably available. *Leader: Brian Frear*

Wed 4 Nov. Trent Country Park. Meet **10.15am.** Oakwood Station (121, 307 and 377 buses) for about 2.5 hour circular walk in the late autumn colours of Trent Park. *Leader: Carol Cope*

Sat 14 Nov. Border Country. Meet **10.00am** at front door of Forty Hall Mansion (in case the car park closes earlier than expected, recommend car drivers park in Forty Hill and walk to the Mansion). 9.5 mile circular walk from Enfield into Hertfordshire using some newly created paths. Lunch stop at Goffs Oak where the group can be left or joined (options are 4.25 miles in morning, 5.25 miles in afternoon). Bring lunch or food available. Details: 8364 0300. *Leader: Colin Adams*

Wed 18 Nov. East London Waterways & Marshes. Meet **10.00am** Cambridge Heath Station (9.29am train from Enfield Town or 9.43am from Seven Sisters Station). 3 hour linear walk via Victoria Park, Hertford Union (or Ducketts) Canal, Walthamstow/Hackney Marshes and Lea Valley Walk ending at Tottenham Hale Station. Optional lunch facilities at end. Details: 07703 470 156. *Leaders: Toby Simon & Margaret McAlpine*

Sat 28 Nov. Green Chain Walk. Meet **10.47am** Falconwood Station (10.25am Dartford train from London Bridge Station). Alternatively, travel with Roy on the **9.29am** train from Enfield Chase or meet Roy at **9.55am** when this train arrives at platform 9, Kings Cross mainline station. About 7.5 mile circular walk via woods, open spaces, historic buildings and Avery Hill Park. Shorter options including ending at lunch stop in Mottingham (bring lunch or food available). Details: (020) 8360 0282. *Leader: Roy Nicholls*

Stuart Mills

Walking on water



This photo shows Enfield Society members disembarking from the Woolwich Ferry on 3rd June whilst walking Section 15 (Beckton to Woolwich) of the "Capital Ring", a 78-mile footpath which encircles London. Further sections will be included in our walks programme as we make our way round in a clockwise direction. The next section will be covered on 9th September when I will lead the walk from Woolwich to Falconwood.

Dave Cockle

Photos from the past sought for railway centenary exhibition



New railway bridge, Holtwhites Hill



Freight train on bridge at Grange Park

April 2010 will be the centenary of the Great Northern Railway extension line from Grange Park to Cuffley. An exhibition celebrating the event will be staged next year at Cuffley library during April before moving to Forty Hall for May and June.

I am particularly seeking any old photos from private collections that may include the stations at Grange Park, Enfield Chase, Gordon Hill, Crews Hill and Cuffley for possible inclusion in the exhibition. Copies would be made of any originals which would be promptly returned. I already have many of the local post card views of these stations and photos from local history books.

Any memorabilia relating to the line such as old tickets/timetables would also be considered for display at the exhibition.

Any assistance would be greatly appreciated; I can be contacted on (020) 8366 2242.

Dave Cockle

Enfield Society visit to Hackney, 20th June 2009



The Enfield Society group outside Sutton House

Hackney is an area that never seems to receive a good press and arguably has one of the worst images of any part of London, and so I was pleased to have a party of sixteen join me at Victoria Park for an exploration of part of this east London Borough.

Hackney has a long history and a surprisingly large number of buildings of different ages survive as evidence of this. One difficulty for the visitor is that they are spread thinly over a relatively large geographical area, so an afternoon visit meant that only a small selection of these could be seen.

We started in Victoria Park, (actually in neighbouring Tower Hamlets) which was the first public park created to serve the rapidly expanding suburbs to the east of the City. It was an attempt to improve the environment and stave off possible civil insurrection. The government purchased 290 acres from the Crown and the Church, and James Pennethorne designed the flower beds, shrubberies and promenades in time for it to be opened to the public in 1845. A later amenity provided as a result of the generosity of Baroness Angela Burdett Coutts, was the elaborate drinking fountain of 1862 in Victorian Gothic style with Moorish touches. This survives but sadly is closed off to the public, awaiting restoration. We passed out of the Park into a residential area of predominantly middle class housing of the 1870s but containing a disused Jewish burial ground founded in 1788, a former hospice designed for the distressed descendants of

Huguenots, the Monger almshouses and a Baptist chapel of 1847.

In Cassland Road, we saw Hackney Terrace, built in 1792 by three speculators, and unusual for the area in that it is designed to appear at first as one large house. The individual houses are unified with a line of stone at first floor level and a large pediment over the middle two houses. This speculative venture was not a financial success. The houses did not appeal to the businessmen of the City of London, as they were not prepared to commute so far. The unified style contrasts with the Georgian terrace in Clapton Square seen near the end of

the walk. In 1864, a resident of Clapton Square became the first person murdered on a train in this country.

Before we arrived at this attractive area, we had a tea break at Sutton House, the oldest surviving house in East London. The National Trust is now the custodian of this Tudor property. The surviving tower of Hackney's medieval parish church dedicated to Saint Augustine and the larger replacement of 1797, St John at Hackney, together with a terrace of houses in

Sutton Place, built in 1809 were all passed on route to Clapton Square. A short walk then took us to Hackney Downs station for the return home.

Fortunately many of these buildings are listed and, as many of the period houses of the area are now fashionable and well cared for, they should be around for you to visit in the months to come. However, nothing lasts for ever, not least in Hackney, so I suggest that you explore the area for yourself at an early date.

Mick Coe



Drinking fountain in Victoria Park

President: Dr C.J.A. Jephcott

Chairman: Colin Pointer

Hon. Secretary: Richard Stones

Hon. Treasurer: David James

Office: 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield,
Middlesex, EN2 0AJ.

Telephone: 020 8363 9495

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

Website: www.enfieldsociety.org.uk

Helplines:

For information on TES 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)

Coach Outings
020 8360 8974 (Jim Deamer)

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

Edmonton Group
020 8367 5920 (Monica Smith)

Footpaths and Walks
020 8367 5168 (Shirley Cotton)

Historic Buildings Group
020 8363 0031 (Stephen Gilbert)

Jubilee Hall Bookings
020 8360 3873 (Pat Keeble)

Membership
020 8367 6189 (Olive Sharman)

Press and publicity
020 8363 5732 (Bob Fowler)

Records and Research
020 8372 0092 (Leonard Will)

Trees
020 8367 9696 (Emma Collins)

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Visit to Polesden Lacey and Painshill Park, Surrey on Saturday, 26th September, 2009

Polesden Lacey is a Regency country house with renowned Edwardian interiors and gardens, set in the beautiful North Downs countryside. There is a NT gift shop, garden shop and farm shop and gourmets should find something of satisfaction in the licensed restaurant. The gardens and shops are open at 10.00 am and the house at 11.00 am, which should allow time for exploration until we depart for Painshill Park at about 2.00 pm. We should have about two and half hours to explore one of the most important 18th century landscape gardens of Painshill Park before making the journey back to Enfield.

The cost of the trip is £26.50 per person (£17.50 for National Trust members) and includes coach fare, driver's gratuity, and entrance fees to both venues. To reserve a place please apply to Jim Deamer, 32 The Orchard, Winchmore Hill N21 2DH, tel: (020) 8360 8974, enclosing your cheque payable to The Enfield Society. Please include a stamped, addressed envelope to receive confirmation of your booking, made ONLY on receipt of an sae. Please remember to indicate your preferred pick-up point for the coach, either Village Road at the junction with Bush Hill Road, Winchmore Hill at 8.15 am, or Genotin Road, Enfield at 8.30 am. Your telephone number would also be useful where possible.

Janet McQueen



Polesden Lacey

The management committee recently confirmed that these trips are for paid-up members of the Society. If anyone who is not a member wishes to come, they can easily join for a minimum subscription of just £2.50 per year. Application forms are available from Jubilee Hall or may be downloaded from our web site at <http://www.enfieldsociety.org.uk/joining.htm>.

Visit to Middle Temple Hall – Tuesday 15th September

Brian Pask has arranged with The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple for a professional guided tour of one of the finest examples of an Elizabethan Hall in the country. Begun in 1562, it has remained almost unaltered to the present day.

Although the tour itself is free, afterwards an optional pre-booked 3 course lunch and coffee (at a set price of £18.50 per person) is available in this awe-inspiring hall. The attractive surrounding gardens may be seen after lunch.

Either pre-assemble for morning coffee at The Knights Templar pub nearby at 95 Chancery Lane and leave from there with Brian by **10.25am**, or meet at the Middle Temple Hall, Middle Temple Lane (off The Strand/Fleet Street) at **10.50am**.

Tour numbers are strictly limited and access is only available by booking in advance with Brian. If you wish to also have the lunch, then when booking for the tour please enclose a cheque made payable



Middle Temple garden

to Mr.B.J.Pask and send to 161 Wellington Road, Enfield EN1 2RJ. Enquiries: 020 8360 5593. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your application for confirmation of booking.

Please note that the Middle Temple has a smart dress attire code – men: please wear suits or smart casual clothes with ties (town shoes – no walking boots or trainers!).

Stuart Mills