



The newsletter of The Enfield Society

Highlands Conservation Area under threat

I commented in the Spring issue on the proposals to alter the boundaries of various conservation areas – some additions, as to Winchmore Hill Green and Fore Street, Edmonton and some reductions, notably the proposal to remove more than half of the Highlands Conservation Area. Following the consultation it seemed as though a suitable consensus would be arrived at, only for the process to be put on hold.

Now it has re-emerged virtually unchanged. Only the Highlands reduction is up for re-consultation, though this will be over before this issue of the News appears. It took 20 years of effort, not least by the EPS, to rescue the former Highlands/South Lodge Hospital site from the threat of total demolition and redevelopment by the then Health Authority in conjunction with Enfield Council. Only the intervention of the GLC in designating a conservation area saved it and it took much more work to ensure the final result, a comprehensive

development in keeping with the retained and converted Queen Anne style Victorian hospital pavilions. True, the South Lodge administration block was precipitately demolished over a holiday weekend after a fire, but the conservation area status allowed the first, dire, rebuilding proposals to be replaced by a decent and interesting design (even if it did not meet with the approval of the Paul Drury Partnership, the Council's otherwise enlightened conservation consultants).

Perhaps it is not surprising that Enfield Council is trying once again to undo the conservation area status. Removal will mean that the protection afforded to the fine trees and buildings will be lost. It will no longer be justifiable to withhold permission for piecemeal improvements, such as plastic windows and satellite dishes, that do so much insidiously to undermine the character of a townscape. The Society strongly opposes this retrograde step.

Chris Jephcott



**Highlands Conservation Area frontage to World's End Lane,
at the site of the former South Lodge**

Spurs at Bulls Cross

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club held a reception in their Academy Pavilion at Bulls Cross on 16th September to celebrate the start of their development on that Green Belt site. Members of the Society will recall the long and hard battle we, and many others, fought to try to prevent planning permission being given. We failed but could have delayed matters for a long time with a claimed footpath across the site; however a compromise was reached over a number of outstanding issues, and as a result the community in Enfield will shortly benefit from an excellent new footpath being completed by Spurs, linking Whitewebbs Lane to the lower end of Bulls Cross through the Forty Hall Estate. Funding is also being provided by Spurs and the Council to build a bridge across Turkey Brook linking this path to the London Loop path on the south side of the Brook close to the avenue of limes.

We have built a very good relationship with Spurs' advisers and professional team on these matters and we are very pleased with the new footpath; but this does not detract from our still strongly held opinion that the very special circumstances put forward in the planning application do not outweigh the inappropriateness or the harm to the open character of the Green Belt. In time we will see here a very large Academy / Training Facility building, with a floor space of 127,000 sq ft on 3 levels, with over 7 acres of land covered with new buildings, roads, hard surfaced car parks and artificial pitches, plus floodlighting and 12 grass pitches; all this on 67 acres of Green Belt land. One of the main aims of our Society is to defend the integrity of the Green Belt and we fear that it will become increasingly more difficult to protect this area in the north of the Borough as a result of Spurs' development here.

Colin Pointer

Parks

Parks and open spaces strategy

The Enfield Society is taking part in the working group which is advising on a comprehensive strategy for Enfield's parks and open spaces. The report on the subject by consultants Cracknell, which the Council commissioned, did not meet with approval. It is to be hoped that many of its sensible proposals can be incorporated in the new guidance. From the point of view of our Society it is most important that the strategy should encourage joined up working among the many individuals engaged in running the parks. With so many of our open spaces being the landscaped grounds of former grand houses, the participation of a landscape architect in decisions affecting their appearance is vital if we are to avoid

further unfortunate intrusions, such as the blue (still not replaced in green) MUGA in Enfield Town Park.

Information on the **Parks and open spaces strategy** is available at www.enfield.gov.uk/yourparks, and the following reports can be downloaded from [www.enfield.gov.uk/downloads/461/parks and open spaces-general information](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/downloads/461/parks_and_open_spaces-general_information):

Baseline report : Enfield parks and open spaces strategy 2009-2024 / Cracknell Ltd., April 2009. 98 pages.

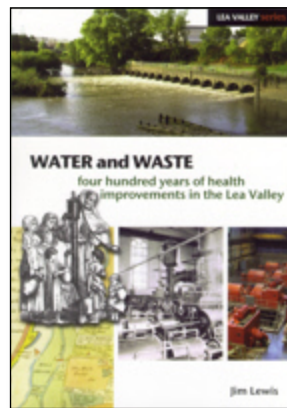
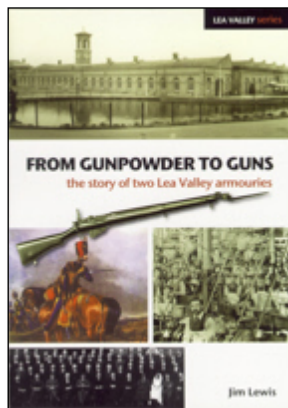
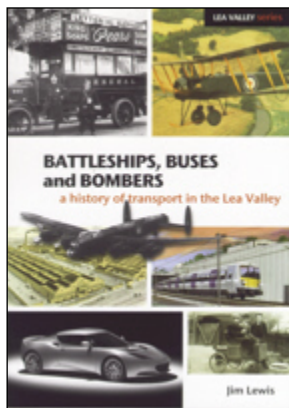
Enfield open space and sports assessment / W. S. Atkins for Enfield Council, 2006.

Vol. 1: Final assessment of open space needs. August 2006. 220 pages.

Chris Jephcott

Publicity Group

New books in Lea Valley series by Dr Jim Lewis



Dr Lewis has produced the first three of a series of new books on the history of the Lea Valley. The following are in stock and are £9.99 each.

Battleships, buses and bombers – a history of transport in the Lea Valley describes the range of transport innovation pioneered in the region from the first ironclad battle cruiser, HMS Warrior, to the Eurostar maintenance depot of today. It also includes many transport firsts such as A.V.Roe's historic flight at Walthamstow Marshes in 1909.

From gunpowder to guns – recounts the story of the two Lea Valley armouries responsible for supplying weapons and explosives to British and Commonwealth forces for over 200 years. The book charts the growth of the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey from basic explosives to Barnes Wallis's bouncing bomb and rocket propellants.

Water and waste – 400 years of health improvements in the Lea Valley documents the improvements and challenges in public health over this period such as the engineering feat of the New River and the eradication of cholera and typhoid. The book looks at the early days of recycling in the eighteenth century and modern environmental issues.

If you wish to purchase any of these books they are available at Jubilee Hall meetings and at the special opening on 21st November. If you would like them posted to you please send your name and address with a cheque made payable to The Enfield Society to Publications, Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ and include £1 towards postage costs for each volume.

The other titles in this series: **Industry and innovation: the technological revolution in the Lea Valley** and **From Eton Manor to the Olympics – more Lea Valley secrets revealed**, will be published shortly.

There are just one or two copies also on sale of Dr Lewis's earlier books, **London's Lea Valley, Britain's best kept secret** (which I have been told is out of print) and **More secrets revealed** (£14.99 each).

Monica Smith

Drop in to Jubilee Hall on Saturday 21 November between 10 am and 1 pm to buy your Enfield Society Christmas cards and see the range of books and other items on sale.

Trees Group

Aled Richards, Enfield Council's new Head of Development Services, gave the long-awaited presentation regarding the Council's policy on preserved trees and works to trees in conservation areas at the September meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group. He patiently answered many queries from members.

A Tree Preservation Order would normally be put in place where a threat or possible threat to a tree of sufficient merit was perceived. In the case of a preserved tree deemed dead, dying or dangerous the local authority should still be informed before carrying out work. Regarding permission for work to a tree in a conservation area, he agreed that the standard notification letters were not clear about the procedure and outcome and promised to look for an improved format. There was currently no database of preserved trees available to the public but officers were working to make it accessible. Replacement of a preserved tree was not mandatory, but the Council could request up to a semi mature tree and could put a TPO on the replacement. When insurance claims proposed the removal of a tree, consideration should focus on whether it should be retained. The need for training for planning officers dealing with tree applications was agreed and the possibility of a replacement, dedicated tree officer was still under review.

Chris Jephcott

Historic Buildings Group

We were greatly encouraged when 14 members attended the relaunch of the Group on 1st October. Graham Dalling gave an illustrated talk on Enfield's historic buildings, many of which are no longer with us. This emphasised the need for the Group to be vigilant and to assist where possible with the excellent work of the Council's Conservation Team. There followed a lively discussion and question session led by Stephen Gilburt and Graham.

The next meeting of the Historic Buildings Group will be held at Jubilee Hall at 8 p.m. on Thursday 3rd December. All members of the Society are invited to come and hear Graham Dalling give an illustrated talk on historic buildings in parts of London near Enfield, including Tottenham, Islington and Stoke Newington. We hope to build on the good response at our meeting on 1st October and consider further how members can participate in the work of the Group.

Colin Pointer and Stephen Gilburt

Jubilee Hall meetings

Tuesday mornings 10.00 for 10.30am

24th November

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

15th December

Christmas quiz with Christine and Peter Padwick

26th January 2010

The Drakensberg Mountains. Hidden South Africa by Anne Johnson, with slides

23rd February

Bees and honey by Pete Burling, with slides.

Thursday evenings 7.30 for 8.00pm

19th November

Inland waterways by Richard Moules, with slides.

21st January 2010

Enfield's industrial heritage by Stephen Gilbert, with slides.

18th February

39 years at the BBC by Clare McCarthey, with slides.

18th March

Lawrence of Arabia by Maggie Radcliffe, with slides.

15th April

To commemorate the centenary of the extension of the railway from Grange Park to Cuffley by Dave Cockle and Roger Elkin, with slides. (Joint meeting with Edmonton Hundred Historical Society.)

20th May

Forensic science – Metropolitan Police by Chris Truan, with slides.

New members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Mr. C. Bass, Mrs. S. Beard,
Miss P. Burrell, Mr. D. Chapman,
Mrs. C. Clark, Mrs. M. Collins,
Mr. A. Crosman, Mrs. E. Currie,
Ms G. Cushing, Mr. & Ms Fernie,
Mrs. C. Fletcher, Ms M. Gunn,
Mr. M. Harmsworth, Mr. R. Hatton,
Mr. & Mrs. P. Mills,
Mr. R. Newnham, Mrs. E. Osborne,
Ms A Penhallurick,
Mr. H. Ramanathan, Ms C. Scott,
Mr. J. Stanford, Mr. A. Stratton,
Ms S. Walker, Mrs Went,
Mr. J. Willcocks,
Mr & Mrs D. Woodward, Mr. T. Zotti.

Olive Sharman

The President's column



There are some signs of the green shoots of recovery but, whatever the truth of them, the certainty is that public spending is going to be severely restricted for the foreseeable future and local government will have to take its share of cuts. What we have to be sure of is that any necessary economies are spread evenly across the board and do not fall unduly hard on matters of concern to amenity societies such as ours. In particular it is important that agreed and funded projects, for example the comprehensive restoration of Forty Hall, are allowed to go ahead. Some environmental improvement schemes – renewing pavements and so forth – could be deferred without too much harm but it is vital that much heralded flagship schemes are not abandoned.

The death of Velma Byford is recorded elsewhere in this issue. Looking over back issues of the newsletter to check when she first became involved with the EPS, I was struck by how many people over the years have given time and help as she did to the Society and also by the constant flow of new and active recruits. Our membership remains high but the number who play an active role has fallen off. As the average age of the Management Committee members and group leaders increases the need to attract young blood grows more pressing. But, in common with many voluntary societies, we find this increasingly hard. What is the solution?

Chris Jephcott

Diary dates

Saturday 21st November, 10 am to 1 pm.
Jubilee Hall open for sales. (See page 2)

Sunday 22nd November
*Town Park to Forty Hall link **

9th December to 3rd January
Twelve Days of Christmas exhibition at Forty Hall, open 11 am to 4 pm every day except 14th-15th and 24th-26th December. Santa's Grotto open 11 am to 1 pm and 2-4 pm on 12th-13th and 19th-23rd December (£3.50 per child)

Sunday 13th December
*a. Trent Country Park circular walk **
b. Christmas greenery sale, 11 am to 3 pm, Myddelton House Gardens

Sunday 24th January
*The Pymmes Brook Trail **

Wednesday 10th February
*Trent Country Park winter tree walk **

Sunday 21st February
*Albany Park to Trent Park (London LOOP section 17) **

Friday 26th February, 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.

Sunday 7th March, 10 am to about 5 pm
Cycle ride: Meet outside Enfield Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield to join Edmonton Cycling Club for a leisurely countryside ride, stopping for a pub or café lunch. Beginners are welcome but the route will be on and off-road, with some hills. For more details, visit:
<www.edmontoncyclingclub.fsnet.co.uk>

Sunday 28th March
Albany Park to Chingford (London LOOP section 18) (Enfield Council guided walk)*

** These are Enfield Council guided walks, organised by The Parks Outreach Team.* Phone (020) 8441 8272 or email alan.mitellas@enfield.gov.uk for more information. Details are in their leaflet and will be available on the Council's Web site.

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 15th January 2010, 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

Industrial heritage

Enfield's industrial heritage

Although much has been demolished in recent years, surviving farms, mills, factories, pumping stations, canals and railway structures as well as locomotives, traction engines and narrow boats will be illustrated in "Discovering Enfield's industrial heritage" at 8 p.m. on Thursday 21st January in Jubilee Hall.

Stephen Gilbert



The New River was constructed by Sir Hugh Myddelton between 1609 and 1613 to bring drinking water from Hertfordshire springs at Amwell and Chadwell, and later the River Lea, to a reservoir at New River Head, Islington, from where it was carried through elm pipes to the City of London.



Wright's Flour Mill is Enfield's oldest working industrial building. It was originally powered by water from a mill stream diverted from the River Lea and wheat arrived by barge. The 18th century mill, two houses and a barn are listed Grade II for their group value and, together with the water meadows, form the Ponders End Flour Mills Conservation Area.



This pumping station was built by the Metropolitan Water Board in 1898 to raise water from an underground aquifer to the New River. It is now the Whitewebbs Museum of Transport and is open between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and the last Sunday of each month (with some exceptions – telephone (020) 8367 1898 for details of open days, exhibitions and special events).



The Lee Navigation was created when new cuts and locks, including those at Enfield Lock, Ponders End and Picketts Lock, were constructed in the 18th and 19th centuries to ease the transport of cargoes such as barley and malt to London breweries.



The Royal Small Arms Factory opened at Enfield Lock in 1816. RSAF pioneered the use in Britain of machinery for the economical production of interchangeable parts for small arms which included the Lee-Enfield magazine rifle and the Bren and Sten guns. After closure in 1988 many of the buildings were demolished for the Enfield Island Village development. A few of the more important ones were retained, including the main machine shop of 1854-8, which is listed Grade II. It now contains a small exhibition which can be seen on weekdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Industrial heritage



A narrow-gauge railway linked the RSAF with the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey, which were established in the 17th century and acquired by the Crown in 1787. After closure in 1991 the site was converted into a museum featuring a variety of exhibitions which explore the history and production of explosives. It is open between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. at weekends and on Bank Holiday Mondays between the end of April and the end of September. It is also open on Wednesdays in summer school holidays and to groups at other times by prior arrangement. (Telephone 01992 707370 for further information and details of special events.)

There will be an illustrated talk on "The history of the Royal Gunpowder Mills" at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday 24th November in Jubilee Hall.



Edmonton Green station, with its original 1872 canopies, is on the Great Eastern Railway line from Liverpool Street to Enfield Town. Edmonton goods depot, served by the railway, closed in 1964.



The former Ediswan factory general office block of 1890, at Ponders End, occupies part of a site associated with Sir Joseph Swan (1828-1914), inventor of the incandescent electric lamp, Sir James Dewar (1842-1923), inventor of the vacuum flask, and Professor Ambrose Fleming (1849-1945), inventor of the diode radio valve in 1904, which marks the birth of the electronic technological revolution. Britain's first radio valve and television cathode ray tube factories were opened here, in 1916 and 1936 respectively. This building is not listed, despite the site's historical importance.



GER 0-6-0 tank locomotive No.87 was built at Stratford in 1904. It remained in service until electrification in 1960. It is now preserved at the National Railway Museum, York.



When the Great Northern Railway was extended from Grange Park to Cuffley in 1910, the 75-feet high, fourteen arch, Rendlesham viaduct was constructed across the valley between Gordon Hill and Crews Hill.



The Grade II listed MAN (formerly Ripaults) factory in Southbury Road was built in the Art Deco style about 1930 by A. H. Durnford. It is the only remaining example of the light industry factories built close to the Great Cambridge Road in the inter-war period.

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 14 Nov. Border Country. Meet **10.00am** at front door of Forty Hall Mansion (suggest car drivers park in Forty Hill and walk to the Mansion in case car park closes early). 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 (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 and 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 and 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: 8360 0282. *Leader: Roy Nicholls*

Wed 2 Dec. Grovelands. Meet **10.00am** Winchmore Hill Station (9.49am train from Enfield Chase Station) for 2.5 hour linear walk ending in the Enfield Road/Oakwood area. After a short walk past some of the older and historic village buildings around/near The Green itself, Brenda will explore the varied parks of Grovelands and Oakwood. Shorter options. *Leader: Brenda Brown*

Sat 12 Dec. East India Company in Hertfordshire. Meet **10.30am** St. Margaret's Station (9.44am train from Southbury Station change at Cheshunt for 10.09am train – check

for possible engineering works). A circular walk of about 7.5 miles via Haileybury College (originally founded in 1821 as a training college by the EIC), woodland and nature reserves. Lunch stop in Hertford Heath where possibility of shorter option by using buses to either Hertford or Hoddesdon. Bring lunch or pub food probably available. *Leader: Brian Frear*

Wed 16 Dec. North London Heights. Meet **10.20am** Alexandra Palace Station (10.09am train from Enfield Chase Station) for 6 to 6.5 mile linear walk via Alexandra Palace, Highgate Wood, Hampstead Heath and ending at Golders Green Station. Many shorter options. Lunch stop in Highgate Village (food available or bring lunch). *Leader: Norman Coles*

Sat 2 Jan. More Inner London Scenes. Meet **10.30am** Green Park Station (Victoria and Piccadilly lines) for maximum 7 mile walk that includes both famous and lesser known features, squares and parks, plus stretches beside The Thames. Many shorter options. Lunch stop will probably be at the Southbank Centre (food available or bring own). *Leader: Stuart Mills*

Mon 11 Jan. Capital Ring (Sections 11 and 12). Either travel with Dave from Enfield Chase Station on the **9.34am** train or meet the group by **10.40am** at Hendon Central Station (on Edgware branch of the Northern Line). Dave uses these varied sections of the Capital Ring via Hendon and Brent Parks, river greenways, ancient woods and the nature reserve Parkland Walk to end today's linear walk at Finsbury Park Station. Maximum distance 8 miles but many shorter options including at lunch stop (bring lunch or food available). Details: 8366 2242 or 07948 204 025. *Leader: Dave Cockle*

Sat 16 Jan. Waterways and Nature Reserve. Meet **11.00am** Ware Station (10.14am train from Southbury Station change at Cheshunt for 10.39am train - check for possible engineering works) for 6.25 mile circular walk via waterways and the northern end of the Lea Valley Park. Option to finish at the lunch break in Stanstead Abbots and return to Ware or Southbury etc by train. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader: Christine Fookes*

Wed 27 Jan. From Country to Town. Meet **10.14am** Bayford Station (10.01am train from Enfield Chase Station) or 10.25am in Bayford Village for car drivers (please park considerately) for about 7 mile circular walk. Option to end after about 4 miles at lunch stop in Hertford. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader: Stuart Mills*

Sat 30 Jan. City of London. Meet **10.30am** Liverpool Street mainline station (at entrance to platform 1). Roy will show some of the changes that have taken place in the eastern part of the City during the years since his original walk in the area and compare these to the alterations highlighted during his walk in the west of the City a year ago. Bring lunch or food available. Many shorter options. *Leader: Roy Nicholls*

Wed 10 Feb. Snowdrops. Meet **10.36am** The White Hart, South Mimms (84 bus at 10.09am and 10.29am or 398 bus at 10.26am – both routes are timed from Potters Bar Station) for about 2.5 hour circular walk through the North

Mymms estate. As the following weekend is the Church's Snowdrop Sunday, we hope the walk will coincide with the snowdrop display. *Leader: Carol Cope*

Sat 13 Feb. Regent's Canal and Little Venice. Meet **10.00am** at entrance to platform 9, Kings Cross mainline station (9.29am train from Enfield Chase Station) for a linear walk beside the Regent's Canal, and including Camden Lock, Primrose Hill, Regents Park, ending at Little Venice by about 3.30pm. Many shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Details: 07703 470 156. *Leaders: Toby Simon and Margaret McAlpine*

Mon 22 Feb. River and Common. Meet **11.00am** Hammersmith Tube Station (Piccadilly and District Lines) by the entrance to Tesco Metro. Maximum 6 to 7 mile walk via River Thames path, nature reserve and Barnes Common although with shorter options. Finish by 4.00pm at a station. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader: Norman Coles*

Sat 27 Feb. Queen Hoo Hall and Manor. Meet **10.20am** Watton-at-Stone Station (9.49am train from Enfield Chase Station or 10.07am from Hertford North Station) for about 7.5 mile linear walk to Hertford North via Bramfield Woods, Bramfield Village and Tewin. Bring lunch or pub food probably available. *Leader: Martin Langer*

Wed 10 March. Kenwood House. Meet **10.45am** at front door to Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, NW3, (210 bus from Finsbury Park Station) for about 2.5 to 2.75 hour circular walk across the Kenwood Estate and parts of Hampstead Heath. After walk: refreshment facilities available and/or be a tourist and view the splendid paintings and interior of the House itself. *Leader: Ken Cooper*

Sat 13 March. Enfield's Countryside. Meet **2.15pm** at main entrance to Chase Farm Hospital on The Ridgeway for 3 to 3.5 hour walk using some of the rural field footpaths across the Enfield Chase farmland. The return to start may be by bus depending upon which paths are used. *Leader: Brian Frear*

Mon 22 March. Village London. Meet **10.49am** Headstone Lane Station (10.17am London Overground train from Euston mainline station or travel with Stuart on the 9.34am train from Enfield Chase Station). About 6.5 mile linear walk via Pinner and Eastcote Villages in this semi-rural part of north-west London exploring green spaces, woods and historic conservation areas with ancient buildings. The route ends at the astonishing Manor Farm heritage site in Ruislip with tithe barn, remains of motte and bailey castle and 16th century manor farmhouse. Return from nearby Ruislip Station. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader: Stuart Mills*

Sat 27 March. North of Hertford. Meet **10.38am** Hertford North Station (10.19am train from Enfield Chase Station) for about 8 mile circular walk via Bengoe, Chapmore End hamlet, Tonwell Village (lunch stop) and the Beane Valley. Possible to end walk after about 4 miles in Tonwell and return to Hertford by bus. Bring food or pub food available. *Leader: Roy Nicholls*

Stuart Mills

Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the London Borough of Enfield (ROWIP)

Under Enfield Council's consultation process for this draft Plan, during the summer The Enfield Society reviewed the document and submitted detailed comments and recommendations.

From an overall point of view, TES feels differentiation should have been made between ROWIP improvements/access considerations appropriate to the Green Belt and those that are essentially only appropriate for urban areas.

It is unfortunate that in places the document gives the impression it has been prepared by desk-top consultants who have neither on-site knowledge of Enfield, nor of our Green Belt countryside and its environment, but have, nevertheless, made overall assumptions and statements. Indeed this is admitted by the consultants under the chapter headed "*Network Characteristics*" which splits all paths into either urban or semi-rural. This ignores the fact that many rights of way in Enfield Chase can be accurately described as completely rural (hence their high quality amenity value).

Also, in preparing the draft the consultants used focus groups and included their output in the draft plan. However, due to the extremely small number of individuals participating in these focus groups (sometimes numbering only single figures), TES does not accept they are representatively valid for the overall Enfield Borough population of over 273,000. In comparison to these focus groups, TES has almost 2,000 members.

From a more constructive aspect, there are good points. TES supports greater access provided it is not achieved by means that are detrimental to the quality of the landscape environment. For instance, we would not wish to see Enfield's high quality Green Belt farmland simply turned into a form of rural "park" with unlimited open access throughout. We feel greater access would be both better and more economically achievable if it was concentrated upon access improvements to/from and within our existing countryside country parks (e.g. Trent, Whitewebbs, Forty Hall & Hilly Fields). Enfield is fortunate that these country parks form such a significant part of our Green Belt.

The draft plan comments upon recreational use of the path network including the creation of off-road cycle routes. In this respect TES would oppose off-road cycle routes that cut across Enfield's high quality Green Belt countryside or intrudes upon a heritage area. We have separately objected to Enfield Council's recent suggestion to introduce a cycle route across the Forty Hall estate to Maiden's Bridge. Any proposed route(s) must not detract from the existing rural tranquillity and feeling of remoteness obtained in our farmland countryside and from which few other outer London boroughs benefit. Unlike the Enfield Chase farmland, most other boroughs have significant levels of visual, road and noise intrusion in their countryside. Cycle routes will tend to have some form of hard surfacing which is visually intrusive. A combined network cycle route and footpath is rarely acceptable to walkers – this is readily evidenced on such combined routes in the Lea Valley Park and elsewhere.

TES agrees that increased off-road riding routes would be beneficial to horse riders but would oppose conversion of public paths (whether definitive or permissive paths) into bridleways because the surface of such routes steadily deteriorate for walkers and are costly to maintain.

Apart from the above, TES made the following general observations:

- (i) TES supports regular maintenance of all rights of way, whether rural or urban.
- (ii) TES agrees there needs to be better access to the country parks. With regard to Trent Park, TES supports the move by Western Enfield Residents Association for the recently proposed/created footpath links to the Enfield Road/The Ridgeway/Fairview Road network and we have also suggested the creation of a pedestrian access path into Trent Park from Cockfosters Road significantly north of the present vehicle entrance.
- (iii) TES supports new links to existing rights of way and permissive paths to provide improved connections and to create new circular route options. For instance, TES supports creation of a link path from the London Loop path to Botany Bay near Bay Farm.
- (iv) in our reply we also commented upon the long outstanding bridging issue on the proposed path to the east of Stag Hill linking the "Stagg Hill Path" to the "West Lodge Path" (opposite Waggon Road) and the need for this to be urgently resolved. Because the matter had been outstanding from 2001 TES agreed 3 years ago to supply £1,500 funding for the cost of necessary materials. TES feels this is a relatively straightforward matter and the lack of resolution unfortunately does not bode well for implementation of substantial improvements to Enfield's rights of way.

Stuart Mills



Enfield Society walkers testing the load carrying capacity of a bridge over the New River, near Theobalds Park, on 22nd August

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Hon. Secretary: Richard Stones

Hon. Treasurer: David James

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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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Joint notice board at "Frogs Bottom"



The Enfield Society and Western Enfield Residents' Association have jointly funded a good quality "Heritage Style" community notice board. With the co-operation of McMullens it has been sited in the forecourt of The Jolly Farmers Public House in Enfield Road.

Although the name does not appear on any maps, the area by the bridge over Salmons Brook at the bottom of Slades Hill used to be known locally as "Frogs Bottom". This was due to the number of frogs that used to be found in the meadows adjoining the brook.

Dave Cockle



An Enfield Society group walking along part of the Capital Ring on 9th September 2009, led by Dave Cockle, with the Thames Barrier, the O₂ dome and Canary Wharf in the background

Obituary

It is sad to report the recent death of Velma Byford, who joined the then Enfield Preservation Society in the 1960s where she soon became a respected and long serving active member. She later served on the Council of Management for over 20 years, eventually retiring in the early 90s.

Amongst her many duties with the Society was the organisation of the twice-yearly coach trips to places of national interest, giving talks on the work of the Society to various local groups and actively participating in the work of the Publicity Committee. She lived in Enfield for most of her life and knew the area very well.

It was a great pleasure and privilege working with her and she was deservedly missed by her colleagues when she retired although she remained active in other areas including the setting up of the London Road & District Residents Association which she chaired for a number of years.

We would like to send our sincere condolences to Velma's family.

Beryl Dorrington