



The newsletter of The Enfield Society

Celebrate Enfield's heritage in 2012

The Enfield Society is planning a series of events to celebrate Enfield's heritage in 2012 to coincide with the Queen's Jubilee year and the Olympics. The events will be open to all – members and non-members of TES – and we hope they will promote the Society and increase our understanding and knowledge of Enfield's fascinating history. Most of the events will be ticketed so we are not oversubscribed, though we plan that the majority will be free and an SAE sent to Jubilee Hall will be all that is required.

In March we have been extremely fortunate to get Alex Werner, Head of the Historical Collection of the Museum of London and curator of the major Charles Dickens exhibition.* This is to celebrate the 200th year of the birth of Dickens and will open at the Museum of London on 9th December and run through to June 2012. He has some pictures of Enfield taken by William Attwood in the 1880s and 1890s which will be shown as part of the talk. As we expect a lot of interest the Dugdale centre has been booked for this talk and tickets will cost £3 to cover expenses.

*www.museumoflondon.org.uk/Dickens.htm

Although our first event is on Tuesday 21st February, there is an earlier joint meeting with Edmonton Hundred on Friday 10th February in Edmonton on Charles and Mary Lamb. This is unticketed and promises to be a good start to what I hope will be a most informative, interesting and busy year!

Other events planned for later in the year include walks around Winchmore Hill with Peter Hodge and the Royal Small Arms site with Ray Tuthill, as well as our usual Enfield Town Heritage Walk in July and an event to celebrate the reopening of Forty Hall later in the year. Ticketing arrangements for these events will be announced nearer the time.

Meanwhile if you wish to come on Tuesday 21st February for a talk by Ian Jones who will tell the story of the Royal Palaces of Elsyng and Enfield and discuss the results of recent excavations, or to the Dugdale centre for the Dickens talk, then please send an SAE to Jubilee Hall as below, with a cheque for £3 per ticket to reserve your place for Alex Werner's Dickens talk.

Heritage events in Spring 2012

Friday 10th February

In the steps of Charles and Mary Lamb, by Helen Walton, at the Charities School, Church Street, Edmonton, 7.30 for 8.00pm. Please just come along.

Tuesday 21st February

The royal palaces of Enfield, an illustrated talk by Ian Jones, 7.30 for 8.00pm at Jubilee Hall.

Admission by free ticket available to members and non-members on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Please send your application to Emma Halstead, The Enfield Society, Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ.

Wednesday 21st March

Dickens and London, an illustrated talk by Alex Werner, curator of the Museum of London at the Dugdale Centre, 7.30 for 8.00. Please send a SAE to Jubilee Hall as above with a cheque for £3 per ticket, payable to "The Enfield Society".

Janet McQueen



Charles Dickens



Frontispiece of
Tales from Shakespeare
by Charles and Mary Lamb



Charles Lamb

Conservation Areas

In Enfield Town we learn that there is to be no ice skating rink this year, as last year's operated at a loss.

John Davies and I have met with Jeremy Sturgess of the Trent Park Golf Club to consider draft proposals prior to a planning application to improve the Clubhouse and main entrance of the golf course. With the younger generation in mind, the proposals include a landscaped mini golf area next to the Enfield Road and ten five a side football pitches. These would be floodlit, but we were happy with the final scheme, which included sinking the pitches with additional screening and planting and a much improved road entrance and changes to the elevation of the clubhouse.

Conservation Advisory Group

Clock House Parade in London Road. Proposals to lower and set back the prominent roof plant referred to in the last News should resolve the problem. The CAG has been concerned with proposals affecting the lakes in both Grovelands and Trent Park. Some years ago spillways to accommodate possible flooding were installed with modifications agreed to lessen the environmental impact. Updated regulations mean that both lakes, which are classed as reservoirs because they have a dam, have to be upgraded to cope with a 1,000 year flood risk. In Grovelands Park this means that the existing 1.7m wide spillway is totally inadequate. An 80m wide one would now be needed! However, raising the wall along the dam by half a metre will allow the width of the new spillway to be reduced to 20m and this is what is proposed. The result would be a section of the asphalt path along the dam having to be sunk by half a metre, to the level of the spillway. One might feel that these new requirements are over the top (no pun intended) but the committee report was for information only, as this is permitted development not requiring permission.

A similar approach in Trent Park would see the pathway along the edge of the dam beside the Japanese Garden raised by an unclear amount to provide a level gravel path, with the 27.5 metre sunken section for the spillway surfaced in York stone. As in the case of Grovelands only a few medium sized trees on the embankment would be removed.



Existing spillway at Grovelands lake, to be widened to cope with floods

English Heritage has upgraded the listing of Arnos Grove and Oakwood Underground Stations, designed by Charles Henry Holden, to Grade II*, the second highest to Grade I. This was obviously very welcome and in answer to an enquiry it was confirmed that the restoration of artefacts, such as the fragmented Art Deco cast iron railings at Oakwood, would happen when funding becomes available. We will keep up the pressure on this.



Cast iron railings at Oakwood station, in need of restoration

High wire in the woods

Following investigation, the Conservation Advisory Group were generally happy with the Aerial Trek (a high wire forest adventure network) proposed for Church Wood in Trent Park.

Green Belt

The Society has objected to conversion of a small barn and shed near to the Whitewebbs Lane entrance to Guy Lodge Farm into a house on the grounds of inappropriate development in the Green Belt. We have no problems with a proposal at the same farm for a bund along the M25 to safeguard livestock from possible breaches in the motorway boundary fence.

Chris Jephcott

Trees Group

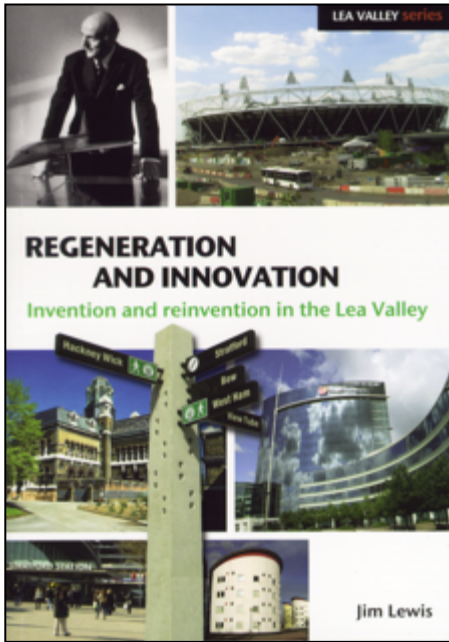
I must apologise for not updating my telephone number when requesting assistance with Trentwoodside allotment tree nursery. If there are any further volunteers willing to put in the occasional couple of hours, the number listed on the back page of this newsletter is now correct.

We have objected to the application to replace the bungalow at 110 Bush Hill, adjacent to the Golf Club, with two 5-bedroom houses filling most of the site and involving the loss of most of the numerous trees. Since the site reads as an extension of the woodland along the Golf Club frontage this would be a major blow to the appearance of this attractive road.

Also, we have objected to proposals for nine 4-bedroom houses by the Foyle Foundation at Gwalior House on the corner of Chase Road and Avenue Road N14. Outline permission for housing was granted on appeal some years ago. The land has now been found to be subject to a restrictive covenant made in 1936 with Southgate Council, requiring it to be retained as private open space, but this is apparently not a valid planning consideration. The mature trees all around the open area on the corner in front of the existing flats are protected, but the plans involve the removal of many of them.

Chris Jephcott, Convener

Sales table



The seventh, and final, book in Dr. Jim Lewis' series on the the Lea Valley was launched at Myddelton house in September. ***Regeneration and innovation*** charts the changes from medieval farm land to 21st century Olympic site via the stories of the Great Eastern Railway Works, the chemicals company Johnson and Matthey, and many others. All seven books in this series are well illustrated by

photos and images and explore the region's rich heritage as the crucible of world industrial and technological firsts.

The previous six titles are:

- ***From gunpowder to guns*** features the Royal Small Arms Factory and the Royal Gunpowder Mills;
- ***Water and waste*** documents 400 years of improvements to public health and the engineering feat of the New River;
- ***Battleships, buses and bombers*** describes the range of transport innovation pioneered in the region including A V Roe's historic flight at Walthamstow in 1909;
- ***Weapons, wireless and world wars*** explores the involvement in two World Wars from advances in weapons manufacture to the development of wireless technology;
- ***Industry and innovation*** looks at the numerous inventions which were developed in the

Lea Valley and the growth of major businesses such as Ediswan light bulbs and Gestetner copying machines;

- ***From Eton Manor to the Olympics*** is concerned with the history of the region, much of it connected to the 2012 Olympics.

These books cost £9.99 each and they can all be purchased from the Sales Table at Jubilee Hall meetings or on Saturday morning 10th December from 10 am to 1 p.m. when our full range of publications will be available, especially for those members who cannot get to Jubilee Hall during the week. Many smaller items such as badges and maps make good stocking fillers while books on the Enfield area are welcomed by friends and family.

All our publications can also be supplied by post. See the publications page on our website <<http://www.enfieldsociety.org.uk/>> for details.

Monica Smith

Edmonton Group

The Edmonton group was pleased to see so many TES members on the walk in August and the walled garden at Pymmes Park was especially enjoyed, as seen in this photograph by Irmlinde Adibe. Concerns at present include the threat of development on playing fields. One of the trees planted at Montagu Recreation Ground has died and we are hoping to replace it shortly. All members, wherever they live, are welcome at the joint meeting with Edmonton Hundred Historical Society on Friday 10th February at 8 p.m. at the Charity School Hall, 24 Church Street, Edmonton. Helen Walton will give a talk "In the steps of Mary and Charles Lamb".

Monica Smith



Diary dates

This list gives a selection of forthcoming events, not including our regular Jubilee Hall meetings listed on page 5. Contact details for the organisations responsible for these events are given in the notes at the end. Other events and updates may be found on our web site at <www.enfieldsociety.org.uk> and on the Enfield Council site at <www.enfield.gov.uk/events/>

Until 4th May 2012

Exhibition: *Remembering Star Wars - a social history of the cinema in Enfield*, Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road. Open Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission free.

Friday 18th November, 7.30 for 8.00 pm, Jubilee Hall
EAS Digging for Enfield sites – the roast beef of Old England by Neil Pinchbeck, EAS Osteo-archaeologist. [EAS]

Wednesday, 23rd November, 10 am

Groundforce project: *Brooke Wood*. Carrying on the coppicing of hornbeam and clearing scrub growing up around previous coppicing. Parking in Royal Chase Hotel car park. [GF]

Sunday 27th November, 10 am to 4 pm

Enfield Conservation Volunteers task: *Trent Park, Shaw's Wood*. Meet in the Council Works Yard, at the top of Snakes Lane, near the Wildlife Rescue Centre and café. There is still a lot of rhododendron smothering the ground in Shaw's Wood, so we will be taking it out to encourage the return of native species. [ECV]

Saturday 3rd (7 pm) and Sunday 4 December (3 pm)
Christmas concerts with the Children's International Voices of Enfield. Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road, Enfield in advance from 020 8882 7404 or at the door.

Wednesday 7th December, 10 am

Groundforce project: *Trent Nature Trail*. Continuing the removal of sycamore stumps and general clearance and maintenance. Parking in Trent car park next to hockey club. [GF]

Saturday 10 December 10 am to 1 pm

Sales Table open at Jubilee Hall

Saturday 10th December 11 am to 5 pm

Make Do Christmas – A festive fair where vintage meets food. Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road, Enfield. 11:00 - 17:00. Tickets: £3/ £1.50/ under 16s free.

Sunday 11th December, 10 am to 4 pm

Enfield Conservation Volunteers task: *Whitewebbs Golf Course*. Meet in Beggars Hollow car park, off Clay Hill. Reed thinning and clearance in the brook. Bring wellies! [ECV]

Tuesday 13th December, 7.45 for 8.00 pm, Jubilee Hall
Seasonal meeting of EHHS. No lecture, just a social evening with wine and mince pies [EHHS]

Friday 16th to Saturday 31st December

Skewbald Theatre in *The Snow Queen*. Dugdale Centre. Tickets £10 (£8 concessions). For performance dates and times contact 020 8807 6680 or <www.millfieldartscentre.co.uk>

Wednesday 21st December, 10 am

Groundforce project: *Hillyfields*. Carrying on with removal of tree seedlings and the more mature growth. Parking in Cooks Hole Road.

Tuesday 10th January 2012, 8 pm, Jubilee Hall

Napoleon's empire: its principles, practices and legacy (illustrated), by Dr Michael Rowe (King's College, London). [HA]

Friday 10th February, 8 pm

In the shadow of Mary and Charles Lamb, by Helen Walton. Joint meeting of The Enfield Society with the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society at the Charity School Hall, Church Street, Edmonton.

Tuesday 14th February 2012, 8 pm, Jubilee Hall

Clergy in London from the Black Death to the Reformation (illustrated), by Professor Virginia Davis (Queen Mary, University of London). [HA]

Tuesday, 21st February 2012, 7.30 for 8 pm, Jubilee Hall

Royal palaces of Enfield, by Ian Jones.

Tuesday 13th March 2012, 8 pm, Jubilee Hall

The alchemy of dust: waste and recycling in nineteenth century London (illustrated), by Dr Peter Hounsell FHA [HA]

Tuesday 8th May 2012, 8 pm, Jubilee Hall

De-Stalinisation in the Soviet Union by Dr Polly Jones (University College, Oxford). [HA]

Other guided walks are organised by Enfield Council's Parks Outreach Team. Details are in the "Walk Enfield" brochure which can be downloaded from the Council's Web site at

<http://www.enfield.gov.uk/downloads/download/1083/walk_enfield_brochure>. Phone (020) 8441 8272 or email <alan.mitellas@enfield.gov.uk> for more information.

If you are interested in participating in Groundforce or ECV projects, please contact them in advance for details.

GF: Groundforce. Web page at

<<http://sites.google.com/site/groundforce99/home>>
Contact Eileen Jessup (020) 8805 1974 or email <groundforce.enfield@gmail.com>;

ECV: Enfield Conservation Volunteers. Contact Jenny Willmot, Outreach and Community Officer, Parks Office, Trent Park, Cockfosters Road, Barnet, EN4 0PS, tel. (020) 8449 2459, email <jenny.willmot@enfield.gov.uk> or see the ECV website at <www.ecv.org.uk>.

EAS: Enfield Archaeological Society. Visitors are very welcome (£1.00 per person). <<http://www.enfarchsoc.org/index.html>>

EHHS: Edmonton Hundred Historical Society <<http://www.edmontonhundred.freeolamail.com/>>.

HA: The Historical Association, North London Branch. <http://www.history.org.uk/resources/he_resource_1170.html> These meetings are open to all and there is no fee. Contact the Branch Secretary, Robin Blades (020 8368 5328), <robin.blades@virgin.net>

Hire Jubilee Hall for your meeting

Jubilee Hall is available for hire to local groups and societies for seated meetings, conferences, etc.

The hall can accommodate up to 80 people, and there are facilities for making and serving tea and coffee. Pictures of the hall and hire charges can be seen on our web site <<http://www.enfieldsociety.org.uk>> by clicking on the menu item "Hire of Jubilee Hall"

Enquiries about bookings should be made to Pat Keeble, tel: (020) 8360 3873 or by email to <hall.bookings@enfieldsociety.org.uk>

Jubilee Hall meetings

Tuesday mornings 10.00 for 10.30 am. Some meetings may finish a little later than normal.

29th November. *The time line*, by Margaret Bale, with slides.

13th December. *Songs and music*, by Christine and Peter Padwick.

31st January. *The great migration : Tanzania wildlife*, by Anne Johnson, with slides.

28th February. *Treasures and the Tower*, by Garry Wykes, with digital images.

27th March. *Malta*, by Brenda Brown, with slides

Evening meetings, at 7.30 for 8 pm

Thursday 19th January. *The history of Enfield's railways. Part one: Lea Valley, Southbury Loop & Enfield Town*, an illustrated talk by Dave Cockle.

Tuesday 21st February. *The royal palaces of Enfield*, an illustrated talk by Ian Jones.

Thursday 15th March. *How we used to live – domestic interiors from Victorian times to the present*, by Stephen Gilbert.

Thursday 19th April. *The Walkers of Arnos Grove*, by Ruby Galili (Joint meeting with Edmonton Hundred Historical Society).

Potters Bar totem pole?



This curious tree sculpture was photographed by John Bourne in Parkfield on a TES footpath walk on 13th August. Parkfield is an attractive open space located to the west of High Street, Potters Bar, which also includes woodland and a Japanese garden.

Does anyone know what the sculpture represents, what the occasion was for which it was carved, the date, the name of the artist, and so on?

The President's column



Writing in the last TES News, I warned about the threat to our Green Belt countryside from a leaked draft of the Government's new National Planning Policy Framework as highlighted on the front page. The final draft, released in mid July, purported to protect the Green Belt by excluding it from the proposals and the Government has regularly repeated this line. Unfortunately, scrutiny of the draft shows the Green Belt is far from secure. Not only are local planning authorities able to revise the boundaries each time a Local Plan is revised, as Enfield is currently doing, but a new category of 'reserved' land is created, between the built up area and the Green Belt proper. Inevitably the effect will be to push the Green Belt boundary outwards and become an invitation to speculators to snap up the land. It is not even clear that the presumption in favour of 'sustainable' development – 'the default answer to development is yes' – will not apply in the Green Belt.

But this is not the worst of it. The document is so loosely drafted that any half decent lawyer acting on behalf of a developer should be able to drive a coach and horses through it. The Framework is to be plan led, but we were astonished to learn that all the existing planning guidance is to be cancelled, including, for example, on the historic environment or housing, adopted after full consultation within the past 18 months. Local authorities were encouraged to refer to

the guidance when drawing up their own Local Plans, so that these will now be existing in a vacuum. Each will have to reinvent the wording for themselves. And when a plan is deficient or absent, any development application will have to be approved by default. We can see this setting the clock back 60 years to the time when ribbon building was rife and the countryside open to sporadic uncontrolled development.

The stock answer of the Government is that localism will solve all the problems but it does seem in fact that local autonomy under the Localism Act will be very restricted and difficult to exercise.

Unfortunately, planning is a rather technical subject and we have problems in getting the message across to the general public. As far as I can ascertain none of the local press has printed our letters on the subject, nor have the Enfield MPs yet replied to our letters asking for their support.

What are the implications for amenity societies such as ours? The Coalition Government seems set in its view that the purpose of the planning system is to promote economic growth. Possibly increased joint working by individual societies will help but I feel very uncertain about our future.

Chris Jephcott

New members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Mr & Mrs W Baldeo, Mr J Branagan,
Mr & Mrs D Buckley,
Mr & Mrs W & K Burton,
Mrs V.A. Dabbs, Ms K Doku,
Mr & Mrs D Glen,
Mr B Hasan-Bekir,
Mr A E Heywood, Mrs S Iannacone,
Mr T Kelly, Mrs I Lucking,
Dr & Mrs S McCarthy,
Miss J McNeill, Ms C Michael,
Ms V Munday,
Mr & Mrs R & R Parncutt,
Ms M Putt, Mrs J Quinn, Mr M Rye ,
Ms S Sanford, Miss C. Stavrinides,
Mrs F Stone,
Mr & Mrs. A & G Whiffin,
Ms S Winter, Miss H Yiu

Joyce James

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>](mailto: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 20th January 2012, 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

Historic buildings

Little palaces: suburban inter-war houses

Following improvements to rail services and the extension of the Piccadilly underground line north from Finsbury Park to Cockfosters between 1930 and 1933, many comfortable terraced, semi-detached and detached houses were built for sale in the London suburbs. One developer advertised “A Home, a House, a Little Palace in a convenient healthy district, purchasable by anyone with a small capital and regular income”. Prices ranged from £500 to £2,500, those at the lower end being affordable to someone with an annual income of £200. However “no cheap or nasty project [was] allowed”.

Styles varied from modern and neo-Georgian to “Tudorbethan”, with half-timbered features; examples of the latter can be seen in the Meadway Estate conservation

area in Southgate (see *TES News* no. 172, page 1).

People moving into their new homes were not short of advice. One 1930s manual recommended that “furniture should be well made, graceful and strong. Overcrowding is bad in taste and too many ornaments or pictures provide a distracting and muddled effect”. The new residents were proud of their facilities and one wrote “We Southgate people in our new houses are a pretty clean and gentlemanly lot. We don’t boast about our baths and bathrooms, but the fact remains we take our ablutions seriously”.

In 2000 a semi-detached house was converted to its possible appearance in the Second World War for Channel 4 television and a family were filmed living there under wartime conditions. A replica of the house

was constructed in the Imperial War Museum in Lambeth and later incorporated into “The Children’s War and the 1940s House”. This free exhibition, which will bring back many memories, closes on 3rd January 2012.

A forthcoming talk: “*How we used to live – domestic interiors from Victorian times to the present*” at 8pm on Thursday 15th March in Jubilee Hall, will illustrate the 1940s house together with other preserved 19th and 20th century houses, genre paintings and museum recreations of domestic interiors such as those at the Geffrye Museum at Shoreditch and those which were at the former Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture at Cat Hill, Barnet.

Stephen Gilbert



17 Braemar Gardens, West Wickham, Kent, with two reception rooms, kitchenette, three bedrooms and a separate bathroom and toilet, was on sale for £875 in 1932.



The front door had stained glass panels. The hallstand was used for hats, coats and shoes.



The living or sitting room, where visitors would be received, was the successor to the Victorian parlour and the Georgian drawing room. Furniture included a settee, armchairs, a footstool (made from six golden syrup tins covered with cut moquette), a glass-fronted cabinet, a desk and a side table. There was also a sewing machine, a Bakelite wireless and a wind-up gramophone, but no television or computer.



Houses without gardens might have a Morrison air-raid shelter – a steel mesh cage with a solid top which could also serve as a dining table when the side panels were removed. This dining room also had a sideboard, bookcase and trolley, and was heated by an open coal fire in the tiled fireplace. Tape was stuck over the windows to hold the glass in place should a bomb fall nearby and the curtains were drawn across at night to help maintain the blackout.

Historic buildings



The kitchenette had a ceramic sink with a wooden draining board, a small gas stove, a washing tub with an electric element to heat water, a scrubbing board, dolly stick and mangle, a coke-burning boiler to provide hot water for the house, a kitchen cabinet and an ironing board. The house was cleaned with the aid of a mop, brushes, dusters and a carpet sweeper. There was, however, no washing machine, dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator, microwave oven or vacuum cleaner in this house.



Although there were bathrooms in many late Victorian and Edwardian houses, for some people moving to a house like this it would have been the first time they had their own bathroom, having previously used a portable tin bath or the local public slipper baths. In wartime Britain bath water was reused and a maximum depth of five inches (which could be marked in paint) was suggested.



Due in part to the influence of the Hays Production Code on 1930s American films, separate beds for married couples became fashionable. The beds had silk-covered eiderdowns filled with feathers and down from the eider duck. Other furniture included a wardrobe and dressing table. Heating was provided by a built-in gas fire in the tiled fireplace.



During the war when clothes and food were rationed, people were encouraged to "Dig for Victory" and gardens provided valuable home-grown fruit and vegetables. Some people kept chickens, rabbits or even a pig. ("You can use every bit of a pig, except its squeal" was a popular saying.) The Anderson air-raid shelter cost £7, but the corrugated steel sheets needed were provided free to families earning less than £250 a year. Shelters were also used to grow rhubarb and mushrooms, for which the dark, damp conditions were suitable.



Southbury Road in the late 1960s

We have recently received this photograph taken from Bovril House (now called New River House), next to Enfield Town station. It was sent to us by Mrs Valerie Martin (née Jemmett), who says that she remembers climbing onto several packing cases to get a better view. The picture shows the junction of Genotin Road and Southbury Road in the foreground, with Cole & Read Tailors and the Town Book Shop. St. Andrew's Church is at the top right and Church Street on the far left. This photograph is one of many that we are mounting on the Enfield Society's website. Several volunteers are selecting and recording images from the large collection of slides that we were bequeathed by the late Stanley Smith and we now have over 400 available to view.

Leonard Will



Town Park gates, before the Cecil Road houses were completed in front of them



Church Street - the image has been reversed to better fit the design of the frieze!

The library of your dreams – in Enfield

One feature of the new Enfield Town library which may have escaped your notice is the long purple frieze which winds around above the curved partition on the ground floor leading to the children's and teenage areas. The library was open to visitors as part of the *Open House London* event in September, when Nick Hufton, a director of the architects, Shephard Epstein Hunter, discussed some of the features they had incorporated in the building.

He writes "The frieze is intended to be suggestive of a dream landscape in which fragments of the Enfield skyline appear. There is a theme of town and countryside which we felt was particularly appropriate to Enfield and the project." The images were taken from old postcards and photographs of Enfield (as shown here) and digitally processed to produce an impressionistic effect.

In our last issue Chris Jephcott reported the concern of the Conservation Advisory Group about the amount of "roof clutter" – plant and equipment that spoils the skyline of many recent buildings. Nick Hufton explained that in the case of the library they had gone to great pains to avoid this, and had achieved a clean roof line from many different viewpoints.

The library is designed to be energy-efficient, with most of the heating and cooling being provided by a 100 kW ground source heat pump system which exchanges heat with an array of boreholes sunk to 100 metres below the Library Green. The Green, which the Enfield Preservation Society fought to preserve in 1937, thus provides new hidden benefits to the community.

Leonard Will



The north side of the new library faces the Library Green, while the south side, on Cecil Road, has a solid wall to keep out sunlight, decorated with inscribed lettering.



Part of Pearsons shop front

The original Carnegie library building has been preserved and connected to the new extension.



Anonymous friends

My wife and I were having lunch with friends, and the conversation turned to gardens. “What I don’t see ...”, said one “... is the point of woodlice?”

Caught by surprise I responded: “They’re more important than you are.” Not my finest moment, but nevertheless the response was apt – the likes of woodlice are essential to the recycling of soil nutrients whilst humankind confers no comparable benefit to the health of the planet.

I tell the story because people tend to see insects and other ‘creepy-crawlies’ as a regrettable act of nature, rather than part of a self-balancing system keeping the planet fit for habitation. Meanwhile, as the dominant species we are doing many things to reduce their number and there is now real concern that declining populations of bees and other pollinating insects threatens our food supply.

If not essential, wasps come close. Early in the season they feed insects in various stages of their life cycle to pupae in their nests whilst living on a high sugar diet secreted by those pupae. All very important in the control of aphids and damaging caterpillars, and without farmers and gardeners doing a thing. Wasps are friends, only becoming a

nuisance late in the season when pupae are no longer being raised, but unfortunately they seem to be in steep decline in London.

When I was growing up leaving windows open and lights on during hot summers’ evenings was an invitation to hundreds of midges and moths to coat the ceiling. Now I am surprised to find two or three midges and an occasional solitary moth. Apart from sadness of losing more wildlife, this matters because all those midges and moths are pollinators and food for other insects, birds and bats. The loss is probably

Image by “Yug”
from Wikimedia Commons



Common rough woodlouse
Porcellio scaber

partly due to loss of habitat as we blithely concrete over more and more of our gardens, as described by Stuart Mills in his article in the summer edition, but there’s evidence that street and other lighting is the bigger culprit. One estimate put the figure at 85%.

Very recently scientists reported that cities are better habitat for wildlife than

rural areas, many of which are vast monocultures supporting few species. Stuart Mills touched on how we might help, and I would add avoiding double flowers and leaving plant litter on the soil to his list.

Avoiding double flowers because they offer no food source to butterflies and bees, and leaving plant litter because it creates habitat for beneficial insects, worms and the myriad soil-life lost in past times to serious air pollution – such as the black soil beetle which helped reduce the slug population which is now so out of control in London.

I strongly support Stuart Mills’ case that we should do what we can to foster a thriving insect population for its own sake and in our practical interest, but to my mind the need to protect habitat is also relevant to visual amenity generally and street scene in particular. The craze for turning gardens into concrete car parks has made many streets – including my own in a conservation area – represent urban blight rather than a pleasant place for family living. We lost street trees (also habitat for insects) as well as most gardens in this rather special case of urban degeneration, and all for no net gain in parking places.

David Hughes



A group of walkers on a Footpaths Group walk starting from Ingatestone Station in rural Essex on 30th July admiring All Saints Church, the parish church of the village of Stock, a small village on the outskirts of Billericay and 6 miles south of Chelmsford. It used to be called Stock Harvard and the ecclesiastical parish is still known by that name.

(Photo by John Bourne)

On 10th September Monica Smith led a Footpaths Group walk to the new Olympic White Water Centre in the Lea Valley Park. She says that there are no walkers in view, so we guess that they were not keen enough to brave the rapids themselves.

(Photo by John Bourne)



Future walks

Train details are correct at press date but TES cannot be responsible for subsequent alterations. Please always check with operating train companies' enquiries line (08457 48 49 50) or with their websites. For TFL London area Tube, DLR, London Overground and bus details, ring 0843 222 1234 or check TFL website.

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, South West 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.

If you have a Freedom Pass or National Bus Pass please bring it 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 26 Nov. The Old East End. Meet **9.50am** Cambridge Heath Station (9.22am train from Enfield Town or 9.28am from Edmonton Green).

Note: Engineering work will result in closure of the Southbury Loop and no trains north of Waltham Cross. As at TES copy date, the NEEA amended timetable indicates this should not affect trains from Enfield Town – normal departures at 22 & 52 mins past the hour are retained, with extra services. However, please check earlier in the week and travel as appropriate to make the start time.

Today's linear walk highlights changes from the East End to the rejuvenated Docklands via the Mile End Greenway, Poplar High Street, Limehouse Basin and Wapping. Bring lunch or food available. Although full route is 8 miles, finish point will depend upon weather conditions etc. on the day. Many shorter options. All travel within Freedom Pass area. Details: 07703 470 156. *Leaders: Toby Simon & Margaret McAlpine*

Wed 30 Nov.

** Note alteration in meeting place from Autumn newsletter **

More tales from the London Blitz.

Meet **10.30am** at the western entrance to the New Change shopping centre where it exits onto New Change street (i.e. facing St. Paul's Churchyard and the eastern end of the Cathedral). With the

70th anniversary of the Blitz, and by popular request, Brian explores more parts of The City that were so irrevocably altered by the Blitz. Full route ends by 1.30pm but numerous shorter options. *Leader: Brian Frear*

Sat 10 Dec. River Lea and Gunpowder Park. Meet **1.32pm** on east side of level crossing at Brimsdown Station (1.25pm train from Tottenham Hale). Alternatively, by 307 or 191 buses (both take about 25 mins from Enfield Town) or 491 bus from Edmonton Green (also about 25 mins journey time).

This linear walk of about 2.25 hours, mainly on gravel paths, goes via Mossop's Creek, the Enfield Lock Heritage Trail, nature reserves and the restored meadows of Gunpowder Park, ending at Enfield Island Village for 121 & 491 buses (or for trains from Enfield Lock). An interesting route that highlights recent landscape improvements and some new paths, as shown on the 2011 TES map. Details: (020) 8366 2242 or 07948 204 025. *Leader: Dave Cockle*

Wed 14 Dec. Dollis Valley and Totteridge Countryside. Meet **10.15am** Totteridge & Whetstone Station. Access by Northern Line from either High Barnet (about 3 mins) or from Central London. 251 bus from Arnos Grove Station (about 15 mins) stops outside station and others (e.g. 34 & 125) stop about 300 yards away. Also station car park.

An attractive 3 hour walk, initially following the Dollis Brook, and then through part of Barnet's Green Belt farmland/nature reserves located between Mill Hill and Totteridge. Shorter option. Details: (020) 8360 0282. *Leader: Roy Nicholls*

Wed 28 Dec. Northern Heights. Meet **10.21am** Alexandra Palace Station (10.10am train from Enfield Chase or 184 & W3 buses).

Note: train times assume FCC will run normal weekday service – if not, and it is a Saturday service, then 9.59am train from Enfield Chase. Please check beforehand – either way, it will be a 10.21am start.

About 7 mile linear walk across some of the higher parts of North London, via Alexandra Palace, remains of the ancient Forest of Middlesex and Hampstead Heath. Many shorter options. Lunch stop in Highgate Village – bring lunch or food available. *Leader: Stuart Mills*

Wed 4 Jan. Enfield Parks and Open Spaces. Meet **10.00am** Palmers Green Station (9.50am train from Enfield Chase or 121, 329 & W6 buses) for a linear walk of up to 3 hours. The route connects some of Enfield's green spaces, including Broomfield Park, Southgate Green, Grovelands, Oakwood Park, Boxers Lake and then beside Enfield Golf Course to end on Slades Hill (121, 307 & 377 buses). Many shorter options. *Leader: Norman Coles*

Sat 14 Jan. Capital Ring – Finale. Meet **11.02am** South Kenton Station (10.37am London Overground train from Euston mainline station) or travel with Dave on the 9.29am train from Enfield Chase.

Today will see Dave complete the final portion of the 72 mile Capital Ring with a 6.75 mile section ending at Hendon Central Station. The route includes the Barn Hill and Gotfords Hill viewpoints, one of the best areas of traditional countryside remaining in Middlesex and the Welsh Harp/Brent Reservoir. There will also be an extra to the standard route to include some architectural oddities. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. All travel within Freedom Pass area. Details: (020) 8366 2242 or 07948 204 025. *Leader: Dave Cockle*

Wed 18 Jan. Charles Dickens' London. Meet **10.30am** Russell Square Station (Piccadilly Line). 2012 is the 200th anniversary of Dickens' birth, and today Monica will link various locations associated with him &/or his novels in this part of London. The route will finish about 1.15pm in the vicinity of Holborn Station. *Leader: Monica Smith*

Sat 28 Jan. From "The Blackest Streets" to Desirable Residences. Meet **10.25am** Liverpool Street mainline station at entrance to Platform 1 (9.52am train from Enfield Town). Roy will highlight changes that have taken place over the last 200 to 300 years on a route full of interest from Spitalfields to Hoxton, with a lunch stop near the Geffrye Museum. Many shorter options. Details: (020) 8360 0282. *Leader: Roy Nicholls*

Sat 4 Feb. Enfield's Countryside. Meet **10.15am** Forty Hall Mansion – on the house side of the lake (at TES copy date access to the toilets was from near the courtyard). Today's max 8 mile circular walk is via the New River, Theobalds Estate & Whitewebbs Estate. Reflecting the winter season, much of the route uses gravel tracks and can be shortened

Future walks

(continued)

in the event of adverse weather conditions.

Option to leave at the lunch stop in Crews Hill (bring lunch or food available). If joining for afternoon section, be at Crews Hill station by 1.54pm (1.49pm train from Enfield Chase). *Note:* suggest car drivers park in Forty Hill, and *not* in the Forty Hall car park, to avoid being locked-in (locking times can be haphazard during the winter). *Leader: Stuart Mills*

Sat 11 Feb. Waterways and Parks.

Meet **10.45am** Warwick Avenue Station (Bakerloo Line) for a linear walk including Little Venice, Regent's Canal, Regent's Park and nearby places of interest, ending at Camden Lock/Market. Many shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader: Brian Frear*

Wed 15 Feb. River Lee Country Park.

Meet **10.24am** Cheshunt Station (10.14am train from Southbury Station or 9.55am train from Tottenham Hale which also stops at Ponders End, Brimsdown & Enfield Lock).

About 7.5 mile circular walk in this major refuge for birds – consisting of a patchwork of lakes, waterways, open spaces and countryside, the area is linked by a large network of mostly well surfaced paths. Possible shorter option. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader: Stuart Mills*

Sat 25 Feb. Green Chain Walk. Meet

11.03am Erith Station (10.31am Dartford train from London Bridge mainline station – usually from platforms 1-3). *Note:* Martin intends to join the 9.29am train from Enfield Chase at Palmers Green, changing at Kings Cross onto the Northern Line to London Bridge. Alternatively, travel by 9.22am train from Enfield Town to Liverpool Street and either walk to London Bridge (via Bishopsgate & Gracechurch Street –allow about 20 mins), or catch a bus (35, 47, 48, 133 & 149).

From the Thames' riverside at Erith, today's 7.5 mile linear walk follows the Green Chain through its greenest sections with parks, ancient woods, heathland, nature reserves & open spaces, ending at Falconwood Station. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. All travel within the Freedom Pass area. *Leader: Martin Langer*

Stuart Mills

Where the roses have gone



In our last issue we published a letter from two readers who were dismayed to see that at least six of the beds in the Rose Garden were empty of roses and that several had been planted with lavenders and similar plants.

This provoked a response from the well-known local rose expert, Bill Bossom, who writes:

“To replace with new roses is not a simple operation. It is almost certain that the soil in the beds will be suffering from rose sickness. A full report of the procedure required can be found in the Royal Horticultural Society's *Encyclopedia of gardening*, extracts from which are printed below by kind permission of the RHS.”

Doug Shipwright, Enfield Council's Parks Operations Manager, has replied to our enquiries as follows:

“Some rose beds will remain but as beds get to the end of expected life these are being replaced with more sustainable drought resistant plants.”

Rose-sick soil

New roses do not thrive if planted in a rosebed where roses have been grown for two years or more, as they will almost always succumb to "rose sickness" (see "Replant disease/soil sickness", p.665): it seems that the fine feeding roots of new roses are more prone to attack than are the older, tougher roots of roses that are already growing in the bed.

If replacing only one or two roses in an established bed, dig a hole at least 45cm (18in) deep by 60cm (24in) across and exchange the soil with some from a part of the garden where roses have not grown for several years. As this is a daunting task to carry out for an entire rosebed, either locate the bed on a different site, or have the soil chemically sterilized by a qualified contractor.

Replant disease / soil sickness

Plants affected Mainly roses, commonly those on R. canina rootstocks, and fruit trees.

Symptoms Vigour is reduced; growth and roots are stunted.

Cause Several factors may be involved, including soil-dwelling nematodes and the viruses they transmit, soil-borne fungi, and nutrient depletion.

Control Do not grow replacement plants in a site previously occupied by the same or a closely related species. Change the soil to a depth of at least 45cm (18in) and a width several centimetres greater than the spread of the roots. There is no suitable chemical sterilant available for amateurs, but the ground can be treated by a contractor.

[From the RHS encyclopedia of gardening, pages 156 and 665.]

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On 3rd September TES member Stephen Sellick sent a message to the TES discussion list asking about Tatem Park, off Hedge Lane – he had seen the plaques on the gateposts while passing it in a bus. This prompted a number of email exchanges and enquiries, including one from High Wycombe, where a former Mayor, James George Tatem, has been honoured by a place in a stained glass window installed in 1911 in the Red Room at High Wycombe Town Hall. He features in a book entitled *Wycombe pioneers of progress* produced in 2011 to celebrate the centenary of this project.

His son, also called James George Tatem, resided at Weir Hall and owned land known as the Hedge Lane Gravel Pit, which was inherited by his nieces, the Misses Ellen and Margaret Harman. The Edmonton Council Minutes of 24th April 1934 record the following:

"The Misses Harman have decided to make a gift of this property for the purpose of a permanent open space and Recreation Ground for children. ... They are also desirous that the family name of their uncle, Mr. J. G. Tatem, who was the previous owner of the property, should be perpetuated in some way. The Tatem family resided at Weir Hall for several centuries, and were considerable landowners in the Parishes of Edmonton and Southgate. The name has now died out, and the Misses Harman would like the name to be in some way associated with the gift which they propose to make, and are anxious that under no circumstances should the land ever be used for any other purpose than that of an Open Space or Recreation Ground."

A plaque on one the two brick pillars at the entrance records that the park is a memorial to J. G. Tatem, "The last of the family Huxley-Tatem of Wyer Hall [sic.] 1609-1818". A matching plaque on the other pillar shows that the park was opened by Councillor Mrs R.A. Young Chairman of the Edmonton Urban District Council 1936-7 on the 8th May 1937.

Miss Ellen Harman had died by then, but Miss Margaret Harman, 89 years old, was present to hand over a silver-gilt key to Councillor Young. The local paper reports: "A host of children ... made straight for the playgrounds, the cycling track and the paddling and model yachting pools without waiting for the completion of the ceremony, and the speeches which followed were punctuated by their excited shouts and happy laughter".

The south-west corner of the park was later developed as "Hollywood Gardens", opened in 1958 to honour Alderman A.J.G. Hollywood, ex-Mayor of Edmonton.



Memorial plaque, Tatem Park



Sunken garden



Tatem Park

The park today forms a pleasant little piece of countryside, in which the undulations of level and the woodlands provide seclusion from the surrounding built-up areas. It boasts "UK's No. 1 Outdoor Roller-skating Rink" and still has a well-used children's play area. Regrettably, though, the toilets are locked and barred, the paddling and model yachting pools are full of weeds and debris, and the gardens are badly neglected. A notice on the gate from the Friends of Tatem Park says "Sadly our present Gardener will not be replaced after he retires due to the financial position of the London Borough of Enfield. Large cuts have been made in all departments". It then appeals for volunteers to "do a bit of gardening". It would be a great pity if it could not be restored to its former glory.

I am grateful to Enfield Local Studies Library & Archives for information and for copies of documents quoted above.

Leonard Will