Construction of new vehicular access to Forty Hall

As part of the ‘Parks for People’ HLF project for restoring the historic landscape at Forty Hall, Enfield Council has applied to reconfigure the main entrance to Forty Hall Park, including the creation of a new vehicular entrance/exit off Forty Hill. This would be sited about 40 metres to the north of the main gateway, opposite the busy entry to Clock House Nursery, and would involve yellow lines on either side with a ‘ghost’ centre island to allow right turns in both directions. To improve visibility, vegetation would be removed and around 17 trees would be felled, including a significant oak and a Corsican pine; another Corsican pine is likely to be affected. The resulting gap would be closed with metal estate railing and a matching metal gate.

All this would have a significant effect on the Forty Hill and Bulls Cross Conservation Area. The main reason given is to alleviate the problem of the narrow listed entrance gateway which has frequently been damaged by heavy vehicles entering the site. The current state is shown in our illustration. English Heritage is unlikely to allow the gate posts to be altered in view of their Grade II-listed status and the new entrance is proposed as an alternative, with the current access limited to pedestrians, although the application does not show this in the accompanying plan. The car entrance is shown as separate but traffic to the hall and farm, including the heavy, damaging vehicles, would still have to use the existing gateway.

In 2007/8 the Paul Drury Partnership drew up a Conservation Management Plan for the estate at considerable expense. A three option approach to the problem of the gateway approach was envisaged but neither this nor their recommendations for the future of the car park has been followed. The Drury Option 1 envisaged realigning the bollards currently guarding the approach so as to ensure that incoming vehicles approach at right angles and not at an angle. Robust iron bollards would be required in addition to the existing splayed stone ones. This should be tried. Instead we have this drastic option of a new entrance just where traffic constantly turns in and out of the Clock House Nursery.

In considering the interests of the park, the effects on the character of the Forty Hill Conservation area have been ignored. Essentially it has the ambience of a countryside settlement, despite the increasing traffic flow. The proposals would deal this a major blow and the Enfield Society is objecting strongly.

Chris Jephcott

Aerial Trek at Church Wood in Trent Park

In the last newsletter I mentioned briefly that the Conservation Advisory Group was generally happy with this high wire forest adventure network. This was following a presentation at the August meeting, at which I was not present, and a subsequent meeting of Don Alexander of the Trent Park Conservation Committee and the promoters, the rather crudely named Go Ape. Now that planning approval has been given and work has started, there has been an upsurge of protest. Responding, Cllr. Chris Bond, Enfield Council’s Cabinet Member for Environment, defended the scheme, which had been widely consulted on with only one objection. He stated that it would cover less than one acre (though the original press release mentioned 6.7 acres) and he was confident that the adventure park would be a great asset to the park as a whole whilst retaining its character and charm.

I had a look at the site as we go to press. Church Wood is near the café and associated car parks, an area which has become frankly a mess, with uncoordinated features badly in need of the services of a landscape architect. The new scheme will add some more. As the photographs show, the installations will be quite prominent and based on timber battens nailed around the trunks, not good forestry practice. The associated felling of diseased and dead trees to let light on to the woodland floor appears to have included large, healthy trees as seen in the last photograph. Admittedly Church Wood, site of the excellent blind trail, is only a small proportion of the whole country park but the five installations will affect most of it. I will leave it to members to form their own opinions as to the desirability of this commercial venture.

Chris Jephcott
Conservation Advisory and Study Groups

We still await the release of the final version of the Government’s controversial National Planning Policy Framework, the calm before the storm, perhaps, but in the meantime there are changes to the local planning system as Enfield Council responds to the cuts in public expenditure. All planning consultation is now paperless and on line, fine for some but taxing and unhelpful for the less computer literate, and local groups monitoring planning applications now all have to crowd round a small screen, unable to spread out and properly evaluate large sheets of plans. The planning officers, too, have to make do with their small screens to come to conclusions regarding granting planning permission. The cuts have also meant that the Conservation Advisory Group has been deprived of its administrative support and now has to reply on the good offices of the Head of Development Services, Aled Richards, to attend the evening meetings and record the minutes. Very welcome to have him on board, but is this the best use of a senior officer’s time? Yet the picture is not all gloom. As Christine White, who has ably fronted the Conservation Team on the group for countless years, steps back the Council has, after a gap of many years, appointed a new Conservation Officer. Heloise Brown is now the Officer dealing with planning applications concerning conservation areas and listed buildings and we welcome her to Enfield.

To Enfield Council’s credit, the Conservation Advisory Committee (later Group) was formed in 1968 when the Town and Country Planning Act allowed the setting up of conservation areas. Many other local authorities still do not have such groups. With a membership of representatives of local amenity groups and council elected members, it has met regularly ever since to consider conservation planning issues. As more local conservation areas were designated, groups of local residents, rather eccentrically termed ‘study groups’, were set up to monitor local planning applications and issues, with representation on the main committee, which relies on the local groups for many of its recommendations. One of the earliest was the Enfield Town Conservation Area Study Group. I represented the EPS on the Study Group since the early days and can vouch for the strong and enlightened influence it has had on the many changes Enfield Town and Chase Side have undergone in the ensuing years.

For the past twelve years the Study Group has been ably chaired by Brian Macdonald, himself a member for 35 years and meeting at his house in Chase Green Avenue, with Carol Wells to be relied on as Secretary. But the next meeting on 29th January will be their last. As with so many similar organisations the membership has grown older and, following their retirement and without an infusion of new blood the future of the group must be uncertain. Membership is informal and open to anyone living roughly in the conservation area. Meeting about every month in line with the CAG timetable the commitment is not onerous and we have had interesting discussions. The group would be very glad to hear from anyone with an interest in local planning or conservation issues, who would consider joining and in the absence of a new secretary could contact me via the Enfield Society.

Chris Jephcott

Planning decisions must take a long-term view

A recent planning appeal has upheld the principle that decisions do not depend solely on the opinions of current neighbours but must take account of the effect on future residents of an area. A householder applied for retrospective approval of a large canopy at the rear of a house. The planning department rejected this, on the grounds that it caused undue harm to the residential amenities of the neighbouring properties because its excessive size, sitting and design made it intrusive, incongruous and overbearing. The residents of both neighbouring properties had written in support of the application, but the Planning Inspector still dismissed the appeal because it was contrary to Enfield’s planning policies, with their emphasis on good design, and because future neighbours would be justified in considering it to have a detrimental effect on their properties.

Planning application TP/11/1223

Architecture and planning

Enfield’s procedure for consultation on planning applications has changed, and letters to people being consulted about applications will now contain a direct link to allow the relevant documents to be consulted online. Comments may also be submitted by email direct to the planning officer. The weekly list of applications is available online and notifications can be sent by email if requested.

The database of applications, with supporting documents and decisions, can be consulted on the council’s web site – follow the links from the main site at <http://www.enfield.gov.uk/>. You have to register, but can then submit comments by email or fill in an on-line form to report any complaints or matters requiring enforcement action, such as planning conditions not being complied with.

On the same site you can make a building control application to ensure that any work you propose to do will comply with the Building Regulations.

John Davies / Leonard Will

Drapers Road housing development proposal

An application has been submitted by Fairview New Homes Ltd. for a major housing development on the site of the covered reservoir at the junction of Drapers Road and Holtwhites Hill. The reservoir has already been substantially demolished and the site is being excavated.

The proposal is for 35 one, two and three-bedroom flats and 13 three and four-bedroom houses, with 56 car parking spaces and associated access, amenity space and landscaping. The property known as “The Cottage” on the corner does not form part of the development.

The Enfield Society’s Architecture and Planning Group takes the view that this appears to be over-development of a restricted site, with clear implications for traffic in Holtwhites Hill and the creaking sewerage system in Chase Side.

Planning application TP/11/1449
Another new book by Dr. Jim Lewis has just been published. *London’s Lea Valley – a century of growing* is the history of the pioneering gardeners of the Lea Valley Growers’ Association from 1911 to 2011. This Association was formed with the goal of representing growers on a political lobbying front but today the emphasis has changed to representation nationally and in Europe. Over the years the Lea Valley Growers have overcome many challenges including two World Wars, fuel shortages and extreme weather. This hardback is now available from the Enfield Society.


The N21 Festival is taking place between the 16th and 23rd of June to celebrate the centenary of Henrietta Cresswell’s book: *Winchmore Hill: memories of a lost village.* A number of enthusiastic volunteers have got together to create a week of events based on the book and the centre of the “Lost Village” – Winchmore Hill Green.

A huge number of events are already planned, including historic walks around the area for local school parties and adults (including a dark-side of Winchmore Hill night walk) by Joe Studman of [www.jaywalks.co.uk](http://www.jaywalks.co.uk), talks by local historians – Peter Hodge on discovering the Cresswells, David Cockle on the coming of the railway to Winchmore Hill and Grange Park, Graham Dalling on how the fields turned to housing and development in the area and Stephen Gilburt on the historic buildings in Winchmore Hill.

There will be an historic exhibition, highlighting the changes in the area and hopefully answering a very important historic question about Winchmore Hill. There will also be an art exhibition, run in association with Enfield Art Circle and a photographic exhibition and competition run in association with The Southgate Photographic Society. A film festival will run throughout the week including never-before historic footage of the area, sponsored by the Southgate District Civic Trust. Live music and dancing will also feature every day of the week. There will be a chance to have tea in Henrietta Cresswell’s garden at exclusive ticket-only soirées and to be involved in ‘Portraits of the New Village’, a drawing workshop for children and families.

The Festival will end on Saturday 23rd June on Winchmore Hill Green with a “Fancy Fair”, when the roads on The Green will be closed and a huge celebration will take place, with live acts, music, dance, stalls, food and drink. Everyone is welcome. First Capital Connect have kindly agreed to free travel from Palmers Green and Grange Park to “The Fancy Fair.”


Hugh Humphrey

---

The Godfrey Map of Barnet Common 1896 (about 15 inches to a mile) has been added to those on sale – £2.50 each.

This small extract shows the style of these reproductions of old Ordnance Survey maps, published by Alan Godfrey Maps. We stock those covering Enfield and surrounding areas.
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
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.

Wednesday 15th – Saturday 18th
February, Chickenshed Theatre, 7.30 pm, and also 2 pm on Friday 17th
Emerging Writer Week. A festival of exciting and eclectic new work. Each evening presents a diverse array of pieces ranging from off-beat comedy to social drama, and from physical theatre to poignant stories. Tickets £6 from the theatre. 2 hours.

<http://www.chickenshed.org.uk/>

Friday 17th February, 7.30 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall
Galleys to garum: ancient Rome at sea by Ian Jones [EAS]

Sunday 19th February, 10 am – 3 pm.
ECV task: Whitewebbs Park, Mile and a Quarter footpath. Cutting back the encroaching scrub to improve the sunny bank for wildflowers. [ECV]

Wednesday 22nd February, 10 am
Strayfield Road
Groundforce project: Tingays Tops Pond and Rectory Farm path. General path maintenance and clearing any growth such as brambles from within the pond area. [GF]

Friday 2nd – Thursday 15th March, Chickenshed Theatre
Shakespeare’s Island. Transported back to the island he created in The Tempest, Shakespeare magically journeys through past plays and characters in a desperate attempt to convince both himself and the world of his lasting legacy.

<http://www.chickenshed.org.uk/>

Sunday 4th March, 10 am – 3 pm.
ECV task: Trent Park Water Garden. More planting as part of our work on the English Heritage Lottery Funded project to restore the garden to its former beauty. [ECV]

Wednesday 7th March, 10 am, Trent Park yard
Groundforce project: Trent Park nature trail. More winching of out of sycamore stumps and a general tidying up of previous tree lopping. We shall also dig out glass from the bonfire site, bag and remove it. [GF]

Tuesday 13th March, 8 pm, Jubilee Hall
The alchemy of dust: waste and recycling in nineteenth century London (illustrated), by Dr Peter Houssell FHA [HA]

Friday 16th March, 7.30 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall
Enclosing Londinium: the Roman landward and riverside walls, Presidential Address, by Harvey Sheldon. [EAS]

Sunday 18th March, 10 am – 3 pm.
ECV task: Trent Park Nature Trail. There are still plenty of pesky sycamores that need clearing. [ECV]

Wednesday 21st March, 10 am, field off East Lodge Lane
Groundforce project: East Lodge nature reserve. General maintenance around the lake areas. [GF]

Wednesday 21st March, 7.30 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall
Early actresses, by Marlene McAndrew. (Also the AGM of the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society). [EHHS]

Sunday 1st April, 10 am – 3 pm.
ECV task: Conway Recreation Ground. Working with the Friends group to build substantial compost bays. [ECV]

Sunday 15th April, 10 am – 3 pm.
ECV task: Hillyfields. Cutting back encroaching vegetation to improve the habitat of the Yellow Meadow Ants in the old orchard. [ECV]

Friday 20th April, 7.30 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall
Excavations and fieldwork of the Enfield Archaeological Society in 2011, by Dr Martin Deane and Mike Dewbrey. (Also the AGM of the EAS). [EAS]

Sunday 29 April, 10 am – 3 pm.
ECV task: Trent Park ‘Blind Trail’. Repair of 2 small sleeper bridges and perhaps some ditch and scrub clearance. [ECV]

Tuesday 8th May 2012, 8 pm, Jubilee Hall
De-Stalinisation in the Soviet Union by Dr Polly Jones (University College, Oxford). [HA]

Wednesday 16th May, 7.30 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall
Lawrence of Arabia, by Maggie Radcliffe. [EHHS]

Friday 18th May, 7.30 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall
19th century clinker-built boat for 2012, by Amelia Fairman, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. [EAS]

Friday 15th June, 7.30 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall
Aspects of the development of Forty Hall, by Dr Martin Deane. (The Geoffrey Gillam Memorial Lecture). [EAS]

Saturday 16th to Saturday 23rd June 2012, Winchmore Hill
N21 Festival. See page 3.

Saturday 30th June.
Non-conformist churches of Enfield – open day.

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.mittellass@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 (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>


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

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

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

24th April. The Dick and Dave Audio Visual Show, presented by Dave Wilcox and Dick Williams “A meeting not to be missed”.

29th May. Around Canterbury, by Frank Bayford, with slides.

Evening meetings, at 7.30 for 8 pm

Tuesday 21st February. The royal palaces of Enfield, an illustrated talk by Ian Jones. [Fully booked - no places left]

Thursday 15th March. How we used to live – domestic interiors from Victorian times to the present, an illustrated talk by Stephen Giburt.


Thursday 17th May. India, an illustrated talk by Monica Smith.

Other Enfield Society events

Wednesday 21st March. Dickens and London, an illustrated talk by Alex Werner, curator of the current exhibition on Dickens at the Museum of London. To be held at the Dugdale Centre, Thomas Hardy House, 7.30 for 8pm start. Refreshments available. Tickets £3 – apply to Dugdale centre on 020 8807 6680 or contact them via the web on https://forms.enfield.gov.uk/peo/default.asp

Sunday 27th May. Heritage walk round Winchmore Hill, led by Peter Hodge. Starts at 2pm, and will include entry into the Friends Meeting House and St. Paul’s Church. For tickets please apply to Emma Halstead at Jubilee hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ, enclosing a SAE and your telephone number.

Annual General Meeting

The 2012 AGM will be held on Thursday June 14th at Jubilee Hall. It will start at 8.00 pm and will be followed by an illustrated talk on “Historic Towns in Hertfordshire and Essex” by Graham Dalling. All members are encouraged to attend.

Any Society member is entitled to propose candidates for election to the Management Committee at the AGM. Any proposal must be signed by the candidate and by at least ten members supporting the proposal and must be received by the Honorary Secretary, Richard Stones, at Jubilee Hall not later than 1st May 2012. Anyone wishing to propose a candidate is encouraged to contact Richard beforehand to make sure that the correct procedures are followed.

The Chairman’s column

These past few months have been busy ones for the Society. In November we held a planning and review meeting in an attempt to consider our activities in a more reflective light with some input from people who are not usually involved. I would particularly like to thank all those who gave up their time to attend the meeting and give us the benefit of their expertise. Each group gave a brief presentation of their activities and several links and overlaps were discovered which may prove useful. On open discussion several points were emphasised – one was the profile of our members and another the general lack of use of modern methods of communication to reach potential new members. Leonard does a fantastic job running the website but it needs people to write more up-to-date content. It seems that electronic methods of communication such as Twitter and Facebook are snowballing and we could do with someone keen to use these to publicise and discuss our activities and concerns.

After the group discussions we moved on to the Government’s changes to planning laws, a rather depressing subject, as all the current protection and planning laws built up over decades seem to be being scrapped and a bias towards development built into the very thin new laws. We again need more people to keep an eye on this and follow the progress of the new arrangements. Please contact me if you are interested in this area of the Society’s activities.

Meeting with the Council officers is always informative and helpful and at our recent meeting we discussed the proposed new entrance to Forty Hall, stating our objections to its movement to oppose the nursery – reconfiguring the current entrance seems a more appropriate measure. We also debated the new traffic calming measures proposed near schools. These will make quite a visual impact on the streets but are said to improve safety and increase the number of children walking or cycling to school. Still awaited are the results of the public consultation to find out the extent of public support for the schemes currently proposed with another four soon to be considered. Green Belt boundary consideration is also under way and will open for public consultation in March, so if you have strong views be prepared to make them felt.

The meeting ended on a very positive note however as your suggestions for benches are now near fruition and we have been told that they should appear in the next 2-3 months. Stagg Hill path bridge is also still set to go ahead once the Environment Agency have approved the site.

Janet McQueen

Update on heritage programme for 2012

Our heritage programme has proved very popular and Ian Jones’ talk on The Royal Palaces of Enfield is now sold out, so if you have tickets but cannot now use them, please return them to Jubilee Hall and we will be able to forward them to someone on the waiting list. It is possible we will repeat the talk later in the year, so watch out for a notice in the newsletter.

The Dickens talk too has proved popular and Ian Jones’ talk on the site.

round the newly refurbished building to view the changes that have been made.

In the final part of the year further talks are being arranged which will take us into 2013 and the celebrations for the 400th anniversary of the opening of the New River. We hope you and all the friends and relatives you can summon up will join us at one of these events.

Janet McQueen

Potters Bar tree sculpture

In our last issue we showed a picture of this tree sculpture in Parkfield, Potters Bar. We have now received a useful leaflet describing it from Hertsmere Borough Council. It was carved from a complete oak tree in the early 1990s by Jenny Ulrich and the figures depict all life that depends on a tree.

Richard Stones
Capel Manor, Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield, EN1 4RG

Capel Manor has been a horticultural college since 1968 and now has 30 acres of themed gardens, a National Gardening Centre, an Animal Corner, Victorian stables, a shop and a restaurant. The gardens may be visited on payment of an admission charge, from March to October daily from 10 am to 5.30 pm (last tickets being sold at 4 pm) and from November to February on weekdays only from 10 am to 5 pm (last tickets being sold at 3.30 pm). Parts of the Grade II listed 18th century house may be open to the public when special events are being held.

There is a car park for visitors and Capel Manor may also be reached by buses 217 and 317 along the A10 to the junction with Bullsmoor Lane, 10 minutes walk away. For more information telephone 08456 122122 or visit online at www.capel.ac.uk (for the college) or www.capelmanorgardens.co.uk (for the gardens). Images marked * were provided by the Enfield Local Studies Centre and Archive.

Stephen Gilburt

1. South front of Capel House, which was built about 1750 for Mr A. Hamilton. Bullsmoor Lane was diverted away from the house some time between 1754 and 1803.

2. The south front porch, with Corinthian columns.

3*. Capel House in 1804, when it was owned by Rowson Hart Boddam. He had been employed by the East India Company for 37 years, becoming Governor of Bombay in 1784.

4*. In 1840 Capel House was bought by James Warren, who had a tea plantation in Assam, India. The house was subsequently owned by his nephew, also James Warren, from 1869 to 1904. He was a member of the local Board of Health from 1879 and of Enfield Urban District council from 1894. He was involved with Jesus Church, Forty Hill, and was instrumental in the erection of St. George’s Church, Freezywater.

5. About 1911 James and John Warren, great nephews of the first James Warren, made Capel House their home and remodelled the ground floor rooms in the late 17th century Restoration style, with oak panelling and carving and inlaid floors.
Historic buildings

6. The last private owner was Col. Sydney Metcalfe, who purchased Capel House in 1932. He established a stud farm and by the time of his death in 1958 had 23 horses. Craigie Warren, one of his prize-winning Clydesdale carthorses, is shown on the 1954 weather vane above the 19th century stables.

7. The stables still have their original cast iron fittings, the work of St. Pancras Iron Works.

8. The Japanese Stroll Garden combines three styles, a Paradise Garden of water, islands, trees and rocks; a Zen Buddhist Dry Garden of gravel and rock; and a Tea Garden with a thatched gate, waiting bench, water, basin and tea house.

Footpaths and Rights of Way update, January 2012

There have been several footpath issues to deal with recently, both on-going and new. We are still waiting for the owner of Vicarage Farm to sign the legal agreement to confirm the dedication of the footpaths that have been implemented as Merryhills Way. Once in place we can formally place the three paths on the Definitive Map. We are conscious that this is taking far longer than we would wish, but at least the paths are fully available for use.

The Council is committed to providing a footbridge over the brook on the Stagg Hill path. However, at the original preferred location the supporting piles for the abutments would be too close to the high pressure gas main nearby. We have now examined a fresh location slightly downstream. This looks achievable and we hope that it can now be accepted by the Environment Agency without any further delay, coupled with land-owner and tenant agreement.

The formal Order to place the new Whitewebbs/Bulls Cross footpath on the definitive map did not give rise to any objections and hence the paperwork is currently with our Legal Services people to finalise. As well as adding this new path to our footpath network the Order will also formalise as a Right of Way (RoW) the existing path it links to at its western end and will establish the parallel path further west as a bridleway.

The proposed ‘Greenways’ cycle routes are gradually being brought forward and these will provide possible walking routes too. The four main routes are:

- Hadley Wood to Enfield Island Village
- Enfield Playing Fields to Brimsdown
- Enfield Town to Bounds Green
- Enfield Town to Ponders End

These are at different stages, with some work beginning quite soon at Cheyne Walk open space and Forty Hall. Associated works will be undertaken on adopted highways. Consultation is still to be undertaken on some sections that are later in the programme.

The Environment Agency’s Salmon’s Brook Flood Relief Scheme is due to commence this year and it will affect RoWs nos. 102 (Ponders End) and 265 (Edmonton). Temporary closures will be required but the routes will be reinstated, albeit on slightly higher elevations.

With over 70 km of Rights of Way the Transportation Planning Team regularly deals with many footpath issues, usually in conjunction with our colleagues in Highway Services. These often relate to paths in the urban area. We have improved RoW no. 231 off Chichester Road in Edmonton, but further work across the associated footbridge is being discussed with Network Rail.

Major improvements have also been undertaken, in conjunction with Transport for London, to the River Lea Navigation towpath (which runs north-south along the whole Navigation in the Borough). This work is at the very southern end of the borough beyond the adjoining northern section that is RoW no.109.

We have also recently installed a number of new and replacement public footpath signs.

Steve Jaggard
Group Leader – Transportation Planning & Policy, Enfield Council
This is the first time since retiring from the position of Borough Planning Officer of the London Borough of Enfield in 1997 that I have written an article for publication.

As a member of the Enfield Society and also as a Director of RSA Island Village Ltd as well as a Trustee of the RSA Trust, I was prompted to write when I saw the TES leaflet encouraging new members to join the Society. I was delighted to see that the leaflet features our building on its front cover. I thought that the membership may be interested in a brief résumé of the more recent history of the former Machine Shop, the façade of which features in that leaflet.

When the factory closed, the Machine Shop, which is a Grade II Listed Building, rapidly deteriorated with the fabric starting to fall apart and water coming through the roof. Despite many efforts to attract interest, no commercial organisation would accept responsibility for taking over the building.

At this time in the mid 1990’s, as well as being the Borough Planning Officer, I was also a founding Director of the Enfield Enterprise Agency. I introduced the site to the Agency thinking that it could be a project for them. Whilst they supported the idea, the Agency felt that an independent company should be formed to rescue the building. Accordingly, four local businessmen, all Directors of Enterprise Enfield, set up a not-for-profit company called RSA Island Village Ltd. These four are Gary Walker (our Chairman and a founding Director of Data Connection, now known as Metaswitch Networks), Michael Polledri MBE (Chairman of Lea Valley Estates), Mike Wehrmann (ex Barclays Bank) and myself. It is fair to say that most people expected the project to fail -- perhaps this is why we were left to get on with it and, possibly, why it was successful.

Following extensive feasibility studies, a scheme was prepared with the twin objectives of:
• Bringing a Grade II Listed Building back into viable commercial use for employment opportunities, and
• Creating an exciting village atmosphere.

We prepared successful bids for the £4 Million necessary to restore the building, working in partnership with many organisations. Refurbishment commenced in 1998 and the building was officially opened in 2001.

Our building now provides a village centre for the surrounding residential development incorporating a Doctor’s surgery, a gym, a community hall, a library, a small supermarket, a youth centre and a day nursery as well as small business units.

In addition we opened a small Interpretation Centre and carried out the renovation of the historic clock made by Thwaites and Reed in around 1783. We are also delighted that Christian Action (Enfield) Housing Association built its head office and key worker flats on part of our site. Thanks to the success of the Centre, we turned our minds in 2004 to how the surpluses created by the RSA Island Village Ltd could be best used. We, therefore, formed a charity called the RSA Trust. To date we have distributed around £2 Million to worthwhile projects primarily within the London Borough of Enfield, although we have also grant aided projects in Haringey, Waltham Forest and Barnet. We look for causes which have a real impact on their community in, for example, the following areas.
• Business and entrepreneurship, primarily through Enterprise Enfield. A particular success has been the RSA Trust Inspiring Women programme for women wishing to set up their own business or return to work <www.EnterpriseEnfield.co.uk>.
• Young people particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Examples are the setting up of the
Chancel Restoration at St Mary Magdalene Enfield

Members of the Society will be pleased to know that a significant and lively piece of our town’s history is to be restored in the coming weeks. The chancel wall paintings and ceiling inside St Mary Magdalene’s Church on top of Windmill Hill are to be cleaned and restored thanks to a grant of £50,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Added to generous donations from members of the community – and from the Enfield Society of course – the target of £80,000 has been raised and work has now begun. The Vicar and PCC are extremely grateful for all the support and assistance given by the Society and others, and are indebted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant without which we could not proceed.

Scaffolding has been erected, and the work should be complete by the end of March. And what a transformation will have taken place: vivid imagery of the Magi, angels Prophets and Patriarchs will look as good as new, with gilded wings and crowns. The wooden roof, caked in dirt will gleam with red and gold and green, and damaged paintwork will be carefully retouched and restored using advanced and authorized techniques.

Regular photos and updates will appear on the church’s website at <www.saintmarymagdalene.org.uk>. Anyone desiring to come and see the work in progress would be welcome to do so, but, please, by prior arrangement with the Vicar. Sunday and weekday services will continue as normal with insignificant disruption. Then, once the work is complete, there will be a rededication service and events throughout the year celebrating the achievement. The most significant of these will be on Sunday 13th May, when Dr Ayla Lepine from the Courtauld Institute will give a lecture and ‘guided tour’ of the newly restored artwork. Dr Lepine is an expert on late Victorian Ecclesiastical Artwork, and we are delighted to have secured her support and enthusiasm. There will also be a lecture – date to be advised – when the conservators, Hirsts of Spalding, will explain the processes and techniques they will have used. Both lectures promise to be stimulating and fascinating.

Furthermore, if any group would like to make a visit, the Vicar, the Reverend Gordon Giles (vicar@saintmarymagdalene.org.uk), would be delighted to organize that in addition to planned open days, services, lectures and concerts which will take place during 2012. The Church was built in 1883 by William Butterfield, commissioned by Georgiana Twells, in memory of Philip Twells MP. They lived at Chase Side House, of which the gardens now form our Town Park. After the completion of the Church, her final gift was the internal artwork, by Buckeridge and Westlake, which once restored will probably be some of the finest artwork on show in the Borough.

Gordon Giles

---

Youth Club and the KIDZ club in the Island Centre and support given to the Edmonton Eagles Boxing Club and the Sea Cadets.

- Social care where we have supported both the Nightingale Cancer Support Centre and the Noah’s Ark Children’s Hospice.
- Educational initiatives where we have supported the establishment of the Old Manor Gardens at Capel Manor College and have worked with the College to open up their facilities to residents of the Island Site.
- Social integration where we have supported the work of the Peace Alliance and initiatives to deter gun and knife crime.

Together with other partners, we have established the Enfield Island Youth and Community Trust which works with young people on the Island site. There are a number of partners working together on the Island Site to benefit the community of over 1200 housing units. The Enfield Island Village Trust is essentially the residents’ management company looking after the residential environment and running the community centre. The RSAF Apprentice’s Association assisted us with setting up the Interpretation Centre and also with restoring and maintaining the clock. London and Quadrant Housing Association and the Oasis Trust are not only part of the Youth and Community Trust but are also vital to the provision of services to residents of the Village.

This is only a snap-shot of the many hours of voluntary work carried out by the Directors of RSA Island Village Ltd to create a successful and viable restoration project. The model is one that can be used as the basis for other sustainable regeneration/community provision projects and, indeed, we are exploring further opportunities.

I hope that members of TES will go out of their way to travel to the far north-east of Enfield to visit our building. Access to our Interpretation Centre can be arranged and notes for a guided walk around the site are available. More can be learnt about us from our website at <www.rsaiv.co.uk> or <www.rsaic.org> and also films about the history of the factory and our work are on YouTube at RSATrusetheritage

Martin Jewell
martin@rsatrust.org or martinjewell@btinternet.com
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 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 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 9.30am 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 and 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 and open spaces, ending at Falconwood Station. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. All travel within the Freedom Pass area. Leader: Martin Langer.

**Wed 29 Feb. Royal Parks. Meet 10.30am.**

Green Park Station (Victoria and Piccadilly Lines) for about 3 hour walk through the Royal Parks with some nearby historical features of interest and perhaps early Spring flowers. Many shorter options. Leader: Stuart Mills

**Sat 10 March. Enfield’s Countryside. Meet 2.15pm at the bus shelter on The Ridgeway a few yards from the main entrance gates to Chase Farm Hospital (W8, W9 & 313 buses).**

3 to 3.5 hour circular walk using rural field footpaths across the Enfield Chase farmland. Full route 5.25miles. Shorter options of 2.5 miles and 3.3 miles (both ending near Botany Bay with return to start by 313 bus). Leader: Brian Frear

**Wed 14 March. Charles Dickens’ London (Part 2). Meet 10.30am Embankment Station (Circle Line from Liverpool Street or Circle and District Lines from Victoria and also on Northern & Bakerloo Lines). With 2012 being the 200th anniversary of Dickens’ birth, Monica continues her series of walks linking London locations associated with him and/or his novels. The full route will finish about 1.30pm at Borough Station (Northern Line for return to Moorgate Station). Leader: Monica Smith

**Sat 24 March. New Barnet to Frog’s Bottom. Meet 2.10pm at 307 bus stop outside Sainsbury’s supermarket in New Barnet (note: train arrives at 2.01 pm at New Barnet Station which is about 5 mins walk away from Sainsbury’s).**

Linear walk of 3 to 3.5 hours via Hadley Woods, Jack’s Lake, Trent Park and part of the newly opened Merrylills Way, ending at Frog’s Bottom Farm for 121, 307 & 377 buses. Maximum distance about 5.5 miles but shorter options. Details: (020) 8366 2242 or 07948 204 025. Leader: Dave Cockle

**Sat 31 March. St Albans – River Ver Valley and Bury Estates.**

Travel options:
(i) either travel with Toby and Margaret on the 9.21am 313 bus from Cecil Road, Enfield Road, changing at Potters Bar Station for the 9.47am 84 bus which stops 50 yards from St Albans Old Town Hall, or
(ii) meet leaders at 10.25am outside St Albans Old Town Hall at junction of St Peter’s Street/Market Place and Victoria Street in St Albans City Centre (near to Tourist Information Office and opposite Skipton Building Society office), or
(iii) car drivers can meet leaders at 10.45am outside Verulamium Roman Museum off St Michael’s Street (OS Map 166 Grid Ref 136074) and next to large car park. Access by following A1081 into City Centre, then A5183 towards Redbourn for 1 mile and then left onto A4417 for short distance (museum is signposted on left)

Note: if bus connection fails at Potters Bar, then leaders will catch next 84 bus at 10.08am, arriving 21 mins later throughout.

8 mile circular walk through varied pretty countryside and River Ver water meadows via the historic estates of Childwick Bury, Redbournbury and Gorhambury. Bring lunch or pub food probably available. Details: 07703 470 156. Leaders: Toby Simon and Margaret McAlpine

**Wed 4 April. Woods and open spaces.**

Meet 10.45am Elterwater & Borehamwood Station (10.24am St Albans train from St Pancras International mainline station - from First Capital Connect platform). Otherwise, by 307 bus to Barnet changing onto 107 bus (about 1 hour bus journey time from Enfield Town, Cecil Road).

A varied 7.5 mile linear walk with historical connections to William Wilberforce, Sir Stamford Raffles, Victorian magnates and missionaries. Shorter options of 4.25 miles and 5.5 miles. Full route ends at Mill Hill Broadway Station for return by either 251 bus to Amos Grove Station or by FCC train into London. Bring lunch or food available. Details: (020) 8360 0282. All travel within the Freedom Pass area. Leader: Roy Nicholls

**Bank Holiday Mon 9 April. National nature reserves and Victorian estates.**

Meet 10.32am Bayford Station (10.19am train from Enfield Chase) or 10.40am in Brickendon Village for car drivers, but please park considerately and not in pub carpark. 8 to 9 mile circular walk through varied conservation countryside with lunch-stop in Hoddesdon. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Stuart Mills

**Sat 14 April. New River – Cheshunt to Palmers Green via Enfield Town.**

A choice of 2 linear walks today.

(i) For morning section of about 5.5 miles, either meet Delores at Little Park Gardens bus station in Enfield Town for the 9.25am 317 bus to Waltham Cross (from there by 310/C3 buses to start), or meet Delores by 10.15am at junction of Church Lane and Turners Hill, Cheshunt (about 0.4 mile north of Cheshunt Old Pond).

Delores will follow both the current course and part of the original route of the New River through Forty Hall/Whitewebbs, with a coffee stop at Myddleton House. Lunch-stop will be in Enfield Town (bring lunch or numerous food options).

(ii) For afternoon section of about 3 miles, meet group by 2.30pm on the Enfield Town Library Green. Details: 07773 971 183. Leader: Delores Dilley

**Wed 18 April. London Loop (Section 5) Hamsey Green to Coulsdon South Station.**

Travel from Victoria mainline station on the 10.23am East Grinstead train getting off at Sanderstead Station at 10.44am. Or, if travelling via London Bridge mainline station (fast trains at 10.12am and 10.15am), join East Grinstead train at 10.39am at East Croydon Station.

From Sanderstead Station the group will travel on bus 403 for the short ride to start of walk at Hamsey Green (junction of Tithepit Shaw Lane and Limpfield Road).

Today’s 6.5 to 7 mile linear walk via Riddlesdown, Kenley and Coulsdon Commons and lovely Happy Valley/Farthing Downs has fine scenery and views. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. All travel within the Freedom Pass area. Leader: Martin Langer

**Sat 28 April. North Downs, Darent Valley and Lullingstone Roman Villa. Meet 11.12am Otford Station (10.37am Ashford International Southeastern train from Victoria mainline station).**

Today’s walk of 8 to 9 miles includes the beautiful Darent Valley, woods and downland, plenty villages, river meadows and ends with the opportunity to visit one of the most outstanding Roman villa survivals in Britain – admission charge, but free to English Heritage members (bring card!). Bring lunch or food available. Note: Freedom Pass boundary is Swanley Station. Leader: Roy Dyer

**Bank Holiday Mon 7 May. Bushey and Richmond Parks and River Thames.**

Meet 11.15am Hampton Wick Station. Travel by 10.42am Shepperton train from Waterloo mainline station which also stops at Vauxhall Station (on Victoria Line) at 10.46am. Alternatively, travel with Dave on 9.30am train from Enfield Chase.

**Note:** Check with train companies’ enquiries line, 08457 49 50, for latest train details.
Another small independent shop is likely to be lost from Enfield’s streets. Mr Cyril Norris, proprietor of G. Matthews shop in Silver Street, will soon be retiring, and the premises are for sale. The shop, which now sells fishing tackle, shotguns, airguns and country clothing, was founded in 1927 by Horace Holding Matthews, a motor engineer, and subsequently run by his son, G. Matthews. At one time it was a cycle and battery-charging shop, in the days when you had to bring your lead-acid accumulator for charging periodically to keep your wireless set working. Mr Norris took it over in 1983, and says that the interior has not changed significantly over the past 50 years. There are racks of guns and rods, arrows and targets, drawers and shelves of fishing paraphernalia, green wellies, tweed caps and Barbour jackets. The ceiling is hung with more devices: crossbows, catapults and silhouettes of birds flying overhead.

These shooting and fishing supplies are a nostalgic reminder of the historical status of Enfield Chase as a royal hunting ground. When they disappear it will close another chapter in our story.

Leonard Will

8.5 mile linear walk through these Royal Parks via Teddington Lock, the Thames and Pembroke Lodge (afternoon tea), ending at North Sheen Station. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. All travel within the Freedom Pass area. Details: (020) 8366 2242 or 07948 204 025. Leader: Dave Cockle

Sat 12 May. North Hertfordshire. Meet 11.00am Ashwell & Morden Station. Travel by either 9.49am train north from Enfield Chase and change at Stevenage, or by 10.11am direct Cambridge train from Finsbury Park (10.21am from Potters Bar). By car: either via AIM (junction 9) then A505 eastwards, or A10 to Royston and A505 westwards. Note: station is not in Ashwell village but just off the A505 in Odsey (signposted).

About 9 mile circular walk via pretty Therfield and Kelshall villages in a remote part of the Chilterns with long distance views. Bring lunch or pub food probably available. Details: (020) 8360 0282. Leader: Roy Nicholls

Wed 16 May. Epping Forest and Lord’s Bushes. Meet 11.00am Chingford Bus Station (313 buses at 10.09am and 10.29am from Church Street, Enfield Town). About 6 mile circular walk through “hidden” parts of the Forest, including Knights Wood and Lord’s Bushes, with lunch stop in Buckhurst Hill. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Norman Coles

Mon 21 May. Chilterns. Meet 11.02am Amersham Station (10.27am Chiltern Railways train from London Marylebone mainline station or 10.00am Metropolitan Line train from Baker Street). About 8 to 9 mile walk in delightful scenery which, unfortunately, is threatened by the proposed HS2 train. Bring lunch or food available. All travel covered by Freedom Pass. By car: about 1 hour via M25 (junction 18) and A404. Leader: Stuart Mills

Sat 26 May. Ash Valley. Meet 10.39am Bishops Stortford Station. Travel by either 9.44am train from Southbury Station and change at Cheshunt for 10.18am train, or direct train at 10.10am from Tottenham Hale. By car: either M25, M11 (junction 8) then A1250 into town centre, or via A10, A120 and A1250.

9 to 10 mile circular walk via the lovely Ash Valley and pretty Much Hadham village. Option to end at lunchtime after about 5 miles and return to either start or St Margaret’s Station by bus. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Brian Frear

Wed 30 May. Evening Walk. Meet Forty Hall car park for prompt start at 6.45pm. Suggest car drivers do NOT park in car park but in nearby roads in case return is delayed and vehicle is locked-in. About 2 hour circular walk through the Forty Hall and Whitewebbs Estate. Refreshment option en-route. Leader: Monica Smith
Coach outing

Coach trip to Rodmarton Manor and Westonbirt on 16th June 2012

Our next trip is on Saturday 16th June 2012, to an arts and craft house and the national arboretum – voted one of the top ten gardens to visit in the UK.

We will leave Enfield at 8.30am and – after a stop for coffee on the way – reach Rodmarton Manor in the Cotswolds at about 11 o’clock. We will have a private guided tour round the house – one of the last great country houses to be built in the traditional way and containing furniture, ironwork, china and needlework all made especially for the house. The garden too is considered one of the finest in the county and there will be time to enjoy this and its views before leaving at about 1pm to reach nearby Westonbirt for lunch.

Westonbirt national arboretum has 600 acres of what is considered some of the finest countryside and most historic landscape. If anyone would like to book an electric wheelchair or motorised buggy to enable them to cover more of the 17 miles of paths then please note this when making your booking and I will arrange it. There is also a plant and garden centre and gift shop along with a café serving locally-sourced home cooked food.

We will leave the garden to arrive back in Enfield about 7pm.

Cost is £29 per person; please make cheques payable to “The Enfield Society” and send them to Coach Outings, Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ, enclosing a SAE.

Janet McQueen

New members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Mr & Mrs R.A.C. Barnard,
Mr P. Brennan, Ms J Brown,
Mr & Mrs J Comish, Mr P Dawson,
Mr & Mrs D & P Draper,
Mrs E Duthorne, Ms C Fisk,
Mr D Goody, Mr R A Hamilton,
Mrs M Hubbard, Ms W Kettle,
Mr & Mrs D & J Leach,
Mrs M Manze, Mr & Mrs W Merritt,
Miss K H Murch, Mr S A Roper,
Mr D Scarff, Mr & Mrs J. Scott,
Mr D P Smith, Mr P Smith,
Mr & Mrs G & W Went,
Mr & Mrs J E & C P Wood,
Ms P Wurzel, Mr D Young,
Mr & Mrs C A & S E Younger

Joyce James

Leonard Will

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 20th April 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