



The newsletter of The Enfield Society

New River Study Day, 28th September 2013

Saturday 28th September saw more than 100 people gather at the Dugdale centre in Enfield Town for a day of varied events and activities to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the opening of the New River in 1613.

The day conference, organised by The Enfield Society in conjunction with the EHHS and Enfield Museum and Local Studies teams, included walks along the course of the Enfield New River loop led by John Clark, Dave Cockle, Colin Pointer and Leonard Will. Fortunately it was a lovely sunny morning and the delegates enjoyed strolling along the river learning more about it and the local history of the area it runs through.

Back in the Dugdale Centre, there were special performances of 'Nancy the Waterseller' by Spectrum Drama, a mid 19th Century character who purchased water from the wells and pumps of London and sold it door to door. From Nancy, the delegates learned more about the provision of 'clean' water to homes and businesses and how dirty water was removed before the advent of the sewers.

The Museum's exhibition 'Water, Water Everywhere', was open for viewing as was the Local Studies search room. A special treat were the hand drawn and coloured maps which comprised the 1775 survey of the New River by Robert Mylne, borrowed by the Museum from Thames Water especially for the day. These were laid out in order from north to south, allowing delegates to trace the whole of the watercourse from Ware to Islington.

After a splendid lunch, the whole audience came together for a fascinating talk in the theatre by John Cunningham, an ex-Thames Water Engineer who kept us entertained for over an hour on the history of and more recent developments to the New River. He was followed by Spectrum Drama's character 'Sir Joseph Bazalgette', who told us something of his early life and the impetus behind his amazing network of sewers and pumping stations, still in use today.

Tea and biscuits in the Museum's 'Enfield Life' local history gallery rounded off a very interesting and fruitful day.

*Jan Metcalfe
Museum Officer*

Enfield Museum Service



A section of the exhibition "Water, water everywhere : 400 years of the New River" at the Dugdale Centre. On the floor is a map of part of the New River and a model of one of the historic iron bridges that cross the Enfield Loop.

Enfield Museum Service



One of the display cases from the exhibition, showing artifacts associated with the New River, including a section of old bored elm pipe and its modern blue plastic equivalent.

The Enfield Society membership

As you would have read in the last newsletter, the annual subscriptions have now been increased to £5 per member to cover rising costs in postage etc.

It has also been agreed that all members will have a subscription renewal date of the 1st January each year.

For those who pay by cheque, reminders for subscriptions that are now due are enclosed with this newsletter.

If you pay by Standing Order from your bank account, please ensure that you have told your bank to amend the payment to take into account the increase and to change the payment date to the 1st of January. This will bring all members' annual subscription payment due dates in line. Thank you for your co-operation.

It is now possible to renew your membership on line and to pay the annual subscription by debit or credit card, by going to our website at www.enfieldsociety.org.uk/subscribe.htm. We use PayPal to collect card payments for us; you do not need to have a PayPal account though if you have one you can use it.

*Joyce James
Membership Secretary*

Conservation



**New River House seen from
The Town (above) and from
Genotin Road (right)**



New River House

The appearance of the green monster, looming over The Town and Church Street is every bit as dominating and intrusive as we feared when the original plans to extend the New River House (formerly Bovril House) upwards were revealed (See EPS News Winter 2006). We objected strongly then and planning permission was refused, only for the decision to be overturned following an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. Little has been heard for some time of the Enfield Town Area Action Plan and we are pressing for it to be completed and implemented. Had it been in place at the time, perhaps this disastrous development could have been prevented?

Fairview New Homes Ltd. – proposals for housing on the Town Park frontage

Fairview have been consulting on their plans for the vacant site next to the Evangelical Free Church. Enfield Council had produced a development brief for the site to aid prospective developers – ‘L’-shaped, including town housing along an 8 metre wide park entrance and limited to 3 storeys. The Fairview proposals envisage solely ‘apartments’ at increased density and footprint, including a set back fourth floor. The plans were presented to the recent Conservation Advisory Group meeting and were generally accepted subject to concerns about the cladding of the top storey. We dissent. From our point of view the proposals are if anything worse than first tentatively put forward, too dense with heavy clumsy detailing, the top floor too dominant, and including a wing along the park frontage. If a fourth floor is needed to make the project financially viable, then we consider a light weight structure taking note of the Free Church building alongside would be preferable.

Chase Side

Another interesting new proposal is the application to build five new dwellings on

Kitchener's Yard at 103 Chase Side. The listed former farmhouse remains but the black weatherboard barn is to be converted into 3 units, with two more to a similar design opposite to the north. Generally we are happy with the proposal, though we think the design should be modified so as to retain the interesting vernacular side elevation to the original barn.

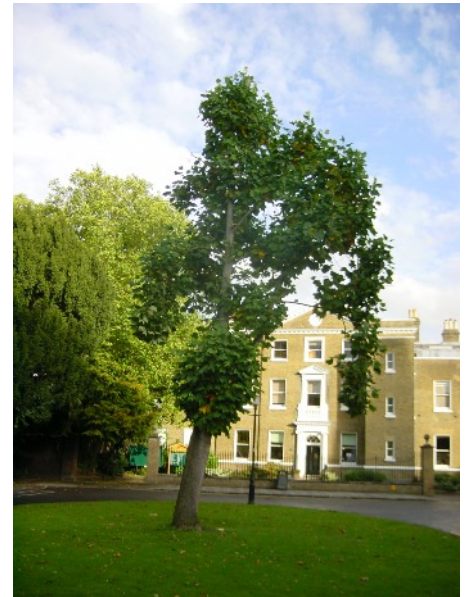
Library Green hedges

I noticed today that the hedges around the Library Green had been cut considerably lower. We had heard nothing further following the refusal of the Conservation Advisory Group to support a proposal to open up views of the Green, replacing hedges and some trees with low box hedges. This would also have the effect of increasing traffic noise and intrusion for those using the Green but obviously the idea has strong support somewhere within Enfield Council.

Grammar School sports hall

The Advisory Group does have some successes and its suggested improvement to the appearance of the proposed new “Georgian” Sports Hall at Enfield Lower Grammar School has been adopted.

Trees Group



The Tulip tree on the green in front of the Register Office has remarkably regrown vigorously following the drastic tree surgery. In response the Enfield Town Study Group has withdrawn its request for a replacement via the Residents’ Priority Fund, at least for the next year, to assess the eventual recovery.

Chris Jephcott

Character appraisals

The draft five yearly reviews of the Conservation Area Character Appraisals by the Drury McPherson Partnership have been available for public comment. The ES has taken responsibility for the Highlands and Turkey Street Areas. We reiterated our view that the truncation of the Highlands Conservation area to a small rump five years ago was excessive. It appears from the drafts that a review of conservation area boundaries was carried out in May but there was no public consultation

Green Belt

The Enfield Society has responded to the Government consultation ‘*Greater flexibilities for change of use*’ which proposed inter alia to allow conversion of agricultural buildings to residential as permitted development without needing planning consent for the change. The Green Belt is not excluded. However planning permission would still be needed for the actual building, so the main result would be even greater complexity in the system. The protection of the countryside is still reduced though and we oppose the change. More welcome is encouraging the change of use of empty units in shopping high streets to residential but we do not consider that abolishing the need for some planning control is the right approach.

Chris Jephcott

Sales table

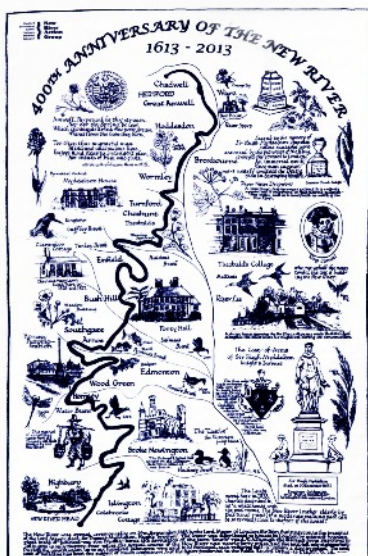


Pictured above is the 2013 Christmas card of the New River and the listed Crown and Horseshoes public house. The price remains £1.50 for a pack of five cards with envelopes and they can be purchased from the Enfield Society Sales Table at Jubilee Hall meetings and at the special Saturday morning opening at Jubilee Hall on 7th December from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. when the full range of Enfield Society books, maps and cards will be available to purchase. Pearsons and other outlets will have stocks of Christmas cards. (Please note the former post office in Chase Side is no longer selling cards or any stationery items.) We hope also to have a table at Forty Hall Christmas Fair on 30th November from 12 noon but do not yet have confirmation of this. If ordering by post, please add £1 to the cheque if your order is under £5, £2 if order is £5-£10, £3 on orders £10 -£20 and £4 for any order over £20 as a contribution to postage. We are receiving an increasing number of orders online from our website as these can be paid for by debit or credit card as an alternative to sending a cheque by post. We use PayPal to process payment cards but you do not need a PayPal account.

Packs of previous cards are available only from the Society at the reduced price to members of £1.25 for a pack of five cards of a single design. Buy either at the events listed above or by post. Forty Hall Dining Room at Christmas, Whitewebbs House and Hilly Fields with the Rose and Crown in the distance are the three available, shown on the right. The popular packs of four different cards will also be on sale at £1; Enfield Town Post and local newsagents will be selling these again this year.



NRAG (New River Action Group) has produced an attractive linen tea towel depicting the route of the New River with places of interest marked as part of the 400th celebrations. We have these on sale at a cost of £6. Please add £1 if you would like one sent by post. These could be appropriate Christmas gifts for friends who have moved away from Enfield.



Can you spare 2-3 hours a month to help the Enfield Society?

A volunteer is needed to call once a month at the shops and other outlets, mostly in The Town area, to obtain orders for our publications. A car is not necessary as heavy deliveries can be made by others but a computer with e-mail is desirable as many orders are now sent on-line from the library, Waterstone's bookshop and Forty Hall. If you might be able to do this please phone me, Monica Smith on 020 8367 5920 for more details.

Graffiti

Do you have any graffiti needing attention near you? The Council have asked us to report any to them so that they can be dealt with. We will pass on details of any instances that come to our attention, but you can report graffiti yourself on the Council's web page at http://www.enfield.gov.uk/info/200025/environmental_crime/62/graffiti

Edmonton Group

The group's activities continue to concentrate on two buildings at risk, the Charity School Hall and All Saints church in Church Street. There will be celebration of the life and work of Charles and Mary Lamb in 2014 in connection with the restoration of these – information in next newsletter Work has at last begun on The Crescent but there are still problems with sewerage in Pymmes Lake.

There will be a joint meeting with Edmonton Hundred Historical Society on Friday 21 February at 8 p.m. in All Saints Church Hall, Edmonton. The subject will be *Love the Lea*, a talk on the ecology of Salmon's Brook and other local streams by Aimee Felus of Thames 21

Monica Smith

The Council's **Graffiti Action Team** removes graffiti from parks, open spaces, the public highway, private land visible from the highway and non-illuminated street furniture.

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 5th January 2014, Enfield Museum, Dugdale Centre

Water, water everywhere – an exhibition celebrating the 400th anniversary of the completion of the New River. It looks at the course of this canal in the borough and at the associated bridges, aqueducts and pump houses. It also delves into problems such as providing clean water and taking away waste water. Admission is free and opening hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays.

Until 5th January 2014, Long Gallery, Forty Hall

Landscape of plenty, an exhibition of photographs of the 19th century countryside by Peter Henry Emerson,

Wednesday 13th November, 12.30 - 1.00pm, St Mary Magdalene Church, Windmill Hill

Concert: Peter Stannard, organ.

Thursday 14th - Friday 15th November, 8pm, Dugdale Centre

Female gothic: in the darkness between life and death, a lone, haunted woman tells chilling tales of the macabre and terrifying. Tickets from the Dugdale Centre www.dugdalecentre.co.uk

Friday 15th November, 7.30 for 8.00pm, Jubilee Hall

Shakespeare's Curtain Theatre – the whole story, by Julian Bowsher, MoLA. [EAS]

Tuesday 19th November, 2.15 for 2.30 pm, Jubilee Hall

Chingford newsreels by Dave Piggott [EHHS]

Tuesday 19th November, 6.30–7.30pm, Osidge Library, Brunswick Park Road, N11 1EY

The John Lewis Partnership: how it happened and how it works by Peter Cox. Details at (020) 8359 3920.

Saturday 30th November 12 noon to 4 p.m., Long Gallery, Forty Hall

Christmas Market

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening between 5th and 21st December
Guided tour of Forty Hall by candlelight. Adults £10. Concessions £8. Book on 020 8363 8196.

Wednesday 11th December, 12.30-1pm, St Mary Magdalene Church, Windmill Hill
Concert: Gordon Giles, flute.

Wednesday 18th December, 7.45 for 8.00 pm, Jubilee Hall
A seasonal entertainment by Christine and Peter Padwick. [EHHS]

Tuesday 14th January 2014, 8.00 pm, Jubilee Hall
King James I, by Dr David Smith (Selwyn College, Cambridge) [HA]

Tuesday 11th February 2014, 8.00 pm, Jubilee Hall
Tulipmania, by Dr Anne Goldgar (King's College, London) [HA]

Wednesday 19th – Saturday 22nd February, 7.30pm (Sat Matinee 2.30pm), Wyllyotts Theatre, Potters Bar

The Gipsy Baron. Southgate Opera presents Johann Strauss's "The Waltz King's" romantic operetta. Box Office 01707 645005.
www.southgateopera.co.uk

Groundforce (GF) and Enfield Conservation Volunteers (ECV) do practical conservation work in Enfield's parks and countryside, such as hedge laying, coppicing, bridge building and path construction. Groundforce meets on alternate Wednesdays and ECV on alternate Sundays. As the tasks are determined according to current needs, you need to contact them for details of their latest projects. Contacts are: GF: Eileen Jessup (020) 8805 1974 or email groundforce.enfield@gmail.com. ECV: Judy Mayo (07791473844), email judy@ecv.org.uk or Jenny Willmot, Outreach and Community Officer (020) 8449 2459, email jenny.willmot@enfield.gov.uk. They have websites at sites.google.com/site/groundforce99/home and www.ecv.org.uk but these may not be complete and should not be relied on.

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

EHHS: Edmonton Hundred Historical Society www.edmontonhundred.org.uk. Talks are free to members – there is a charge of £1 per head for visitors.

Legacies

With our heritage at such risk we are trying to maintain our reserve fund for unforeseen eventualities and expenditure previously funded by the Council but now required from the public. Had you thought of leaving any money for Enfield's heritage in your will? If you do it will benefit future generations living in the Borough so they too will enjoy Enfield's heritage. If you would like to put the Enfield Society in your will then you can be sure the money will be put to good use and, as a charity donation, may reduce any tax due on your estate. The Society is extremely grateful to past members who have done this. It is largely because of them that we currently have some reserves – though they are decreasing – and that we are still in a position to maintain our low membership fees and make donations to causes which further our aims.

Tree watering

New trees are being planted in the Borough but unfortunately a proportion of these die because they are not watered regularly. The Council say they do try and plant at the right time and will come and give some water but the new trees are vulnerable for at least a year after their planting and they cannot get round regularly enough. If you have a newly planted tree near you then if you could take responsibility for watering it regularly for a few months you could help keep Enfield green.

Janet McQueen

New members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Miss D R Barron, Mrs J R Blower, Mr M J Blundell, Mrs P A Buhayer, Mr L Chapman, Mrs S I L Clark, Mrs M Coates, Mrs S C Davis, Mr & Mrs C R & J L Day, Mrs C A Drew, Miss R Durham, Mr R M Gibbs, Miss P L Hawken, Mr M E Howgate, Mrs V L Jordan, Mrs J Kerridge, Mr N E King, Dr & Mrs J Kipling, Mr M MacLannan, Ms C Malyon, Mr M McDaid, Mr R McKeever, Ms L Miller, Ms A E Montgomery, Mr R Moorwood, Mr & Mrs G & E Nunn, Mrs M P O'Hara, Mr J Prime, Mr D F Reason, Mrs F Rodwell, Mrs V Sander, Mr M Savage, Mr G Sporn, Mr G J Tull, Mr P Whittemore

Joyce James

Enfield Society events

Tuesday mornings 10.00 for 10.30 am., Jubilee Hall. No tickets required.

26th November. *Joyce Tiptoft and her family: the Tiptoft brass in St Andrews Church* by Janet McQueen (illustrated)

17th December. *Put your thinking caps on* by Joyce James.

28th January. *Laos along the Mekong, part 2* by Anne Johnson (slides)

25th February. *Banned and censored* by Christine Padwick

Evening meetings, 7.30 for 8 pm, Jubilee Hall. No tickets required.

Thursday 21st November. *The London romantics: a life of Charles and Mary Lamb*. An illustrated talk by Helen Walton.

Monday 20th January 2014. *E. A. Bowles and Myddelton House*. An illustrated talk by Bryan Hewitt.

Special events

Saturday 7th December. *Special opening for Christmas of Sales Table at Jubilee Hall*, 10 am to 1 p.m. Do drop in.

Friday 21st February, 8 p.m. All Saints Church Hall, Church St, Edmonton.

Love the Lea: a talk on the ecology of Salmon's Brook and other local streams by Aimee Felus of Thames 21 (Joint meeting with EHHS).



Derrick Stone and Jane Twitchett as Charles and Mary Lamb on the occasion of a guided walk round Enfield Town in June 1968

The Chairman's column



I am pleased to have been elected to serve as Chair of the Enfield Society, having lived in the Borough throughout my sixty-one years, during the latter 33 years of which I have been a TES member. Some of you may know me as a walks leader for the Footpaths Group, an activity which I am particularly keen on.

Since taking early retirement from the Railway industry in 2007 I have become more involved in local community activity, having lately enjoyed being a member of TES Council of Management. In my view, the good work of TES has resulted in the worst excesses of development being thwarted, resulting in Enfield being a pleasant place in which to live, with its many attractive parks and green spaces. Recent government changes to planning legislation will put more pressure on these open spaces as potential development sites, and the Society will endeavour to ensure that the integrity of the Green Belt is preserved.

TES caters for varying interests, ranging from walks and heritage visits, (including coach trips) to talks and slide-shows at Jubilee Hall. In addition, it is involved in occasional events, such as the recent New River 400th Anniversary celebration. This was a successful event, attracting just shy of a hundred participants. Looking ahead to 2014, there is the anniversary of the outbreak of World War I. To commemorate this, plans are afoot to support an exhibition, "Enfield at War".

In closing, I would like to thank Janet McQueen, not only for all the advice and encouragement which she has given me in taking over her role, but also for her extremely competent leadership of the Society and for her various achievements, not least of which, as our coordinating campaigner, in successfully opposing the licensing of Chase Green for commercially biased entertainment purposes.

Dave Cockle

Obituary – Derrick Stone

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Derrick on the 2nd September 2013. He was a longstanding member of the Society and for many years served on the Council of Management/ Management Committee. Derrick was an accomplished artist and an outstanding interior designer, with commissions for work within many well known establishments, including Harrods and Selfridges, but he always found time to help us with the design of display boards, promotional and other material which required and benefited from his artistic touch. It is not surprising that he had a great love and knowledge of architecture, and also had a great concern for the historic buildings within the Borough, particularly those on the Buildings at Risk register of English Heritage.

What is not so well known is his deep interest and passion for flora and everything connected with horticulture. Derrick attended courses at Capel Manor (Horticultural) College, and was a long serving member of both the Forty Hill Mutual Improvement Horticultural Society – founded by Augustus Bowles,

with that title, over 100 year ago – and the E. A. Bowles of Myddelton House Society. What is well known is that Derrick Stone was a true gentleman, polite, well dressed and always ready to give a helping hand whenever needed. It is also not surprising that he was a very active member and Vice-Chairman of the Enfield Decorative and Fine Arts Society.

Derrick will be missed very much by Hilary and the family, by the societies of which he was a dedicated member, and especially by The Enfield Society. Many of our members and friends have an appropriate lasting memory of Derrick – a copy of the limited edition print of 500 of "The Heart of Enfield" painted by him in 1996, commissioned by the Society as part of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations, showing the Market Place in Enfield Town as from the roof of Pearsons. Long may this be displayed on our walls at home to remind us of a great colleague, friend, talented man of many parts, but above all, a real gentleman.

Colin Pointer

Historic buildings

Enfield Court, Baker Street, Enfield

The Grade II listed Enfield Court was built in 1690 as a two-storey brick building with two windows on each side of the entrance, a basement and curved dormer windows in a green slate roof. Owners included Robert Buckworth, Rev. Thomas Brattell and General John Martin, who died in 1852. He bequeathed Enfield Court to his godson, Colonel, later Sir, Alfred Somerset. (He was the son of Lord John Somerset, who may have saved the life of the then Captain Martin at Waterloo in 1815.)

Colonel Somerset made a number of additions to Enfield Court. In 1864 a taller seven-window extension to the south and a two-window extension to the north were built. The present porch, approached by steps on the east front, is also 19th century. Steps on the west front led down to the walled garden, which is now a grass tennis court.

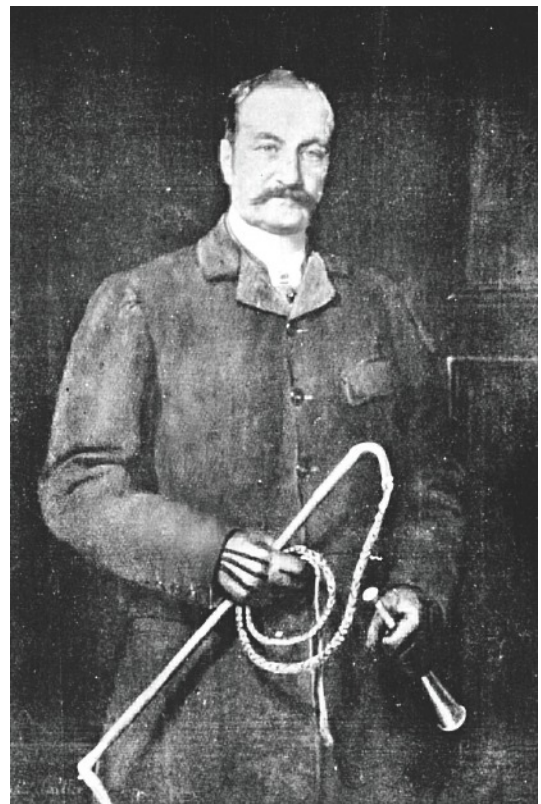
The “six-box” stable to the northwest of the house was largely rebuilt in 1995, but the original horse mounting block outside was retained. The ground floor was converted for use by Enfield Grammar School, initially as a science laboratory but it is now a music room. The first floor bedrooms for stablemen and whips later became a school caretaker’s flat. The carriage horse stable was used by Enfield Grammar School for wood and metalwork. Horses were washed in the harness room and coaches were washed in the “glass house” between the main house and the stables. The water for the washing came from the New River and was filtered before use. The coach house contained Colonel Somerset’s famous coach, the *Hirondelle*, which he ran for some years between Enfield and Hitchin.



* East front of Enfield Court, with a prominent fir tree, during the ownership of Colonel Sir Alfred Somerset



View of Enfield Court from the north-east in 1973 after the evergreen trees and shrubs had been replaced by the school playground.



* Colonel Sir Alfred Plantagenet Frederick Charles Somerset, C.B., J.P., D.L. (1829-1915) dressed for hunting. He was the grandson of the 5th Duke of Beaufort and nephew of Lord Raglan, the British Crimean War commander.

A 63-foot diameter circular riding house, with a reed-thatched roof, was built in 1858 and altered in 1863. When not used for riding or exercising horses, the floor was covered, seats for up to 600 people were installed and band concerts, dances, public dinners and flower shows were held. The riding house was destroyed by incendiary bombs during the Second World War.

Colonel Somerset was the commander of the local volunteers. He was also master of the Enfield Chase Staghounds, the kennels for which were in the field beyond the New River. The deer were kept in the deer run near the tennis courts during the day and were exercised in a ring on a site where a new gymnasium was subsequently built in 1957. The gravestone of Colonel Somerset’s dog *Nettle* can still be seen in the grounds.

Sir Alfred Somerset died in 1915 and was buried in St Andrew’s churchyard. His widow Adelaide, whom he had married in 1857, died in 1920. The house and seven acres of ground were sold to Middlesex County Council. After some renovations and alterations, Enfield Court reopened as the Enfield Grammar Lower School in 1925.

For more information on Enfield Court, see *EHHS newsletter*, March 2012. For more information on Enfield Grammar School, see article in *TES news* no. 191.

Images marked * were provided by Enfield Local Studies Centre and Archive.

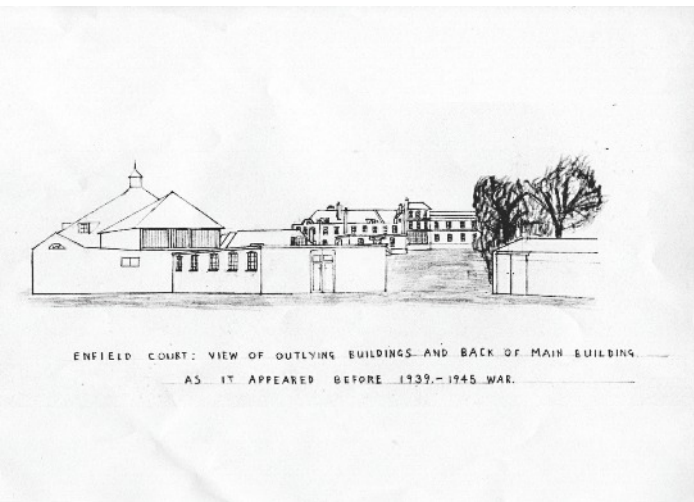
Historic buildings



Entrance hall in part of the original 1690 building, with cabinets containing sporting trophies.



This classroom in the 1864 south extension still retains its original Victorian fireplace and the plaster ceiling roundel incorporating the Beaufort portcullis.



The west front of Enfield Court with the former stables, circular riding house and old gymnasium as they appeared before the Second World War. (This drawing was provided by P.J. Walker.)



West front of Enfield Court from the tennis court in the former walled garden, in 2008.



* This view from Ford and Hodson's 1873 *History of Enfield* shows the two-storey 1690 summer house at the end of the walled tree-lined flower garden. The ponds were filled with water from the New River which flowed through the grounds of Enfield Court.



* The summer house and ponds in the 1930s with the New River and sports field in the background.

Historic buildings

Enfield Grammar School, Enfield Town. Part 2: since 1958

In 1961 Enfield Council proposed to build an inner ring road around Enfield Town. This would have involved the demolition of part of Enfield Grammar and would have split the two sites. With over 800 boys in the school, the Governors proposed to rebuild the entire school on the Enfield Court site; this was agreed by the Minister of Education in 1964. Thanks to a campaign led by the Enfield Preservation Society, the ring road proposals were rejected by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in 1967. The school rebuilding plans were set aside when the Council proposed to reorganize secondary education in the Borough.

Following the establishment of the Greater London Council in 1965, responsibility for secondary education was transferred to the London Borough of Enfield. As required by the Ministry of Education Circular 10/65, the Borough Council submitted a plan to reorganize secondary schools along comprehensive lines. Despite a determined legal campaign by members of the Joint Parents Action Committee, Enfield Grammar became a non-selective school for boys aged 14-18 in 1968, with 11-14 year old pupils attending Chase School. In 1970 both schools were reorganized again, to become six form entry comprehensive schools for 11-18 year old boys.



The restoration of the Tudor school was completed in 1978 after more than £70,000 had been raised. A partition dividing the hall on the ground floor was removed and the walls were hung with portraits of headmasters since 1877.



The school flag was displayed at an exhibition to mark Enfield Grammar School's 450th anniversary in 2008. The school motto *Tant que je puis* means **As much as I can**.



The top floor had been unused for many years before the restoration. It has retained its Tudor fireplace and dormer windows. The timber for the roof probably came from the Poynetts estate. The room is still only accessible by the original octagonal spiral staircase.

After land had been purchased in Little Park Gardens, a new science block and sports hall were built in the early 1970s. These replaced the temporary classrooms put up in 1962.

Following the passing of the Education Reform Act of 1988, Enfield Grammar became a Grant Maintained School in 1994. It was funded directly by the Government, owned its own land and had extended control over its admission criteria. As a result a new technology block was opened at the Lower School in 1996. However, under the School Standards and Framework Act of 1998, Enfield Grammar became a Foundation School with funding again controlled by the local education authority.

In 2001 Enfield was awarded a grant under the Excellence in Cities initiative. The Council leased some land facing Parsonage Lane from the school and built a City Learning Centre. This provided ICT-based learning opportunities for pupils of Enfield Grammar and neighbouring schools, as well as for members of the wider community.

The school now has about 1100 pupils. In recent years there have been a number of fine classical and jazz musicians. Since 2010 Enfield Grammar School has been a Specialist Sports College and in 2011 it became an Academy Trust free of local education authority control. Many talented boys have excelled locally and nationally in sports and a new hall for ball games is now under construction at the Lower School, next to the existing 1957 gymnasium/sports hall.

For more information see the three brief histories of Enfield Grammar School, by Samuel Smith (1931), Dr L. B. Marshall (1958) and M.C. Weeks (2008), as well as *A survey of the buildings of Enfield Grammar School* by P.J. Walker (1971), David Pam's three volumes of *A history of Enfield* and his booklet *Enfield Town: village green to shopping precinct*, and Graham Dalling's *Enfield past* and *The Enfield book*. These publications may be consulted at the Enfield Local Studies Centre and Archive in the Dugdale Centre.

Stephen Gilbert

Gardens and wildlife

Two years ago I wrote an article for the newsletter which was prompted by the large number of butterflies the Footpaths Group had been fortunate to see on a walk in the Surrey Downs.

Such a sight contrasted with the severe decline in all forms of wildlife within urban areas, other than the inevitable foxes, rats/mice, feral cats, squirrels, pigeons etc., which find easy pickings from refuse left around by humans.



A typical row of modern “front gardens”

Private gardens are an integral part of the ecosystem, and especially in London, where they account for 20% of London’s total land area and about a third of all potential green spaces. A patchwork of rear and front gardens (whether large or small) can be a haven for wildlife and will have a significant impact on the local and regional environmental landscape.

Unfortunately, the past two years has continued to see an ongoing epidemic in the use of hard paving materials in front gardens, resulting in the collective loss of huge areas of vegetation. It is estimated that in London during the past 20 years front garden land amounting to about 14.5 square miles has been lost to hard paving.

Within Enfield this has become extremely noticeable and, ironically,

more so in those parts of the Borough that historically were always the greener, such as Oakwood, Grange Park and Winchmore Hill. Of course, it also happens elsewhere. No doubt encouraged/persuaded by door-to-door salesmen, virtually every road now seems to have one or more front “garden” that is just stark repetitive brick paving – often from boundary to boundary with no space for plants.

Whilst the householder may initially consider these are smart and work free, often due to poor installation, sand soon washes out during heavy rain and within a few years weeds grow between the bricks and the area looks simply a mess.

However, it is not only the inevitable visual degradation in the street scene for neighbours and the community that is of concern. As frequently documented, the resultant damage to the environment from blanket hard paving

includes increased levels of urban pollutants and flooding, over-loading of sewer systems (even in periods of moderate rainfall), higher urban heat and dust levels that occur when vegetation is removed, less carbon dioxide absorption and increased house subsidence. Wildlife in all forms is adversely affected.

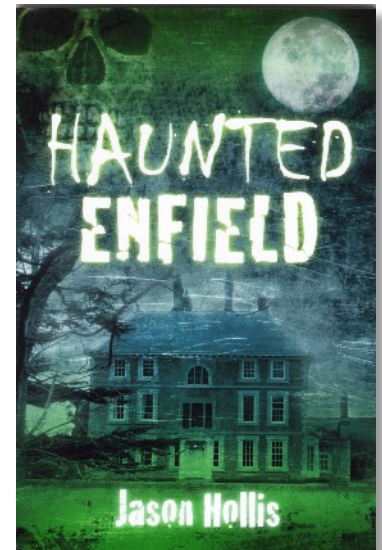
If you need to create or increase off-road parking, only pave the minimum area for the vehicle using a permeable material, leave space for vegetation including perhaps a grass strip between the vehicle’s wheels and plant wildlife-attractive vegetation – especially plants that are nectar rich to encourage bees, insects and then ultimately birds, hedgehogs and the like.

Stuart Mills

English Heritage seeks volunteers to survey Grade II listed buildings

English Heritage is calling for an “army of volunteers” to determine which of the 345,000 Grade II listed buildings in England are at risk from neglect. Working with other bodies in the heritage sector and local authorities, it aims to provide the means for members of the public to volunteer to carry out surveys as a first step to continued engagement in saving local heritage. The Enfield Society is keen to be involved in this project and hopes that it may lead to the revival of its Historic Buildings Group if sufficient volunteers come forward. Details of the scheme are at <<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/about/news/eh-mobilise-volunteer-heritage-army/>> and details of the 15 buildings and areas at risk in Enfield can be found by searching the register at <<http://risk.english-heritage.org.uk/register.aspx>>.

Enfield ghosts



Jason Hollis has been investigating Enfield’s ghosts for the past 13 years, and has just published the results in the book shown above. To quote from the cover:

“The London Borough of Enfield is full of haunted locations, but only a handful of them have ever been featured in books. ‘Haunted Enfield’ brings together all of the stories, legends and documented evidence of the supernatural from around the borough into one volume.

Who are the ghostly figures that roam the corridors of Trent Park mansion, Forty Hall and Myddelton House? Why does the shade of a little girl haunt the King and Tinker pub? Where does the black coach and horses that haunts Enfield Highway go? From famous cases such as the Enfield Poltergeist and the Bell Lane ‘flyer’ to places that have never been featured before, the book provides an alternate, hidden history of some of the borough’s key locations.”

Haunted Enfield / Jason Hollis. - Stroud: The History Press, 2013. - 96p.; 24cm. - ISBN 978-0-7524-9312-1 £9.99. Paperback. Ebook available.

More ghost stories are at the Dugdale Centre on 14th and 15th November. The Victorian fascination with tales of mystery and the supernatural created an enduring legacy of Gothic fiction; but many thrilling and eerie stories from the great female writers of that era have gathered dust...until now. The three stories that form the bulk of the production are ‘Five Senses’ and ‘The Shadow’, both by E Nesbit, and ‘The Cold Embrace’ by M E Braddon. See the listing on page 4 for details.

Future walks

Travel details correct at press date but TES cannot be responsible for alterations. As rail travel may be subject to alteration, especially at weekends, always check (either via 08457 48 49 50 or using the operating train company website). For TfL 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 tickets allow 3 or 4 adults to travel together for the price of 2 adults on First Capital Connect, Greater Anglia, Southeastern, Chiltern, Southern, South West Trains or London Midland. You must travel as a group. Also available on Off-Peak Day Single tickets. Super Off-Peak Day returns are now available at weekends from some train companies.

If you have a Freedom Pass or National Bus Pass, please bring it as we may use buses. For Hertfordshire bus times see www.intalink.org.uk.

Please wear walking boots or stout walking shoes – trainers are rarely suitable.

Sat 16 Nov. Enfield countryside and newest footpath. Meet **10.10am** Potters Bar Station (trains at 9.41am & 9.47am from Finsbury Park Station, 313 bus at 9.41am from Cecil Road, Enfield Town, or 298 bus at 9.37am from Southgate Station).

About 7 mile linear walk mainly on Enfield's country footpaths including the new path linking The Ridgeway/Stagg Hill footpath to the West Lodge path. Options to end earlier, including from the intended lunch stop at the Ferny Hill Farm tea-rooms. Full route is then via Trent Park to end in the Oakwood area. Details: (020) 8366 2242 or 07948 204 025. *Leader: Dave Cockle*

Wed 20 Nov. Whitewebbs and Forty Hall. Meet **10.05am** Gordon Hill Station (W8 bus or train arrives at 10.03am) for 2.5 to 3 hour circular walk, mainly on good surfaced paths, and with a coffee break at Forty Hall. *Leader: Norman Coles*

Sat 30 Nov. Thames Path. Meet **10.20am** Woolwich Dockyard Station (10.01am Dartford train from London Bridge mainline station – usually from platform 1-5. Previous train at 9.51am). However, due to possible timetable alterations, suggest either travelling with Toby and Margaret on the 9.00am train from Enfield Chase, or meeting them at Platform 9, King's Cross mainline station at 9.25am or meeting them at entrance to platforms 1-5 London Bridge mainline station by about 9.50am.

A varied 7 mile linear walk based upon the Thames Path, including the former dockyard and artillery buildings, a

marshland wilderness with 130 species of over-wintering birds, a Victorian pumping station, views of the QEII Bridge, ending at Erith. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Details: 07703 470 156. *Leaders: Toby Simon and Margaret McAlpine*

Wed 4 Dec. Between the Rivers Rib and Beane. Meet **10.31am** Hertford East Station. Either travel by 9.44am train from Southbury Station and change at Cheshunt for 10.09am train; or by direct train at 9.55am from Tottenham Hale Station which also stops at intermediate stations. Alternatively, take 9.41am train from Enfield Chase (arrives Hertford North at 9.59am), then 15/20 mins walk, or catch 10.10am 395/396 bus to Mill Road Tesco bus stop (adjacent Hertford East Station).

Today's 7.5 to 8 mile linear walk with attractive valley and pastoral scenery is via Stoneyhills, Stapleford Village (lunch – pub food available or bring lunch) and Waterford Marsh, ending at Hertford North Station. Bus service connects both stations every 15 mins. Shorter option of 5 miles by catching 1.47pm bus from Stapleford back into Hertford. *Leader: Breda Jenkins*

Sat 14 Dec. River Lea and Gunpowder Park. Meet **1.34pm** on east side of level crossing at Enfield Lock Station (1.25pm train from Tottenham Hale – also stops at intermediate stations). Otherwise, by 121 bus (current timetable shows 12.50pm & 1.00pm buses from Church Street, Enfield Town, arriving at 1.18pm & 1.28pm) or by 491 bus (about 30 mins from Edmonton Green to nearby Newbury Avenue/Ordnance Road junction).

About 2.25 hour linear walk, mainly on gravel paths, via Enfield Lock Heritage Trail, nature reserves and restored meadows of Gunpowder Park, River Lea and Mossop's Creek, ending at Brimsdown Station (191, 307 & 491 buses). Shorter option. Details: (020) 8366 2242 or 07948 204 025. *Leader: Dave Cockle*

Sat 28 Dec. Inner London Scenes. Meet **10.10am** at entrance to Platform 9, King's Cross mainline station (9.30am train from Enfield Chase arrives 9.55am) for a linear walk that will include both famous and lesser known historical and architectural features, squares, parks and a section of The Thames. Numerous shorter options. Lunch stop will probably be at the South Bank Centre (bring lunch or food available). *Leader: Stuart Mills*

Mon 6 Jan. London and The Thames. Meet **10.34am** Wapping Station (London Overground trains from Highbury & Islington at 10.10am and 10.17am). Following the north bank of The Thames, and with hopefully a coffee break, today's linear walk of about 2.75 hours traces the changes in this area from Saxon times to

the present day, with excellent views beside the river.

Walk ends in the vicinity of West India Quay, Canary Wharf, where there are lunch facilities, and this also provides the opportunity for a self-guided visit to the fascinating Museum of London Docklands. Return from nearby DLR stations. *Leader: Brian Frear*

Sat 11 Jan. Northern Heights. Meet **10.00am** at entrance to Finsbury Park mainline station at Station Place bus station, next to Seven Sisters Road (NOT at entrances to tube). 9.30am train from Enfield Chase arrives 9.48am.

About 7 mile linear walk over some of the higher parts of North London including the Parkland Walk and Hampstead Heath with lunch stop at Kenwood (food available or bring lunch). Kenwood House is due to reopen for viewing in November. The route will end at a point for convenient return to Finsbury Park/Enfield. Shorter options. Walking boots essential! *Leader: Stuart Mills*

Wed 15 Jan. Marylebone, Regent's Park and Canal. Meet **10.30am** at entrance to Stratford Place beside the "Forever 21" shop which is in Oxford Street opposite Bond Street tube station (Central & Jubilee Lines).

A contrasting 2.75 to 3 hour linear walk through historic Marylebone, then via Regent's Park (with coffee break) and the Regent's Canal to end in the Camden Market/Camden Town area. Shorter options. *Leader: Monica Smith*

Sat 25 Jan. 150 years of progress and change. Meet **10.25am** at entrance to Platform 1, Liverpool Street mainline station (9.52am train from Enfield Town).

Roy will highlight changes that have taken place in the area east of the station and towards the River Lea and the Olympics regeneration sites. Return will probably be from Bow Road station. Many shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Details: (020) 8360 0282. *Leader: Roy Nicholls*

Wed 29 Jan. The Inns of Court. Meet **10.35am** Temple Station (Circle & District Lines or 15 mins walk from Holborn Station or by bus from Holborn to the Strand).

Today's route of up to 3 hours will explore this attractive and interesting area which includes the Law Courts, the Temple, Lincolns Inn, Gray's Inn and also the churches of the Temple and St Clement Danes. Many shorter options. *Leader: Brian Frear*

Mon 3 Feb. Alexandra Palace and Highgate Wood. Meet **10.21am** Alexandra Palace Station (10.10am train from Enfield Chase) for a 2.5 hour linear walk through the Palace grounds and along the disused railway path into Highgate

Future walks

(continued)

Wood. Route then ends in Highgate Village – lunch facilities and/or return by 210 bus to Finsbury Park Station. *Leader: Norman Coles*

Sat 8 Feb. Woods, views and historical connections. Meet **10.19am** Moor Park Station (9.37am Metropolitan Line train from King's Cross St Pancras, previous train at 9.22am). *All travel covered by Freedom Pass.*

Today's attractive linear walk is via woods, commons, Grim's Dyke and Bentley Priory, ending at Stanmore. The full route of 8 miles can be shortened according to weather conditions and, in any case, can be left after 2, 4, 6 & 7 miles with bus/train connections. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader: Martin Langer*

Wed 12 Feb. Waterways, locks and marshes. Meet **11.00am** Tottenham Hale Station (near Victoria Line ticket office) for about 6 mile linear walk following the River Lea and Lee Navigation towpath, ending at Enfield Island Village.

Shorter options including from the lunch stop at the Navigation Inn, Wharf Road, near Ponders End Lock. Food available or bring lunch. As the 313 bus stops nearby, also option to join Group by 1.30pm at lunch stop for the short afternoon section.

Leaders: Margaret, Vanessa & Androula

Sat 22 Feb. On the Essex border. Meet **10.03am** Harold Wood Station (9.30am Shenfield train from Liverpool Street mainline station) or travel with Dave on 8.52am train from Enfield Town – please travel near front of Enfield train as tight connection time of only 5 mins. *All travel covered by Freedom Pass.*

About 9.5 mile linear walk based on the London Loop via parks, woods, undulating farmland with great views, the site of a medieval royal palace, Hainault Forest and ending at Grange Hill Station (Central Line). Bring lunch or food available.

Options to end earlier after 1.9 miles, then at 4.3 miles at lunch stop in pretty Havering-at-Bower and at 8 miles at Chigwell Row - all points have buses connecting with stations for easy return to Liverpool Street. Details: (020) 366 2242 or 07948 204 025. *Leader: Dave Cockle*

Wed 26 Feb. London Bridges. Meet **10.30am** Tower Hill station (Circle & District Lines) for a linear walk in which Roy will follow sections of both river banks, cross several bridges and on the way highlight various well known features, plus some surprising points of interest. Numerous shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Details: (020) 360 0282. *Leader: Roy Nicholls*

Stuart Mills

Footpaths

Exploring the Thames estuary

Breda Jenkins' circular walk from Benfleet, on 14th September, took us a bit farther afield than usual, but was well worth it for the scenic variety. We took a high level outward route to Leigh-on-Sea via the Benfleet Downs and Hadleigh Castle Country Park. Fine views across the Thames estuary to the Isle of Grain were enjoyed. The return walk was at a low level across the Hadleigh marshes, following Benfleet Creek. Here numerous wading birds were seen at close quarters feeding on the mud flats. This was indeed a Dickensian landscape, reminiscent of scenes from "Great Expectations".

Dave Cockle

John Bourne



TES walkers with Hadleigh Castle in the background

John Bourne



The Thames estuary from the Hadleigh Marshes

Guided walk round Stratford, 21st September



The group, led by Mick Coe (right) in the courtyard of the Town Hall

Eleven members of the Society enjoyed a short walk around the centre of Stratford to see some of the evidence of the area's history before the arrival of the 2012 Olympic Games. The highlight of the visit was a guided tour of the Town Hall by Alison, the venue's manager, who explained how the building had been restored after a serious fire in 1982 and gave an insight into the history of the Town Hall complex.

Mick Coe

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Ballad of the New River, by Christine F. Williams

A grim and unhygienic place
 Was London years ago,
 A place where kennels ran with filth
 And gentry feared to go.
 Disease was rife, infections spread,
 A better plan was needed.
 Fresh water was the answer –
 Wise words that should be heeded.
 T'was Colthurst first who thought the plan
 And was so well intentioned,
 But Myddelton whose name persists
 Whene'er New River's mentioned.
 The visionaries' ambitious plan
 With engineers they spoke,
 To bring clean water from afar
 To serve all London's folk.
 "But what," some said, "If things go wrong?"
 And many held a doubt;
 Could streams run dry, could cash be gone
 And Londoners face drought?"
 "Good Grief," Hugh cried, "Do you not know
 That London's like a sewer!
 And what its people sorely need
 Is water – clean and pure."
 "Then public health and lives will be
 Uplifted and improved,
 And London's wealth itself increased
 With death's threat thus removed."
 Much planning time was then required
 To get decisions made,
 Whilst legal men with legal minds
 Meant progress was delayed.
 Eventually the navvies trenched
 A channel long and true,
 From Amwell spring to Islington
 It ran the whole way through.
 Circuitous, with highs and lows
 To combat on its way,
 The level varied little,
 Carved out of London clay.

Wellcome Library, London



Sir Hugh Myddelton, in an oval surround underneath which are surveying and mining tools, with a plan of the course of the New River. Line engraving by A. Walker, 1751, after C. Johnson, 1632.

An excavation masterpiece
 By a technical elite,
 Throughout its forty miles of length
 It fell just eighteen feet.
 Mathematics and tenacity
 Designed this tour de force,
 This engineering triumph,
 A modern watercourse.
 And so today we value still
 The pioneering feats
 Of men whose vision was for water,
 Brought fresh to London's streets.

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. Contributors' views may differ from those of the Management Committee of The Enfield Society and anonymous items are not published. 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 17th January 2014, 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