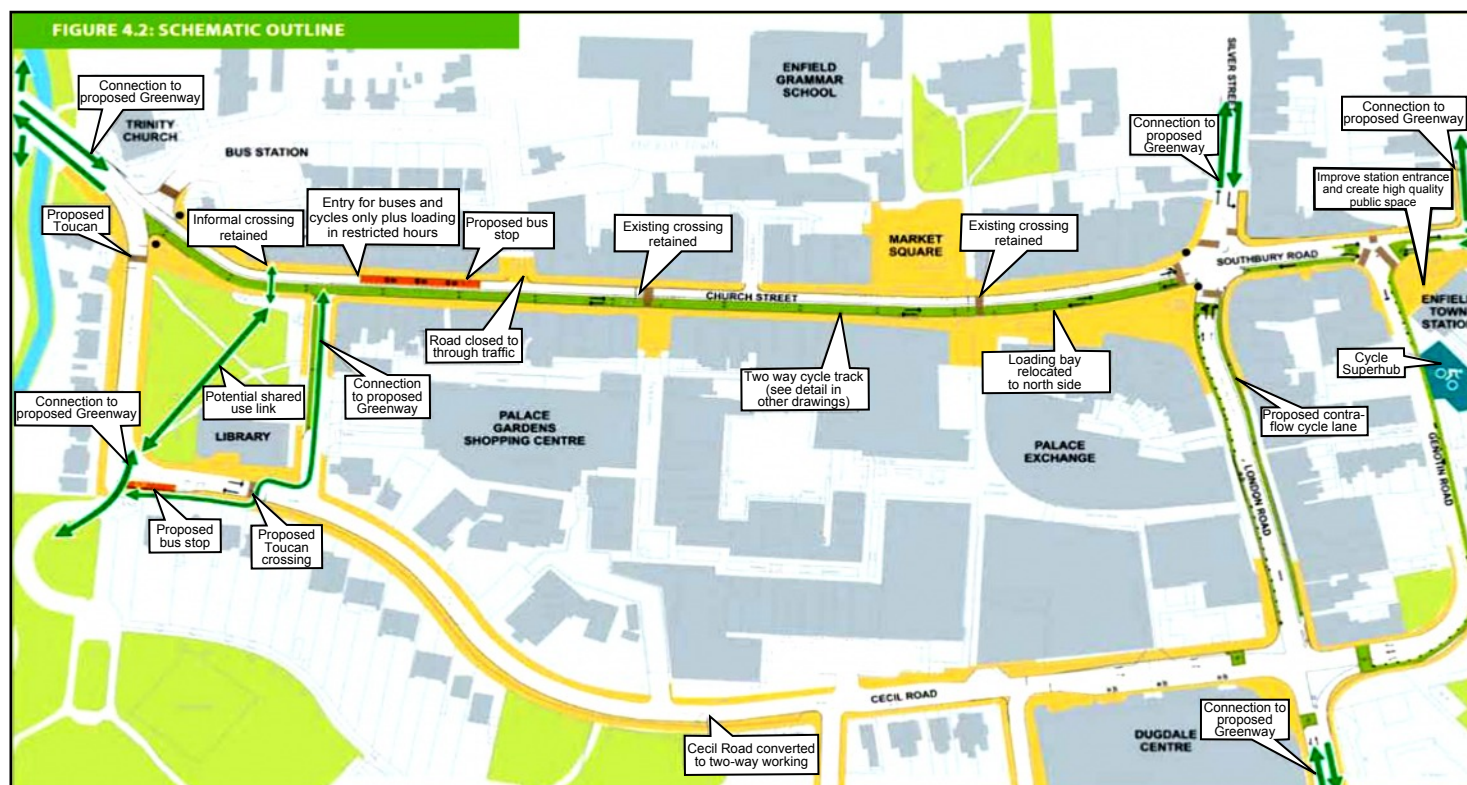


## Proposed traffic alterations in Enfield Town



In December Enfield Council, through what is known as a mini Holland bid, applied to Transport for London for a quarter share of £100 million to facilitate local cycling improvements. The application, which if successful could have far reaching effects across the Borough, included a scheme to clear Church Street, Enfield of traffic apart from cyclists and buses and restore Cecil Road to two way traffic. News of this only leaked out a month after the event. We have now received some information about the application from Bob Griffiths, Assistant Director of Planning, Highways and Transportation, as given in the summary of the proposals shown on the right and in the map above.

Cecil Road is largely residential and will soon include the large Fairview scheme. Yet it was not thought fit to inform the residents as well as local groups concerned with the amenity and attractiveness of Enfield Town Conservation Area – obviously not stakeholders. However, this situation is a fluid one and probably by the time the News is distributed the position may be clearer. At a meeting between Enfield Town traders and Council officials and Cabinet Members on 22nd January it became clear that the proposals, which were generally not well received, would be the subject of widespread consultation should the bid be successful. It would be wrong to turn down the possibility of substantial funds at this time. In any case the future vitality of Enfield Town as a retail centre would need urgent attention. Completion of the Area Action Plan has become a priority.

*Chris Jephcott*

### Enfield Council's key proposals

Key proposals within Enfield's bid are to make both Enfield and Edmonton town centres cycle-friendly destinations. In addition, junction improvements and segregated cycling facilities are proposed along such key traffic corridors as the A1010 Hertford Road, the A105 Green Lanes and the A110 Southbury Road.

#### Proposals for Enfield Town

The current gyratory system in Enfield Town makes the town centre difficult to reach or negotiate by cycle, while an absence of other strategic east-west traffic routes between, say, Barnet and Waltham Forest means that high traffic volumes flow through the centre of the town. The result is that the town centre is dominated by through traffic, restricting access by cycle and severing the town centre for visitors on foot. To address this an outline design was produced that restricted through traffic, other than buses, on Church Street in peak hours. The space saved by removing the second traffic lane is proposed to be used for a two-way cycle facility, thus allowing cyclists to head both east and west through the town centre. The reduction of through traffic should make Enfield Town a more attractive destination for visitors. To maintain an east-west route around the town for general traffic, the proposal would revert Cecil Road to two-way traffic, with various junctions around the network being adjusted to suit the new layout. Some initial traffic modelling has been undertaken to predict the impact on the key junctions around the town centre. The designs will need to be developed further to establish how essential access can be maintained, including to the market square.

#### Consultation

These proposals were drawn up after lengthy discussions with the planning team, and with regard to the possible content of future Area Action Plans. A stakeholder meeting was held in early November 2013 to introduce the outline ideas to a range of stakeholders including councillors, local interest groups and those representing town centre traders. Should the Enfield bid be successful, a detailed consultation would then follow on the town centre proposals before they would be developed up to the detailed design stage.

The full "Mini-Holland" bid document is available on the Council's web site at [http://www.enfield.gov.uk/downloads/file/8765/enfield\\_councils\\_mini-holland\\_proposal](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/downloads/file/8765/enfield_councils_mini-holland_proposal)

## Conservation areas

### Library Green

I mentioned the cutting of some hedges around the Library Green last time. But far worse was to follow. The 50 year old holly hedge along Cecil Road was removed without warning and most of the expensive landscaping of the Green from the time of the construction of the Library extension also disappeared, to be replaced by the ubiquitous *Pieris* in regimented rows and lots of little bright green *Choisya* bushes. Just what was driving this expensive makeover at a time when we are told local authority finance is squeezed as never before is not clear but the end result is a mundane and far less attractive scheme. Inquiries from Cllr. Del Goddard elicited the statement that many people, possibly the Local Forum, had asked to open up the view of the Library. What it has opened up is the impact of traffic on users of the Green.

### Fairview New Homes new flats on the Town Park frontage

We thought general agreement had been obtained on final proposals, albeit not what we would have hoped for, particularly in relation to the boxlike, set back, brick clad fourth storey. However, we were told at the last Conservation Advisory Group meeting that planning officers still hope to negotiate improvements, noticeably a set back of the corner next to the 8 metre wide access to the park, something we would welcome.

### Genotin Road

There have recently been a number of unsuitable new build applications or proposals to modify existing buildings along Genotin Road, Enfield. A new scheme for a 3-storey building on the vacant site immediately to the north of Genotin Terrace – a restaurant on two floors with offices over it – is the most promising to date, subject to improvements of detail.

### The Crescent, Edmonton

Work is now well advanced on the improvements to The Crescent terrace to restore something of its former elegance. Enfield Council is working on the 13 privately owned houses and work will start soon on the Newland Housing Association properties.

### Forty Hill

Despite local opposition the disappointing proposals for town houses at 22-68 Forty Hill were approved. Earlier the Planning Committee had decided, on the Chairman's casting vote, not to defer a decision so that the design could be amended.



The Library Green "opened up"

### Green Belt

This would have been unthinkable two or three years ago but there is now a serious proposal by Metropolis Planning and Design to construct a development of several hundred houses, with school and other amenities, in the Green Belt between Cuffley and Northaw. Unfortunately, as Welwyn Hatfield Council has yet to produce its Local Plan, there is every likelihood that under the Government's new National Planning and Policy Framework the development could go ahead without planning approval.

*Chris Jephcott*

## Edmonton Group

There will be a joint meeting with Edmonton Hundred Historical Society on Friday 21 February, 7.30 for 8 p.m. The venue is All Saints Church Hall, Church Street, Edmonton and there is a car park at the rear with access via Victoria Road and All Saints Close. Aimee Felus will speak on Tributaries of the Lea: the work of Thames 21 which should be of interest to many. All members and friends are welcome.

*Monica Smith*

### Don't re-use stamps!

Royal Mail have asked the Society and its members to ensure that all mail is correctly stamped.

There have been instances where previously used but un-cancelled stamps have been used a second time.

This is a criminal offence and the Royal Mail will take action against Offenders.

*David James*

## Greenways

### Enfield Greenway – Forty Hill / Hilly Fields.

The section of The Greenway track between Maiden's Bridge, Forty Hill, to Strayfield Road near St John's Church and the now closed Fallow Buck has been open for some time. It follows Turkey Brook through the lower parkland of Forty Hill, passes the lakes and then goes beside the fields to cross the Gough Park footpath to reach Clay Hill at the Rose & Crown. The route then continues along the bottom of Hilly Fields and turns sharply uphill to Strayfield Road.

At the time of newsletter copy date some final work in the form of installing signage and strategically located anti-vehicle bollards was taking place.

Although TES had some misgivings over the concept and possible intrusiveness into the landscape, the modified final reality is much better than we could have envisaged and it has certainly been beneficial in keeping access open to all during this wet winter period.

The Greenway is open to pedestrians, cyclists, pushchairs and wheelchairs (whether pushed or battery operated) but the signs clearly state that pedestrians have priority. It is not for use by horses or motorbikes etc.

Regrettably, in December horse riders were seen riding along the section between Forty Hill and the Rose & Crown. The horse manure and hoof marks showed they had entered from the Forty Hill car park and then ridden over the meadow parkland before using the main section of The Greenway.

The incident was reported to Jason Peters, Learning & Conservation Officer, Forty Hill Estate, who reported it to the Parks Police, logged it on the Council's incident reporting system and contacted local stables to remind them The Greenway is not for horse riding. The path was not constructed for such use and would quickly suffer damage and deteriorate, ceasing to be usable for most intended users.

If any TES members see evidence of horse riding on the section of The Greenway between Maiden's Bridge and St John's Church, would you please contact Jason – either by phone on (020) 8379 5511 or by emailing him ([jason.peters@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:jason.peters@enfield.gov.uk)) with, if possible, a photo taken on your mobile phone camera.

*Stuart Mills*

## Streams, pollution and sustainable drainage systems

Glenbrook is a small stream that rises near Oakwood and feeds Boxers Lake before joining Salmons Brook at Links Side (EN2). It is culverted in its upper reaches and first surfaces at the point where Lonsdale Drive divides, west of Boxers Lake. It suffers pollution from road run-off and plumbing misconnections, discharging waste water from homes directly into the stream. As a result, in some sections Glenbrook is more like a dank, odorous hidden gutter.

A start has been made by local residents and environmental volunteers in preparing a section of rough land, in Lonsdale Drive (EN2), ready for contractors to move in to create a pollution-busting sustainable drainage system (SuDS). A series of wetlands will be created alongside Glenbrook in Lonsdale Drive with the water slowly moving through each, being cleansed by new wetland plants.

Undergrowth and a few small trees have been removed to allow more sunlight in to the ground for the water-cleansing plants to flourish in the new wetlands. This process has been good for biodiversity as a whole, as the woodland was previously rather dark and crowded. Now it looks much lighter and cared for.

A morning walk has been planned for Wednesday 12th March to view the work in hand on this scheme and similar projects planned at Houndsden Spinney and Grovelands Park. Environmentalist Aimee Felus from Thames 21 will accompany the walks leader to answer questions.

*Dave Cockle*



Volunteers clearing scrub alongside Glenbrook in Lonsdale Drive  
Picture taken by Aimee Felus on 12th Jan 2014

## On the street where we live

*Our last issue had an article by Stuart Mills deploring the loss of urban gardens as a haven for wildlife. David Hughes has followed it up with the following article about the effect on the appearance of our streets.*

We live in the land of the National Trust, national parks and a thousand preservation societies, proof, I've always thought, that we care about the look and history of our landscape and built environment. Consciously or not Britain appreciates that places which look good matter to quality of life.

So it's surprising that we care so little about the look of the residential streets where we live that we have allowed the removal of the trees and shrubs from front gardens on a truly epic scale in order to create car parking spaces. Concrete, that unlovely but so practical material, has replaced trees, shrubs, and hedges, to such an extent that very many streets resemble nothing so much as a run-down barracks with adjacent linear car park.

Had the government stepped in when the first concerns were being expressed in the early 1970s much could have been done to limit the damage. Not in narrow streets with very short front gardens because there is neither need nor room for change, but in most wide streets with car-length gardens. Staggered echelon or vertical street parking would have enabled most cars to be parked on the carriageway (with exceptions for people with mobility problems), narrowing it, and guiding traffic to move quietly from side-to-side rather than fast and straight into a long, speed-inviting sightline. Not a fool-proof form of traffic calming, but

helpful, and a smoother ride than the unpopular cushions.

You might say that the damage is done now, hard luck. But I think that nationwide there are the beginnings of change. Some individuals – I'd be one if I'd bought a property with a concrete front garden – would be prepared to reconvert their car park to a garden. Some residents' associations (not in Enfield as far as I know) already encourage local homeowners – sometimes in door-to-door conversations – to make the most of their frontage, and in a wider perspective some street communities nationwide actually plan their front gardens as an integrated whole. Indeed a project of that kind was written up by the consumer association 'Which?'. Elsewhere there are also so-called DIY streets – the brain child of Sustrans (cycling charity) and supported financially and with advice by councils – which have the main aim of achieving a 20mph speed limit, but invariably include shrubs and trees as traffic-calming measures.

Where there's a will there's usually a way; but a project to re-green the streets would need support. For example, the council could be proactive in supporting residents' groups who care about the issue – perhaps with funds, even using the residents' ward fund – but certainly with policy and advice. But I also think that The Enfield Society should foster a move to more attractive and liveable streets. After all many of our streets are lined with magnificent housing deserving of being framed to best effect, whilst even the carriageway vista is often worth, and capable of, enhancement and preservation. Final thought: shrubs, trees and calmed traffic help improve air quality which is the second biggest killer in the land after smoking.

*David Hughes*



Traffic calming chicane at Wonford, Devon, using trees rather than hard landscaping

# 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](http://www.enfieldsociety.org.uk) and on the Enfield Council site at [www.enfield.gov.uk/events/](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/events/)

**Friday 14th February, 8.00pm, Jubilee Hall.** *By the waters of Nineveh: The archaeology of Iraqi Kurdistan* Ian Jones, EAS. [EAS]

**Tuesday 11th March, 8.00pm, Jubilee Hall.** *More friends than enemies? The Kings of England and Scotland in the 12th century*, by Dr Alice Taylor (King's College, London) [HA]

**Wednesday 12th March, 12.30-1.00pm, St Mary Magdalene Church, Windmill Hill.** *Concert: Enfield Grammar School, Jazz Group.*

**Friday 14th March, 8.00pm, Jubilee Hall.** *Remarkable pots and extraordinary uses – some unusual byways of archaeological ceramics.* Jacqui Pearce FSA, MIFA, Joint Editor, Post-Medieval Archaeology [EAS]

**Wednesday 19th March, 7.30 p.m. Dugdale Centre.** *Andrew Motion, the former Poet Laureate, reads from his latest collection of poems, including a sequence of war poems.*

**Wednesday 19th March, 7.45 for 8.00 pm, Jubilee Hall.** *Southgate Films*, by Colin Barratt and *AGM of the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society.* [EHHS]

**Monday 31st March to Thursday 3rd April, Millfield Theatre.** *Annual Dance Festival.*

**Tuesday 1st April.** TES walk in City of London with hopefully a visit to Wesley's Chapel, City Road. See details under walks listing.

**Saturday 5th April, 10am-12noon, Bush Hill Park.** *Free introductory 4-weekly croquet course.* Enfield Croquet Club [www.enfieldcroquet.org](http://www.enfieldcroquet.org)

**Tuesday 8th April, 8.00pm, Jubilee Hall.** *Rome in the Early Middle Ages*, by Dr Antonio Sennis (University College, London) [HA]

**Wednesday 9th April, 12.30-1.00pm, St Mary Magdalene Church, Windmill Hill.** *Concert: Catherine Leonard, piano.*

**Friday 11th April, 8.00pm, Jubilee Hall.** *The excavations and fieldwork of Enfield Archaeology Society 2013 and Annual*

**General Meeting.** Dr Martin Dearne and Mike Dewbrey, EAS [EAS]

**Saturday 3rd – Sunday 11th May. Dugdale Centre and Palmers Green United Reform Church.** *First Annual Festival of Choral and Orchestral Music.*

**Tuesday 13th May.** *TES Discovery Quiz in Covent Garden area.* Suitable for everybody and also family groups. See details under walks listing.

**Wednesday 14th May, 12.30-1.00pm, St Mary Magdalene Church, Windmill Hill.** *Concert: Neil Pennock, clarinet*

**Wednesday 14th May, 7.45 for 8.00 pm, Jubilee Hall.** *A view of the New River: 400 years of fresh water for London*, by Rachael Macdonald. [EHHS]

**Friday 16th May, 8.00pm, Jubilee Hall.** *Life and death in Pompeii and Herculaneum*, Paul Roberts, Curator, Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, British Museum. [EAS]

**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](mailto:groundforce.enfield@gmail.com).  
**ECV:** Judy Mayo (07791473844), email [judy@ecv.org.uk](mailto:judy@ecv.org.uk) or Jenny Willmot, Outreach and Community Officer (020) 8449 2459, email [jenny.willmot@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.willmot@enfield.gov.uk).  
They have websites at [sites.google.com/site/groundforce99/](http://sites.google.com/site/groundforce99/) and [www.ecv.org.uk](http://www.ecv.org.uk) but these may not always be up to date.

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

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

**HA:** The Historical Association, North London Branch. [www.history.org.uk/resources/he\\_resource\\_1170.html](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](mailto:robin.blades@virgin.net)

## Annual General Meeting

The 2014 AGM will be held on Thursday 12th June at Jubilee Hall. It will be at 7.30 for 8.00 pm and will be followed by an illustrated talk by Janet Green on *The Lee Valley Regional Park – past, present and future?*

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 2014. Anyone wishing to propose a candidate is encouraged to contact Richard beforehand to make sure that the correct procedures are followed.

## New members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Ms K Benstead, Mr D Boffey, Mrs S Brookes, Mr & Mrs P & M Chapman, Mrs S Chapman, Mr & Mrs A & P Cook, Ms U Cooper, Mrs C Davis, Mrs J G Dowle, Revd R H Dunn, Ms N Egan, Mrs J Fawcett, Ms C Fisk, Mrs E Fisk, Mr N G Ford, Mr J W Goodchild, Mr R.R Goodey, Mrs J Gould, Mrs A Graham, Mr M J Green, Mr & Mrs G & N Greene, Mrs D Handford, Dr P Harris, Ms A Herlihy, Mr B Hewitt, Miss J Heywood, Mr D K Jay, Mr & Mrs K & B Jones, Mr D Lansbury, Ms M Larnar, Mr & Mrs P Leah, Mr K R Lovatt, Mrs J K Maggs, Mr R Mascall, Mr & Mrs S & B E Miller, Mrs C O'Neill, Mr C W Osborne, Miss K Pickett, Miss C A Raven, Mr & Mrs I Reynolds, Mrs N Robertson, Mr & Mrs R & P Shakespeare, Mrs J S Singleton, Ms J M Stedman, Mr S C Wedge, Mr J P West, Mr P D Williams, Mr M Wood, Ms Q Zheng

Joyce James

## Enfield Society events

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

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

**25th March. *Noel and Ivor*,** an illustrated talk by Geoff Bowden

**29th April. *Highland canals*** by Richard Thomas

**27th May. *New Zealand – North and South Islands*,** an illustrated talk by Ann Feredayan

**Evening meetings, 7.30 for 8pm at Jubilee Hall unless otherwise stated. No tickets required.**

Please note the change of day – from January 2014 the regular Enfield Society evening talks will be on a Monday, but other talks may be on another day.

**Monday 17th March. *From Jamestown and Williamsburg to Washington*,** an illustrated talk by Stephen Gilbert.

**Thursday 10th April.** Trinity Players production of *War Diary: Letters from the Home Front*. (Joint meeting with Edmonton Hundred Historical Society)

**Monday 19th May. *Kew Bridge and Gardens*,** an illustrated talk by Stuart Harvey.

**Thursday 12th June. *The Enfield Society AGM*,** followed by an illustrated talk by Janet Green on *The Lee Valley Regional Park – past, present and future?*

### Special events

**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 Edmonton Hundred Historical Society). See details under Edmonton Group on page 2.

### The Lamb Festival

In June 2014 All Saints Church Edmonton plan to host The Lamb Festival, an arts festival in celebration of the lives of Charles and Mary Lamb, and something that they hope will go on to be an annual celebration of their lives and works.

There will be an essay competition and a photographic competition among other events. For details see

<<http://www.allsaintsedmonton.org.uk/lamb-festival.html>> where you can also subscribe to the Lamb Festival Newsletter.

## The President's column



The discovery through a chance conversation that in December Enfield Council applied to the Mayor of London for funding to close Church Street to eastbound through traffic and convert Cecil Road to two-way traffic came as a complete surprise, not only because this idea has been ruled out several times in the past fifty years but because of the seeming total lack of public consultation beforehand.

This was part of the bidding for funding from Transport for London to boost cycling levels in outer London, known as a Mini Holland bid. Around £25,000,000 would be available to make town centre and strategic routes more cycle friendly and Enfield has a 1 in 2 chance of succeeding, the outcome to be known in February. More details are given on page 1.

Previously, following the defeat of the proposal for a ring road cutting through Holly Walk and St Andrew's Churchyard in the 1960s, all proposals for changes to Enfield Town, including the two shopping precincts, had been carefully and publicly evaluated before approval but not this time apparently. Production of the latest guide for the future of the Town, the Enfield Town Area Action Plan, has stalled since a well attended public consultation workshop held at the Civic Centre several years ago and changes have since been dealt with on a case by case basis.

It does appear that the principle of the bid was discussed at a meeting with 'stakeholders' and interested parties including local Councillors and traders but obviously this did not include amenity societies or local residents' groups. It is stressed that the application has the support of both political groups on Enfield Council, as though this of itself makes the proposals desirable. In fact pedestrianisation of high streets is an out of date and discredited concept and many centres, such as Broxbourne, are doing away with their traffic free precincts.

This is not the only instance of the new tendency to bypass local consultation. The past month has seen the fifty year old holly hedge along the side of the Library Green grubbed up, together with all the planting carried out as part of the professional re-landscaping of the Green at the time of the construction of the Library extension. Again this was without consultation. An unattributed but different scheme for box hedges was shown to the Conservation Advisory Group last summer and received a thumbs down, but that is all.

We are a pressure group representing the views of our members and, we hope, of all who value a pleasant, well designed and green Enfield. But we cannot act effectively if we are excluded from the decision making process.

Chris Jephcott

### Heritage walks programme

We are once again arranging a series of guided walks round interesting areas of the borough. As numbers are limited they are all ticketed so if you wish to come **please send a stamped addressed envelope to: Heritage Walks, Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ**. Remember to state which walk(s) you want to book and how many tickets you would like (maximum 4 tickets per walk except for Enfield Town walk).

**Thursday 22nd May.** Walk around Enfield Town, to include entrance to the Tudor room and probably St Andrew's church. Meet at 7pm in the Market Place.

**Sunday 13th July** Walk around Winchmore Hill with Joe Studman, starting at 2.30pm.

**Sunday 10th August** Walk around Bush Hill Park with Joe Studman, starting at 2.30pm.

### Local history course

Joe Studman is repeating his six-week course on the history of Enfield, Southgate and Edmonton. The first meeting will be on Monday 3rd March 2014, from 7:15 to 8:45, in The Dugdale Centre, Enfield Town. An optional guided walk will be available at weekends for those who want to further investigate the topics covered. The course costs £50 and more details are at <<http://jaywalks.co.uk/the-city.html>>

### Community notice boards

Many supermarkets have community notice boards available for advertising local events. Do you have one near you? We would like to raise awareness of TES and we have an A5 flier that nicely explains our activities.

Please give me a call on 07948 204025 or Email [ds.cockle@btinternet.com](mailto:ds.cockle@btinternet.com) if you would be able to help.

Dave Cockle

# Historic buildings

## Enfield Urban District council houses

The 1919 Housing and Town Planning Act enabled local authorities to provide and maintain homes for the working classes; "Homes fit for heroes" was a slogan of the time. Enfield's first council homes were 30 semi-detached brick houses built in 1921 by Allen Fairhead at Lavender Hill. These were followed by cheaper, mainly terraced 4- and 6-roomed houses, mostly in and around Ponders End and Bush Hill Park, reaching a total of 513 by the end of 1926. With 839 families on the waiting list, the Council began building 488 houses in 1927, with a further 400 planned for the Suffolks Estate in 1930. By 1939 Enfield Urban District Council had built 31 one-bedroom "aged persons" flats and maisonettes, 415 two-bedroom, 1,276 three-bedroom and 24 four-bedroom houses on 16 council housing estates.

Following the end of the Second World War in 1945, local authorities received many applications for homes and the government encouraged councils to provide prefabricated temporary bungalows, known as "prefabs". Nearly 160,000 were constructed from 2,500 numbered parts in former bomber factories. They were built on a concrete base with a steel frame and asbestos cement walls. At £1,300 each they cost more than conventional permanent brick houses built by private contractors.

An example of the Universal Mark 3 prefab has been re-erected at the Chiltern Open Air Museum, near Rickmansworth on the Herts/Bucks border. It has two bedrooms and a living room with a coal stove, utility furniture, a sewing machine and flying ducks on the wall. The kitchen has a Belling electric cooker, an Electrolux refrigerator, a copper and a mangle. There is also a small bathroom with a separate toilet. The Avoncroft Museum, near Bromsgrove in Worcestershire, also has a prefab.

Enfield UDC had 347 prefabs of the American, the Arcon Mark V and the aluminium types, including 149 at Manor Farm on the Great Cambridge Road and 84 on the Town Estate.

The first permanent post-war homes were 40 traditional brick houses in Addison Road, Enfield Highway, 100 Scottwood factory-built houses in Lonsdale Drive, Cocker Road and Hook Gate, and 136 British Iron and Steel Federation prefabricated houses in various locations. These were followed by 74 traditional brick houses on the Hoe Lane Estate and a further 58 in the Turkey Street area.

B.I.S.F. houses, produced by the British Steel Homes Company, were constructed with steel frames, standard metal windows and steel sheets clad in cement render. Some houses had brick cladding on the lower floor and simulated timber weatherboarding on the upper floor. Timber frames inside were faced with plasterboard or hardboard.

Rooms in many post-war houses were smaller than in many earlier homes, but the dining room was often combined with either the lounge or the kitchen to make one larger room. For many people this marked the end of the separate drawing room / parlour / sitting room found in the homes of earlier generations. Rooms in the Addison Road council houses were heated with either gas or electric fires, as central heating did not become widespread until later in the 20th century. Kitchens were supplied with either a gas or an electric cooker, a copper and a refrigerator. Coke-fuelled boilers provided hot water. Built-in cupboards replaced the free-standing kitchen cabinets found in earlier homes. (See *TES News* nos. 174 and 184).

In 1948 weekly rents for council houses in Enfield varied from 7s 6d (37½p) to 15s 6d (77½p), plus 18s (90p) for rates. An Enfield tenants' handbook stated "By a great many people the demand of the Council is considered a gross injustice and the payment of the account is regarded as a dead loss financially" before explaining the value of the services provided from Council rates.

The completion of the 1,000th post-war permanent council home in Enfield was celebrated in 1951. Enfield was now the second-largest urban district in England with

an area of 12,401 acres, a rateable value of £916,288, and a population of 110,458.

By 1954, the year before Enfield became a borough, the demolition of the prefabs had begun. The total council housing stock had reached 3,840 spread over 34 locations. There were 171 "aged persons" flats with a bed recess, one bedroom or two bedrooms, 308 two-bedroom prefabs, 389 two-bedroom flats or maisonettes, 545 two-bedroom houses, 2,359 three-bedroom houses and 68 four-bedroom houses. The Council also held 420 houses which it had requisitioned under government legislation, because they were vacant.

Since the 1980s many council houses have been sold to their occupants under "right to buy" legislation and have been altered by their new owners. Many of the one-person flats have recently been demolished, because they had shared facilities.

For more information see vol.3 of David Pam's *History of Enfield* and the guides issued by Enfield Chamber of Commerce and Enfield Council in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. These may be consulted at the Enfield Local Studies Centre and Archive, which also provided the photographs for this article.

*Stephen Gilbert*



Brick Council houses in Stoneleigh Avenue on the Hoe Lane Estate in 1938. The deposit left in the road by a horse pulling a milk or bread delivery cart would be useful as manure for the garden plants.



Temporary prefabricated bungalows – "prefabs" – in Bullsmoor Lane in 1946



Brick Council houses in Addison Road, Enfield Highway, built by Townsend Collins in 1946.

# Historic buildings

## Interior views of council houses in Addison Road in 1946



Lounge with a fitted carpet, a three-piece suite, a chair, a sideboard, a standard lamp and a coal-effect fire with a tiled surround.



Living room with a dining table and chairs, a three-piece suite, a radio (but no television), a standard lamp and a coal-effect fire with a tiled surround. The linoleum-covered floor also has a large carpet and a hearth rug.



Kitchen with a linoleum-covered floor, a locally-manufactured Belling electric cooker, a copper for washing clothes, etc., and a ceramic sink with a waste bin below. There are also a refrigerator and built-in cabinets. At the back is a coke-fuelled boiler to heat the water and a dining area with table and chairs.



Kitchen with a linoleum-covered floor, a gas cooker, a refrigerator, built-in cabinets and an electric iron. There are also a boiler, a copper and a sink. The hatch behind the worktop enabled food to be passed through to the dining table in the living room.



One of the larger bedrooms, with a wardrobe and dressing table, a chest of drawers, basket-weave armchair and bed with an eiderdown. There is a gas fire with a tiled surround and a carpet and hearth rug on the linoleum-covered floor.



This small child's bedroom has a wooden enclosed cot, a playpen on a carpet, a high chair and a table on the linoleum-covered floor.

## Historic buildings

### Advice for Council tenants, 1957

The 64-page 1957 edition of Enfield's handbook for tenants set out the conditions of tenancy with its responsibilities and prohibitions.

Permission was needed for taking in lodgers, erecting sheds or poles, carrying on a trade and keeping dogs, goats, pigeons, hens or rabbits. The handbook contained notes on gardening and interior redecoration, how to avoid dry rot and dealing with vermin, woodworm and other insect pests – “no matter how particular a housewife may be in

the cleanliness of her home, the abominable pests will sometimes find entry”. Health and safety in the home advice included what to do in the event of a fire, use of electric irons – “always switch off immediately you have finished, delay may be disastrous”, using the skin of eggshells to stop bleeding and how to deal with burns, scalds, fainting and “foreign matter in the eye”. Hints for the housewife included advice on the



shapes of kettles and saucepans to buy, cleaning knives, disposal of ashes, how to avoid scum in baths and clean taps, how to keep meat fresh with the aid of onions, using newspapers to clean windows, reviving linoleum and using dried potato peelings as fire lighters. The 1939 edition of the handbook also had the following advice: “Always see that there is water in your wash boiler before you light the gas or fire” and “Before boiling, touch the damaged part of a bruised beetroot with a red-hot poker to prevent bleeding”.

The 1957 handbook concluded with information on gas, electricity and water, London Transport and British Railways services, schools, public libraries, civil defence (which was concerned with post-raid care in the event of conventional, gas or atomic warfare), sport and entertainment, Enfield organisations and Justices of the Peace.

*Stephen Gilbert*

### Project grants available from The Enfield Society

The Enfield Society is able to make grants for projects which will further its aims and objectives as a charity. The Society's object is the conservation and enhancement of the civic and natural environment of the London Borough of Enfield and its immediate surrounding area for the public benefit. In particular it aims to:

- Conserve and enhance buildings of architectural quality or environmental interest
- Defend the integrity of the Green Belt
- Protect and improve open spaces and views
- Ensure that new developments are environmentally sound and well designed and take into account the relevant interests of all sections of the community
- Assist in the preservation of footpaths, commons and rights of way.

Applications will be considered for grants of between £100 and £5,000.

Further details and an application form may be downloaded from the Society's web site at

<http://www.enfieldsociety.org.uk/GrantApplication.doc>

### Reflections on a great public asset



This Trent Park “History and mystery” walk, organized by Enfield Council last year, attracted over 90 people

Trent Country Park seems so permanent as to defy doubt as to its future. Although a major heritage and lifestyle asset to Enfield and neighbouring boroughs, these rolling green acres face rising pressure from surrounding development and under-resourcing. The evidence is clear to hand – fencing lies broken, pathways need maintaining and Enfield Council is stretched to keep up. And the designed landscape and the Mansion terrace are on the English Heritage *Heritage at Risk* register.

Many thousands of residents value the park and its landscape, such an idyll and within the M25 at that! Visitor numbers are put at over

400,000 per annum. But it is an endangered landscape and residents will have to come to its assistance if it is to survive – volunteering is the essence.

The campus, nearly 50 acres of prime historical landscape, the very heart of the park, is under even greater threat because of the cost of maintaining the heritage buildings. The new owners, AUCMS of Malaysia, face a daunting backlog of decay, much of it not visible to the casual wanderer. But much catch-up work on the working estate is required before business can be resumed, and this will be disruptive and costly.

Residents are supportive of the new owners' concerns and understand their priorities. The campus may be in private ownership but it is so much part of the heritage that a public concern exists to retain both park and campus as a visually integrated whole and this is surely the overriding focus. It must be everyone's ambition to see this landscape preserved for future generations to enjoy. With increasing housing densities in the borough, these green lungs are vital to the community, its health and well being.

Enfield has mostly been spared the worst depredations of low grade post-war development and urban decay. It is a desirable borough to live in and the population inflow of recent years is testament to this. Its parkland is integral to the vibrancy of its economy. It is incumbent on our administrators of whatever persuasion to take the long view to conserve such a core asset and, in this regard at least, to defy the temptations of opportunism.

*Peter Gibbs*  
Chairman

*Federation of Enfield Residents & Allied Associations*

# Forty Hall

## Education sessions at Forty Hall

*Last November we agreed to sponsor Enfield Council's Learning and Education Programme at Forty Hall for three years at a cost of £5,000 pa. The first year has been very successful and the following article by Frances Cherry, who is the Learning and Education Outreach Officer responsible for the Programme at the Hall, covers the first 12 months' activities.*

It has now been one year since West Grove Primary School, the first school pupils to visit for an Education Session since Forty Hall's HLF restoration, came to the Hall for their 'Pageant Personalities' session. They found out all about the historic pageant which took place in 1632 to celebrate Sir Nicholas Rainton becoming Lord Mayor of London and the amazing characters from myth and legend and historical figures who feature in Sir Thomas Heywood's original script and give advice to Sir Nicholas. The children got a 'lucky dip' of body parts from their 'peers' and made their own puppets of new 'Pageant Personalities' to give advice to Sir Nicholas in their own procession. Farrah, who is in Year 6 said 'I liked making the 'Pageant Personality' puppet best!' and her teacher described the session as 'great!'.

Since Forty Hall opened its door to teachers and their classes we have had a total of 1467 students and pupils from 45 schools come to learn outside the classroom about heritage, art and ecology, covering curriculum content across a range of subjects. For example, in the spring term, we had more bookings for 'Pageant Personalities' and also 'Maths in the Magnificent', our trail which takes groups of pupils all over Forty Hall to measure, problem-solve, count and even take rubbings to gather evidence of symmetry in the building's architectural features and joinery. One teacher from Bush Hill Park described the

session as a 'fantastic opportunity for primary pupils to engage in everyday mathematics activities – in a fabulous heritage setting – [it] links also really well with literacy, problem-solving and history'. As the weather became warmer and insects began coming out of hibernation more pupils came to look at the different inhabitants of Forty Hall and Estate, contrasting the resources used in the 17th century by Sir Nicholas Rainton to build his home with the materials used for shelter, warmth and food by living creatures on the estate today in our 'Habitats and Inhabitants' session for Key Stage 1 science pupils. A teacher from Grange Park Preparatory school commented that the session was 'interesting, educational and fun' for her pupils.

In the summer months we had two special events for schools to come to, firstly, a special Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award session on local history and flora and fauna to cover these components of the award. Students from Stoke Newington School who attended this session in their free time said 'Thank you! We had a fantastic time and learnt a lot about the local history and wildlife! Thank you for taking the time to see us' and the teacher who organised the visit said 'you all were amazing, can't

thank you enough. With the fantastic, interesting time had by all at Forty Hall and two successful walks the external DofE assessor passed everyone – I'm truly proud and very grateful.

Also in the summer, The Enfield Archaeological Society excavated a part of the Elsyng Palace site, finding a leather strap buckle and a wild boar's tusk both dating from the Tudor period when Henry VIII and his family stayed at Elsyng. Four classes came to schools sessions planned and delivered by the Forty Hall Learning and Education Outreach Officer and the The Enfield Archaeological Society and

were able to see first hand how an excavation worked, as well as to contrast through historical artefacts found locally what life would have been like on this site for Henry VIII and a 17th century threshing labourer. St Michaels C of E School teachers said 'The children had a fantastic time and loved every minute'. Local primary schools also had a unique chance to contribute to the design and building of the historic knot garden in the courtyard of Forty Hall: eight schools each planted a section with plants which would have been grown for use in the kitchen or home in the 17th century, and the garden is still on display and enjoyed by many visitors.

In the 2013 autumn term we have had over three times as many pupils visiting the Hall as we did in 2012. Our online brochure of sessions has been expanded and a popular new session is 'Food Blogger, Time Traveller', where pupils have to work in groups to follow historic recipes and make a selection of 17th century dishes, then taste them and review them in our online blog. Four Year 3 classes from Carterhatch Junior School were the first pupils to try out this session, and this is an excerpt from one pupils' blog entry: 'Today I tasted something rarely eaten for nearly 300 years! It was called 'Marzipan Bacon'. The texture was sugary, colourful, tasty and it was sweet. The marzipan bacon looked ugly!'

We celebrated National Takeover Day by inviting the whole of Year 9 from The Latymer School to 'Takeover' Forty Hall. 180 Students worked diligently in groups of ten on the 25th and 29th November to complete challenges to do with all aspects of running Forty Hall, looking after visitors and putting on a programme of events. One group designed a new audio tour for visually impaired visitors for example, one proposed a new event keeping to a specified budget and ensuring it was appropriate to their target audience, and one, working alongside the Learning and Conservation Officer, went to Lavender Primary School to set Year 1 pupils up with a wormery and gave them a presentation on its purpose and how to maintain it. A teacher from Lavender School commented that 'the children were really excited, [it was] a lovely thing for the children to be involved in and it is a valuable learning opportunity.' The Head of Year 9 at The Latymer School said the 29th was 'a brilliant day!'

*Frances Cherry  
Learning and Education Outreach Officer*



Frances Cherry pointing out the cockatrice in the plasterwork ceiling of The Parlour to a group of pupils from Carterhatch Junior School.

# 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 0343 222 1234 or check TfL website.**

*Reduced price train travel: Groupsave Off-Peak & Super 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. Groupsave also available on Off-Peak Day Single tickets and on Super Off-Peak Day returns that are 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](http://www.intalink.org.uk).**

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

**Sat 22 Feb. London Loop – into Essex.** Either travel with Dave on the **08.52** train from Enfield Town or meet him at **09.25** at the entrance to Platforms 1 & 2, Liverpool Street mainline station from where the group will travel together to Harold Wood Station. *All travel covered by Freedom Pass.*

Dave intends to ultimately complete all sections of the London Loop. This lengthy journey commences today with a 9.5 mile linear walk over some of the most rural parts of the 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). Might be muddy in places. Bring lunch or food available.

Options to end earlier after 1.9 miles, then at 4.3 miles at lunch stop in pretty Havering-atte-Bower and at 8 miles at Chigwell Row – all points have buses connecting with stations for easy return to Liverpool Street. Details: (020) 8366 2242 or 07948 204 025. *Leader: Dave Cockle*

**Wed 26 Feb. London Bridges. Meet 10.30** 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) 8360 0282 or [roynicholls@btinternet.com](mailto:roynicholls@btinternet.com). *Leader: Roy Nicholls*

**Tues 4 March. Epping Forest. Meet 10.32** at Upshire 251 bus terminus (junction of Upshire Road and Princefield Road, near parade of shops). This is served by buses 213 & 251 which depart Waltham Cross bus station at 09.52, 10.00 & 10.13 (journey time 14-19 mins). The bus station is only 250 yards from Waltham Cross rail station (09.43 train from Tottenham Hale arrives at 09.53).

About 8 mile circular walk via the attractive scenery of the City Corporation's buffer farmland and the north-western edge of the Forest. Majority of route on good condition tracks and private drives, suitable for winter weather conditions. Option to end at the lunch stop in Epping Town and either use Central Line into London or return to Upshire and Waltham Cross by bus. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader: Brian Frear*

**Sat 8 March. Dollis Valley. Meet 10.20** Odeon Cinema, Barnet (on 307 bus route at junction of Barnet Hill/Great North Road and Station Road. Currently at 09.42 & 09.52 from Cecil Road, Enfield Town, and about 25 mins journey time).

Mainly using good condition paths, this max 8.5 mile linear walk is semi-rural and goes via woods, fields, open spaces, "twittens" and part of

Hampstead Heath to end at a point convenient for return to Enfield.

Many shorter options, including from the lunch stop near Mill Hill East Station (about 3.75 miles) and at 6.5 miles. Bring lunch or food available. *Leader: Stuart Mills*

**Wed 12 March. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS – Thames 21).** A very local linear walk of about 3 miles to highlight some of the ongoing improvements to water quality being carried out on waterways feeding into Salmon's Brook. For more information see page 3. Meet **10.15** outside the parade of shops next to the Jolly Farmers P.H., Enfield Road (buses 121, 307 & 377). The route will include Glenbrook, Boxer's Lake, Hounsden Spinney and Gutter and the watercourses and lake in Grovelands Park, ending at Grovelands café. Many shorter options. Details: (020) 8366 2242 or 07948 204 025. *Leader: Dave Cockle*

**Mon 17 March. Elegant squares and the New River.** Meet **10.20** main concourse/ticket office area at Highbury & Islington Station (Victoria line or 09.51 train from Enfield Chase). This morning's walk of 2.5 to 3.0 hours will include some squares and roads in Islington that have undergone transformation during recent years, thereby reinstating their original elegance. The route will include landscaped sections of the New River that contribute so much to the neighbourhood. The walk will end at a station convenient for return to Enfield. Contact on day of walk *only*: 07931 963 086. *Leader: Monica Smith*

**Sat 29 March. The Alban Way.** Meet **10.00** outside St Albans Old Town Hall at junction of St Peter's Street/Market Place and Victoria Street in St Albans City centre (opposite Skipton Building Society).

Either travel with Toby & Margaret on the **08.56** 313 bus from Cecil Road, Enfield Town, changing at Potters Bar Station for the 84 bus to St Albans at 09.22. This stops 50 yards from the Old Town Hall. Or, travel by **09.18** Bedford train from St Pancras International mainline station to St Albans City Station (arriving 09.39) – a short bus ride or 10 mins walk to Old Town Hall.

An easy 8 to 8.5 mile linear walk, initially via the Cathedral and River Ver meadows, followed by a disused railway with many interesting features, and then after a short detour through historic Old Hatfield, the walk ends at Hatfield Station. Many shorter options. Return to Enfield by bus &/or train – if required, there are frequent/fast buses between Hatfield and St Albans City stations. Bring lunch or food available. Details: 07703 470 156. *Leaders: Toby Simon & Margaret McAlpine*

**Tues 1 April. City gardens, buildings and more (Part 1).** Meet **10.10** Old Street Station (either Northern Line or by 09.34 train from Enfield Chase).

About 2.75 hour walk covering a varied selection of gardens, open spaces, architectural designs, sculptures and features that are an integral part of the City of London. Many shorter options. Hopefully the route will include a visit to Wesley's Chapel, City Road, and, for anyone who wishes, at the end of the walk an opportunity to attend the Chapel's weekly (usually free) lunchtime music recital at 13.05. Many lunch facilities in the vicinity. *Leader: Stuart Mills*

**Tues 8 April. Enfield's Countryside.** Meet **10.30** at the W8, W9 & 313 bus shelter on The Ridgeway only a few yards from the main entrance into Chase Farm Hospital.

A 6 to 7 mile almost circular walk via field paths, woodlands, Trent Park (perhaps seeing the daffodils), Jubilee Path, Rectory Farm and Hilly Fields, ending at Gordon Hill Station. Shorter options. Intended lunch stop is at Ferny Hill Farm café. Contact on day of walk *only*: 07946 729 053. *Leaders: Margaret & Vanessa*

**Sat 12 April. Chess Valley.** Meet **10.43** Chalfont & Latimer Station ticket office (either 09.42 Metropolitan Line train from Kings Cross St Pancras, or 10.12 Chiltern Railways train from London Marylebone). *All travel covered by Freedom Pass.*

About 7.5 mile circular walk through an area of delightful scenery via Sarratt Bottom with the lunch stop at Sarratt Church End (pub food available or bring lunch). By car, about 45 mins from Enfield Town via M25 (junction 18) and A404. Details: 07973 747 454. *Leader: Nigel King*

**Bank Holiday Mon 21 April. Bayford area.** Meet **10.03** Bayford Station (09.50 train from Enfield Chase) – car drivers can park in Brickendon village and await the group's arrival at about 10.15, but please park considerably and NOT in the pub car park.

A figure-of-eight walk through varied picturesque, undulating and wooded conservation countryside with lunch stop in Brickendon (option to finish). Pub food available or bring lunch.

If joining for afternoon section only, either meet group for lunch in Brickendon or meet group at Bayford Station at **14.03** (13.50 train from Enfield Chase). Details: (020) 8360 0282 or [roynicholls@btinternet.com](mailto:roynicholls@btinternet.com). *Leader: Roy Nicholls*

**Sat 26 April. Kent/East Sussex Weald.** Meet **10.58** Ashurst Station. Either travel with Martin on the 10.08 Uckfield train from London Bridge mainline station (usually from platforms 8-13), or catch this train at East Croydon at 10.22. Fast trains from Victoria to East Croydon are 09.51 Brighton train and 10.02 Portsmouth train – these arrive East Croydon at 10.07 & 10.17. Check in advance for possible engineering works.

8 mile linear walk through beautiful Weald scenery near Ashdown Forest, ending at Eridge Station. Option to end at Withyham lunch stop (bus connections). Bring lunch or pub food probably available.

*Note:* Freedom Pass boundary is Upper Warringham – buy day return ticket from boundary to Eridge. Contact on day of walk *only*: 07792 193 664. *Leader: Martin Langer*

**Wed 30 April. Rivers Rib and Beane.** Meet **10.31** Hertford East Station.

Either travel by 09.44 train from Southbury Station and change at Cheshunt for 10.09 train; or by direct train at 09.55 from Tottenham Hale Station which also stops at intermediate stations. Alternatively, take 09.43 train from Enfield Chase (arrives Hertford North at 10.01), then 15/20 mins walk, or catch the 10.10 395/396 bus to Mill Road Tesco bus stop (adjacent Hertford East Station).

Today's 9 mile circular walk is through attractive valley and pastoral scenery via Stonehills, Stapleford Village (lunch – pub food available or bring lunch), Beane Valley and Waterford Marsh. The return into Hertford will pass very close to Hertford North Station. *Notes:* Shorter option of 5 miles by catching 13.47 bus from Stapleford back into Hertford. Return rail tickets from Zone 6 boundary to Hertford are interchangeable and can be used to/from either Hertford East or North Stations. Contact on day of walk *only*: 07785 107 075. *Leader: Breda Jenkins*

**Bank Holiday 5 May. Chilterns and Misbourne Valley.** Meet **10.39** Chorleywood Station ticket office (either 09.42 Metropolitan line train from Kings Cross St Pancras, or 10.12 Chiltern Railways train from London Marylebone mainline station). *All travel covered by Freedom Pass.*

About 9 mile walk through varied Chiltern scenery with fine views and pretty cottages. Lunch stop in attractive Chalfont St Giles village (used in Dad's Army opening sequence). Bring lunch or food available.

By car: about 45 mins from Enfield Town via M25 (junction 18) and A404. *Leader: Stuart Mills*

**Sat 10 May. Enfield's Countryside.** Meet 14.30 Gordon Hill Station (W8 bus or train arrives at 14.22) for 3 hour circular walk via Tingey's Tops and golf course to Crews Hill (coffee break and option to end) and return through Whitewebbs Woods and Hilly Fields. *Leader: Norman Coles*

**Tues 13 May. Discovery Quiz in Covent Garden area.** Something for everybody including family groups.

Meet 10.30 at the main front entrance to St Martin-in-the-Fields overlooking Trafalgar Square (about 5 mins walk from Leicester Square Station – Piccadilly & Northern Lines). This morning's event covers the area surrounding Covent Garden and, although it should last no longer than about 2.75 hours, through observation it will give you the chance to discover places/objects of surprising variety and interest. Please do not cheat by using the internet. As the walking is relatively limited, there may be time to visit some buildings en-route and/or have a coffee break!

For ease, the party will be divided into small groups with a quiz master to lead each group, returning to St Martin for answers and perhaps lunch in the Crypt. *Co-ordinator: Mick Spinks*

**Wed 21 May. From Country Parks to London Loop.** Today's 8 mile linear walk starts from Dagenham East Station (District Line).

Either travel with Dave on 09.52 train from Enfield Town to Seven Sisters, then short walk to South Tottenham Station for 10.10 London Overground train to Barking (arrives 10.42), then brief journey on District Line. Alternatively, be at Dagenham East Station by 10.55.

Morning section of 3.5 miles is via Eastbrookend Country Park and Harrow Lodge Park to the lunch stop near Upminster Bridge Station and Upminster Windmill (bring lunch or food available and option to finish).

Afternoon section of 4.5 miles will follow the London Loop through part of Havering's Green Belt countryside in the River Ingrebourne Valley, ending at Harold Wood Station for easy return to Liverpool Street. Might be muddy in places. Details: (020) 8366 2242 or 07948 204 025.

*Leader: Dave Cockle*

**Bank Holiday Mon 26 May. Ash Valley.** Meet 10.25 Ware Station. Either travel by 09.44 train from Southbury Station and change at Cheshunt for 10.09 train; or by direct train at 09.55 from Tottenham Hale Station which also stops at intermediate stations. About 9 mile circular walk through pretty countryside, including the delightful Ash Valley, with lunch stop in Wareside. Bring lunch or pub food available. *Leader: Brian Frear*

**Sat 31 May. Houghton Mill, Hemingford Villages and St Ives.** Either travel with Roy on the 09.01 train from Enfield Chase (he will board at Grange Park) or meet him at Finsbury Park for the 09.41 Peterborough train which also stops at Potters Bar (09.51) and Stevenage (10.12) and arrives at Huntingdon at 10.47.

There will time to see part of Huntingdon before a short bus ride to the walk's starting point of Houghton Village Clock Tower. If required, car drivers can therefore meet the party at Houghton Clock Tower at 11.36.

An easy circular walk of about 8 miles following both banks of the lovely River Ouse via picture postcard villages with the lunch stop in St Ives (food available or bring lunch and option to end). Details: (020) 8360 0282 or roynicholls@btinternet.com

*Note:* With the very large saving in fare cost by purchasing Super Off-Peak Day Return Groupsave tickets from boundary zone 6 to Huntingdon, suggest a group be planned and tickets bought in advance of day. *Leader: Roy Nicholls*

*Stuart Mills*

## Footpaths

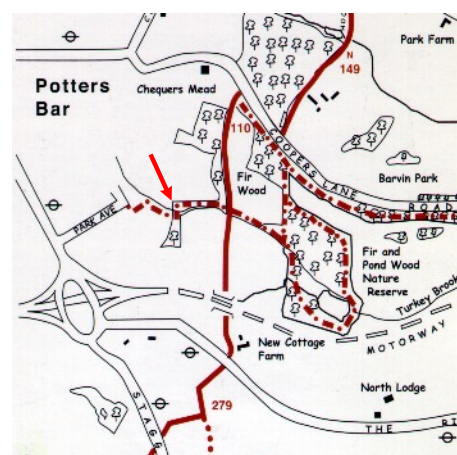
### Blocked footpath near Potters Bar

On a TES Footpaths Group walk from Potters Bar to Oakwood last November, a diversion had to be taken due to an obstruction, caused by a building site illegally encroaching onto the footpath. The footpath is a permissive one that runs from the end of Park Avenue (Potters Bar), across London Borough of Enfield owned land, to join up with the Ridgeway (New Cottage Farm) – Coopers Lane Road bridleway.

The matter has been taken up with both Enfield and Herts County Council (HCC) as the point of obstruction is right on the boundary with HCC land. A small stream forms the boundary and a wooden footbridge across the stream has been damaged beyond repair. TES has offered support in getting the footbridge renewed.

It is likely that enforcement action will be taken by HCC in order to get the obstruction removed. We will be monitoring the situation closely.

*Dave Cockle*



Photograph of the obstruction and an extract from our footpath map showing the path in question, arrowed.

### Invasion at Mossops Creek

Mossops Creek is a short spur off the west bank of the Lee Navigation at Brimsdown. The northern bank of the creek is a linear park and forms a through path to link into the long distance Lea Valley Path.

Over the past six months a non-native invasive plant "floating pennywort" has invaded the creek, clogging up the water, as shown in this picture. Floating pennywort causes a range of problems including changing the availability of oxygen in the water, threatening fish and invertebrates, choking drainage systems and crowding out native water plants. Left uncontrolled it chokes the whole ecosystem.



The Council's Parks department has been informed and are in the middle of a borough wide programme, taking out Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed. They said they would add Mossops Creek to their programme and attempt to eradicate the invasive plant.

*Dave Cockle*

### Lincoln Road level crossing

The following information is part of a letter from Network Rail dated 7th January 2014, published on the website <<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/>> in response to a freedom of information request:

Agreement was reached with Enfield Town Council during early 2013 that Lincoln Road level crossing would remain closed permanently to vehicles, but open to pedestrians.

Currently the crossing remains manned between 0600 and 1800 Mondays to Saturdays and we're now looking at the safest way to re-configure the level crossing for unmanned use at all times.

We're therefore investigating the feasibility of installing a bridge, for which we would have to provide steps-free access, and this site has been identified as one of the level crossings for which funding may be allocated as part of the industry's next Control Period (starting in April 2014). However, due to the built-up nature of the area, the feasibility of such a solution is questionable and so we're also investigating the possibility of upgrading the at-grade crossing to improve its safety, most likely by installation of red/green warning lights. A decision will be made over the coming months.

## TES Directory

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## Forty Hall Community Vineyard

Bees buzzing among the vines; grape bunches ripening in the sun; rows of vines planted on south facing slopes – Tuscany? Provence? No: Enfield! Enfield has its very own community-led vineyard run and managed by local volunteers. Forty Hall Community Vineyard was first launched in 2009 and now has ten acres of land under vine. The vineyard is situated at Forty Hall Farm, an organic farm owned by Enfield Council and managed by Capel Manor College. The College has generously provided the land for the vineyard venture and is a key partner in the enterprise.

The vineyard hopes, eventually, to produce upwards of 10,000 bottles of still and sparkling white wine a year. Award-winning organic wine maker Will Davenport of Davenport Vineyards will be making the wine, which will be sold on site at the farm. The wine will be made as naturally as possible using natural yeasts and minimal interventions and the sparkling wines will be made in the traditional Champagne method.

Established as a small, independent social enterprise, the vineyard also operates as a health and wellbeing project offering volunteering opportunities to local people with a wide range of support needs. People love working out in the open air, being involved in an unusual community project and being part of a large and friendly team. It is hard work and the volunteers work throughout the year in all seasons and weather. Vines take between 3-5 years to mature and bear fruit and there are many challenges on the way to each harvest including late spring frosts which can damage the fruit buds, drought (hard to imagine at the moment), lack of sun and the ever-present competition from weeds. The vineyard and farm are organic so no pesticides or chemical weed killers are used, making plenty of weeding for the volunteers. Future plans include putting the farm's shire horse,

Photo: Simon Costello



Picking the 2013 harvest

Wallis, to work in the vineyard pulling a special horse-drawn vineyard plough bought from Italy.

Vines planted include the Champagne varieties Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier and two less well-known varieties, Bacchus and Ortega. All these varieties grow well and ripen successfully in our marginal wine-growing climate and English wines, both still and sparkling, now regularly win international awards, outclassing even long established Champagnes.

The first very small harvest took place last autumn, but quantities are too low to launch Forty Hall wines on the open market just yet. Demand for the wines will be high and the vineyard plans to set up a wine club for people to be able to reserve an allocation of wine each year.

For more information go to  
[www.fortyhallvineyard.com](http://www.fortyhallvineyard.com)

Sarah Vaughan-Roberts  
Forty Hall Community Vineyard Ltd

### Newsletter contributions

We have changed the title to *Enfield Society News* to avoid the rather obscure abbreviation *TES*. 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; 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 18th April 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