



No news about the Archive four months after decision to move it

Despite repeated requests, The Enfield Society is still waiting to see any proposals from the Council

Val Munday

As reported in the last newsletter (218, Summer 2020, page 2) on 11th March 2020 Enfield Council's Cabinet decided to relocate the Children and Families Service into the Dugdale Centre and occupy the 1st floor. This area currently has the permanent displays of the Museum as well as the purpose-built climate-controlled Archive and associated Local Studies Library.

Our Chairman wrote to the Council in early June and the reply, some three weeks later from Mark Bradbury, Directory of Property within LBE, said the Council were "still assessing a number of options for the location of the Archive Service". This reply makes it clear that the Cabinet decision in March was taken without any plan for the future of the Museum, Local Studies Library and Archive.

Mark Bradbury's e-mail also indicated that the Museum displays from the 1st floor would be moved to a "redesigned" ground floor. The Enfield Society is sceptical about this proposal as there is little extra space on the ground floor unless the current area used for temporary exhibitions is to be used. We feel this must be retained in order to provide an opportunity to create varied displays from the Museum's large store of artefacts.

In late June LBE advertised for a new Museum Officer. Whilst this suggests the Council are intent on keeping the service, the lack of detail about where it will be located remains a great concern to us.

On 26th June The Enfield Society wrote to the Leader of Enfield Council asking for the plans for the future of the affected services to be published. You can read our letter, together with our arguments in support of the retention of the service, on



our web-site. As this newsletter was in preparation we encouraged members to write and we wish to thank all those who added their voice to our calls. At copy deadline (17th July) we had not received a reply from the Leader to our letter of the 26th June.

COVID-19 continues to affect our talks and walks programmes

As this newsletter was being prepared Jubilee Hall remained closed for talks. With the necessity to forward-plan, The Enfield Society has reluctantly concluded it cannot hold its Autumn talks at the Hall. As a result we are planning to offer some of our programme to members via Zoom. See page 2 for more details.

At the time of printing there were too many uncertainties to produce a Walks Programme for the period September to November. Most Society walks use public transport and there may still be some restrictions on the use of public transport during this period. We are monitoring the situation in consultation with other organisations and hope that it will be possible to resume walks during the Autumn. We had to

postpone most of the walks in our Spring programme, but it may be possible to reinstate a few of these walks in a modified manner when circumstances allow. Depending on the government advice at the time, we may need to ask members to book a place on a walk in order to limit the group to a certain size.

We have provided two suggestions for self-guided walks in this issue. See pages 8–10.

We will keep members informed via our monthly news e-mails as the situation changes. If you are not receiving these and wish to, see page 13 for how to join our e-mail mail-list.

Chairman's Column

Dave Cockle



The Enfield Society has been busy throughout the COVID-19 lockdown. We have been on a number of virtual meetings with Council Officers, The Heritage Lottery Fund and other agencies, using digital technology. Low water levels on the New River Enfield Loop, due to malfunctioning pumps, has been one such time-consuming issue. (See page 14).

There is an Enfield Council web-site called "Find my Nearest". One of the headings on its menu is "Public Rights of Way". On examining the digital map, it became apparent that many well-used paths were missing. An example is the western path along the New River Enfield Loop by Carr's Basin. Currently, the Council has implemented a one-way system on this path, due to social distancing regulations. The path nearest the Town Park is southbound and the Carr's Basin path towards Enfield Town is northbound. On querying the missing paths with the Council Officer responsible for footpaths, it transpired that the footpaths missing on the digital map are permissive paths. Quite frankly, footpath users are not interested in whether a path is a public right-of-way or a permissive path. Anyone using the Council's "Find my Nearest" web-site to plan a walk away from road traffic or out into the Green Belt, is only shown a limited number of potential routes.

A positive outcome of this unsatisfactory situation is that the Council Officer responsible for footpaths will go through the popular Enfield Society footpath map, which shows all rural footpaths, in order to update their own footpath map. Copies of our map can be purchased for £3.50 (including postage) using the publications order form delivered with this newsletter.

Green spaces have been a "lifeline" to people dealing with the impact of lockdown. Many people, to whom I have spoken, have discovered green pockets in their own locality, these affording them the opportunity to be out in the fresh air for exercise, whilst at the same time supporting their mental wellbeing. Thus, this has served as an "oasis" in recent times, which demonstrates how important it is to protect our Green Belt and open spaces in the Borough.

Enfield Society Meetings by zoom

Due to the continued uncertainty as to whether Jubilee Hall can re-open, we have decided to offer some of our planned programme over Zoom. We will include the joining details in our monthly news e-mails—see page 13 for more information on receiving these.

Morning meetings, 10.15am for 10.30am

Tuesday 29th September, *Layers of London* by Adam Corsini. Layers of London is an interactive map resource based at the University of London. The project has worked with partners including The National Archives, The British Library, London Metropolitan Archives and Historic England to gather together London's most iconic maps and geo-reference them, enabling individuals to discover how areas have changed throughout history.

Additionally, the site encourages individuals to contribute their own content including local history, personal memories, and interesting facts to enrich the site with people's own accounts and recollections of how areas have changed. In his talk Adam will present the site and demonstrate how it can be used and how people can get involved. The project can be accessed from layersoflondon.org.uk

Tuesday 24th November, *Swinging London* by Nick Dobson. The Sixties saw London cast off the gloom of the post-war years and transform into the bright, swinging centre of style and culture. This illustrated timeline will provide a reminder of that groovy, swinging decade!

Isobel Costa, Tumblr



Evening meetings, 7.45pm for 8pm

Monday 21st September, *Humphrey Jennings and the British documentary film movement 1930–46* by Carol Harris. Today, few people know the name of Humphrey Jennings, but anyone who ever watched a documentary about Britain in WW2 will have seen the Spitfire roaring over the cornfield, and the young woman singing as she works in a war factory. These and other classic Jennings images mould ideas and memories of that time. In this talk, Carol Harris will look at Jennings' life and legacy, with extracts from his films, and his own writings as well as the memories of those he worked with.

Monday 16th November, *The New River* by Richard Thomas. Follow the building of this 400 year old 40 mile long wandering man-made waterway from Chadwell Spring in Hertfordshire to the Round Pond in Islington. It was created to supply Jacobean London with fresh drinking water when many of the population were having to consume untreated River Thames water.

☎ For those without a computer or a tablet you can join these meetings by telephone—without being able to see the presentation! Call Stephen Gilburt, 020 8363 0031, a week before the meetings for the joining details.

Evening Meetings Programme Organiser

The Society's evening talks, which are well attended and an important benefit of our membership, are in need of a new organiser from 2021 onwards. Could you help us by arranging speakers?

We have been looking for a meeting organiser since the start of 2020, without success. The lack of a volunteer will mean that our 2021 programme will be severely limited.

Our present organiser, Stephen Gilburt, has an extensive list of speakers which he is happy to pass on to his successor, giving you a head-start even if you have not booked speakers before.

You may contact us by e-mail at info@enfieldsociety.org.uk if you would like more information on what is involved or if you would be willing to undertake this role.

Planning developments

Bill Wilson and John West

Government signals big changes for planning

The planning White Paper was due to be published in July and outlines the most radical reforms to our planning system since the Second World War. The Paper had been trialled in a government policy paper *Planning for the Future*, published in March 2020.

Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) views this as a once in a lifetime opportunity to 'rethink planning from first principles. The time has come to speed up and simplify this country's overly bureaucratic planning process.' [England's planning system set for shake-up, Financial Times, 10 June 2020].

The most significant move is the expected introduction of a zoning system. The MHCLG describe this as a new approach for the UK, similar to Europe and North America. What is likely is a zonal system based on a refined version of the current master planning process, through Local Development Orders (LDO) with design codes sat under them to streamline approval of details.

The intention is to encourage the use of LDOs to expedite the planning process, including financial incentives, to move towards the majority of applications being decided on a template of pre-approved principles and saving committee decision-making for complex and contentious schemes.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England are troubled that further planning deregulation will lead to poor quality housing. Civic Voice (of which The Society is a member) are also concerned and are speaking with sector partners to consider responses. They believe it should be community-led planning driving the recovery with people having the power and influence to decide what should happen.

The Business and Planning Bill was being considered by Parliament as the Newsletter went to press. It is a mix of different legislative agendas: planning, licensing, financial, and HGV testing and licences. This is strong indication of just how fundamental the planning system is in the country's economic recovery from the coronavirus outbreak.

The proposed planning measures are temporary with one exception. The permanent change is outlined under clause 20. It allows the Planning Inspectorate to implement "flexible deployment" of written representations, hearings or local inquiries—or a mix of all three—for any appeal process, including those relating to a planning application, enforcement notice or for changing affordable housing under a section 106 agreement.

The permanent changes will need to be closely followed in practice to see what effect this has in clearing the current appeals backlog and the future speed and efficiency of the planning appeal process. The Society's Architecture and Planning Group has noted appeals are taking an inordinate time to process.

New Permitted Development rights allowing two-storey upwards extensions to blocks of flats came into force on 1 August. It has been expected for several months that this change to Permitted Development rights will be allocated first to purpose-built blocks of flats, before eventually being rolled out to all detached properties.

Borough planning report

Despite the coronavirus difficulties over the past four months there have been a number of significant planning issues that the Society has been dealing with and responding to both developers and the Council.

At the July Planning Committee, the Southgate Office Village planning application was refused. The Society had objected to this application on the grounds of height and its impact on the Southgate Circus Conservation Area. The Committee refused the application by a unanimous verdict suggesting that the local concern had made an impact on the decision. Thanks to all our members who objected to the proposal.

The new Metaswitch building in Enfield Town is now well advanced and local consultation has been taking place on the demolition and rebuilding of 100 Church Street, the current

Dominus Residential Exhibition



Impression of how 100 Church Street will look

Metaswitch building, beside the New River Loop. The proposed residential development has been designed by a well respected architectural practice, but the Society is aware of concern about the height and its impact on the Conservation Area.

Discussions are still taking place between the Council and the Colosseum Retail Park developer concerning the land at the junction of Southbury Road and the Great Cambridge Road. The Society welcomes the development of retail parks that are currently underutilised and have vast car parking areas and single storey sheds as a better option than building on Green Belt land and other open spaces, but again the height of some of the housing blocks is causing concern.

Consultation will be starting shortly by the owners of the Palace Gardens Shopping Centre who have plans to improve the shopping centre and carry out some redevelopment. At Cockfosters, we are still waiting for the planning application for redevelopment of the car park to be submitted following local consultation. As with the other planning proposals across the Borough the height of the housing is a concern because of its impact on Trent Park and the Green Belt. There are plans to redevelop another TfL car park at Arnos Grove tube station. We are pleased to report that this proposal is more sensitive to the Charles Holden tube station and the Society has submitted comments on the design through the Conservation Advisory Group but has not raised any objections.

Limited edition plates auction

Monica Smith



Mr Frank Bayford, a popular speaker at our meetings, has generously made a donation of a set of six new Canterbury Collection dinner plates with views of Enfield, each with 18ct gold borders. There is one of each of the following designs: Market Place, St Andrew's Church, Christ Church, Chase Farm Schools and, illustrated, The New River and The Town. The serial number is 53 of a limited edition of 250. Each plate weighs 365g and is 210mm in diameter. If you would like to view them please contact me at [m.smith@](mailto:m.smith@enfieldsociety.org.uk)

enfieldsociety.org.uk or 020 8367 5920 to arrange a time to view at Jubilee Hall. You can also see the plates on our web-site at enfieldsociety.org.uk/plates-auction

If you would like to make an offer for these plates please send your bid (minimum £40) to me either by e-mail (address above) or by post to Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, EN2 0AJ. **Closing date for bids is 5pm 30th September 2020.** Another set was sold some years ago and raised £120 for The Enfield Society.

Publications

Monica Smith



Heritage Walk 5—*Clay Hill and Whitewebbs* will shortly be published as part of the popular series of Heritage Walks. This one begins at the junction of Clay Hill and Forty Hill and includes historic buildings and the Country Park. It will be on sale at Jubilee Hall when meetings resume or you can order with the enclosed publications order form.



Unfortunately sales of Christmas Cards have decreased so much over the past few years that we can no longer produce a new card at a price that would be acceptable to members. We are therefore selling all remaining stock at the bargain price of £1 for five quality cards which show Forty Hall dining room decorated for Christmas (above). There are not many packs available so apply promptly using the enclosed form to avoid disappointment.

Don't forget you can order using our new online store via our web-site and pay with a debit or credit card or a PayPal account if you have one.

Photo Archive: 1906 Graham Brothers Sidecar

Enfield Society Archive



In May we were contacted by a member of the Graham family who had come upon this photograph of a 1906 motorcycle sidecar in our archive. This prompted an exchange of e-mails which provided much more detail about the Graham Brothers.

William Graham was born in Leamington in 1847 and started as a Carriage Trimmer but was working in Enfield by the 1890s as an Estate Agent. His two sons, William John and Sydney, established a business making bicycles until the motor car age arrived when they started as garage proprietors in premises at 56 Church Street, Enfield. This was the shop and offices; the workshops were at the rear in Sarnesfield Road.

William John Graham registered the first patent in 1903 for the motorcycle sidecar. Our archive picture shows Sydney and his wife Beatrice in a Graham Brothers sidecar. The business in the background appears to be "JW Booth".

Graham family collection



Sydney Graham (born 1876) on the right, wife Beatrice and their daughters Vera and Edna along with his father William on the left.

If members can add any further details, the Graham family would love to hear. Find our archive at enfieldsociety.org.uk/photographs

Andrew Lack

Historic Buildings: Gough Park

Phil Whittemore

Richard Gough, the antiquary was the most eminent person to live at Gough Park, a house his father Harry had bought in 1719. It was a typical red brick Queen Anne house, comprising a top

storey with four bedrooms, storerooms and landing, while the first floor had three further bedrooms, dressing room, morning room and landing, laundry room and servants quarters. On the ground floor was the drawing room, dining room/breakfast room, kitchen, pantry and servants quarters. A library, complete with a Gothic window and fireplace designed by the architect, James Essex was added in 1778–80.

Externally the house had a paved yard, wash and brew house, with a coach yard entered through folding gates, where there were stables and storage for carriages. A large garden surrounded the house, that to the west incorporated the New River, while to the north was an avenue of chestnut trees. Behind the house was an area of farmland for cows, pigs chickens and doves. The estate also had an orchard of 18 acres.

Richard Gough died in 1809; his wife Anne in 1833 when the estate was offered for sale in five lots. The house and gardens were sold to Mr Rees Price of Clay Hill for £1,230, with the remaining lots sold for £1,986. Two years later Price leased the house to William Child of Finsbury Place for £155 p.a. Rees Price must have sold the lease by 1844, for when a new one was made it was between the Drapers' Company and Child's son, also called William.

William Child is not mentioned in the 1841 census, so had presumably died, leaving his wife Mary, and other family members in residence, together with servants and an estate manager. Mary had died by 1861, when the census lists Miss Rebecca Child as being the sole family member still living in the house. She died in 1888, leaving instructions that the property be sold, therefore the lease must have been bought by the Child family from the Draper's Company although the date is unknown.

The auction was held in July 1888 with the contents and effects of Miss Child a week later, the auctioneers were Messrs. Edwin Fox and Bousfield, of Token House Yard, London. The house and gardens formed Lot 1, while Lot 2 was six acres of pasture running parallel to Clay Hill. An annotation in the sale catalogue in the British Library has the figure £11,000 and 'N.S.' meaning that both lots were unsold.

The property came on the market again in 1891 following an extensive advertising campaign in *The Times*. It was suggested that the property could be either used as a residence, while the attached land could be used for building development, but again the property failed to find a buyer. Fifty lots of freehold land in quarter acre lots were advertised but attracted little interest.

In 1893 the property again came on the market, this time with Lumleys, Auctioneers, of St. James Street, London, with the estate being divided into 65 lots, the premier lot being the house and grounds. It was advertised as being suitable for a 'high-class School, Institute or Private Residence,' with the individual lots divided up into areas of 60' by 235', making the plots suitable for building a small house. Plans show that it was proposed to build a road through the centre of the estate, giving access to Forty Hill, with a further entrance on Clay Hill. The sale was a disaster, for not only did the house not find a buyer, only six of

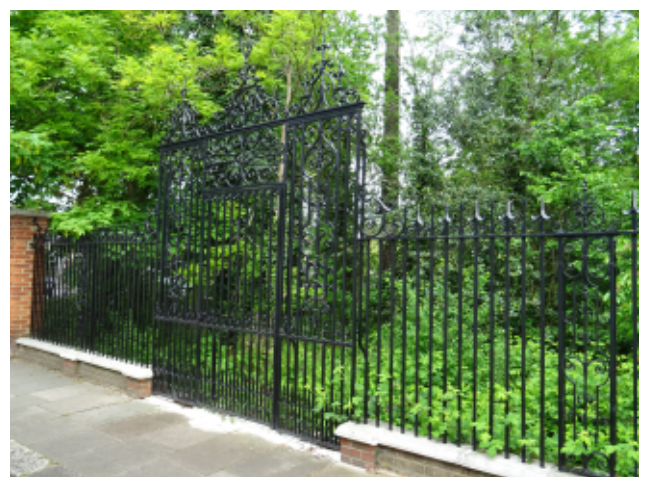
the individual plots were sold. There may have been a number of reasons for this. Perhaps the property market was oversubscribed, but a more plausible reason was lack of communications. Forty

Hill, even in the 1890s was not readily accessible, with the nearest railway station, Turkey Street opening in 1891. Both it and Enfield Town were some distance away. The estate came on the market again in 1894, but remained unsold.

The 1891 Census does not list the property under its original name, calling it 'Eagle House,' and unoccupied. C.W. Whitaker, in his book *A History of Enfield* mentions that the house was demolished in 1899, but the Census for 1901 clearly states that the property was still standing with a caretaker, Elizabeth Sellier living on the premises.

The Child family made a further attempt at selling the house and grounds in 1900, but with no luck. It was offered for sale by Messrs. Debenham, Tewson, Farmer and Bridgewater, who were actively soliciting private enquiries. By September a draft conveyance was drawn up between A.H. Child, James Hayllar and Henry Carrington Bowles, esq. He paid £6,500 for the estate together with 23 acres of land.

The date the house was demolished is not known, and a planned replacement building never built. Some of the brickwork from the site was salvaged by E.A. Bowles, the famous botanist and plantsman, and taken to Myddelton House. These included part of a pillar and some other unidentified stonework and were placed in the garden. Two lead ostriches that were originally on the roof of Gough Park overlooking the garden at the rear of the house were also taken to Myddelton House. Also two lead boars that were originally displayed on pillars at the entrance to the house, but they have since been stolen. Some original wrought ironwork forming part of the boundary wall still remains at Gough Park.



In September 1947, the then Enfield Urban District Council purchased from D.H. Parker Bowles, the area known as Gough Park allotments for £10,000. Today, the area known as Gough Park still survives as allotments. A small part of the original grounds forms a footpath between Forty Hill and Whitewebbs Park. It has recently been refurbished (May 2017) with the installation of a flood relief channel or swale. This was thought necessary due to waterlogging issues in the surrounding land.

Historic Buildings: Southgate Green

Stephen Gilbert

The name Southgate is first found in 1370 and refers to the south gate of Enfield Chase. This was a hunting ground from 1138, owned in turn by the de Mandeville and de Bohun families, until it came under the control of the Crown. It was enclosed following an Act of Parliament of 1777.

Southgate was in the western part of the parish and manor of Edmonton. In 1615 Sir John Weld built a chapel in the grounds of Arnolds near Southgate Green. In 1719 Arnolds was replaced by Arnos Grove (which is now Southgate Beaumont—a Barchester care community with, in normal times, free tours, tea and entertainment for visitors on Tuesday afternoons. See newsletter 177, Spring 2010). The Weld chapel was replaced by Gilbert Scott's Christ Church in 1863 (see newsletter 179, Autumn 2010). In the 18th century a number of mansions were built including Southgate House, Minchenden (1747), Cullands Grove and Southgate Grove, now Grovelands Priory Hospital (1797) (see newsletter 217, Spring 2020).

The poet, novelist, playwright, essayist and critic James Henry Leigh Hunt (1784–1859) was born at Eagle Hall on the High Street, which was destroyed in the Second World War. In 1813 he described the Prince Regent as “a fat Adonis of 50”. This earned him a two year prison sentence and a fine of £500 (£35,000 today). While in prison he was visited by many of his literary friends including Charles and Mary Lamb, Lord Byron, Keats, Shelley, Coleridge and Hazlett.

In his Autobiography Hunt wrote: “It is a pleasure to me to know that I was born in so sweet a village as Southgate... a scene of trees and meadows, of “greenery” and nestling cottages... It is a place lying out of the way of innovation, therefore it has the pure sweet air of antiquity about it.”

Henry Crabb Robinson, living in Southgate in 1812, described the village thus:– “No distant prospect from the Green but there are fine trees admirably grouped, and neat happy homes scattered in the picturesque corners and lanes.”

In its 1907 sales brochure for new houses in Palmers Green, the New London and County Building and Estate Co. referred to the proximity of “the picturesque and charming village of Southgate with its lovely mansions in their fine old gardens, village green and pond.” (See newsletter 214, Summer 2019.) In 1928 the pond was filled in.

In 1881 an elected Local Board of Health was set up covering Southgate, Winchmore Hill and Palmers Green. These areas had previously been part of the Edmonton Local Board of Health. The first offices were at Ash Lodge, Southgate Green, but in 1893 new offices were built in Palmers Green. These were substantially extended in 1916 and 1940 becoming Southgate Town Hall. Southgate became an urban district in 1894 and a borough in 1933. In 1965 Southgate was incorporated into the London Borough of Enfield along with the boroughs of Edmonton and Enfield.

Southgate Green became a conservation area in 1968. It has since been extended into the High Street, Waterfall Road and Cannon Hill. Neighbouring conservation areas are The Lakes Estate (see newsletter 214, Summer 2019), The Meadway Estate (see newsletter 196, Winter 2014) and Southgate Circus (see newsletter 209, Spring 2018). Southgate Green can be reached by buses 121, 298, 299 and W6.

A detailed list of the publications consulted in the preparation of this article may be found on our web-site. Illustrations 6 and 7 are courtesy of Enfield Local Studies Library & Archives.



1. Essex House and Arnoside House, 4 and 5 The Green, are listed Grade II* and were built in 1720. This pair of three storey red/purple brick houses with basements have rusticated brick quoins at the corners. Four stone steps with wrought iron handrails lead up to a pair of doors with moulded architraves above. There are fine Baroque gate piers topped with stone urns and original railings and gates. Once used as a school, the frame for the bell can still be seen on the roof. On either side are matching restored former coach houses and further to the right is the 18th century Grade II listed two storey Old House with dormer windows in its slated roof.



2. Ellington Court, in the High Street, is an early (1937) work by Frederick Gibberd (1908–84). He went on to become the architect/planner for Harlow New Town and designed Heathrow's control tower, Regent's Park mosque and Liverpool's Roman Catholic cathedral. In 1960 Frederick Gibberd and Partners produced a comprehensive re-development plan for Edmonton Green which, with some alterations, was carried out between 1965 and 1974.

This brick faced block of flats has modernist features such as cantilevered concrete porches. At the rear are projecting concrete balconies overlooking the Walker cricket ground. Unfortunately, since this photograph was taken in 2004, the building has been altered with an additional floor added using different materials and in a different colour and style.



3. Ash Lodge, 40 The Green, dates from the 18th century and has a fine Georgian fanlight over the entrance. From 1881 to 1893 it was used as the first offices of Southgate Local Board of Health. The adjoining cottage, 41 The Green, is also Georgian.



4. Sanford and Norbury Houses, 38 and 39 The Green, listed Grade II, were built in 1775–6 for a local landowner Richard Goad. They are a pair of stock brick townhouses, three storeys high with dormer windows in a slated mansard roof and semi-basements. Eight steps lead up to six-panel doors. The door cases have attached Egyptian columns. The projecting bays were added in the 19th century. Norbury House on the left has an additional two storey wing with Venetian windows. In the late 19th century Sanford House was the home of Charles Hugo famous for language courses and bi-lingual dictionaries. The houses are now divided into flats.



5, 6. Thanks to a campaign by the Southgate Civic Trust, in 1981 the Grade II listed 1780 houses 23–32 The Green were extensively rebuilt and restored to the original designs by architect Michael Seacles, who was also responsible for the Paragon on Blackheath. Some are covered in painted stucco while in others the yellow stock brick fronts can still be seen. Many of the houses have later shop fronts inserted and these can be seen the photograph taken around 1930.



7, 8. The oldest part of the Grade II listed Cherry Tree (now called Ye Olde Cherry Tree) may date back to the 17th century. There was an inn on the site in 1624 when it was given by Valentine Poole to a charity, to benefit the poor of Barnet. The first landlord is recorded in 1716. The present brick front, with Victorian bay windows, conceals an earlier timber framed building. An early 18th century yellow stock brick house was later incorporated into the inn. Also owned by the Cherry Tree were the Assembly Rooms above the carriage entrance, which led through to stables. The Cherry Tree remained a coaching inn until the 19th century.

Among the many groups which met at the inn were the Loyal British Society 1800 to 1833 and the Loyal Adelaide Lodge of Manchester Unity of Oddfellows which held meetings at the Cherry Tree for over 100 years from 1842. It was also used by various hiking and cycling clubs, horse charabanc parties and day-trippers from London.

At the end of the 19th century there were public and private bars, a smoking room, a billiard room and a staff room. The 1905 photograph shows the Cherry Tree before a mock Tudor porch was erected in 1924 to support the front wall which was bowing outwards. Much of the interior had to be reconstructed after a fire in 1947. Further alterations and extensions were made in the following decades.



9. At the bottom of Cannon Hill are three adjoining Grade II listed historic houses.

Nos 6 and 6A were originally known as Cannon Hall. The early 19th century yellow brick villa has a low pitched hipped slated roof and was extended in the mid 19th century. It has more recently been used as a social club by St Monica's Roman Catholic Church in Palmers Green.

No. 4 Cannon Hill was originally stables and a coach house for Cannon Hall. It is an early 19th century two storey timber framed weather boarded building with projecting single storey wings.

The Hermitage, illustrated above, at 2 Cannon Hill is a late 18th/early 19th century thatched cottage orné. It has three bays, barge boarded gables and dormer windows in the roof. The first floor windows and gothic doorway have drip moulds to deflect the rain. Since the photograph was taken in 2008, the roof has been re-thatched.



10. Miscreants would be pelted with rotten fruit and vegetables and stones while they were locked in the stocks. These stocks, which are not the original ones on The Green, were restored in 2002.

Nearby is a trough provided by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association. It is now planted with flowers, although the lower level still fills up with rain water, benefiting small animals.

Circular Ridgeway Walk

Stuart Mills



Looking South West across the ripening crops at Rectory Farm with Chase Farm hospital on the left

A 5½ mile cross-country walk, with shorter options, through farmland with extensive views and accessible by public transport. It mainly uses paths originally proposed by The Enfield Society to the Greater London and Enfield Councils.

Either start from The Ridgeway entrance to Chase Farm Hospital (buses W8, W9 & 313) and, with the hospital behind you, turn right and walk ¼ mile along The Ridgeway to the Rectory Farm bridleway just after Roundhedge Way, or, remain on the 313 bus to Roundhedge Way.

Take the surfaced bridleway (part of the London Loop) downhill and follow the track beside the buildings of Rectory Farm, crossing Turkey Brook and then past The Red House. Just before the railway bridge turn left onto the Rectory Farm path ① which follows the field edge uphill to Tingey Tops Pond. The pond was saved from infill in the 1970s by The Enfield Society.



Shorter option: from Tingey Tops join the public footpath on the right-hand side of the pond to cross Crews Hill golf course, with delightful views either side, to reach Cattlegate Road (turn right to the station and garden nurseries). Total distance 2 miles from the hospital.

Otherwise, turn left along the open field edge in front of the pond and after about 200 yards turn right into a field ②. Walk the right-hand field edge next to the golf course. At the end of the field turn left downhill into trees, over Turkey Brook and then around the right-hand field edge (with the golf course still on your right) to enter another field. With the hedge on your right, after about 250 yards cross the small bridge on your right over a ditch, through a gap in the hedge ③ to enter East Lodge Nature Reserve. If you find a green mesh fence on your right, you've gone too far. Follow the narrow path through the Nature Reserve, over a stile into a field and ahead to soon reach East Lodge Lane.

Shorter options: Turn left along East Lodge Lane pavement to reach Botany Bay village and the 313 bus route. Also, there is



the option of visiting the Robin Hood pub and/or continuing the walk past the pub to reach in ½ mile the Jubilee Path on the left and rejoin the full route, thereby saving about ½ mile in distance.

Otherwise, turn right in East Lodge Lane and after about 100 yards just before the first house ④, turn left onto Holly Hill Farm path. Go straight ahead, downhill and uphill, turning left at the



top of the hill and then for about 400 yards beside the hedge, past a model aircraft flying area with good long distance views, to reach a stile on the right ⑤. Climb the stile and head towards the M25. Go downhill and then left at the bottom of the field. Bear right in the next corner ⑥ to reach a track. Turn left along the track and after about 200 yards enter a field on the right ⑦ and walk the field's left-hand edge into Groundforce Grove. Exit at the stile and cross two small fields to reach the farm drive. Turn right and follow the drive, which is a public right of way, to reach The Ridgeway with views towards Epping Forest. About 3¾ miles from the start. You have the option here to take the 313 bus, 100 yards on the right from the farm entrance.



Otherwise, turn left for about 250 yards to reach the public right of way on the right known as the Jubilee Path ⑧. Stop here and admire the view over South-East London with Canary Wharf, Blackheath and Shooter's Hill in the mid-distance. The M25 Dartford bridge can be seen on a clear day!

In recognition of The Queen's Silver Jubilee, The Enfield



continued



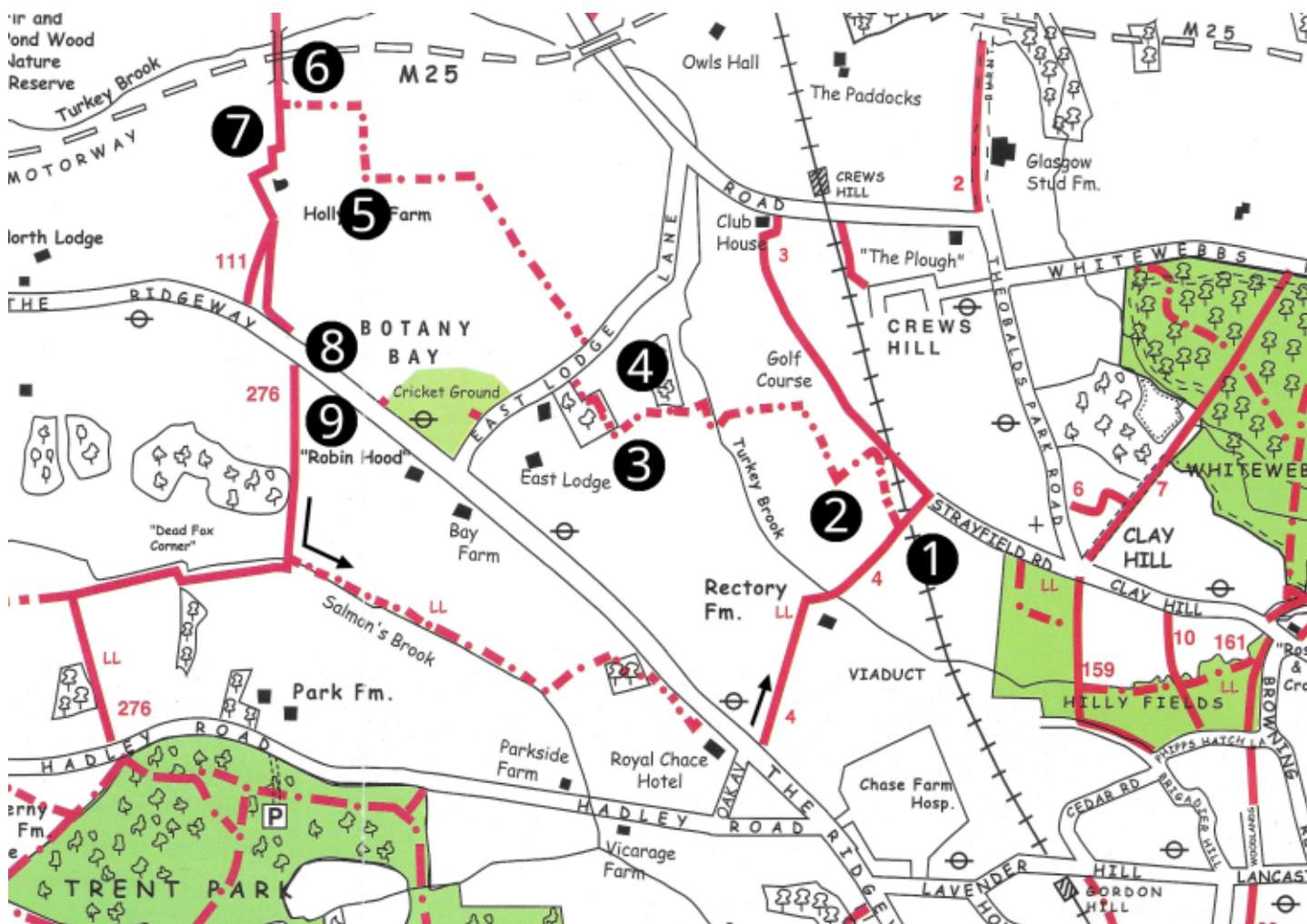
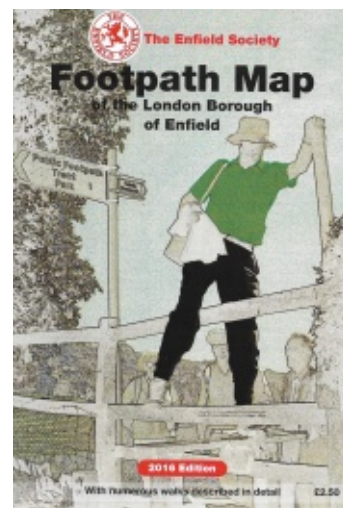
The London Loop follows Salmons Brook through this peaceful valley

Society proposed and built this path linking The Ridgeway and Hadley Road. Society members gave over 2,600 hours to construct the 1¼ mile path, work which involved clearance, stream diversion, bridge building, hedging and fencing the entire route. After 18 months work, it was opened by Enfield's Mayor in February 1979. About 100 yards from The Ridgeway you will find a commemorative stone marking the event ⑨.

Go downhill to the valley and at Salmons Brook turn left onto the London Loop. Follow the Brook for a little over ½ mile before bearing left uphill. Before turning into Brooke Wood, look behind you at the lovely view westwards towards the Barnet Road near Wrotham Park. Currently there are plans for substantial tree planting in this valley. Exit Brooke Wood and follow the left-hand field edge to the stile onto The Ridgeway. Turn right for the return to the start. Total distance of the full route is about 5½ miles.

For more ideas on possible walks in Enfield's countryside, why not purchase a copy of the Society's Footpaths Map—£2.50. See enclosed publications order form, or order online for £3.50 including postage. The reverse of the map has information about many individual paths and rights of way with nine suggested routes of varying length from 2½ to 12½ miles.

A section of the Footpaths Map is reproduced below, showing the route described here.



The Merryhills Way

Andrew Lack

The Merryhills Way is a short footpath at 1¼ miles (2km) running from Trent Park in the West to Fairview Road (off The Ridgeway) in the East.

It's an easy path to walk—though it can become very muddy in the winter or after prolonged rain—and gives glorious views over pastureland to the North. At the Eastern end, just before the path enters a wooded area, there is a wide view across to Oakwood and Cockfosters. There are good public transport links at either end of the route.

Please do not leave the official route, described here.



The path begins on Enfield Road near the Equestrian Centre (above, left). Walk about ¼ mile down the pedestrian path to the right of the horse track from the Equestrian Centre. Cross the Brook by a footbridge, then turn right over the ditch into the field (above right). You are now at the start of the Merryhills Way.



After ½ mile you come to the path for Trentwood Side.

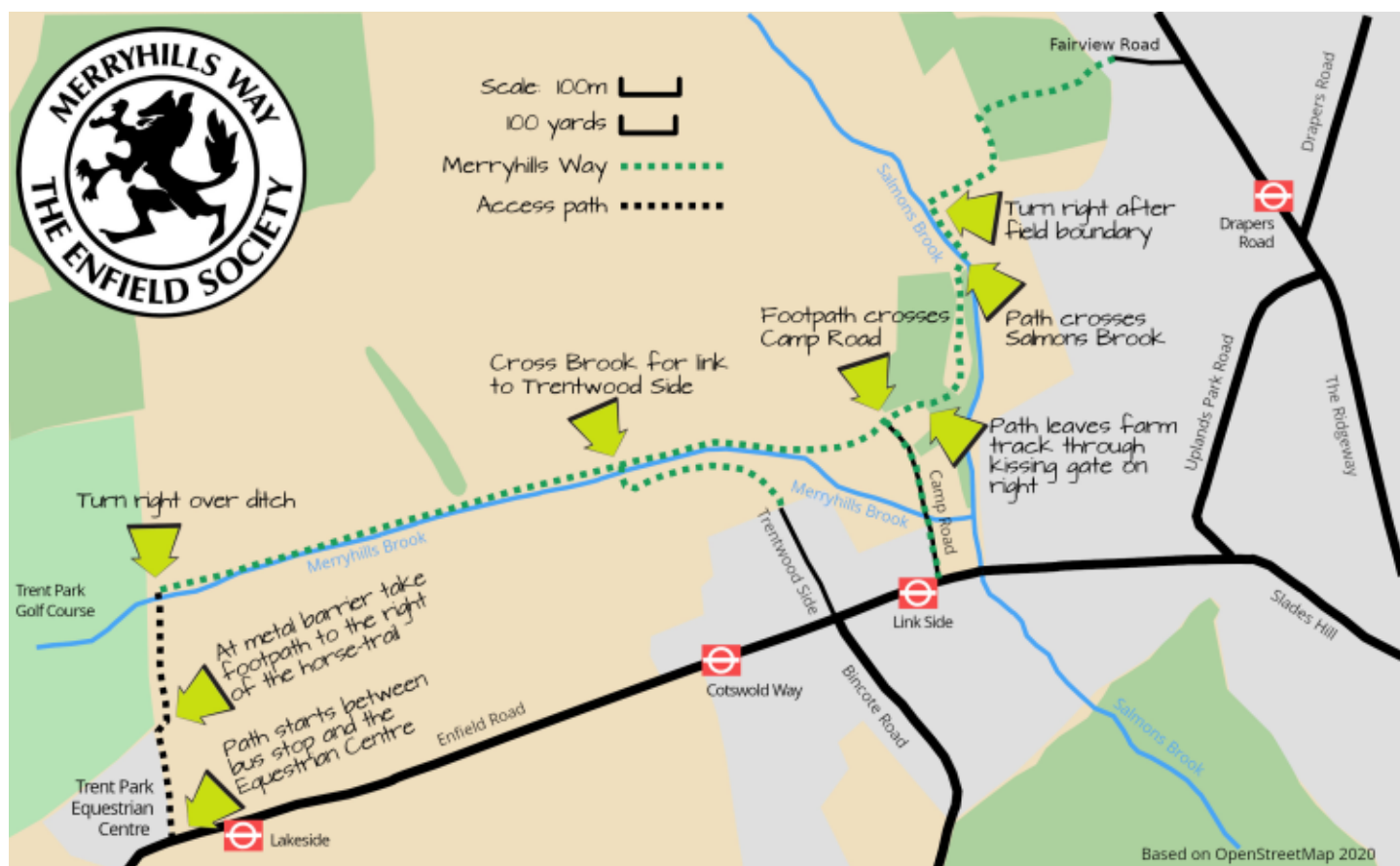


At Camp Road you may take the track down to Enfield Road to find buses and the Jolly Farmers pub-restaurant opposite. The Merryhills Way continues straight over, through a kissing gate.



After about 30 yards, bear right off the farm track (look for a second kissing gate, left above) and the path joins Salmons Brook, crossing it over a brick bridge. After crossing the Brook, turn left. At the next field boundary, turn right and follow the field edge up and round to the gate into the wood. The path then climbs to emerge at the end of Fairview Road (above, right).

You can find more details about the Merryhills Way on our website, including public transport options and the history of the path. Go to enfieldsociety.org.uk/merryhills-way



There's history beneath our feet

John Liffen

During the period of COVID-19 lockdown in spring 2020 many of us will have been walking our local roads more frequently for exercise. While doing so myself I took the opportunity of looking out for street furniture relating to the public utilities. The cast-iron covers for fire hydrants are one example. They are typically found set in the pavement about 100 metres apart along one side of most roads. They all incorporate cast lettering indicating the identity of the original owning organisation. More recent examples may be marked 'TWA' (Thames Water Authority) or 'MWB' (Metropolitan Water Board) but older examples may incorporate the initials of the former local authority and possibly also a year.



Ridge Avenue plate, 1908

The present London Borough of Enfield comprises the former local authority areas of Edmonton, Enfield and Southgate. I have noted many Edmonton covers with 'EUDC' (Edmonton Urban District Council) with often a year too. One particular example is outside 50 Ridge Avenue, marked 'EUDC 1908' (illustrated). This is at just the time that Ridge Avenue was first being constructed and may be in its original location. Such evidence should not be relied upon as covers can be swapped around. One outside 100 Ladysmith Road, Enfield, is marked 'Southgate DC' (Southgate District Council), which is an impressive migration



Parsonage Lane cover with legend detail enlarged

for a hydrant cover. Many Enfield covers are marked 'EFB' which may be 'Enfield Fire Brigade' but confirmation would be welcome. Some EFB covers have not only the year but the month as well. Examples are at Lincoln Way, 'EFB 7/1933', and outside 70 Northfield Road, 'EFB 10/1933'. A cover at the corner of London Road and Park Avenue, just inside Edmonton's former boundary with Enfield Urban District, is marked 'EBC', presumably 'Edmonton Borough Council' and therefore dating from 1937 onwards, the year Edmonton was incorporated as a municipal borough.

Fire hydrants are usually, but not always, indicated by the familiar yellow 'H' plate mounted on a nearby wall or small post. On older plates the upper number is the diameter of the pipe in inches and the lower, the distance to the hydrant in feet. On newer plates the upper number is the diameter in millimetres and the lower, the distance in metres.



Fire Hydrant plates: Berkeley Gardens N21 (left), Green Dragon Lane N21 (right)

Pavement covers for telephone 'joint boxes' are too common to need special notice, except to say that older examples may be indiscriminately marked either 'Post Office Telephones' or 'Post Office Telegraphs'. Why such a distinction needed to be perpetuated for so long after the Post Office became (in 1912) the monopoly provider of both facilities is a mystery I have yet to solve.

Covers for access to electricity supply ducts are also common, but in our area older types are rare. In Parsonage Lane near the junction with Churchbury Lane (SW corner) is a cover plate marked 'North Metropolitan Electric Supply Co' (illustrated). NorthMet supplied Enfield from 1906 to 1948 with electricity generated at Brimsdown power station and had a reputation as a well-run company. The contractor for laying the cables was British Insulated Cables Ltd, Prescot, whose name is also on the cover. Another NorthMet cover is not far away in Willow Road at its junction with Riversfield Road. The extensions of Parsonage Lane and Willow Road were constructed in the late 1930s and this may indicate the date of these covers but not explain why they have managed to survive for so long. I hope this goes to show that there is history all around us, even beneath our feet. All you need is an enquiring mind and keen observation.

Historic Buildings: The Fox Palmers Green in 1899 (Part 2)

Stephen Gilbert

This article continues on from Part 1 which appeared in our Summer 2020 newsletter.

The Fox was originally a 17th century two-storey red brick cottage at the end of Fox Lane in the former hamlet of Palmers Green. It is first mentioned in a will of 1683 and the first landlord is recorded in 1716. Between 1861 and 1967 the licensees were members of the Davey family.

For more information see: *A-Z of Enfield Pubs Part Two* by Gary Boudier 2002 and *Once upon a time in Palmers Green* by Alan Dumayne 1988. These may be consulted at Enfield Local Studies Library and Archives, which also supplied these photographs taken in 1899. They provide a valuable record of the appearance of a late Victorian public house, before it was rebuilt in 1904.



1. The kitchen has plates and small dishes stored on the worktop, cups and mugs hanging from hooks and larger dishes and other containers stored on higher shelves. A food preparation table is shown pulled out on the right. A long roller towel is hanging down from the kitchen door. On the left is the cooking stove.



2. The large public function room has patterned wallpaper with panelling below. Around the wall are pictures and mounted birds. The fireplace has a mirror above and the room is furnished with tables, chairs, a settee and a piano. The floor has bare boards. The room is lit by a plain gaselier.

3 top, adjacent column. This living room has an open fireplace decorated with a valance (a cloth hanging from the mantel). Curtains could be drawn to hide the grate although these might be a fire risk. Above the fireplace is a large mirror. The room is furnished with a settee, dining table, chairs and a piano. A large wall unit, seen reflected in the full length mirror between curtains, is flanked by two candleabra. The floor is carpeted.



4, 5. The principal bedroom (upper photo) has patterned wallpaper with large pictures on the wall. The fireplace has a mantel shelf with flowers and pictures in front of a mirror. There is a fine brass bedstead with a high quality eiderdown, a chest of drawers and a small table. The room is lit by a brass gaselier. The floor is uncarpeted except for a rug in front of the fireplace.

The simple candlelit servants bedrooms (lower photo) each with two single beds, have plain bed linen and a washstand with jugs and basins.



6. The Davey family and staff can be seen in the backyard with chickens. Buildings around the backyard included a skittle alley, sheds, stables for up to eleven horses, a coach house, a storeroom and outside toilets. There was also a licensed tea garden.

Quarterly Society/Council meeting

Dave Cockle

The Management Committee meet with senior members of the Council four times a year. The last meeting, on May 15th, was a virtual meeting with the Leader, Cllr Caliskan, and Vincent Lacovara, Head of Planning.

Colosseum Retail Park

The Society submitted comments in partnership with CPRE (London) and Enfield Roadwatch on 17th April. We are broadly supportive of higher density developments near transport hubs in order to protect the Green Belt and other open spaces. We do however have concerns over the height of Block A and believe that some design changes are needed to balconies, brickwork, fenestration etc. It was noted that the developer had submitted the scheme to the design panel and further design developments were being pursued and various details will be conditioned as the scheme develops in stages.

Transport for London car parks, Arnos Grove and Cockfosters

We thought the Arnos Grove development plan was a well-developed scheme, being relatively low rise and sympathetic to the Listed tube station. The Cockfosters proposal is in a sensitive location and we would like to see the height of new blocks being kept at the same height or lower than the nearby Black Horse Tower. This would help to protect the views from Trent Park. It was explained that pre-application discussions were still taking place with the developer.

Future plans for Local Studies Archive and Museum's permanent displays.

The Council were looking at plans to consolidate assets to use buildings more effectively. An OFSTED report into Children's Services had recommended more joined-up thinking from early years to youth offending in the location where services were provided. It was planned to move services from Triangle House, the Civic Centre & Claverings Estate to Thomas Hardy House (The Dugale Centre). The first option was to look to see if the Museum Service could remain at Thomas Hardy House. We stressed the importance of maintaining the Museum Service there and pointed out the increase in visitors after the Museum had moved from Forty Hill. The special climate-controlled storage facilities for archives had been constructed at some expense only eight years ago.

Chase Farm development, schools and housing

We thought the Chase Farm development plan had been carefully thought through, but the Society had some reservations on the claimed catchment areas that pupils would travel from. This would have an impact on travel distances. We were pleased to learn that the Clock Tower and Old Mortuary were to be saved and incorporated into the development. We asked if some Section 106 money could be secured to provide lifts or ramps at Gordon Hill Station as the station had been identified as having an important part in the Transport Impact Assessment. The Council agreed to look at putting this to the developers.

Progress on an Article 4 Direction

We were told it was proving difficult to find supporting evidence for an Article 4 Directive to apply Borough wide and it would probably be applied on a location specific basis. A working group had been set up to look at this matter and review the evidence. The matter was being given priority by the Labour Group.

Planning processes with virtual meetings—keeping the public involved

The “on-line” process did not change the public right for a deputation at a meeting. Live streaming is to be trialled.

Edmonton developments, is there any progress on upgrading the shopping centre or Fore Street?

This development is in its early stages and there have only been pre-application discussions so far.

What action is being taken on the persistent Fly Tipping to the rear of Sandhurst Road N9, adjacent to Sadlers Mill Stream Footpath?

It was thought that action had been taken to identify the perpetrator, who had been dumping old mattresses. Weekly checks were being made on the site and any dumped rubbish removed.

New River Enfield Loop, monitoring of the pumps.

The cost of installing remote monitoring of the pumps would be investigated. See our news roundup (next page) for more details.

In support of Local Studies

Following Val Munday's lead article in this newsletter, I would like to add my support urging the retention of the museum, local studies library and archives in the Dugdale Centre.

For the past twelve years I have written articles on various aspects of the Borough's history and its historic buildings for this newsletter. Since 2009, when the local studies library moved into the Dugdale Centre, I have been a regular visitor and the staff past and present—the late Graham Dalling together with Kate Godfrey and Annette Sparrowhawk and more recently John Clark—have been invariably helpful in suggesting and providing from the collection publications and illustrations which I could use in my research.

The local studies library, which is so centrally placed, always has a good number of people researching various aspects of the Borough's history or their own family history. The library and museum with its displays on Enfield life, people and places would be missed very much if they were to close or move to a less accessible location or even be only available on-line.

Stephen Gilbert

Monthly e-mail newsletters

Earlier this year we started sending a monthly news update to members by e-mail.

In 2018, following the change to data protection with the introduction of the GDPR, The Enfield Society asked members to consent to receiving news e-mails. As a result only about 70% of members for whom we have an e-mail address are currently receiving our news updates.

If you are not receiving our regular e-mails, which come out at the beginning of each month, contact us at info@enfieldsociety.org.uk and ask to be added to our list. You can unsubscribe at any time.

At present, with the uncertainty over COVID-19, e-mail is a fastest way for us to communicate with you. We try to keep e-mails to a minimum and to the point.

Andrew Lack

Palmers Green Station



The Palmers Green Action Team's project of commissioning artworks to improve our town centre has moved forward with the installation of this new station sign, created by the Bread Collective. The next step will be to add planting, which will grow up around the lettering.

The Action Team are looking for volunteers to help with gardening and "compost support".

Two other commissions for art at the station are under way: a mural by ATM Street Art and mosaic work by Alex McHallam.

Protecting Eels



Over recent years, a large section of the eels' habitat has been degraded and lost due to land reclamation, the construction of dams and reductions in water quality. It is estimated that the number of eels in our waters is just five percent of what it was in the 1980's. Over-fishing has also been another factor. Legislation has now made it compulsory to fit eel screens to inlets in reservoirs, sluices and dams.

Thames Water have recently completed a project involving the installation of a screen at Enfield Lock by the channel where the water is extracted from the River Lea to supply the King George's Reservoir. The plastic screen has a two

centimetre fine mesh. Every five or six hours the mesh is automatically cleaned, weed etc. being washed off. The screen can be viewed from the Enfield Lock–Chingford section of the London Loop Footpath, where this photograph was taken. The houses in the background behind the trees are in Enfield Island Village.

Low water levels in the New River (Enfield Loop)

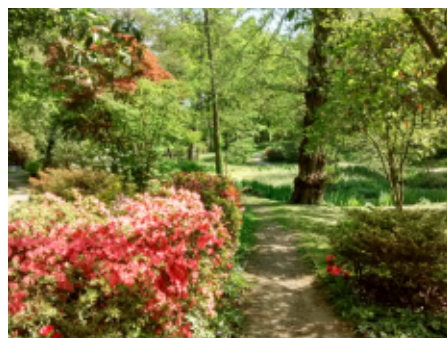


Throughout May and June The Society received reports from members about the low level of the New River in the section which runs round Enfield from the Southbury Road to the Town Park. These were passed to Enfield Council's Watercourses Team who, in turn have been dealing with Thames Water.

By agreement, except in periods of drought, Thames Water should pump 100,000 gallons of water daily into the Loop at Southbury Road, with the Council having two backup pumps, one at Southbury Road and the other at Parsonage Lane.

Failures with all three pumps meant that the water level dropped significantly, especially visible at the Crown and Horseshoes. As this newsletter was being prepared, we heard that the backup pump was working again at Southbury Road, as was the Thames Water pump, and water levels had recovered.

Trent Park Water Garden



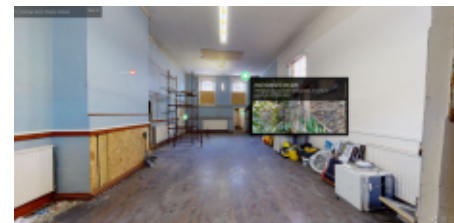
It is so pleasing to see that action is now being taken by Enfield Council to restore

the Trent Park Water Garden to its former glory. For some time it had been in a very sad state with garden beds choked with weeds, paths overgrown and ponds full of vegetation.

The knowledgeable gardeners working on the restoration are doing an excellent job and are committed to its continuing development. They are now currently working to improve irrigation to the water features and carrying out necessary pruning of shrubs and vegetation.

Congratulations to all involved, particularly Francesco and Kai who are carrying out the work.

Charity School Edmonton



There is continuing good news about this important building. The London Historic Buildings Trust (LHBT), who are leading in the restoration project, have launched a public consultation seeking ideas for the building's future use. See our web-site news pages for all the details: enfieldsociety.org.uk/news

The LHBT have created a fantastic 360° virtual tour of the building and the surrounding area. The tour allows you to look round all the rooms inside, from any angle, and see the building in high-definition. Live-in guardians are to move in, helping to safe-guard the building.

The Enfield Society has also granted more money to the project to help pay for buildings insurance and Trustees' Liability insurance, seen as important steps towards restoration.

Refuge House, Enfield

At Refuge House, River Front, the applicant requested a change of use from offices and prior approval for conversion to 92 small flats (19/04354/PRJ). On 31st January 2020 the Council refused prior approval. The applicant wasted no time in appealing. As reported elsewhere, appeals are taking an inordinate time to process so the Planning Inspectorate's decision is not expected for some months.

The situation at Refuge House is not dissimilar from the Blackhorse, Holbrook

News roundup

continued

and Churchwood buildings in Cockfosters, where in July 2020 the applicant requested prior approval for conversion to 200 flats (20/02032/PRJ), but unlike Refuge House with parking provision.

Royal Chace Hotel



Signature Senior Lifestyle are proposing the redevelopment of the Royal Chace Hotel, The Ridgeway, for a care facility and new homes. A planning application will be submitted later this year. Lexington Communications have consulted residential neighbours, local community groups and councillors. A virtual public exhibition has been made available and can be found at signatureroyalchace.co.uk The Architecture & Planning Group are in contact with Signature and exhibition banners have been provided. The hotel site is large and prominent from a wide area, and we are concerned any high density development could impact on the adjacent Green Belt land.

North Lodge Whitewebbs



In July 2019 the Grade II Listed North Lodge in Whitewebbs Road was partially demolished (above). The building had been in a derelict condition for some time and was a concern to The Enfield Society. In addition to the building itself there was evidence that contaminated waste had been dumped at the site.

The Council issued a Temporary Stop Notice and an Urgent Works Notice was served on all parties. The owner failed to

comply with the Urgent Works Notice, therefore in the interests of the Listing the Council has carried out close to £100,000 of works in default action to protect and prevent any further damage.

These works included the scaffolding and sheeting, the large hoarding around the site and the securing of all entrances to prevent unauthorised access. These charges have been placed on the land and the owner has been invoiced.

The Council has met with possible buyers for the site who are seeking to bring the Listing back to its original condition and possibly with the approval from the Planning department carry out improvements and alterations.

The sale of the property has not been finalised and so the current owner is still liable for any further breaches or works carried out by the Council.

Let's Talk Enfield Town

The report from last year's engagement has now been finalised and is available from Enfield Council's web-site and our own. The Enfield Town Consultative Group, which includes The Enfield Society, has identified five key design principles to shape future investment in Enfield Town:

1. Is safe for all,
2. Has a vibrant economy,
3. Is a great place to be,
4. Offers transport choices,
5. Celebrates its heritage.

The Council has also assured the Consultative Group that they remain fully committed to town centre investment during these challenging times.

Edmonton & Eastern Enfield Group

The Edmonton & Eastern Enfield Group will be holding their next meeting by Zoom on **Wednesday 16th September at 7.30pm.**

Sylvie Leithgoe will give a presentation on the work of the Bountagu Partnership. This is a good example of a government funded "Big Local Project" with community benefits in a closely defined area in the East of the Borough.

Details of how to join the meeting will be included in our September news e-mail. See page 13 if you are not receiving these from us and wish to.

Dave Cockle

Historical Association Autumn Meetings

Please contact Robin Blades, Branch Secretary to check whether the meetings are able to go ahead and, if so, the venue or online details on 020 8368 5328 or robin.blades@outlook.com Non-members are welcome (a small charge applies) or why not join?

Tuesday 8th September, 8pm, *One Hundred Years of Historians and the North London Branch* by Robin Blades. This meeting will be followed by the Branch AGM.

Tuesday 13th October, 8pm, *The Crisis of the Meritocracy: How Popular Demand not Politicians made Britain into a Mass Education Society* by Professor Peter Mandler (HA President, Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge).

Tuesday 10th November, 8pm, *The Cross-Channel Empire of the Normans* by Professor David Bates (University of East Anglia).



Mr Frank Bayford has generously donated this signed limited edition print of Gentleman's Row by local artist John Stockle, in addition to the set of six plates (see page 4). It will be framed and displayed at Jubilee Hall for all members to admire.

Society Directory

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dealt with as promptly as possible.

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How to contact us

info@enfieldsociety.org.uk

To contact our specialist groups either
call the number given or use our general
enquiries e-mail (above) and we will
redirect your message.

Architecture and Planning: Bill Wilson

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group: Nigel
King

Coach Outings: Janet McQueen,
020 8367 7374

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020 8886 6080

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2242

Heritage at Risk: Janet McQueen

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020 8363 0031

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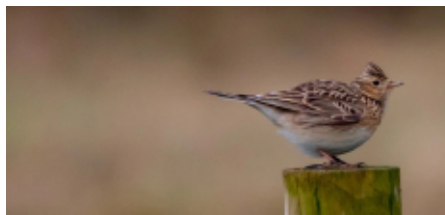
Trees: John West, 020 8886 6080

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The skylarks of Vicarage Farm

In the first few weeks of lockdown,
people taking their permitted exercise
along the Merryhills Way (see page 10) or
the footpath into Trent Country Park
found their spirits lifted by the voices of
several skylarks soaring over Vicarage
Farm. With no car or plane noise this
year, the songs were especially noticeable.
Vicarage Farm has been a popular nesting
site for a few years now, especially the
large field to the east of the golf course.
Bird recorders logged at least seven
skylarks over the field in mid-May.



Sadly, breeding success on the farm is low
because of the mowing schedule used by
the farmer and the fields were completely
cleared again this year around the May
Bank Holiday weekend. The UK skylark
population has plummeted by more than
two-thirds in the past few decades so
skylarks are now red-listed birds of high
conservation concern. A few people
approached the farmer, who claimed to be
avoiding the nests. However, skylark nests
are notoriously difficult to see in long
grass so it is likely that active nests were
destroyed.

The situation was reported to the local
police who visited the farmer and
provided him with a copy of the primary
legislation protecting wild birds in the
UK—the Wildlife and Countryside Act
1981. They also created an information
report and we hope the farmer will be
more mindful of the skylarks in future by
adjusting the mowing schedule.

Carol Fisk

Newsletter Dates

We welcome contributions from
members. We accept copy by e-mail or
paper. Contact the Editor, Andrew Lack,
(info@enfieldsociety.org.uk) if
you have any questions about making a
contribution. The copy date for the next
newsletter is Friday 16th October 2020
and it will be published on Tuesday 10th
November 2020.

Brown bins



Thank you to all
members who replied
following our article
in the last newsletter.
The reports of areas
not receiving these
bins included parts of
Edmonton, Palmers Green, Southgate and
Enfield.

Other problems mentioned were the
difficulty, and in some cases the
impossibility, of obtaining a replacement
when bins were stolen, or in one case,
broken by the bin men and the irregular
collections. One person mentioned that
although she lived in a block of 24
maisonettes, all of which have their own
front door at ground level, they have no
bins. They seem to be regarded as
residents of a block of flats.

The Council's claim that a brown bin has
been given to every household does not
seem to apply to those living in flats or
maisonettes. Interesting information came
about a block of 72 flats in Enfield where
residents had brown bins which they
emptied into large bins at ground level for
a few weeks, but this was discontinued for
no given reason. As the bags in the small
bins are emptied into large bins before
being taken away, it is difficult to
understand why this system was
abandoned.

When COVID-19 is not taking up so much
of everyone's time, we will take up this
matter again.

Monica Smith

Newsletter distribution

In the past the newsletters have been
prepared for posting by volunteers. This
has necessitated placing all the items in
an envelope, sealing and adding a stamp.
We've had a group of members who've
done this each time and we would like to
express our sincere thanks to them for
getting this important task completed.

However, times change and we have
decided to use an external company to
do the posting.

Together with this newsletter you should
have received an AGM notice, the
Annual Report and Accounts summary
and a publications order form. We
would welcome any feedback on the
change—good and bad. Contact us at
info@enfieldsociety.org.uk