



Alternative approach for the Archive & Museum published by the Society

Our proposal meets the Council's requirement for Youth Services, keeps the Archive at the Dugdale Centre and comes with a substantial offer of investment for the Museum

Andrew Lack

Following our meetings with the Council over their desire to redevelop level one at the Dugdale Centre, we are proposing an alternative approach for the new home of Children and Youth Services.

We learned in the Spring that the first floor of the Dugdale Centre, which today is home to the Local Studies Library, the permanent displays of the Museum, the environmentally controlled Archive, as well as lucrative conference facilities, was to become the home of the Children and Youth Services.

The Council announced over the summer that the Museum would be moved to a "redesigned" ground floor, but there is limited space for an enlarged museum and this could mean losing the temporary exhibition space. And there is still no confirmed proposal for the Archive or Local Studies Library. The Enfield Society, along with many other local groups including the Enfield Archaeological Society and Edmonton Hundred Historical Society oppose current plans to separate the Archive from the Museum.

In an effort to try and provide an acceptable compromise, the Enfield Society has proposed a detailed set of alternative arrangements for Youth Services and the Dugdale Centre. *Ever Stronger: Revising Enfield Council's Plans on Dugdale Centre/ Thomas Hardy House* proposes that part of Youth Services be moved onto the second floor of Dugdale, with the remaining section housed in unused office space within the Civic Centre, just a few minutes walk away. This would allow the Council to retain the present usage of the first floor as well as making considerable savings with the changes.

In addition to the proposal, the Society is offering up to £20,000 of funding, to be matched with additional external money, to be used to make major improvements to the Museum. This significant offer underscores our commitment to the plan and working with LBE to find an acceptable solution.

Our analysis of the proposal from LBE shows that there will be a loss of between £100K and £300K in income when the conference facilities at Dugdale are closed—a fact not included in the paper



that went to Cabinet in March 2020. The loss of the Archive at Dugdale would reduce visits to The Dugdale Centre by 60,000 per annum, impacting the economy of the Centre and Enfield Town.

Since Enfield Council's plans for the Youth Service were approved by Cabinet in March this year, COVID-19 has forced dramatic changes in working practices. Understandably none of this was considered in the earlier LBE proposal. The pandemic has affected not only working methods, but also how the public access Council services.

The Enfield Society understands the Council's need to find a new home for Children and Youth Services. By vacating the existing three buildings used (Charles Babbage House, Claverings and Triangle House) around £350K of annual savings are possible. These must be set against the costs for the Council's proposals, which involve moving the climate-controlled Archive to a new location and the associated costs for re-fitting level one of The Dugdale Centre.

As this newsletter was being finished we received a response from Mark Bradbury, Director of Property and Economy. The Council say that the redesigned ground floor will not reduce the space available for the Museum and describe the lost conference income as being mostly internal recharges between Council departments. Mr Bradbury re-states the Council's preferred location for the Archive—the Civic Centre (see report, page 2)—but confirms that consultations with the National Archive are continuing. You can find a copy of both the proposal and the letter on our web-site.

Presidents' Column



Monica Smith MBE & Colin Pointer,
Joint Presidents

We are living in very strange times with our lives constrained not so much by sensible, rationally thinking Government Ministers, as by their lay and scientific advisors. Common sense seems to have been abandoned, and we are now in part subject to algorithms; these apparently can provide diverse answers from which GCSE Level grades should be awarded to students to which parts of England should be earmarked for housing development, such as 148% more housing in the Cotswolds. Having just returned from a trip to the Cotswolds, and admired its charming villages and hamlets and its outstanding natural beauty, I find this draft housing proposal by algorithm quite ludicrous. We all probably agree that we need many more homes to be built, in the right places, and that the planning system needs urgent reform; hopefully after the current consultations and debates sensible solutions will be arrived at by human beings. As has been said elsewhere—governing by algorithm does not work.

Fortunately The Enfield Society has clear-thinking, sensible individuals on its Management Committee. The lead article tells how we, and our associates, are doing everything possible to make the Council change its proposals for the Dugdale Centre/Thomas Hardy House. Children's and Youth Services are obviously very important, but so is our heritage, even now so poorly represented in the restricted space allocated to the Museum and Archives here in the heart of Enfield. Our well-researched case with convincing points should result in the required changes to the Council's proposals.

On page 3 details are given of a proposed improvement and a new look to the Palace Gardens and Palace Exchange shopping centres. Most of the scheme would be supported but the proposal to build a residential tower block of 26 storeys is totally unacceptable in the heart of the Enfield Town conservation area. This will be strongly opposed by the Society.

Quarterly Society/Council Meeting Report

Bob Fowler

On 9 September 2020, Chair Dave Cockle together with the Management Committee members John West, Anne Osborne and Bob Fowler met via Zoom with Council Leader Nesil Caliskan and Vincent Lacovara, Head of Planning. The issues discussed included;

Local Plan Update: Currently under review. We understood that there will be significant revisions reflecting the Government's proposed changes to the planning process and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Society made reference to the *Local Plan Integrated Impact Assessment*, recently included on the Council's website, and the statement about the Borough's greenhouse industry and the need to reduce food miles and improve food security. The Society suggested that Crews Hill could revert to its previous role as a produce growing centre and that this should be considered as the plan goes forward.

Dugdale Centre: The Council stated that the Museum will remain at the Dugdale Centre and that the Archives will be relocated in the Civic Centre. In response to a question, it was confirmed that the archives will continue to be as accessible to users as these are under the current location.

Edmonton Boundary Stream Footpath fly-tipping: LBE are monitoring the situation and will initiate action as necessary.

Windmill Hill (EN2) Waverley Court Planning Enforcement: We stressed that there is considerable concern about the breaches of the approved planning application. LBE explained that the work on the site has been impacted by COVID-19 but the Enforcement Team has been in discussion with the developer to ensure that the work will be completed in accordance with the approved plans.

Article Four Directive: LBE has been working towards obtaining an Article Four Directive. However, this has been affected by further changes in the provisions for Permitted Development and the need take these into account. The Council will shortly issue a statement to publicise the Council position and consult the community on this.

Tall Buildings Policy: Following the Council's refusal of planning permission for the Southgate Office Village proposals, we raised the question of a tall buildings policy being formulated. LBE stated that it supports the need for such a policy and confirmed that this will be addressed in the updating of the Local

Plan. It was noted that the GLA would not be calling in the Southgate Office Village decision.

Pub Protection Policy: We commented on the recent pub closures accelerated by COVID-19 and stated our concern that a Pub Protection Policy should be included in the Local Plan. LBE would consider this, also taking account of the implications from the government's new planning proposals.

Tree planting schemes in the East of the Borough (Rammey Marsh Open Space): LBE commented that the area in question is in the ownership of the Lea Valley Regional Authority and would require a feasibility study to assess the opportunity and potential which would require funding. It was also stated that this might not be easy, given the current circumstances. We emphasised our view that more environmental improvements were needed within the Eastern part of the Borough.

Funding for Footpath Maintenance: We raised the need for renewal of the missing kissing gate on the Merryhills Way footpath (a public right of way) and the allocation of funds to facilitate this. LBE stated that the Council will pursue this.

Whitewebbs Park Lease: LBE is planning to announce its decision during the next few weeks. There will be a briefing (for stakeholders) in advance of the decision being made public.

Whitewebbs Lane North Lodge Cottage: LBE stated that the Enforcement Team are currently in communication with the owner's solicitors but was unable to provide any further details at this stage.

Crews Hill: the Council Enforcement Team recently spent two days visiting the six sites in question and have installed traffic counting devices to monitor the level of heavy vehicles. LBE agreed to supply the Society with details of these sites.

Lavender Hill Cemetery gate, Cooks Hole Road: The Council stated that the gate had been locked to control the incidence of anti-social behaviour in the area and that there had been a notable improvement since this action was taken. We commented that this had adversely impacted access for visitors to the graveyard and asked if the gate could be unlocked during daylight hours. It was agreed that we would write formally requesting the reasons for the action taken.

Planning report

John West

Despite the difficulty in meeting together, the Architecture and Planning Group has continued to monitor planning proposals across the Borough. There have been a number of major developments.

Colosseum Retail Park

This major development on Southbury Road at the junction with the Great Cambridge Road was approved at the September Planning Committee. While local press reports simply noted that the Enfield Society supported this scheme, in partnership with Enfield Roadwatch and CPRE we had submitted very detailed comments. We were supportive of development of under-used retail parks rather than building on Green Belt land or open spaces, but we have expressed serious concern about the height of the block at the corner of this site and suggested various detailed design changes.

100 Church Street

A planning application has been submitted for residential development on the Metaswitch site adjacent to the New



How 100 Church Street would look from the end of Enfield Town

River loop. The proposals have been prepared by Maccreanor Lavington Architects who designed Dujardin Mews in Ponders End and have won the Stirling Prize and various awards for their work. Many members contacted us during the consultation exercise and while we think that the overall design of the building is satisfactory we share the concern over

excessive height. The taller block will dominate the adjacent St Pauls Centre and we will be raising this concern with the Council as part of our submission to the planning application.

Royal Chase Hotel

The hotel has closed and proposals are being developed to build a care home and residential units on the site. The land is immediately adjacent to the Green Belt and the Society is looking carefully at these proposals as we do not want to see any development that dominates the open aspect of the site or impacts on the adjacent open land.

Town Centres

Changing developments in the retail industry and planning changes mean that all our Town Centres need support and improvements. In partnership with the management companies the most significant changes relate to redevelopment proposals at Edmonton Green Shopping Centre (see page 9) and Palace Gardens Shopping Centre. In both cases the management companies believe that significant improvements are required.

Palace Square

The new owners have recently started public consultation on major developments including opening up the centre of the shopping centre with the creation of a new square and more restaurant and family facilities such as a cinema. Inevitably this regeneration will be funded through the development of residential units above the shopping centre; 350 homes in blocks ranging in storeys of 26, 12, 7 and 3—the latter on Cecil Road. We have serious concerns about the proposed height of the landmark block above the shopping centre and will oppose a high-rise building through the planning process. The development will take 5 years to complete and shops will be kept open during the rebuilding.

DWS online exhibition image



Aerial view showing how the Palace Square development would look

The Society has already reminded the developers that Enfield Town is an important conservation area and that any development should be high quality and sympathetic to the surrounding area. We will continue to engage with the developers during the planning process in order to influence the proposals and we encourage all our members to express their views.

Other sites

At the time of writing, we are waiting for the planning applications for Ross House and Cockfosters TfL car park. In both cases, preliminary consultation suggests that excessive height will be the major concern. The Society is continuing to press the Council to develop a more detailed high buildings policy so that developers are prevented from developing high buildings on inappropriate sites.

Environment Forum

In April the Council established a new Environment Forum. This replaces the work previously undertaken by the Conservation Advisory Group, the Public Transport Consultative Group and the Green Belt Forum. The Society is represented on the new group and we will be working to ensure that all major planning and environmental developments are carefully considered and scrutinised. Our monthly e-newsletters will ensure that members keep up to date with any consultation exercises and the latest news.

Layers of London, Pubs in Enfield

If you enjoyed the September talk about 'Layers of London' you will be aware of this interactive map resource based at the University of London. It is a valuable resource for recording a wide range of local history, personal memories and interesting facts. The information shows how areas and social conditions have changed over time. There is a wealth of

information about Inner London, but far less about the outer Boroughs.

The Society has been keen to record information about pubs in Enfield and Society member Mike Fox, who has worked on Layers for London, has offered to help co-ordinate a project starting with pubs in the Winchmore Hill area. If you have any information about the history of pubs in the area please contact us by e-mail at info@enfieldsociety.org.uk

John West

Enfield Society Archive



The Old Sergeant, Parsonage Lane, lost in 2013

Three stations walk: Cuffley, Crews Hill and Gordon Hill

Stuart Mills



A 5½ mile country walk linking three stations with shorter options. Gravel and hard tracks make it suitable for a Winter's day. It can be walked in either direction and be split into two sections.

Exit Cuffley Station to the main road outside (Station Road) from where you may be able to obtain a coffee/tea from the nearby shops beyond the railway bridge. Otherwise, turn left at Station Road, walk downhill for about 250 yards, cross the road at the footpath sign on the right-hand side and enter the Recreation Field through the kissing gate ①. Cross the grass at



roughly a 45 degree angle to the right towards the far bushes and trees in front of Everest's offices and car park. Go over the footbridge next to the footpath sign and follow the narrow path through trees and kissing gates to emerge into a grass pasture field.②



Continue straight ahead with hedge on your right, exit via a kissing gate into an arable field and turn right ③ towards the railway embankment. Follow the field edge which turns left beside the railway to reach a gravel track (1 mile from the start).

Shorter option: For return to Cuffley Station, turn right and proceed through the railway tunnel ④ to Northaw Road where after 400 yards turn right. You will reach shops after a further 500 yards.

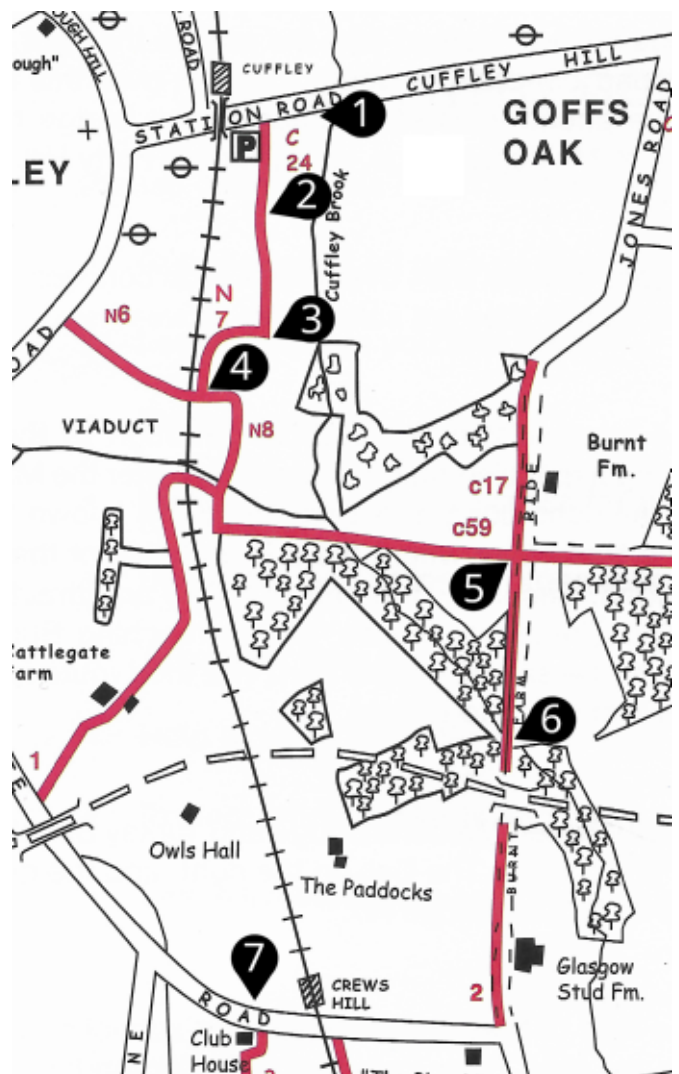
Otherwise follow the track by turning left into the field and downhill to cross the tiny Northaw Brook. On your right is the eleven span Sopers Farm Viaduct built during the early 1900's (see photo top of page). The line from Enfield Chase to Cuffley was opened on 4th April 1910 although the final section to Stevenage did not open until 1924.

Continue ahead for 100 yards to the edge of the wood where the track turns left and then crosses Cuffley Brook before climbing uphill. At the top of the hill look right towards London. In the near distance are Chase Farm Hospital and the spire of St Mary

Magdalene Church and beyond are the the Shard, office buildings in the city and Canary Wharf. Look beyond over the viaduct to Northaw Church and the area where a Zeppelin airship was shot down near the Plough, Cuffley on 3rd September 1915.



Continue on the track for 100 yards to reach a major track crossing ⑤. Turn right downhill on Burnt Farm Ride past the delightful 'fairy-tale' Burnt Farm Cottage ⑥. Burnt Farm Ride has been a long-established route connecting the agricultural





areas now known as Goffs Oak and Crews Hill. However it was only after prolonged pressure organised by the Enfield Society during the 1970s that the section north of the Enfield Boundary had a Public Path Creation Order made in 1980. This pressure included a 'mass walk' confrontation two years earlier. For details see the Enfield Society's publication *Fighting for the Future* by Valerie Carter—a few second-hand copies are still available from the Society.

Continue under the M25 bridge to Sander's Corner in Crews Hill and then turn right past the Plough Pub and nurseries to reach Crews Hill Station (about 3 miles from the start). This is an option to end the walk.

Otherwise, follow the pavement under the railway bridge uphill for a further 200 yards and cross the road into a signed footpath next to the Golf Club entrance ⑦. **This is a dangerous crossing so take care!** Follow the path around two sides of the car park to reach a gravel track on the left that goes between two sections of



the golf course ⑧ with attractive views over Kings Oak Plain and countryside. The golf course forms part of the 586 acres of farmland purchased by Middlesex County Council from Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1937 and subsequently handed over to Enfield Council. At the end of the track is Tingey Tops Pond, saved from infill in the 1970s by the Enfield Society. Walk ahead on the narrow fenced path, cross the railway line and shortly reach a track junction ⑨ (about 1 mile from Crews Hill Station). If you turn right along the track under the railway bridge you will reach The Ridgeway in less than 1 mile.



Otherwise go straight ahead up Strayfield Road for about 650 yards to reach St John's Church, Clay Hill (built 1857). The Enfield Society recently contributed towards the Lych Gate repair costs. Details on the Church can be found in our *Enfield Heritage* articles on the web-site. Also note the nearby Victorian horse trough and renovated ex-Fallow Buck pub building. See Enfield Society's Heritage Walk 5—Clay Hill and Whitewebbs leaflet.

Turn right down the public footpath off Strayfield Road into Hilly Fields ⑩, crossing Turkey Brook, from where you may wish to turn right beside the brook to reach Rendlesham Viaduct. It is an important example of railway engineering with fourteen, thirty-foot span arches supported on 13 elegant piers and bastions.

Then retrace your steps to Turkey Brook and turn right uphill to Cook's Hole Road and turn left. If the Cemetery gate is open, you could enter and walk through the Cemetery to exit into Cedar Road/Lavender Gardens to reach Gordon Hill Station. Alternatively, turn right at the top of Cook's Hole Road and then

walk to Gordon Hill Station via Cedar Road and Rendlesham Road.

For more ideas on possible walks in Enfield's countryside, why not purchase a copy of the Society's Footpath Map (£3.50 including postage). The newly published Heritage Walk No.5 is priced £2 including postage. Both map and leaflet are available online at enfieldsociety.org.uk/shop



Lower Edmonton and The Green before 1914

Stephen Gilbert

The name of the manor of Edmonton appears as Delmetone or Adelmetone (Eadhelm's farm) in the Domesday Book of 1086. The manor was given by William the Conqueror to Geoffrey de Mandeville and was later purchased by Henry VIII. Edmonton Green lay on the main road north from London to Waltham Cross, between Fore Street to the south and Hertford Road to the north, at the junction with Church Street which led to All Saints Church (see Newsletter 178 Summer 2010) and to Enfield Town. In the 18th century Edmonton was famous for its fair for hiring servants and the village was popular with wealthy citizens from London seeking a pleasant place to live.

Before the Northern and Eastern Railway built a line along the Lea Valley in 1840, and a branch line through Edmonton Green to Enfield Town was opened by the Enfield and Edmonton Railway Company in 1849, there was a horse bus service at 15 minute intervals between Edmonton and the City of London. In 1872 the Great Eastern Railway constructed a direct line from

central London via Hackney Downs and Lower Edmonton to Enfield Town. The nature of the area changed when cheap fares on workmen's trains led to a large numbers of working class dwellings being erected in Edmonton. Horse drawn trams arrived in Edmonton in 1881 and the route along Fore Street and Hertford Road to Tramway Avenue was electrified in 1905.

Some Georgian houses, often with Victorian shop fronts inserted, have survived in Church Street (see Newsletter 195 Autumn 2014), Hertford Road and Fore Street (see Newsletter 206 Summer 2017) but those on Edmonton Green were demolished, along with several public houses, when the area was redeveloped between 1965 and 1974.

A detailed bibliography used for the preparation of the article can be found in the online post of this item. A follow-up article with photographs of the area taken since 1914, both before and after the redevelopments, will be included in the next newsletter.



◀ 1 This print of 1806 shows Edmonton Green with Salmons Brook flowing through the rural village on its way to join Pymmes Brook and then the River Lea.



▲ 2 This view of Edmonton Green in 1904 shows the level crossing, signal and signal box on the 1849 railway line. Lower Edmonton Low Level station was to the left of the signal box. Beyond is the triangle of The Green where circuses and fairs were held and travelling salesmen offered their wares. Shops including Dale's department store can be seen on the far side of The Green.



◀ 3 The Cross Keys, by Salmons Brook and the railway line, was built of stone and brick covered with tarred clapboarding and rough-cast cement and had a pantiled roof. Parts dated back to the 17th century and it became one of the largest inns in the area. The earliest mention of the inn was in 1680 and the first recorded landlord was in 1716. This view dates from just before the inn was rebuilt in 1886.



▶ 4 This view from about 1905 shows the nearby Ragg's Chemist and Post Office, which was in existence for over 100 years.



▶ 5 Mr W W Ragg is shown behind his pharmacy counter. The leech jar to the left of the clock face was about 150 years old.



6 This is a view from about 1886 of the east side of The Green looking north towards Hertford Road. In the foreground is Young's the baker with Beeton's the butcher further along.



7 This 1899 view of the east side of The Green is looking south towards Fore Street. The man with the dog is Mr. Wise, headmaster of Croyland Road School.



8 This 1912 view looking south from Edmonton Green shows the working class street food market which was established about 1900. Frederick Fisk, in his 1914 *The History of the Parish of Edmonton* states *the roadway round some parts of Edmonton Green is given up on Saturdays to the coster class on whose barrows are displayed for sale goods of nearly every description for the poorer classes*. Edmonton Council tried without success to stop this market. The Exhibition public house on the left was built in 1851, taking its name from the 1851 Great Exhibition in Hyde Park. Further down the road on the left is the Golden Lion which is first recorded in 1521. In the 18th century it was a coaching inn.



9 This 1910 view shows Edmonton Empire music hall in Fore Street which opened in 1908. *Edmonton Empire*. This new and beautiful hall. Tip-up seats throughout. Private boxes to hold four 7s 6d (37½p). Orchestral stall 1s (5p). Circle 6d (2½p). Pit 3d (1p). Cycles stored free of charge. (Enfield Gazette 28th January 1910). Among the performers were the singers Marie Lloyd (whose last performance took place here in 1922 a few days before her death) and Florrie Forde. There were also variety, comedy and juggling acts and films from the Bioscope Company.



10 The east side of Fore Street with a horse drawn tram is shown in this photograph from around 1900. Edmonton Town Hall on the right was opened in 1884, less than three years after Southgate was separated from Edmonton in 1881. In 1903 indoor swimming baths were built behind the Town Hall in Knight's Lane. Edmonton became an urban district in 1894 and a borough in 1937. Next to the Town Hall is Lower Edmonton Congregational Church built in 1883. (It was demolished in 1957 and replaced by a new church further south on Fore Street in 1959).

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The photographs used in this article are reproduced by courtesy of Enfield Local Studies Library & Archive.

All of Stephen's forty-five previous articles, going back to 2008, are available from our web-site.

See enfieldsociety.org.uk/enfield-heritage-index

Building the 1970s Edmonton Green

Sue Jacobs

In 1969 Sue Jacobs took up the position of Group Clerk in Enfield's Architects Department and was soon heavily involved with the construction of the new Edmonton Green, much of which survives today. Here Sue recalls working on that ground-breaking project.

It was early in 1969 when I moved to the London Borough of Enfield. Previously I had been working in the Admin Section of Hertfordshire County Council Architect's Department and the job sounded just up my street.

When I got to Enfield I found that I would be working with the Group of Architects working on the Edmonton Green Redevelopment, in the drawing office, organising their paperwork and I would be required to attend weekly meetings and take minutes, alternating between the office and the site. I was to make notes in longhand for someone else to type up. I think they thought that my previous knowledge of architecture would be of more use than shorthand and I had developed a note-taking method of my own over the years.

When I got to Enfield I found that the staff were still adjusting to the local government re-organisation of 1965; we had staff from Middlesex, Enfield, Southgate and Edmonton, all councils with very different policies. However the Borough Architect was T A Wilkinson, from Edmonton Council and the project had been designed by his architects and was being built by the Edmonton Direct Labour Organisation (EDLO). Most of the ancillary staff—Heating and Electrical Engineers, Quantity Surveyors—were Council staff, although the Structural engineers were outside consultants.

Supermarket. The job was to be built in two stages—the South Mall, Market Square, toilets and multi-storey car parks being Stage One.

Courtesy Enfield Local Studies & Archive



The Edmonton Green Market in 1974, originally uncovered, but later roofed over

My challenge was to get the notes typed up and distributed by the next meeting. After the site meeting we went for a walk round the site to look at any of the problems that had been discussed, and I was invited along. It was very interesting.

Working in the same office as the architects, I got to hear about some of the problems before they even got to the meeting, e.g. because of the closed Malls the London Fire Brigade (LFB) had stipulated that all shops should be fitted with sprinklers which the smaller shopkeepers were not used to; the market stallholders were not happy about the scheme, and it had been decided to have the market "open air", which was a problem when the scheme opened, due to the down-draft from the tower blocks. It was eventually roofed over. So there was another meeting with the LFB, who stipulated that the stalls would have to be of "fire-retardant" materials.

It was not an easy job for the architects—the big "tenants" had a lot of stipulations about what they wanted in their units, and the smaller ones were not used to sprinklers. There was a lot of "Tenants' Extras" to be dealt with!

But it *did* open on time on 1st September 1970!

We all went down to have a look round Caters supermarket, which was a novelty to us, and then we went for fish and chips at the shop on the Broadway. Then it was "on with the job", to build Stage Two; the third housing block, roofing the Market Square, the North Mall and the North Square, with its quirky sculpture, but I left in March 1972 to start a family.

EDLO did not have anything to do with the construction of the Swimming Pool, and the curved car park with double helix ramps, was a specialist job. The new Baptist Church was not part of the scheme.

Courtesy Enfield Local Studies & Archive



The completed Edmonton Green in the early 1970s

My first weekly meeting was in the office and rather daunting, with about 20 people present, chaired by the Deputy Borough Architect, who asked me to let him see my notes before typing, so that he could "adjust" them! My first site meeting the following week was very exciting. This was 1969 and to my knowledge women in local government had not done this job before. Ladies did not wear trousers to the office in those days, so I took a pair and changed at lunchtime.

The meeting was held in the Clerk of Works' Office (Site Hut) which was just off Plevna Road, chaired by Mr F W French and this is when I met the builders. They were all very polite. The first two housing blocks were under construction and being supervised by the "Housing" architects, and the "Commercial" units were still on the drawing board.

Some Units had already been let, e.g. The Post Office, Government Offices, Co-op department store and Caters

Edmonton Green: the next ten years

Andrew Lack

Members attending the Society's AGM on 16th September saw a presentation by staff of Concilio who explained extensive plans being developed for Edmonton Green. This is a ten-year project.

The new owners, Crosstree Real Estate, acquired the site in November 2018. However, not all the site we know today as 'the Green' is owned by Crosstree, with some areas, being outside the scope of these changes (shown outlined orange, below).



Sessions for the public to view the plans have been going on all year. The Society's *Edmonton & Eastern Enfield Group* saw the plans in March 2020. Some changes have already been introduced such as a children's play area, new benches, a community garden and free toilet facilities.

The developers have identified three problems:

1. The routes through the centre and the residential entrances could also be greatly improved and also make them safer,
2. The shopping malls and market are outdated compared to modern shopping centres,
3. The bus station is poorly connected with the shopping centre and could be made more accessible.

Anyone who has been to Edmonton Green will immediately see how vibrant the area is. It has excellent transport connections through bus and Overground, and its shops and, particularly the

Edmonton Green Consultation image



market, serve the local community well. The developers feel that whilst keeping these facilities they can make significant improvements to the public spaces and encourage people to stay in the area, not simply 'use' it.

In the first phase of development some of the South car park (near Asda) will be closed and new mid-height residential blocks built fronting onto Fore Street. Later development will also see construction on the North car park.

The developers are proposing to construct a new square further south than the present location of the market. A new market building will be constructed in the square, making it a focal point (illustration, above). One option being considered is a building which can be closed at night, but where the sides can be fully opened in the day. It is acknowledged that keeping the market open during the transition is essential.

More housing is planned for the site reflecting the London Mayor's policy to encourage higher density housing at transport hubs. A number of new residential buildings are planned of varying height reducing the dominance of the existing towers [to quote the web-site]. Whilst exact details are not yet in the public domain, this would appear to mean of significant height given that the three existing towers are 25 storeys high. At present no planning application has been submitted.

More details can be found on web-site egconsultation.co.uk

Edmonton Low Level Station Platform: a remarkable survivor

Dave Cockle

A short section of the old Lower Edmonton Low Level station platform has been discovered, hidden by vegetation, adjacent to the short footpath leading from The Green into Lacey Close.

Lower Edmonton Low Level was the only intermediate station on the 1849 single track branch line from Angel Road to Enfield. The station was originally called Edmonton and was renamed in 1883 to avoid confusion with Edmonton station (today's Edmonton Green) on the new shorter line to Liverpool Street via Seven Sisters.

We have approached Enfield Council to see if a mini heritage project could be enabled. This would involve clearing the vegetation, re-pointing the brickwork and providing a heritage plaque and/or information panel detailing the history of the former low-level station.



Chair Dave Cockle checking the discovery earlier this year

Enfield Chase Restoration project

Andrew Lack

As part of its response to the Climate Emergency, Enfield Council are to plant up to 100,000 trees to create new woodland in the north west of the borough. The Enfield Chase Restoration Project will create a publicly accessible, sustainable woodland covering an area equivalent to the size of Greenwich Park with plans to extend the planting strategy even further across Enfield in the future.

Funding for the work has come mainly from the Mayor of London with a grant of £748,000, with the Council contributing a further £150,000. At least 60 hectares of new native species woodland is to be created across Council-owned land in Enfield Chase, an area which was historically wooded. The Forestry Commission will also provide additional funding of around £425,000 and the project will be delivered by Enfield Council and charity Thames21.

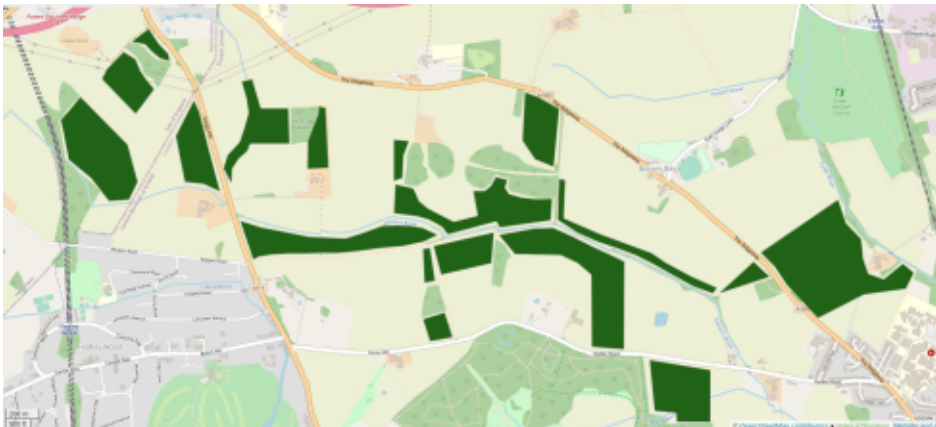
Importantly the woodland will help to combat the effects of climate change in Enfield. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, keep soil moist and reduce the risk of flooding to homes and the surrounding area. It is estimated that 100,000 trees can capture around 234 tonnes of carbon

emissions per year which will help the Council offset the emissions it cannot reduce to zero.

In addition, 2 miles of footpaths will be improved from the west to the east of the borough. This will improve accessibility to green spaces, Space for amenities such as picnic areas are included, as well as footpath signing and seating.

The area to be planted has several distinct areas including those along river courses, along the route of the London Loop and those adjacent to Trent Park. Each area will receive appropriate planting density, open spaces, tree species and habitat and management regimes. It is anticipated that most of the woodland will be mixed native species, mainly broad-leaf, with some woody shrub, conifers and riparian species. A major objective is for long-term sustainability.

Work has now started and volunteers are being sought to help throughout the winter with twice-monthly planting sessions running until March 2021. For more details as well as registering for a planting session, go to thames21.org.uk/natural-flood-management/trees



Dark green areas on the map show main new areas of planting.

Base map ©OpenStreetMap 2020

Trees Group

John West

During the summer, the Trees Group has been busy watering saplings and looking after the tree nursery. Thank you to the many members who have given us saplings this year. Our planting programme in the early spring was disrupted by COVID-19 and we now have well over 100 saplings ready for planting this winter. If you are involved in any Friends of Parks Groups and are looking for additional trees please contact us on info@enfieldsociety.org

The Enfield Chase Restoration Project will be planting 100,000 trees (see left). Thames 21 who are organising the planting are looking for volunteers during the winter. If you are able, please think about volunteering, while it does involve some physical work, it's great fun and many of us who have been involved in past projects have really enjoyed the experience.

Trustees wanted for Charity School, Edmonton

Three volunteers are sought to act as trustees of two charities associated with the Charity School Buildings in Edmonton, to support the next steps in securing a future and new use for these buildings. The appointments are intended to be temporary (for a period up to approximately 12 months) and will be crucial in making key decisions about the site including a transfer of ownership.

Full details can be found from the prospectus, available from our web-site. Contact gssfedmonton@gmail.com for more information or to apply.

Andrew Lack



continued from page 7

11 On the left in this 1910 view looking north along the west side of Fore Street is the Grade II listed former Passmore Edwards Library by Maurice B. Adams of 1897. (It was extended in 1931 by Cuthbert Brown. It is now a Sikh community centre.) The adjoining building is the Salvation Army Citadel which has since been rebuilt. Open top electric trams were introduced to Fore Street in 1905.

Society Publications

Monica Smith

Publications Management

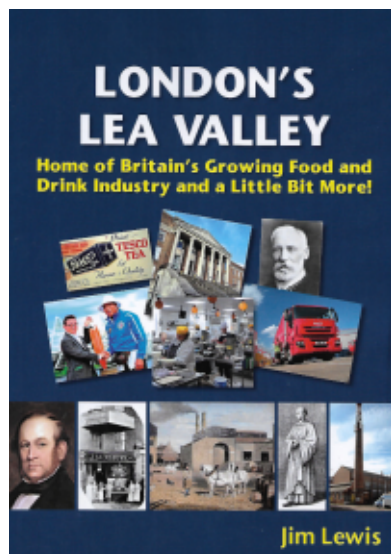
I have decided that after 24 years managing Enfield Society's publications and sales it is time to retire. A profit has been made every year since the first footpath map appeared in 1964. Its aim then was to encourage people to walk and enjoy the nearby countryside and the ninth version continues to do this today; 278 copies have been sold this year, many of them during lock-down.

For the position a computer is essential as many orders arrive by e-mail from the web-site.

The main tasks are: despatching orders by post; maintaining record of sales; forwarding invoices to retail outlets, such as Waterstone's Bookshop and Forty Hall shop; ordering stock for re-sale from other publishers; overseeing publication of new items or new editions of existing ones; arranging the sales table at Jubilee Hall meetings and outside events such as the Palmers Green Show, and preparing figures of stock etc. at end of each financial year.

If you would like to consider taking on this role, please contact me at m.smith@enfieldsociety.org.uk with your phone number and I will send you more details and answer your questions.

New publications



Jim Lewis's new book *London's Lea Valley Home of Britain's Growing Food and Drinks Industry and a Little Bit More* is now on sale at £16 plus postage. The book contains thirty-two essays split into three sections covering the connections between food and drink manufacturing

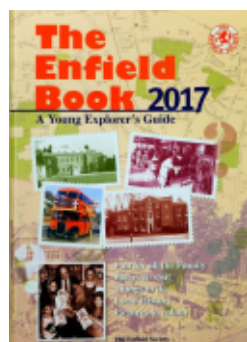
and London's Lea Valley. Section 1 contains 7 essays about food manufacturing that has disappeared; section 2 has 11 essays about historic manufacturing still with us today, while section 3 contains 14 essays about relatively recent newcomers to the Lea Valley. Generously illustrated and with a wealth of facts and stories.

We also have three new Godfrey Maps; Edmonton Lower 1936, Edmonton Upper 1936 and Edmonton South East 1894. Monken Hadley and Lower Edmonton 1894 are also available again. The maps and Jim's book can be ordered online or by post.

Special offer to members

Books often make very acceptable Christmas presents and sales are usually high at the end of the year but, unfortunately this year there have been no meetings or outside events. To members only we are offering the following books at a 30% reduction: *History of Enfield Volume 2—A Victorian Suburb 1837–1914*, David Pam, **£12.55**; *Volume 3—A Desirable Neighbourhood 1914–39*, David Pam, **£12.95**; *Volume 4—A Time of Change 1939–1969*, Monica Smith, **£12.95**; *Treasures of Enfield—details of buildings of historic interest*, Editor Valerie Carter, **£9.45** and *The Enfield Book—A Young Explorer's Guide* (for children), Edited by Monica Smith, **£4.20**. This offer is not available on our web-site.

If you would like to order any of the above, or any other publications, please send your order with a cheque, made payable to *The Enfield Society* to Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, EN2 OAJ. If you use the blue order form sent with the last newsletter just amend the costs of the above. There are a few packs of Christmas cards left showing Whitewebbs House in the snow and packs of different cards. All at £1 for 5 cards and envelopes. Please add postage at the following rates: £1 00 on orders up to £5, £2 up to £10, £3 up to £20, £4 over £20.



What better for the grandchildren this Christmas? Now on offer at £4.20 each.

COVID-19 update

John West & Andrew Lack

Walks

At the timing of printing there were still too many uncertainties to produce a Walks Programme for the period December to February. We are monitoring the situation and hope that it will be possible to produce a programme for the spring. An informal walking group involving many members who regularly join our walks has been established. You need to register to join this group and receive e-mails about the walks. Further details are contained on the Society's monthly e-mails. To date small groups have joined a number of walks including a walk in the Richmond area, along the New River and a heritage walk around Clay Hill and Whitewebbs.

Talks

We have held four talks over zoom this autumn. Whilst this has allowed some members to enjoy our speakers, many of our speakers booked earlier in the year don't wish to use zoom, so rather than providing a patchy programme next year, we have decided not to hold talks until Jubilee Hall can re-open.

We are still in need of a volunteer to arrange the evening speakers. Whilst not now an immediate problem, nonetheless without someone coming forward our talks offerings in the future will be much restricted. Please do consider this, it's not a time-consuming role and Stephen Gilbert (the present organiser) is more than willing to pass-over his list of speakers.

Enfield Society talks by zoom

Our last two talks this year are on Zoom.

Monday 16th November, 8pm, *The New River* by Richard Thomas.

Tuesday 24th November, 10.30am, *Swinging London* by Nick Dobson.

Members will receive the details in our November e-mail. If you are not receiving our monthly e-mail updates, and would like to, please e-mail info@enfieldsociety.org.uk and ask to be added to the mail-list. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Society Directory

Joint Presidents: Monica Smith MBE
Colin Pointer

Vice Presidents: Mr M. Saunders MBE,
Mr A. J. Skilton, Mr L. Will


Chairman: Dave Cockle


Hon. Secretary: Richard Stones


Hon. Treasurer: Tony Foster


Management Committee: Dave Cockle,
Anna Maria Foster, Tony Foster,
Robert Fowler, Stephen Gilburt, Nigel
King, Andrew Lack, Janet McQueen,
Stuart Mills, Hilary Morris, Val
Munday, Anne Osborne, Richard
Stones, John West, Bill Wilson.

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 enfieldsociety.org.uk

 facebook.com/enfieldsociety

 Twitter @enfiefdsoc

 Instagram @enfieldsociety

How to contact us

info@enfieldsociety.org.uk

To contact our specialist groups either
use the contact given or use our general
enquiries e-mail (above).

Architecture and Planning: Bill Wilson
Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group: Nigel
King

Coach Outings: Janet McQueen,
020 8367 7374

Conservation Areas: John West,
020 8886 6080

East Enfield and Edmonton: Val
Munday

Footpaths and Walks: Stuart Mills

Green Belt: Dave Cockle, 020 8366
2242

Heritage at Risk: Janet McQueen

Historic Buildings: Stephen Gilburt,
020 8363 0031

Jubilee Hall bookings: Janet McQueen

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Keith Cunningham



We are sad to report the death of Keith Cunningham on 8th October after a short illness. Keith had been a member since 2007 and was an active member of the Walking Group. He will be well known to many Society members. He was also the Publications Officer for the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society, a witty raconteur at the Christmas quiz and a fundraiser for the RNLI having given many talks about the organisation including one for the Enfield Society. Keith was able to join us on recent walks at Bayford and Richmond-Upon-Thames and as always he was full of life and great company.

John West

New members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the Society this year.

Ms P Anastasi, Ms C Baily, Mr C Bosanquet, Mr & Mrs Bowman, Mr I Bunting, Ms N Chapman, R Charnley, Y & F Cheng, Mr M Cohen, Mr S Dicker, Ms J Dougharty, Ms G Elliot-Smith, Mr D Ellis, Mrs C Fiori, Mr & Mrs Fisher, Mr T Godfrey, Ms A Griffith, Ms C Jolly, Ms Y Kidd, Mrs M Kotwani, Ms G Landers, Ms A Leech, Mrs D Malleon, Mr A Matur, Mr & Mrs McGhie, Ms A Meekings, Mr P Morley, Mr R Osborn, Mr M Palos, Ms J Parsons, Mrs E Patten, Mrs D Picot-Dekretser, Mrs V Pite, Mr D Porch, H Ramanathan, Mrs P Rubenstein, Mr R Sandler, Mr M Saunders, Mr P Smol, Mr P Spindley, Ms S Spooner, Mrs M Stearns, Mr G Stoneham, Ms E Strauss, Mr & Mrs Terroni, Mr E Toni, Mr A Tyler, Mrs H Weston, Mr S Wilkinson, Mr M Wilson & Ms T Woodward.

Anna Maria Foster

Historical Association Zoom meetings

These meetings are open to non members. Please contact the Branch Secretary, Robin Blades, for the meeting details.

E-mail robin.blades@outlook.com

Monday 23 November 2020 8.00pm,
Rupert of the Rhine, a Man of Many Talents by Councillor Michael Rye OBE (Branch Chairman) .

Tuesday 12 January 2021 8.00pm,
Henry VII and the End of the Middle Ages by Professor Steven Gunn (Merton College, Oxford).

Tuesday 9 February 2021 8.00pm,
Why did People become Royalists in the English Civil War? by Dr David Smith (Selwyn College, Cambridge).



Plates Auction

With the difficulties with the current pandemic, we have not received any requests to view the plates donated by Frank Bayford. We feel that given the situation it would be better to hold over the auction until a future date when Jubilee Hall is open again.

Social Media

The Enfield Society has had an active Facebook presence for some time now (facebook.com/enfieldsociety) but we also now have a rejuvenated Twitter account (@EnfieldSoc) as well as Instagram (@EnfieldSociety). Content varies between them, so if you use any (or all), do give us a follow!

It would be lovely to see and share some of our members' photos of scenes from across the Borough; if you're a keen photographer, feel free to tag us in your photos or email them to us at socialmedia@enfieldsociety.org.uk for possible inclusion on our social media pages. You must hold copyright to any photos you send, and be happy for us to share them on our accounts (crediting your name if desired).

Emma Halstead