

How safe is our Green Belt?

Enfield Council's Strategic Housing Assessment identifies twenty-eight Green Belt sites with the potential for housing

Carol Fisk

The London Borough of Enfield recently released its new Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) which lists sites that could be developed for housing in the next fifteen years. You can download the documents from: new.enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/evidence-base/ These documents form part of the current Local Plan revision process.

It is unusual for a London borough to do their own Strategic Housing Assessment because the Mayor of London creates one for the whole of the capital, which is used as the basis for the housing targets. However, Enfield felt the need to find more of the smaller sites which have traditionally produced about 20% of the borough's new homes. (See Council meeting report on page 3.)

The Society and other Civic groups are very concerned to see not only many small sites included, but also 28 Green Belt sites covering 330 hectares. Despite the protections for Green Belt contained in the National Planning Policy Framework and the new London Plan, all these sites are shown as 'potentially developable' in the plan. Our specially constructed composite map, opposite, shows the areas under threat, from Enfield Road north to the M25 borough boundary.

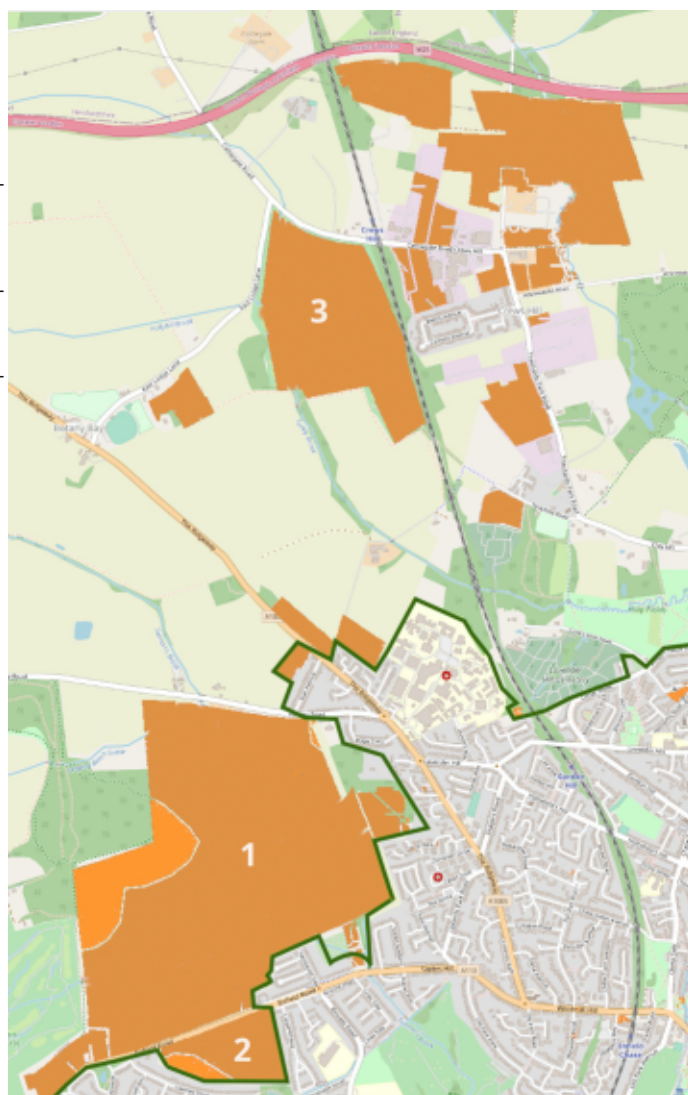
Significant areas included in the report are:

- Vicarage Farm to the north of Enfield Road (see photo) which extends up to Hadley Road (1),
- land to the south of Enfield Road which came under threat in 2015 (2),
- Crews Hill golf course (3),
- some of the nurseries at Crews Hill,
- land between Crews Hill and the M25.

The SHLAA states that inclusion in the document does not mean that a site will ultimately be developed. However, an extensive Green Belt review has been undertaken, so it appears that inclusion of the Green Belt sites is not just nominal. A very important consultation on Enfield's Draft Local Plan will launch at the beginning of June and we urge everyone to take part in that. (See *Planning*, page 7). More information will be available at that time on the Enfield RoadWatch website at enfieldroadwatch.co.uk as well as our own site.

Vicarage Farm. Will this view be lost in a sea of housing? ►

Map data ©OpenStreetMap and its contributors



Composite showing 'potentially developable' sites in orange/brown set over a map of the area. The Green Belt boundary is shown in dark green



Presidents' Column



Monica Smith MBE & Colin Pointer

In the summer 2020 Newsletter we looked forward, optimistically, to the resumption of the Society's activities in the autumn. A year later we are still unable to give members dates when there will again be a programme of walks, talks, litter collections, coach outings etc.

However, the Society certainly did not shut down as the headline of that issue suggested it might. The Management Committee and Membership and Publications sub-committee have continued to meet regularly on Zoom, instead of at Jubilee Hall. Sales of publications continued with the Enfield Footpath Map being especially in demand as more residents explored the nearby countryside. Clay Hill and Whitewebbs was published in the Heritage walk series and sold well. Architecture and Planning have been busier than ever, commenting on new buildings, traffic and other proposals, especially the unacceptable plan for high rise blocks in Enfield Town. New members, whom we welcome, have joined all these committees recently.

The Enfield Society is 85 years old this year. It has always been run by volunteers and this has been a major factor in enabling the annual membership fee to be kept lower than many similar organisations. However it also means that if nobody is willing to organise events or meetings, they will not take place. For many months a volunteer has been sought to run the evening meetings of which there are only eight a year. If nobody comes forward to take on this task, members who have enjoyed the interesting programmes organised by Stephen Gilburt will be disappointed. Similarly a new organiser of the ten morning meetings is now required. Please do consider if you could take over either of these roles. You can contact the Society for further details by e-mail to info@enfieldsociety.org.uk. Like most companies and organisations the

Environment Statement

John West

The Enfield Society is often asked if it has a view on a range of environmental measures such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, pollution controls and traffic calming generally.

The object of the Society as set out in its terms of reference as a charity is the conservation and enhancement of the civic and natural environments in the London Borough of Enfield. The Society therefore supports any actions that seek to make Enfield cleaner and greener. For this reason, the Society supports the recent legislation to control emissions from wood and coal burning stoves that account for 38% of particulate matter air pollution in London by preventing the sale of the most heavily polluting stoves from 2022. The Society is represented on the Climate Action Group and the Council's Environment Forum.



Low Traffic Neighbourhoods are controversial: this is Fox Lane near the junction with Green Lanes, now closed to cars

Traffic calming measures, controlled parking zones and other measures aimed to reduce traffic congestion and pollution are often controversial, strongly supported by some residents and opposed by others. Sometimes these matters become political and as a non-political organisation and registered charity, the Society is careful

finances of the Enfield Society have been affected by the COVID restrictions. Rents from Jubilee Hall, profit on publication sales, revenue from meetings and outings have all declined or disappeared in the past year so we would like to express our thanks to members who renewed their membership promptly and especially to those who added a donation. If you have not yet sent your subscription for this year, please do so now.

We hope that by the time the next newsletter is published normality will have returned and we shall be able to publicise the usual activities.

not to become involved in political debate. However, the Society is keen to support any actions that seek to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. A significant proportion of our residents in Enfield do not own a car. Many others want to travel by more sustainable modes of transport, public transport, walking or cycling. We believe that the majority of residents want to see a reduction in air pollution and recognise the effect that this has on the health of all residents, but particularly children. The Society's Walking Group organises the vast majority of its walks using public transport. The Trees Group seeks to encourage tree planting across the Borough. The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group works to reduce and remove litter. Our volunteer groups support initiatives such as the Enfield Chase reforestation project.

TfL and public authorities in other major cities around the world recognise that we cannot sustain an ever-increasing dominance of motor vehicles and have concluded that travel by other means must be supported and encouraged. The majority of Society Members that we talk to desire an improved environment, less noise, less pollution, and an improved environment for walking and cycling.

We also believe that cycling is not just the preserve of young people, it should be viewed as an important mode of transport for commuting, going to school, to work and the shops. If you look at old pictures of Enfield up until the 1960s, you will see all sections of the community cycling. If we discourage car use, particularly for short journeys, our air will be cleaner, our health better, the burden on the NHS reduced and deaths/serious injuries on the roads reduced. In the short-term, traffic calming on residential roads may lead to increased traffic on main roads and local distributor roads, but evidence shows that this is soon reduced particularly if alternative modes of transport can be used safely such as safe walking routes to school. However the Society will only support schemes where it can be clearly demonstrated that reduced traffic flows in some areas do not significantly increase them elsewhere and are therefore to the environmental detriment of other residents. We also recognise that there will be a small group of people who due to various special needs or disability, will need special consideration.

Society / Council meeting report

John West

Members of the Committee met with the Leader, Cllr Caliskan, and Sarah Carey (Director of Place) on the 8th April.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

The Council has carried out its own Assessment (rather than using the London Mayor's) as the Mayor's is short-term and does not provide sufficient information on longer term needs. The Council wants to be sure that there is a long-term plan to meet the housing need.

The Society expressed strong concern about the potential sites identified in the Green Belt, referring to specific sites and the fact that this conflicts with other work that the Council is undertaking—the Climate Change Action Plan, reforestation and rewilding projects, the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy etc. See page 1.

The Council did not want to rule out potential sites until it is demonstrated that the housing targets can be met. The Council is also committed to eliminating overcrowded and poor-quality housing and to providing adequate housing to meet the Borough's needs. Reference was made to Enfield's Housing & Growth Strategy (2020–2030) that sets out the need to deliver more and better homes to address inequality, create a more balanced housing market and the need to help local people access a new home. It was also noted that there is a dilemma in terms of whether to build at higher density (possibly higher) or to take more land.

The possibility of making better use of brownfield sites, supermarket sites, retail parks was all being explored, but if landowners were not interested in redevelopment, the Council's ability to press for redevelopment was limited.

Edmonton Green and Enfield Town schemes

The Society's position on both schemes is understood. It was noted that the Edmonton Green redevelopment would be considered by Planning Committee in the summer. With Palace Gardens the Leader stressed that this was a DWS scheme (part of Deutsche Bank) and that they had to justify it and ensure that it was acceptable to the community. The Society's work with Civic Voice was noted as a helpful way to develop community engagement.

Planning initiatives

The changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, Permitted development rights, 'Building Better, Building Beautiful' and the proposed

National Model Design Code were all discussed. The Council shares the Society's view that unless adequate resources are made available to local planning authorities to develop the proposed new planning framework it will reduce local democratic accountability to influence schemes. Like the Society, the Council has written to the Minister strongly objecting to a further relaxation of permitted development rights.

Local Studies relocation

COVID and the use of the Dugdale centre as a vaccination centre have delayed plans and a final proposal has not yet been agreed. Officers have met with the National Archives Association and given an assurance that any relocation of facilities to the Civic Centre will ensure high quality facilities and improved access. A cabinet paper with an update is being prepared.

"Report a Problem" Council website

The Society notes that while this works well for reporting problems, there is no feedback or information when an issue is closed. The Leader shares the Society's concern, and it was noted that a new IT system was being introduced during the summer that will see an improvement in the whole reporting system.

Footpaths

The Society expressed frustration that due to a lack of resources in Highways and Transportation, footpath matters were not being resolved. These include:

- the status of the footpath from Ladysmith Road to Carterhatch Lane,
- the footpath from Rammey Marsh to New Ford Road,
- the welcome new footpath between Riverwalk Road and East Duck Lees Lane on the west bank of the River Lea Navigation has a gate making it impassable for mobility aids,
- the need for us to work collaboratively with LBE on updating the footpaths map and resolving the status of footpaths before 2026.

Upper Edmonton War Memorial.

There are still discussions on the possible location of the memorial once it is moved. The Council will come back to the Society once a location is agreed with the community.

Society News

Publications

I recently had the honour of taking over from Monica Smith as Publications Officer for the Enfield Society. Monica has not only developed the range of titles



we offer, but also written and edited several of them. I have a print and publications background and was keen to put my experience to good use.

Enfield has always been a special place for me; as a child it was a treat to be taken by train to Enfield Town to visit the Saturday market, shops and have lunch out. I moved here in 1986, yet it took lockdown to really appreciate my neighbourhood with its rich mix of history, parks and countryside. My own copy of our best-selling footpath map is now falling apart!

Our extensive range of books, guides, maps and postcards is currently available from our web-site, and as I write, some will also be stocked at outlets such as Waterstones in Church Street, Forty Hall Shop and Farm Shop, the Dugdale Centre and Myddelton House as they reopen. We shall also have our full range on sale at local shows and at Jubilee Hall events when government rules allow these to resume. I look forward to meeting more of our members there.



We have added five new titles to our range of Alan Godfrey Old Ordnance Survey maps: Winchmore Hill (1936), Palmer's Green (1936), Enfield Chase (1936), Enfield South (1935) and Forty Hill & Clay Hill (1935).

Alison Parker

New members

In the first four months of 2021 over sixty new members have joined the Society, nearly as many as in the whole of 2020,

continues overleaf

Society News

continued

perhaps as a result of the Palace Square campaign and we welcome the following to the Society:

Mr K Acott, Mr R Adam, Ms E Allman, Ms C Archer, Mr R Barrass, Ms S Beecham, Ms P Bishop, Mr J Boxall, Ms M Brand, Miss D M Brightman, Ms C Brodsky-Ingham, D Christie, Mr & Mrs B & J Dawes, Ms C Deutschmann, Ms H Dyson, Mr T Evans, Ms T Fogarty, C Garnsworthy, Mr A Grant, H Haines, Ms K Hall, Mrs M Harper, Mr A Hasler, Ms A Herbert, Mr P Hughes, Mr R Jackson, Ms S Jackson, Mr G Jones, Mr & Mrs P & L Jordan, Mr M Kelly, Mr D Leftwich, A Loizou, Ms A Luciani, Mr P Marshall, M B Martin, Mr N McKie, Ms C Medcalf, Ms S Morrissey, Ms J Morten, Mr P Moutell, Ms J Noon, Mr C Orlando, Mr M Paine, Mr R Parker, Mr & Mrs T P & I Pearce, Ms S Ramsell, Mr D Read, Ms J Reeve, Mr D Richings, Ms J Rimmington, Mr A Rolfe, Mr & Mrs I & P Rubenstein, Mr A Ryde, Ms I Sallas, Mr R Shears, Ms S Stephens, Ms J Timson, Ms S Turner, Mr C Walker, Mr T Wallis, Ms G Watson, Ms L Williams and Mr H Yusuf.

Anna Maria Foster

Talks

As noted in our Presidents' Column (page 2), we are now seeking two volunteers for organising our talks programmes. In the meantime we have re-arranged a talk which was to be given last year; Chris Truran will talk about Digital Forensics at Jubilee Hall on **Tuesday 29th June at 10.30**. This is dependent on restrictions being lifted on 21st June. If this goes ahead it is likely to be limited to 30.

We are very grateful to the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society for allowing members to join their Zoom talks free of charge. We will be providing details of these to members, as well as the Chris Truran talk, by e-mail.

Andrew Lack

Trees Group

In February members of the Trees Group lifted over 30 saplings for planting at sites around the Borough. Most of the trees went to Broomfield Park and Whitewebbs Park. Broomfield Park has gained a Black Mulberry, one of two that the Society has grown at its Tree Nursery. Once common throughout England, the Black Mulberry is now exceedingly rare with only a handful in Enfield. Society Members have donated several new saplings, including

Lime, Whitebeam and Rowan. We are grateful to all our helpers and those who have given us unwanted saplings from



their gardens. The picture shows some of the trees lifted, packed and ready for transport to their new homes.

If you walk from the Ridgeway to Trent Park, following the route of the London Loop you will see that the Council has planted many trees as part of the reforestation of Enfield Chase. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic it was not possible to use volunteers to help plant the trees, but we understand that volunteering should be possible during the 2021/22 planting season. This is an exciting project that will increase the number of trees in our area, help to tackle the effects of climate change and by slowing surface run-off reduce the risk of flooding in the Lea Valley.

John West



Planting at Ferny Hill where the London Loop meets the road

Walks

As this Newsletter went to print, lockdown measures were being slowly eased, however many dates are still provisional and it is difficult to plan a full programme of walks. During 2020 an informal walking group developed allowing members to meet and enjoy both town and country walks. If you have previously provided your e-mail address you will already have received details. With the informal walks, places must be booked in advance and numbers will be limited. If

you want to be added to the e-mail list please contact j.west@enfieldsociety.org.uk (See also *Footpaths update*, back page.)

John West

Cleaner Neighbourhoods

Enfield Society member Andrew Ryde of Chamberlains Estate Agents has introduced regular volunteer litter-picking in Enfield on Sunday mornings between 9.30 and 10.30 covering Windmill Hill together with Chase Green and Gentleman's Row. More dates this year include 13th June, 8th August and 10th October. To take part on any of these dates meet at Chamberlains Estate Agents, 47 Windmill Hill EN2 7AE (opposite Enfield Chase station). Equipment such as litter grabbers and bags to put the litter in will be provided.

Sunday morning events will take place in the Botany Bay area on 27th June, 26th September and 31st October also between 9.30 and 10.30. Meet at Botany Bay Farm Shop car park EN2 8AP.



Bags collected after the initial event in April

Also during April, the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group took advantage of the relaxation of coronavirus restrictions when two groups of six tackled World's End Lane and picked up fifteen bags of litter which had accumulated in the shrubbery and in the adjoining green space.

Nigel King

AGM 2021

Our AGM would normally be held in the first half of June. However, this year we are keen to hold our meeting at Jubilee Hall, rather than trying to use Zoom again. As a result we have decided to hold the AGM on **Thursday 23rd September 2021**. The next newsletter will contain the agenda and Annual Report and Accounts Summary for members.

Richard Stones

When will Whitewebbs' future be known?

On the 15th March Enfield Council released a statement announcing the closure of the golf course. In the statement, the Council pointed to losses amounting to £1.1M since 2014 and that the golf course had been closed for most of the past twelve months due to the pandemic.

The statement, again, explained that the Council were trying to find a new organisation to lease Whitewebbs and that “applicants must meet the needs of the wider community and proposed future use of the site must increase access to Whitewebbs for walking, recreation, leisure and other uses” and “any suggestion that the site will be used for housing or landfill are utter nonsense and scaremongering.”

On the 8th April The Enfield Society held its latest quarterly meeting with the Leader, Cllr Nesil Caliskan and the Director of Place, Sarah Carey. We raised Whitewebbs. (You can read a report of our other discussions on page 3.) From this meeting we understand that the Council is not yet at a position where it can finalise an agreement with a third party to manage the park and golf course.

The Leader expressed frustration that very misleading information was being circulated in the community. The Council had carried out consultation with the local community and given a commitment that the open space and all rights of access would be protected. The woodland would be protected and improved in terms of its bio-diversity and that no development that is inappropriate to the open space would be carried out. Those commitments will be met as part of any agreement that is made with a third party.

Middlesex Golf Ltd is the Governing Body for Amateur Golf in the County. Chairman RPW Andrews and Secretary Darragh Cohan have written an open letter to LBE's Chief Executive, Ian Davis, expressing deep concern for the closure of the course. They describe the news as “devastating”. (You can read the full letter via our web-site enfieldsociety.org.uk/news)

The Council's statement of the 15th March drew attention to the number of private clubs in the Borough; Enfield, Crews Hill, Bush Hill Park and Hadley Wood. However, as Middlesex Golf pointed out, these are all private clubs where facilities are expensive and not always accessible to ‘vulnerable residents’. Middlesex says that Whitewebbs offered an affordable way for people to socialise, exercise and play sport which had now been ‘stripped away’ from them. By closing Whitewebbs, generations of future golfers will not emerge by not having the opportunity to start at a public course. They believe that this will also impact the private courses in years to come.

Interestingly, Middlesex Golf claim that in the summer of 2020, when Whitewebbs was allowed to reopen, it had a 55% increase in visitors and its income was up 81%. They believe there is a latent demand for golf and that many private clubs have closed their memberships.

They conclude their letter by urging the Council to find a partner who would be able to maintain the golf course and to safeguard it for the short and long-term.

Andrew Lack, Enfield Society

To members of the Enfield Society, Whitewebbs Park's rich history will come as no surprise. What might, though, is how recent events are showing one important aspect of that history repeating itself—as both tragedy and farce.

Let's start back in the 12th century when dense forest dominated the landscape, from the City of London stretching some 12 miles North. Importantly, this forest, wild and wonderful as it may have been, belonged to the citizens of London.

By early 14th century, references to Enfield Chace emerge, and a century on, in 1543, the name Whitewebbs appears.

However our particular focus isn't the famous Tudor hunting parties or the infamous Gunpowder plotters. Nor is it concerned with the industrial archaeology of the New River that loops through the park, taking in the scheduled monument of Flash Lane aqueduct.

No, we're concentrating on the freedom of the people of Enfield to enjoy common rights in Whitewebbs. Because they're about to come to an abrupt halt. The first time these rights were lost was in the 1770s when the Enclosure Acts allowed the rich and the powerful, through leases and freehold purchase, to divide up and enclose the common land of Enfield Chase.

The greed of the rich and influential as well as ineffectual action by parish councils, meant the poor got little or nothing for their loss of rights and benefits.

In 1931, Enfield Urban District Council bought the Park's 243 beautiful acres, returning it to benefit the people of the borough. The golf course, designed by 5-times Open winner John Henry Taylor, opened in 1932, and Enfield people could wander through every part of the ancient woodland.

So here's where we're about to see history repeat itself: Whitewebbs Park is returning to private hands once again, albeit on a 25 year lease. To many, it's tragic because control of the land will be wrested back into the hands of the wealthy. And it's becoming farcical because of the secretive way the Council has veiled the identity of the bidders and what plans they have.

Unfortunately, the sporadic and reticent nature of the official updates have left many to conclude that the Council has something to hide.

The Friends of Whitewebbs Park have consistently highlighted the chasm of difference between the level of consultation the Council promised and what engagement there has actually been. Now that the Golf Course has been shut, with no notice, consultation or announcement, serious concern is spreading.

North Enfield's MP, Feryal Clarke has called on the Council to ‘halt any decision on the future of Whitewebbs until the local stakeholders have had an opportunity to meet with the relevant officers to review the bidders’.

In fact, she shares our concerns about the quality of the consultation thus far, and agrees that the Council ‘must do better’.

We can only hope the Council listens, before it's too late.

Richard Stoney, Friends of Whitewebbs Park



1930's Public Buildings in Southgate

Stephen Gilbert

Following the extension of the Piccadilly Underground Line to Cockfosters in 1933, with intermediate stations at Arnos Grove, Southgate and Enfield West, which was renamed Oakwood in 1946, (see Newsletter 209 Spring 2018) there was a substantial development of housing in the area (see Newsletter 212 Winter 2018).

In order to meet the needs of the growing population of Southgate, which was made a borough in 1933, Middlesex County Council erected a number of modernist style buildings; these are now mostly listed Grade II for their architectural value. They were designed by W. T. Curtis, who was county architect from 1930 to 1946, and his education architect H. W. Burchett. They feature plain brick surfaces, concrete, metal framed windows and flat cantilevered roofs.

De Bohun elementary school, for children up to age 14, was built in Green Road, in what is now Oakwood, in 1936. Next to the school was the De Bohun Library and Clinic of 1939, which is now Salcombe Preparatory School. Middlesex County Council

(MCC) built libraries in Southgate because the borough had not adopted the Libraries Act, unlike Edmonton and Enfield. The De Bohun School and Library were named after the De Bohun family who owned land in the area and were Lords of the Manor in the 12th century. Broomfield School in Wilmer Way, which is not listed, was built in 1938 for 800 senior elementary (secondary) pupils, but has since been considerably extended. MCC also built Arnos Swimming Pool, Library and Juvenile Employment Bureau together with the adjacent Clinic in Bowes Road in 1939. Nearby is Charles Holden's Grade II* listed modernist Arnos Grove Underground Station.

For more information see: *Treasures of Enfield, Discovering the Buildings of a London Borough* edited by Valerie Carter 2000 and *The Buildings of England London 4: North* by Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevsner 1998.

These publications may be consulted at Enfield Local Studies Library and Archives which also provided the two monochrome photographs.



1. De Bohun Elementary School in Green Road was built in 1936.



2. The former De Bohun Library and Clinic built next to the school in 1939 is now Salcombe Preparatory School. It is faced in red brick and has a tall stair tower.



3. Arnos Pool in Bowes Road was built in 1939 of brick and concrete with an oval entrance foyer and circular roof light.



4. Internal view of Arnos Swimming Pool.

Planning

John West

In December 2020 the new London Plan prepared by the Mayor and the GLA received Government approval. At a late stage in the development of the Plan a section was added giving local planning authorities greater powers to designate areas that are inappropriate for high buildings. The Society has asked the Council to look at this opportunity and see if it could be used in our Borough. We welcome the statements in the London Plan that refer to the protection of the Green Belt and in particular that poor quality areas of Green Belt should be improved in terms of their biodiversity. The next stage of the plan involves Boroughs preparing their own local plan in accordance with the framework set out in the London Plan. Enfield propose to put a draft plan to full Council in June with consultation following in the Summer. The Society is looking forward to commenting on the plan.

At the beginning of the year, the government published proposals for further changes to permitted development rights and a new National Model Design Code for consultation. The Society submitted comments to the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government as follows;

“We warmly welcome the emphasis on better quality buildings as set out originally in the Building Better Building Beautiful Commissions Report. In recent years we have seen many poorly designed developments submitted for planning approval without any thought to their setting in the local area.

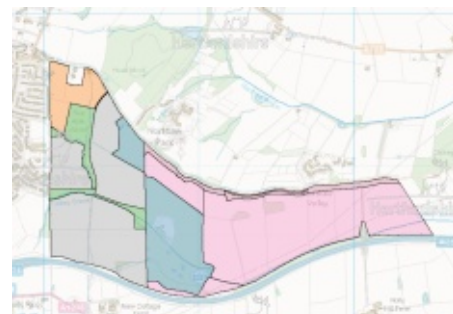
As members of Civic Voice, we strongly support the response that they are making. In particular, we have serious concerns about the extension of permitted development rights, and we have already made a separate submission in relation to those consultation proposals. The further extension of permitted development rights will undermine the attempts to raise the quality of building development. The ability to bypass the planning system has led to many extremely poor-quality conversions both in Enfield and elsewhere.

We also want to emphasise the importance of adequate resources being provided to allow local authorities to manage the process and ensure that there is meaningful local consultation with all the interested parties. Design guides and codes together with local master plans will only work if adequate resources are available to ensure that they have sufficient detail to direct developers to appropriate designs.”

In terms of major developments, the Society has submitted comments on a number of schemes including Edmonton Town Centre, the New Southgate Gasworks site, mobile telephone poles at a number of locations and relatively small projects in Conservation Areas. With all development projects we are looking for good design and development that is appropriate for their area.

Hertfordshire planting for Enfield Chase

Hertfordshire County Council are planting 37 acres of woodland to the north of the M25 near junction 24. The project is part funded by the Forestry Commission. Hertfordshire CC owns a total of 300 acres of Chase land as part of their Green Belt Estate. See map, below.



Benefits include improved access for the public, improving the landscape, ‘buffering’ the M25, helping to prevent fly-tipping and improving the letting potential of agricultural land. The proposed planting area includes Chequers Mead and New Cottage Farm, shown orange and grey respectively on the map.

Andrew Lack

Pauline Claydon

Pauline Claydon sadly passed away on the 15th March 2021 at The North London Hospice. Pauline looked after Jubilee Hall for many years and was a regular supporter with Tony her husband of our footpath walks, and a long term member. Pauline was also an active participant of the Enfield Conservation and Ground Force volunteers.

Tony Claydon



5. Part of the same complex of buildings as the pool is Arnos Library which is on the first floor. It is reached by a curved staircase lit by an oriel window. There was originally a Juvenile Employment Bureau on the ground floor.



6. Arnos Library around 1950. The covered radiators are an unusual feature.

Forty Hall circular walk

Stuart Mills

Photographs Andrew Lack



A varied 8 mile circular walk from Forty Hall with several shorter options that return to Forty Hall, plus an option to finish at Crews Hill for either trains or the 456 bus. For public transport to the start, use 191 or 456 buses from Enfield Town to Myddelton Avenue and walk up Forty Hill.

The building of Forty Hall was completed by Nicolas Rainton in 1632–33, the year in which he was elected Lord Mayor of London. (See newsletter 173, Spring 2009.)

Leave Forty Hall car park on the gravel track which runs downhill and parallel to Forty Hill and, just before Maiden's

impressive feat of engineering, with the original 39 mile route from Chadwell and Amwell (now shortened to 24 miles by diversions, pipes and pumps) following the 100ft contour, with a total fall of just 19ft over the full distance.

Continue beside the New River on path C13 over the M25 where the river flows in lined concrete channels slung below the bridge over the motorway.

Shorter Option: To return to Forty Hall, 125 yards after the M25 turn left into the fenced path C14 ② (known as “Tupenny Tube” in the 1800’s) to reach Bulls Cross Ride, then turn left back over the M25 to Whitewebbs Lane. Left again and follow Bulls Cross to Maiden’s Bridge. Full distance from start until return to Forty Hall is about 2½ miles.

Otherwise, continue northwards on path C13. Across the fields to the right are the ex-News International printing works and the Epping Forest Ridge. Then through the trees on the left is Theobalds Park House. Originally a Meux family house, in 1931 it opened as a “high class residential hotel” but it was not successful and was bought by Middlesex County Council in 1937. It then had various uses including as a hospital, a residential centre for educational courses and a conference centre, before, more recently, returning to a hotel. After passing pretty river scenery you reach Theobalds Lane.

Turn left along this surfaced private road ③, but a public right of



Bridge, cross the road at the pedestrian lights near the school. Then follow London Loop (path 15 on our map) and after 200 yards turn left onto the New River Path ① which crosses Turkey Brook and for 250 yards is narrow and potentially muddy. The path then climbs to meet the New River itself and Turkey Street. Myddelton House (see newsletter 183, Autumn 2011) Garden is 250 yards on the left. Buses 217 and 317 can be found 250 yards to the right on the Cambridge Road.

Continue on the New River path, carefully crossing Bullsmore Lane, from where the path runs beside the grounds of Capel Manor—leased in 1968 to the Capel Manor Institute of Horticulture. The house dates from 1791. (See newsletter 185, Spring 2012.)

The New River dates from 1604 when Edmund Colthurst obtained royal permission to construct a clean water supply for London. Although money soon ran out, in 1606 an Act granted the Corporation of London the power to make a “New River for bringing water to London...from Hertfordshire”. Authority for the works was given to Hugh Myddelton in 1609. Two years later King James I agreed to cover half the cost, provided that he received half the profits and the water course went through his palace grounds at Theobalds. It cost £18,500 (roughly £2.5M today) and opened in 1613. An



continued



Enfield Society Archive



way, to reach the site of London's Temple Bar—moved here from Fleet Street in 1888 by Sir Henry Meux ④ (left). The monument's decay resulted in a restoration Trust being established in 1976 with support from the Society, but it took until 2002 for the Corporation of London to agree to its return and then relocation to Paternoster Square in 2004. On the grass slope is an information plaque ④ (right).

From the plaque go back down the slope and left through the gate to reach a cross-track in a few yards. Turn left uphill to Temple House at the junction of Bulls Cross Ride and Old Park Ride. About 2½ miles from the start.

Shorter Option: To return to Forty Hall, turn left along Bulls Cross Ride ⑤ which after 400 yards runs in a straight line following the course of Roman Ermine Street to reach the M25 bridge. Then follow the directions set out above in the previous "shorter option". Full distance from the start until the return to Forty Hall is about 4¼ miles.

Otherwise, walk westwards along Old Park Ride (path C47) which climbs gently through surprisingly remote countryside (photo, top) with fine views in all directions to reach Burnt Farm Ride in 1¾ miles.



Alternative Option: About ½ mile along Old Park Ride after Temple House you reach Theobalds Manor—an elegant Georgian house with a lovely garden. Opposite you can turn left onto path C50 ⑥, which after crossing the M25 becomes path 8, and in ¾ mile reaches the King and Tinker pub in Whitewebbs Lane. From there you can either follow the directions later on in this walk for the return to Forty Hall (total distance 5¼ miles) or use routes to Clay Hill shown on the Society's map.

Otherwise, when you reach Burnt Farm Ride it is recommended you go straight ahead (on path C59) for 125 yards to see the long-distance views described in our Three Stations Walk (newsletter 220, Winter 2020). Then return to Burnt Farm Ride to reach Sander's Corner, Crews Hill (Jolly's) about 5½ miles

from the start. There is an option for lunch at the Plough pub or nurseries and finish the walk at Crews Hill station.

Note: The 456 bus terminates and starts within the small housing estate off Theobalds Park Road almost opposite Whitewebbs Road. If you wish to finish the walk here and return to Forty Hall use 456 bus to Myddelton Avenue then walk up Forty Hill.

Otherwise, enter Whitewebbs Road (**take care at the very dangerous junction**) and pass the Whitewebbs Museum of Transport housed in the 1898 New River Company pumping station. Cross Cuffley Brook and after another 250 yards enter Whitewebbs Wood ⑦. Ignore the horse trail and take small path(s) on the left to continue walking uphill through trees keeping parallel to the road. Near a house bear right to reach another horse trail. Turn left onto the horse trail if the ground is dry—when wet cross the horse track to find drier paths close to the horse trail fencing. In either case continue uphill and parallel to the road to reach Flash Lane bridleway. Cross and maintain direction to reach North Lodge and Whitewebbs Pond. Nearby is Whitewebbs House built in 1791 and embellished in 1881 to resemble a French château—now a restaurant. If required, you can shorten the walk from this point by taking either the gravel path next to the pond or the main drive across the (now closed) golf course to end at Beggars Hollow/Rose & Crown in Clay Hill (reached in ¾ mile).



Otherwise, follow the horse trail behind the King and Tinker pub, exit onto the adjacent path and then out onto Whitewebbs Lane and right into a disused lay-by to enter Mile and Quarter footpath (331) ⑧ (left). After 200 yards turn left onto path 332 ("Spurs Path") ⑧ (right) through a wood, over the course of the old New River to reach the edge of Myddelton House Gardens ⑨. Do not turn left but go straight ahead (which can be very muddy in wet weather) to cross Turkey Brook in 200 yards.

With the remains of the former royal residence of Elsyng Palace beneath the grass over which you walk, ahead is Forty Hall Mansion. Total distance 8 miles.



Palace Square

Sue Grayson Ford

The Society is grateful for the many offers of help that our campaign has received, but until Deutsche Bank publishes its detailed plans, agrees to fully engage with residents, or completes a planning application, there is no formal avenue for our collective objections.

We know many of you share the Society's fear that our town's unique character will be lost forever if the Council allows six high-rise towers to loom above a new shopping centre, dwarfing their surroundings. At 26-storeys, the tallest would be twice the height of the civic centre. Of course this isn't the first time the heart of Enfield has been under attack. In 1936, the Enfield Society (originally Enfield Preservation Society) was created to stop the Council building its town hall on Chase Green, 'the People's Land'—actually a remnant of King James I's royal hunting ground, or Chase.

Fast forward 30 years and the Society launched 'Save Enfield' to prevent St Andrew's churchyard and Holly Walk sinking under a major ring road. Back then, renowned architectural writer Ian Nairn used the national press to stop destruction of 'this unique country town, which would be memorable anywhere'.

Today, the experts from Save Britain's Heritage and Historic England share our grave concerns about this overblown scheme's damage to valued viewpoints and viewing places—not just across the Conservation Area, Town Park and Library Green but from Trent Park, Grovelands Park, Forty Hall Estate, the New River Loop. These are the places that make Enfield special. This is reason enough to insist our Council honours its legal commitment to enhance, rather than compromise, the Enfield Town Conservation Area, and fully involves the community and local businesses in this major development plan.

While many of us welcome the prospect of a revitalised town centre, the benefits currently offered by the developer do not outweigh the negative impact of six tower blocks of flats dominating our townscape. Given the decline of high street retail, the promise of a wider choice of shops is unlikely to be fulfilled, and apart from a boutique cinema, there is little cultural gain: no community venue, gallery, museum or performance space. Enfield needs family homes, *not* 500 rentable units in the sky.

Our campaign is backed by two Labour MPs, two national conservation authorities, many Enfield councillors and residents associations, and a large majority of the over 2000 Enfield residents who completed Civic Voice's independent survey (see following article).

We're not alone: Ealing, Finchley, even Spitalfields are under imminent attack from over-development. We know many of those who completed the survey are as determined as the Society to stop Enfield looking like every other suburban borough. Our hope is that we can collectively persuade Deutsche Bank to come back with a more sympathetic scheme, one which respects the distinctiveness of our neighbourhood, and responds to Enfield's actual housing needs.

The Society is indebted to local history guide Joe Studman for his richly illustrated online talk in April, which not only celebrated our historic market town, but also warned that if Palace Square receives the Planning Committee's approval, much of our Conservation Area will be cast into darkness.

You can catch-up with Joe's talk on our web-site, as well as watching again the two public Zoom meetings held in February. Go to enfieldsociety.org.uk/webinars

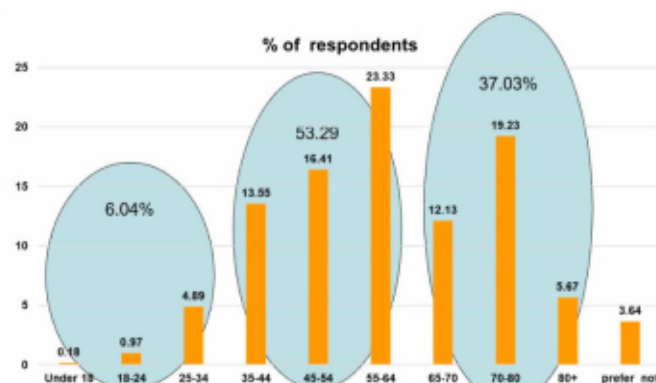
Survey results

Andrew Lack

Since the last newsletter the survey closed after approximately 3 months on the 18th March and the results presented by Civic Voice at two special Zoom meetings. While the survey was running, Civic Voice and The Enfield Society organised two public meetings via Zoom to inform people about the details of the proposal and its possible impacts. Over 600 registered to attend, with 498 actually joining in. The survey was promoted by the Society to our members by e-mail and 300 paper copies were sent to members without e-mail. Social media was also used. Local Residents' Associations were asked to advertise the survey and local ward councillors also helped spread the word. The survey was hosted on SurveyMonkey and exclusively analysed by Civic Voice. The graphs used in this report are courtesy of Civic Voice.

Summary

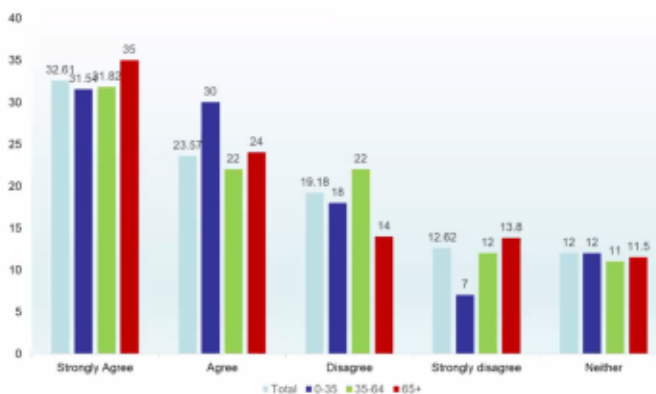
2,140 responses were received, including 100 from the paper survey.



The ages of the respondents were grouped into three ranges and show that the youngest in the community had a lower engagement with the survey, with good levels with the other two ranges.

The Enfield Society was most quoted as the source of the survey, closely followed by social media. The developer and the local authority were a long way behind.

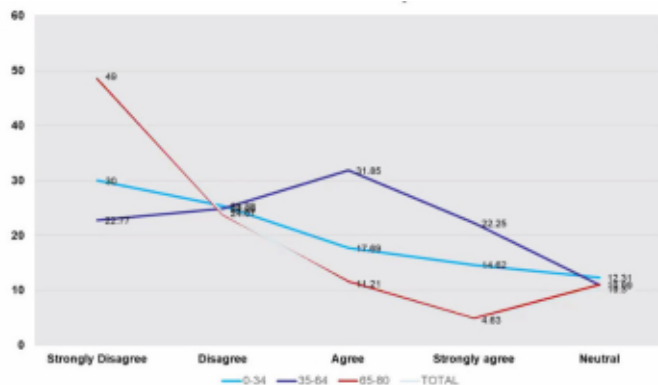
Support for improvements



A majority of respondents (56%) support the need for improvements. Support comes from all age-ranges. A total of 32% disagreed with the need to improve the Town.

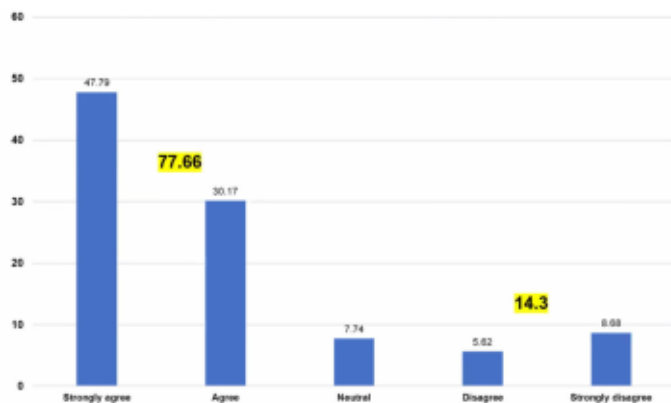
Support for regeneration based on current proposals

Support for the DWS proposals (part of Deutsche Bank) was explicitly asked in survey question 8. This showed strong



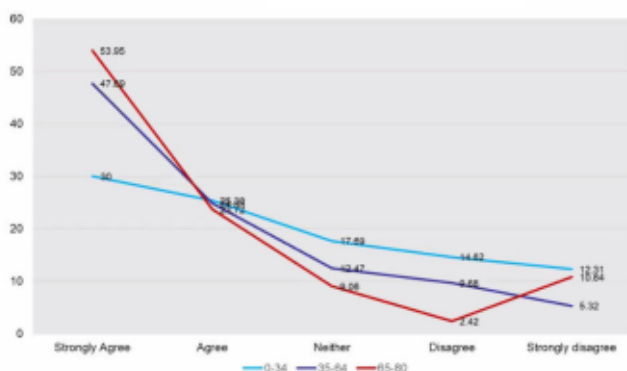
disagreement in the older age range and strongest support by the middle-aged group. Though the totals appear in the graphic legend, this data is currently missing. However, the general trend is not to show support for the DWS proposal.

Support for regeneration, but with reservations



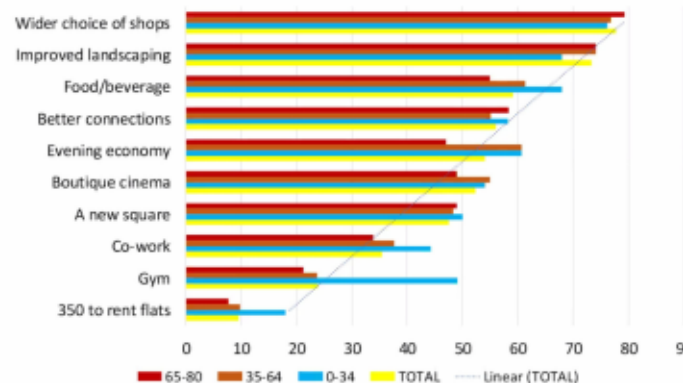
When asked if respondents had reservations (survey question 9), a total of 77% agreed or strongly agreed, with only 14% not having reservations.

This was further analysed by Civic Voice by age range and shows a generally consistent response across all age ranges.



Desire for proposed features

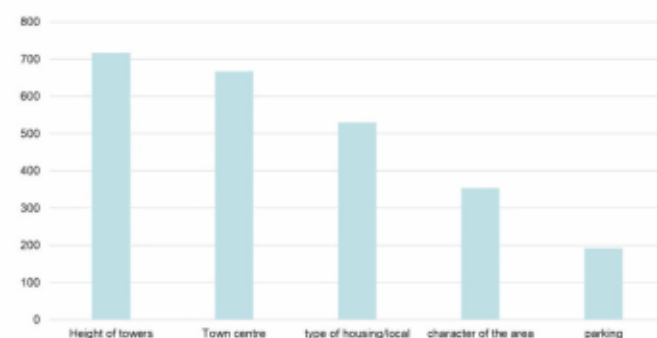
Survey question 5 provided a list of facilities which DWS had suggested could be included in their design. Respondents were asked to indicate which would improve the Town. Results are shown (next column), together with break-down by age range:



With the exception of the Gym, which has significantly more support by the youngest age range, there is generally agreement by all respondents over the relative merit of these options. The 350 flats, which are proposed in phase one, all of which are for rent, was also more popular with the youngest ages, but this option was the least welcome feature by all ages.

Free text comments

Respondents were given a number of opportunities to provide free-text comments about the proposals and what they wished to be included, or excluded. Analysing the 78% of returns which included comments produced five broad headings, shown below:



A number of specific suggestions were extracted from the free-text replies:

- 144 (8.6%) asked for improved parking
- 92 (5.5%) referred to providing a Community Centre, GP, Library and a better cultural offer
- 66 (3.9%) referred to enhancing the conservation and historic Town Centre.

Conclusions and recommendations

Civic Voice's conclusions can be summarised as follows:

- The majority are supportive of improving the Town Centre area, with only a minority against any development,
- There is opposition to elements of the proposal in its current form, specifically;
 - the height of the tower,
 - a belief that the housing mix proposed does not addresses local need,
 - the density and scale of the development will have an adverse impact on the character of the Town.

concludes overleaf

Survey results

concludes

- Respondents also commented on the insufficient provision of car parking with the development making existing traffic and parking worse,
- Queries exist from the community about the promotion of the scheme, creating suspicion that the consultation to date (in October) has been tokenistic. However, the community needs to acknowledge the developer has tried to do pre-application consultation in difficult circumstances,
- Respondents wish to understand the details behind the proposal and the developer should publish more transparent information and data to build trust,
- The local community needs to acknowledge that there is a housing crisis and that development needs to go somewhere,
- 131 respondents referenced a real mistrust of Enfield Council to make the right decision, suggesting the Council should be proactive and share answers and detailed information, as well as encouraging community engagement to support consultations.

Civic Voice also produced a number of recommendations:

1. Civic Voice suggested that the applicant joins a public meeting (webinar) to discuss the key issues and feedback from this survey in order to build trust,
2. When possible, a more 'physical' consultation should be undertaken,
3. Real differences emerged between the oldest and youngest age groups with some aspects. Civic Voice recommends that The Enfield Society tries to reach younger age groups for their input,
4. Civic Voice recommends that the developer engages with the community to look at the viability/financial constraints. Civic Voice has no answer, but more explanation is needed over the trade-offs,
5. The London Borough of Enfield should organise a special meeting to decide the planning application if it comes forward.

The Rendlesham Viaduct

Andrew Lack

The Society receives numerous enquiries each week. Mostly these are from people researching their family trees and discovering their ancestors had associations with Enfield. As the Society does not hold records of past inhabitants of the Borough, most of the time we direct people to Enfield's Local Studies Library and Archives.

In March we received a request for the origin of the name of Rendlesham Viaduct, the fourteen arch viaduct that carries the Great Northern railway over Turkey Brook. The person asking thought it would have been named after a local farm, which is a common practice.

However, in this case the name comes from the local land owner, Baron Rendlesham, who sold the land to the Great Northern Railway when the Cuffley extension was constructed in the early years of the twentieth century.



Map showing land ownership around the viaduct. [Courtesy National Archives]

Grants from the Society

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

Applications will be considered for grants of between £100 and £5,000. Since our resources are limited we prefer not to provide 100 per cent of the cost of a project, and we would encourage applicants to look for additional sources of funding unless they can demonstrate that this is inappropriate in their circumstances.

To make an application, download the application form from our web-site, then either post it to us or send it by e-mail. Full details of the submission process is contained in the form. Alternatively, contact us to discuss your proposal if you are not sure about making an application.

Legacies

A good way of giving financial support to the Society is to make a gift in your will. The Society welcomes donations and legacies and has been able to provide substantial funding for heritage and environmental projects as a result.

If you are considering making a gift in your will (a legacy) it is important that you get the advice of a solicitor. The law about wills and legacies can be complicated, and if you write your own will without legal advice there is a risk that your wishes may not be carried out in the way you intended.

When deciding how to make a gift you can decide either to leave a specific amount, or to leave to the Society a proportion of your estate remaining after specified gifts have been made.

If you would like your legacy to be used for a specific purpose, please contact us—it may not be possible to give effect to a particular request, and this can give rise to difficulties if it is written into your will.

Does Enfield Town have a future in the post pandemic world?

Helen Osman

Decades of watching how people shop have shown that in general men buy and women shop. Confused? It means that there are clearly observable differences in how men and women spend money as result of structural differences in how we use our brains. [*Men Buy, Women Shop: The Sexes Have Different Priorities When Walking Down the Aisles* Wharton's Jay H. Baker Retail Initiative and the Verde Group.]



Shoppers in M&S when it opened in 1982

In general men tend to go to shops with a specific purchasing intention and will head straight to it, hand over the money, job done.

Women on the other time like to explore before they buy; visit different shops and even wander around window shopping with no real intention of actually buying anything; often accompanied by another female. Impulse buying? Absolutely a female trait—but vital to our economy!

This behaviour also holds true when men and women are shopping online. In general, men will visit fewer websites before making a purchase; whereas sofa surfing has become a hugely important leisure activity for women—but men are catching up too. Half an eye on the TV, whilst scrolling through social media and other sites, with a credit card close by, sounds familiar?

So how will our shopping behaviour change post pandemic? Since the start of the first lockdown in March 2020 with few other choices, online shopping accelerated, to account for over a third of retail spending by January 2021. Our spending habits have changed; online shopping is easy, convenient, providing infinitely greater choice. Is this shift permanent? Will people head back to the shops now they have reopened? Is it still possible to regenerate our high streets or is it too late?

High streets have been in decline for decades. Britain has had too much retail space and a greater dominance by big retail chains than most other countries. Our high streets have become samey and boring.

However, if you take a look at the high streets that have won the *Best British High Street* awards they tend to be towns with fewer chains and a higher number of quality independent shops, offering something a bit different. The case studies reveal that success has been achieved through a close partnership between business owners, landlords and the council; who have together made their town centres attractive and enjoyable places for locals and visitors alike to spend their time and money.

Could Enfield ever be added to the winning list of town centres? In theory yes.



The Market Place in 1970s

High rents and rates are holding back high street regeneration, which the government urgently needs to remedy. The answer isn't poorly planned housing development in town centres but to make them sociable places that people want to spend time in again. Enfield shares many of the characteristics of the towns that have won the awards—heritage, an abundance of green space; but has suffered from years of neglect and poor town planning. The opening of Palace Gardens (1982) and Palace Exchange (2006) brought in more shoppers; but hastened the decline of Church Street and London Road. Two decades later the shopping centres are run down, with empty units, as the chains reduced store numbers or sadly have gone into administration.

When DWS, (a division of Deutsche Bank) bought first Palace Gardens and then Palace Exchange the decline was firmly entrenched; although even in 2019 Enfield Town was performing better than many other comparable town centres. DWS gave an undertaking to invest in restoring Enfield Town but no one expected that their 'solution' to increasing footfall would be so damaging to the fabric of our historic market town.

In the recent survey undertaken by Civic Voice (see page 10) the people of Enfield said 'yes' to regeneration, to a better range of shops, hospitality and leisure facilities but a resounding 'no' to the tall towers, which DWS hope will generate a significant rental income. The residents of Enfield have been loyal to the town even though it has seen better days. However, if the essence of the town is destroyed, the people of Enfield have other places to spend their money.

We need more sympathetic redevelopment proposals for Enfield Town that meets residents' needs, but will also attract explorers and spenders from further afield. They may be families, who are a high spending group; older people with more time and disposable income to spend in our town. Women are key to any retail development because in most households they are still the primary purchasers for their homes and families. It is controversial, but free/subsidised parking also features widely in the winning town centre case studies.

My shopping list of items to buy in a shop on April 12th is growing. I could have bought replacement knives, chopping boards and duvet covers online, but I am excited about going back to real shops and enjoying some retail therapy. I'm sure I'm not alone. Our Enfield Town can have a rich future as well as a rich past.

Memories of Furncrafts, Enfield Town

Sheila Bennett

My brother, Ken Rolland closed his furniture shop, Furncrafts, at 44 London Road, Enfield Town for the last time on 28 January 2021. This had been a family business for 88 years. Ken will be 78 this year and thought it was time to take early retirement! I am sharing some memories of the shop and Enfield Town.



Fred Rolland outside the shop in 1935

Our Dad, Fred Rolland, a French polisher, opened the shop in 1933 with a loan from a friend, Jim Drye. He rented the shop directly after the depression from Mr Gibbons, who owned many premises around Enfield. The photo, taken by a passing photographer, shows him outside. As you can see, he didn't sell much furniture in those early days, mostly making a living from repolishing furniture and repairs. He ran the shop in the 1950s and early sixties at the same time as bringing up his three young children alone, as very sadly his wife suffered from mental illness and was hospitalised. He would make a stew in a saucepan on one gas ring, using the other for his glue pot, bringing the saucepan home in his Dormobile van. On Wednesdays (half day) we had the joy of a roast dinner!

Ken started working with him in 1966, although he helped with deliveries in the evenings, from his early teens. Mr Gibbons offered to sell the shop to Ken in the early 1970s, which he did with a mortgage. He set about extending it out the back and on all floors.

Enfield Town was a bustling place from the late 1950s–1980s; on Saturdays it was difficult to walk along the pavement because of the press of people. Next door to Furncrafts early on was Lillian's Wool Shop. On the other side initially the Windmill Café, then Millets, followed by various food take-away shops.

Other shops along London Road in earlier times included Poynter's, stationers; a greengrocer (owned by Graham Eustance, later a Mayor of Enfield); Scroggies, a shoe shop; Williams, Butchers; the Co-op (selling clothes and homeware); Triggs Jewellers and Hammonds Opticians (still there today). Opposite in the 1960s was the police station, Windsors the cycle TV/radio shop and of course, Woolworths. Further on, Freemans the bakers did a roaring trade with different breads, cakes and excellent crunchy doughnuts. On the corner was Tele Radio, which rented out TVs in the 1960s as they were expensive to buy. Opposite in Cecil Road was the Cecil Café, which was always busy, serving bus drivers and conductors. In the summer holidays we children would eat there 'on tick'.

Furncrafts survived despite a drunk driver crashing his Rolls Royce right through the window in the 1960s; two fires, one which began in NormanBarrie, hairdressers, next door where Lillians had been, and the other in Ken's office. Both fires were extinguished by local firemen. Furncrafts also survived a road scheme in the 1980s by Enfield Council to extend Cecil Road through the shop to join with Southbury Road. With the enormous help of the Enfield Society, a local petition and much letter-writing, this plan was abandoned.

Ken Rolland



Furncrafts won *Enfield in Bloom* twice in the 2000s. The baskets had to be watered by hand from the upstairs windows

Throughout the late 1970s until the late 1980s business was brisk. Then Enfield Town was radically altered with the building of the precinct and the one-way system, cutting London Road off from the shopping area and passing trade. These changes, together with parking charges, the rise of shopping centres and the gradual increase in online shopping brought about a decline in trade. Fred went to the shop every working day until his death in 2001 at 96 years old.

Over all those years Furncrafts has served an enormous number of customers from Enfield and beyond with furniture, pictures, mirrors and seating, as shown in the photos of Furncrafts in its heyday. In the last closing weeks, many people popped in to share memories of the shop and wish Ken well. He would like to take this opportunity to thank all his customers over the years and to say it was a pleasure to serve them.

Sheila Bennett



Ken Rolland at Furncrafts for the last time, 28th January 2021

Grouts of Palmers Green

Phil Whittemore

"You'll always get it at Grouts" was a frequent saying used by Palmers Green residents and was often heard much further afield. For over 85 years Grouts, at 397 Green Lanes, traded before finally closing its doors in 2002. As General and Fancy Drapers, they were probably best known as stockists of undergarments and corsets that would not seem out of place in Victorian England.



The shop in the 1920's

The shop, situated on the corner of Devonshire Road in a block known as 'The Market', was built in 1912 with the original shop freehold being held by Thomas Lilley, leather merchants. In 1914 the lease was taken by Alfred Grout Senior, (1884–1970) who had been a 'Small Wares' buyer at Owen Owen in Liverpool, although he was a Londoner by birth. Accompanying him on his journey south was his wife, Kitty, and their two eldest children, Alfred junior, future owner, and Douglas. Three further additions, Jack, Barbara and Mercia completed the family. It is not known exactly what date the shop opened in 1914, probably late August or early September. The first two weeks takings were kept by Alfred under his bed as the National Provincial bank had not yet opened.

In the centre of the shop was the office, and immediately above it was the cash office where the cashier would sit surrounded by the wires that ran from each counter. This was the Gipe Cash Railway system installed in 1927. Any change required and the receipt would be sent back down the wire by the cashier in a little wooden cup.

Shop hours were long, opening from 8.30am to 7.00pm Monday to Friday, with Thursday being a half day. This convention lasted until the shop closed in 2002. On Saturday the shop stayed open until 8.00pm.

Initially the family lived above the shop with the female assistants who lived in. A spiral staircase in the centre of the shop originally joined the shop to the living quarters, and if extra help was needed then Mr Grout would call 'Forward Number one' and his wife put in an appearance. She appeared, sometimes in her apron, with her hands covered in flour.

Mr Grout Senior would go up to the City on Thursday afternoons to do the buying, the suppliers situated around Little Britain and Shoreditch High Street. Firms representatives would also call, by appointment, to take any orders and show new lines that their firm had to offer. Appearance was important and they would often sport bowler hats.

Trade during WW2 was brisk even with the shortages, as folk were reluctant to travel to 'Town' because of air raids, which meant local shops did good business. The only damage to Grouts

occurred on 16 September 1944 when a V2 rocket landed on the railway line at Palmers Green station with the resulting explosion causing the windows to be blown out.

The Palmers Green shop was not the only branch of the business in the neighbourhood,

although it was always the main shop. New premises were added from 1922, when other shops selling similar goods had their leases up for sale. The first was The Promenade, Green Lanes followed by Melbourne Parade, Green Lanes in 1936, The Green, Winchmore Hill and 7 Avenue Parade, Bush Hill. Four more shops were all acquired in 1938.

Alfred Grout Junior, who had spent the war years in the Royal Artillery, returned to work in the shop in 1945 having been demobbed, and took over the running of the shop in 1950 and was in partnership with his father for a number of years. He married Margaret in 1945 and had daughters, Gillian, Patricia, Susan and Anne who all worked in the shop on and off over the years. Latterly, when Alfred retired in 1981 the business was managed by Susan, her husband, Philip, with help from Patricia.

Grouts had a number of well known customers. Shirley, Lady Beecham, widow of the composer Sir Thomas Beecham, Ruth Winston, mother of Lord Robert Winston, the poet and novelist, Stevie Smith, the mountaineer Chris Bonnington bought his thermal underwear for his expedition to the Himalayas and the snooker player Ray Reardon bought leather gloves. Grouts supplied rolls of stockinette for the 'Punk band' Alien Sex Fiend, who used it to decorate the stage when performing!

Grouts always celebrated their anniversaries; the 50th in 1964 included a brief history in the Evening News. The 75th celebrations, in 1989, included a special front window display erected using an old drapers counter

dressed with many items from the shop archive. The cash railway was also in operation for the birthday week and the shop was featured in the BBC One Regional news.

Some aspects of modern life did eventually encroach into shop life: metric measurements, electronic cash registers, credit card machines, but the world did not end, Grouts kept on trading. Thursday half days were sacrosanct and while other shops in Palmers Green did away with them, Grouts did not.

By 2000 times were changing, and in 2002 the decision was made to close the business. The last day of trading was 20th April of that year and thus ended 88 years of trading and serving the local community.



Alfred Grout with daughters Patricia Russell and Sue Whittemore



Window display in 1989 on the occasion of the shop's 75th Anniversary

Society Directory

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The Enfield Society is a limited
company No. 312134 and registered
charity No. 276451.

ISSN 2042-1419 (print)

ISSN 2042-1427 (web)

The Rose and Crown in the 1930's

Andrew Lack



The Society was contacted by Susan Warne who had this picture of the Rose & Crown's bowls team. Susan wondered if any members might recognise anyone in the photo?

Susan's grandparents were William Charles and Edith Howell and were the licensees of the Rose and Crown, Clay Hill in the 1930's and her father and siblings spent some of their early days there. William was originally a stockbroker and lived in Twickenham before moving to Enfield. William Charles was born in 1878, so 52 at the time of this photo, and is seen without his cap in the front row. His son, Thomas Arthur, (always known as Arthur) is seen standing at the back right.

The photograph of the bowling team, taken outside the pub on 30th September 1930 by Brightmans of Morley Hill, was offered for sale to team members at 3/6 or 4/- each.

Footpaths update

Many members will be aware of railway fencing works near Crews Hill Golf Course that resulted in the footpath from Rectory Farm Road to Tingey Tops becoming unusable. After a flurry of e-mails and site meetings with Network Rail and their contractors, remedial work has been satisfactorily completed.



The London Loop/Salmon's Brook

Unnecessary severe damage caused by contractors to part of the London Loop and Jubilee Path near Salmon's Brook has been reported to Enfield Council.

Some of the Society's walk leaders have cut back rapidly growing vegetation adversely affecting sections of Enfield's countryside footpaths.

Stuart Mills

Moving House?

If you are about to move, or have moved, please don't forget to let us know your new address!



Contact us at:
info@enfieldsociety.org.uk

Autumn 2021 newsletter dates

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 Wednesday 14th July 2021 and it will be published on Tuesday 10th August 2021.