



Society launches a new Friends Group for Gordon Hill station

Our latest Trustees have been responsible for a new mural in the car park and holding a photographic exhibition in the waiting room

Alison Yates

Following an initial meeting instigated by Dave Cockle in September 2021, John Cole and Alison Yates discovered a mutual interest in promoting and trying to reinvigorate Gordon Hill Station and the surrounding area for the local community. With the support of Duncan Primrose, the Hertford Loop Manager, and Govia Thameslink (Great Northern) a lot of progress has been achieved at the Station since then.

Much interest locally has been stimulated by the commissioning of a large mural on the Gordon Hill Express grocery wall in the station car park by the street artist Shaypress. He braved torrential rain one weekend to install the piece, having to finally resort to using a hair dryer to secure the bonding! Shaypress took inspiration from two artists, Norman Rockwell and Richard Estes to create a 1930s style American train carriage and its passengers.

The Edmonton Camera Club have provided a stunning exhibition of 16 unusual photos of destinations in London, in the waiting room on Platform 2. This is complemented by a poster first displayed as part of the centenary of the line in 2010 giving a brief history of Gordon Hill Station and a poem by local poet, Vicky Olliver. With the addition of a well-stocked book swap book case, the waiting room has become a cosy, interesting and inviting place for the travelling public.

A display board on the platform currently gives information about the Friends of Gordon Hill station.

A new flowerbed has been created at the entrance to the Station which provides colour with cyclamen, primula, wall flowers and bulbs now pushing through. John and Alison were pleased to welcome Cllr Lindsay Rawlings and 15 guests to a launch party on December 18th, where refreshments were provided by Linda and Paula of Luv Coffee, the Station's excellent coffee shop.

Future plans include a partnership with St. Michael's Church of England Primary school who will be involved in providing art on the walkway to the Platforms, as well as a glass mosaic and a large



wildlife gardening project around the perimeter of the car park to include insect hotels, bird boxes and plants to encourage biodiversity.

Additionally it is hoped that the Station may host a light show as part of the Enfield Winter Lights Festival, and commission a ceramic mosaic and a map of the Gordon Hill area by artist Camilla Charnock.

There is a hidden area of land behind the Station café which would have originally been the back exit from the Station Master's house (now demolished and replaced with three houses) to the Station. This area was strewn with litter and choked with brambles but following clearance by Alison and John, and an upgrading of the drains, it could now be developed into a very pleasing courtyard café garden, which we hope to achieve in time for some warm, summer weather.

We feel there is scope for further art exhibitions in the waiting room and Mary Duggan of Enfield Poets has kindly agreed to curate a new poem each month. There will be changing displays in the main board to reflect the history, biodiversity, people and environment of Gordon Hill Station and surrounding area.

Our hope is to make Gordon Hill Station not just the starting or finishing point of a journey but an art Station and a destination in its own right as well as being a gateway to the Green Belt.

Chairman's Column

Dave Cockle



When I recently took a walk over a section of the London Loop footpath between Hadley Road and The Ridgeway, I was impressed with the major landscaping upgrade along with a significant improvement to the underfoot conditions. Before the alterations, the path could be particularly muddy as it was hemmed in by Salmon's Brook on one side and a barbed wire fence on the other. A much wider strip of land has now been allocated for the London Loop, whilst a new meandering wide path has been laid down with a well drained gravel topping. The improvements are part of the Enfield Chase Restoration Project, which aims to plant thousands of trees on the farm land in an attempt to alleviate flooding. The new trees will significantly increase the Borough's tree stock. This will help reduce the amount of harmful greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. I would recommend Society members take a trip out to see the upgraded landscape for themselves. Stuart Mills, our lead for Footpaths and Open Spaces, has devised a walk taking in the new and upgraded paths (see page 4).

One missing link in the Enfield Chase restoration project is for a direct path off the London Loop to Botany Bay (Farm Shop). Having raised this in the past, we will take the matter up again as an existing internal farm track could easily be made available. In order to maintain security of the farmyard a cut would have to be made in a hedgerow on the West side of the Ridgeway, a short section of path being created alongside the road. This should neither be difficult nor expensive.

At the start of a new year the need for an effective Civic Amenity Society such as ours has never been more pressing. With the pressure on affordable housing needs and the unfortunate sub-standard accommodation often provided by office conversions, we must maintain our stance of challenging the worst excesses of development. Tackling the threat to our treasured Green Belt is of paramount importance. Our Architecture and Planning Group, which meets regularly, works hard in scrutinising planning applications before making constructive comments to planning officers.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all our volunteers, without whom the Society would cease to function. It has been pleasing to see some new faces giving "hands-on" help. I was delighted at the number of volunteers who helped clear the neglected garden of the Grade II listed Charity School in Church Street, Edmonton, resulting in three full truck-loads of green waste being taken away for composting as well as a tidy garden.

If you would like to come forward to help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can either use our Directory on the back page of this newsletter, or e-mail info@enfieldsociety.org.uk

Planning

John West

Southgate Office Village

The Society was disappointed that the Southgate Office Village planning appeal was allowed, meaning that a 17-storey residential tower can be built next to the Conservation Area, on the top of a hill. The Society had supported Southgate District Civic Voice who worked hard to prevent the development and were represented at the planning appeal.

Among our objections were the prominent position on the hill and the impact on a wide area around Southgate. The Inspector makes little mention of the location and dismisses concerns about views from Oakwood Park and other locations, but the reason these are a concern is because the development is on the hill. The Enfield Society would have expected some reference to topography even if the concern was dismissed.

The Society disagrees with the Inspector who says that the proposal would *sit apart, as a well-designed complex in its own right*. The Society feels that the design is lacking in character and is problematic as to height. The Society also finds the phrase *excellence of design* very questionable in the report.

Brownfield development: Society view

In discussions with other groups, we have often been asked about the Society's general position on major planning developments. As part of our work to protect Enfield's Green Belt and other open spaces, three years ago we worked with the Campaign to Protect Rural England, (CPRE) and Enfield RoadWatch producing a document called *Space to Build*. That document was presented to the GLA and the Council prior to the consultation on Enfield's draft Local Plan. The report identified a large number of brownfield sites that could be developed across the Borough. It was never intended that every one of these sites should be developed, only that the Council through the Local Plan should encourage developers to look creatively at all brown field developments and not be allowed to take the easy option of building on open land. Where development is needed to meet housing needs, the Society believes that high quality design with development that is appropriate to the local setting is a critical factor. We also want to avoid high rise development where it will dominate the local environment.

Conservation & Heritage Group

We have previously reported that the Society has established a new working group, the Conservation and Heritage Group. Members of the former Conservation Advisory Group and the Society's former Historic Buildings and Buildings at Risk Group have all been invited to take part. Two meetings have now taken place and a key objective is to monitor the condition of Listed Buildings on both the National and Local List. This involves individual members taking responsibility to monitor a ward and report back to the group. The Group also provides an opportunity to exchange views and concerns over matters in Conservation Areas and heritage generally. The Group is currently taking up concerns about mobile telephone monopoles and the proliferation of boxes that appear near each aerial.

The Group also monitors the larger planning applications, a number of which are for decisions in 2022, including Cockfosters TfL car park and Arnos Grove Car Park. At Edmonton Green, the first phase of development has now been approved. We will be following progress on this major scheme to ensure that it produces the community benefits that are promised and does not detract from the nearby Conservation Areas.



Membership Secretary

We are very pleased to report that Alec Tyler has volunteered to take over from Anna Maria as our new Membership Secretary and as this newsletter was being prepared the hand-over was continuing.

Alec was born in Hornsey, then moved to Palmers Green where he went to school at Minchenden in Southgate. After working for over 40 years in IT consultancy as a Delivery and Project Manager he has now retired. His IT career started in Enfield working for the National Freight Corporation where he met his wife. He has lived in the Enfield area since 1972, most recently moving to Cockfosters in 1992 where he still lives.

Alec is working through a large number of cheques for membership renewals and these will all be paid into the bank shortly. It is becoming increasingly difficult to handle cheques and whilst we have no plans to stop accepting them if you are able to use our online renewal system it would be much appreciated.

Nomination for Vice-President

At its Management Committee meeting in October, Trustees unanimously agreed to nominate Janet McQueen for Vice-President of the Society at the next AGM in recognition of her support over many years.

Janet played a lead role in a successful campaign in 2012 to prevent Chase Green being commercialised by the Council for events. As well as being a Trustee in two spells between 1996 and 2021, Janet was Chair for three years and has since organised numerous coach outings for us as well as taking on the responsibility for efficiently managing all aspects of Jubilee Hall.

Dave Cockle

New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members who have joined the Society since the Winter newsletter.

Mr R Baker, Ms J Brewer, Ms S Coles, Mr D Cordt, Ms C Donegan, Mrs P George, Mrs V Giladi, Mr A & Mrs V Hewson, Mr S & Mrs M L Law, Mr I McGovern, Mr H Medwell, Ms C Ostler, Mr I Papworth, Ms H Petrou, Ms D Pettit-Jones, Ms C Ramsamy, Mrs A Riggall, Miss A Salinger, Mr G Sievers, Dr N Stevens, Miss A Taylor, Mrs D Thanou, Mrs A Whitehead, Mr C Wildish.

Anna Maria Foster

Publications

We had a busy run-up to Christmas with plenty of orders for our publications, both online and via the order form enclosed with our last newsletter.

A few titles are temporarily out of stock, and are on order, so apologies to those members patiently waiting for them.

Our popular collected edition of walks, *Heritage Walks in the London Borough of Enfield* has now sold out and will not be reprinted; several of the walks have already been reproduced as separate leaflets and are available to purchase from our website and at Jubilee Hall talks and meetings. New updated walks leaflets for Southgate and Winchmore Hill are currently in preparation.

Alison Parker

AGM: Proposal of Candidates

Any Society member is entitled to propose candidates for election to the Management Committee at this year's AGM, which will be held in September. A proposal must be signed by the candidate and by at least ten members supporting the proposal and must be sent or delivered to the Secretary at Jubilee Hall so as to be received not later than 1st May 2022.

If you wish to propose a candidate I would encourage you to contact me beforehand to make sure that the correct procedures are followed.

Richard Stones

Trees Group

During the autumn some trees were moved to the Forty Hall vineyard to help

provide a windbreak and protect the vines. We still have trees that are available for planting out in the spring. If you are involved in any Friends of Parks Groups or know of any sites that would benefit from tree planting, please contact trees@enfieldsociety.org.uk

One of our aims is to diversify the number of species that we grow at the Society's tree nursery. At present we have some Black Walnuts that can be provided to groups.

John West

Society volunteers clear Charity School garden

Later this year the London Historic Buildings Trust aim to submit a National Lottery Heritage bid for the major refurbishment of The Charity School in Church Street, Edmonton. In the meantime, the building has been empty for some years and the grounds had become very overgrown. Ivy and other plants were starting to affect the structure of the building. During November an enthusiastic group of Enfield Society volunteers worked over 3 days to clear the grounds. Three lorry loads of green waste were removed. Further work may be needed before work starts to bring the building back into use, but the situation is much improved. Thanks to everyone who came along and helped.

John West



A walk in Enfield's threatened Green Belt

Stuart Mills



An attractive and varied 5¾ mile circular walk from Chase Farm Hospital (buses W8, W9 and 313) with fine long distance views over Enfield Chase countryside, plus an optional extra ½ mile circuit of Williams Wood. There are shorter options using 121 and 307 buses: about 5 miles from The Jolly Farmers by accessing the Merryhills Way from either Camp Road opposite the pub or from Trentwood Side or about 4¼ miles from the Lakeside bus stop and using the path next to the riding stables.

From The Ridgeway entrance to the hospital turn left along The Ridgeway, cross the road and after the petrol station enter Fairview Road. Go ahead onto the signed Merryhills Way public footpath ① which, after 25 yards, bears left downhill through the wood to reach a pasture field. There are lovely views over Salmon's Brook valley towards Oakwood, Cockfosters, Trent Park and Botany Bay. Enfield Council's intention is to ruin this rural scene with housing.



Turn left along the field edge and at the first hedge turn right downhill. At the bottom turn left and, after about 100 yards, go right on a bridge over the stream and left into a small field that will be very muddy after wet weather to reach Camp Road. Straight across and from there the Merryhills Brook is on your left. The last field crossed has nesting larks in the Spring.

When you reach the edge of Trent Park (about 1½ miles from start) turn right uphill ②, either within the hedged pedestrian path or on the horse track, but please keep dogs on leads. After Shaws Wood on your left you reach the corner of Williams Wood ③. At this point there are fine views southwards towards The Shard and the City.



You then have two options. Either, turn left for 50 yards and then right on a good surfaced pedestrian track that goes downhill for about 500 yards to reach Leeging Beech Gutter. Otherwise, continue along the horse track around the inside edge of



Williams Wood, with more long distance views over the fields that could be covered in housing too, ultimately, meet the point where the Gutter goes under the shorter option pedestrian track mentioned in the previous sentence.



In both instances, cross the Gutter and walk northwards uphill on a wide pedestrian track that after 350 yards turns left to go parallel with Hadley Road. Follow this track and cross two car park access tracks to reach Trent Park information boards. Continue straight ahead and after 250 yards you will see on your right the fence to Camlet Moat ④. Go through the small entrance gate to walk around the moat and exit via another gate further west. The notice boards inform readers that Camlet Moat is a well preserved example of a "modest medieval rural moated site" dating back to at least 1357.

Exit onto the London Loop track, turn right and then bear right out to Hadley Road. Turn left for 100 yards along the narrow pavement to reach public footpath 276 (the London Loop). For refreshments, continue along Hadley Road to reach Ferry Hill Farm café.

article concludes on page 10



What is the future for the New River Loop?

John Cole



In 1926 the New River Loop through Enfield Town was made redundant, cut off from the main water course. Though briefly reinstated during the War, it was permanently separated in 1953. The Loop is 1¼ miles long and is a key part of the character of the Town. It shaped Enfield's early growth with fine houses and landscaped areas around it. It is also a well loved landmark and is photographed endlessly particularly at Gentlemen's Row and on the nearby Jephcott Bridge. It provides a wildlife corridor and is of historical importance with cast iron Grade II listed bridges and railings. It is unique: retaining most of the features of the pre-19th Century water course. The Loop now feeds the Wetlands and Boating Pond in the Town Park, and taken together they act as a large reservoir protecting the houses at the south-east of the Park from flooding.

Members will be aware that we have been particularly concerned about the state of the Loop for many years but particularly in the past few summers. Low water, poor or no flow and silting from leaf fall have resulted in a poorly oxygenated waterway with a high nitrogen content. The pond weed only exacerbates the situation and the results are dead fish and little plant life.

This was the situation faced in the 1990s. Then a Heritage Lottery grant of £1,795,000 was given towards a £2.4m restoration project. The balance was funded by The Council, Thames Water and The Enfield (Preservation) Society and assisted by Enfield Conservation volunteers and Groundforce. Work included de-silting, new banking (revetments), street furniture, new signs, lighting, resurfaced pathways, repairs to railings and bridges, pumps, pollution interceptor tanks and the Millennium Fountain sun dial.

For a while the Loop was maintained in a pristine condition. But now there are a range of problems including a lack of water in summer, pollution, excessive pond weed, algal blooms and dead fish. This has led to a poor appearance at several locations including River Front, River View and across the road from the Civic Centre. This has not gone unnoticed by residents, councillors and the Council officers.

The Society met with senior officers of the Council on 20th August 2021 and inspected the route of the Loop. Subsequently we organised a clean-up day in October and with Thames21 cleared pond weed in Carr's Basin in Enfield Town Park (pictures, top).

At the meeting on 20th August we were promised a copy of the new Management Plan for the Loop, which we have now received, and were invited to attend a virtual presentation on 11th January to discuss the suitability of the Plan which aims to keep the Loop maintained in good condition in the future. Groups attending included Friends of Chase Green, the Gentleman's Row Residents' Association and the Friends of Town Park.

What is the Council going to do?

Prior to Christmas the Council began improvement works by clearing the 'interceptor' which collects oil from the River and located at the corner of Chase Side Gardens and Chase Side.

In 2022 the Council have committed to installing water level monitors, to upgrade both the Thames Water pump at Southbury Road and their own at Parsonage Lane, to resurface the footpath on the West side of Carr's Basin, to de-silt the section between the Crown and Horseshoes pub and Church Street and to install information boards along the waterway setting out the Loop's history. Longer term the Council wishes to introduce chalk treatment which should help breakdown the silt which is not removed. The Council have also agreed to improve the section between Baker Street and Enfield Grammar School as well as at River Front to address the excessive and poorly maintained reed beds.

The Council have agreed to provide much more detail about when proposed actions will to be carried out. It was also agreed to have quarterly site visits with Council officers, councillors and representatives of the local community and to continue a regular dialogue with us. The Council told us that 'upskilling' of contractors was important, which implies that finding the right people to carry out some of this work might be difficult.

The Council has also commenced a feasibility study to create a small and sensitive wetlands in Chase Side Gardens adjacent to Chase Green Avenue. If this is feasible a public consultation will follow. The Council also agreed to review the Town Park outfall that feeds the wetlands to see if that does impact water levels detrimentally.

In summary we believe the Council is at last making headway with a wide range of works over the next 18 months. However it is essential we have a more detailed plan of their proposed maintenance of each unique stretch of the Loop so that we can hold the Council to account. It is also vital there is a medium to long term financial plan to match, if we are to see the Loop recapture it's former glory.



Society volunteers clearing weed at Carr's Basin, 26th October 2021

Christ Church Congregational Church, Chase Side Enfield

Stephen Gilbert

Enfield Local Studies & Archive



Henry Storer Toms 1840–1916 (above) was educated at University College School and London University. He trained for the ministry at New College, St John's Wood. He was the second son of Joseph Toms of Woodbury in Clay Hill, Enfield. (Joseph Toms founded Derry and Toms department store in South Kensington.) Storer Toms was ordained and inducted at Chase Side Chapel on 31st October 1865. As part of his early ministry he preached a series of sermons on Chase Green about the need for the Gospel. He was also an active supporter of the Liberal Party and campaigned to establish a School Board for Enfield.

By the late 1860's there were good relations between the members of the adjoining Zion and Chase Side Chapels. A friendship had developed between John Stribling, minister of Zion Chapel since 1832, and Storer Toms. By 1871, John Stribling's health was failing and it was proposed to unite the two chapels. 49 out of 58 members of Zion Chapel supported the proposal and at Chase Side Chapel the vote was unanimous. A joint meeting also unanimously voted to call Storer Toms to the pastorate of the united church, which it was later decided to call Christ Church Congregational Church.

Neither building was large enough for the combined congregation including the Sunday School established in 1832. An acre of land behind Zion Chapel, known as "Stray Field" was purchased to allow a larger church to be built on the site of Zion Chapel. This would be able to seat 780 adults, all at ground level. A manse for the minister and his family was planned to be added later. Chase Side Chapel was to be converted into a lecture hall and school room.

The foundation stone of the Grade II

listed Christ Church was laid on 29th June 1874. Designed by John Tarring, it was built in the Gothic Decorated style by Cooke and Green at a cost of nearly £11,000. It has a brick core faced with Kentish Ragstone, with Bath stone

Enfield Local Studies & Archive



Sketches of the exterior and interior of the proposed new Christ Church

dressings around the doors and windows outside and is faced with Bath stone inside. Children were asked to go into the surrounding fields and collect leaves, flowers and fruit which were incorporated into the designs for the capitals at the top of the columns. The church was completed when Storer Toms climbed the

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Lecture Hall (demolished in 1963) and Christ Church in 1900

Enfield Local Studies & Archive



Interior of the Church about 1900

scaffolding to place the weather vane in position on top of the 180 feet high spire.

The church was dedicated on Thursday 18th November 1875.

Christ Church URC



On the west wall of the apse is a carved stone relief of Jesus's Last Supper based on Leonardo da Vinci's painting in Milan. It was given by the builders Cooke and Green.

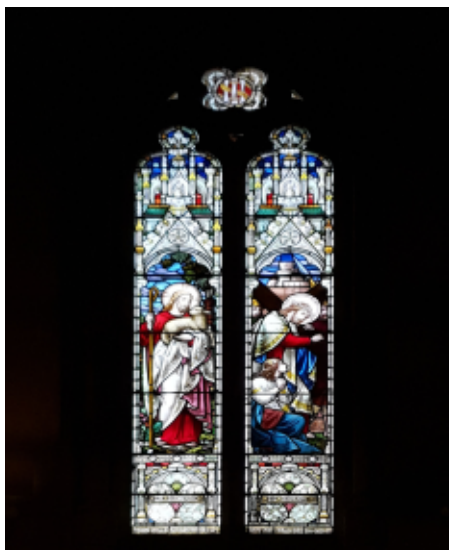
Christ Church URC



The pulpit, designed by F. G. Anstey, was constructed of Caen Stone and alabaster. The pulpit, communion table and chairs, organ screen and transept windows with floral designs were given to the church by Joseph Toms. The reading desk was given by Dr. John James Ridge, a deacon of Christ Church for 33 years. The three manual organ with pneumatic action had great, swell and choir organs.

Most of the stained glass windows date from around 1890 and were given in memory of various church members. On the apse wall are windows showing Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd holding a sheep and as the Saviour of the World carrying a cross.

In the south aisle is an 1892 window by Ward and Hughes, a London firm of stained glass makers, who also produced windows for Jesus Church, Forty Hill. From the left are Faith (or belief) holding a cross, Charity (or love) looking after children and Hope holding up her arms to heaven.



Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd and as the Saviour of the World



Faith, Charity and Hope
Stained Glass Window 1892

In the north aisle are windows showing Philip, Stephen the first Christian martyr, and Parmenas, who were three of the seven first century deacons.

On the east wall of the nave are windows showing the four gospel writers—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each is holding a pen, scroll or book to indicate that he wrote one of the gospels. Between



Manse in 1900

them are Peter, holding the key to the Kingdom of Heaven and Paul with a sword, the emblem of his martyrdom.

In 1885 a Church Parlour, for social and business meetings, a Ladies Vestry, a larger Deacons Vestry, toilets and a kitchen were added to the south-west corner of the church. (The Church Parlour and Ladies Vestry were demolished in 1995 to provide access to a care home, now a medical day centre, built at the same time behind the church on the site of the former Manse.)



Caroline Toms and her daughters taking tea in the Manse garden in the early 1900s

From 1865 Reverend Storer Toms and his family lived at Poplars, 87 Chase Side (see newsletter 223 Autumn 2021) until in 1887 a manse was constructed behind the church. The 1891 census records the following residents—Storer Toms 51, his wife Caroline 50, children: Florence 23, Henry 21, Norris 19, Christina 17, Edgar 15, Maud 13, Constance 11, Elsie 9 and servants: Hannah 22, the cook and Nellie 16, the housemaid.

By 1900 there were about 450 members of the congregation. The music at the 11am and 6.30pm Sunday services was led by the organist and choir. In addition a Wednesday service was held at 8pm in the Church Parlour. The afternoon Sunday School and Bible Classes had over 700 children and young people, many of whom took part in an annual Scripture Examination organised by the Sunday School Union.

The 3rd Enfield Company of the Boys Brigade was founded in 1890 by Norris Toms. In the early days officers and boys in uniform were sometimes pelted with bottles and other missiles as they walked to drill nights. The Boys Brigade was criticised by some people who believed that the boys were being trained to fight

for their country rather than become soldiers for Christ. The ladies in the Dorcas Society made items for sale at the annual Church bazaar.

There were also three groups dedicated to abstinence from alcohol—Band of Hope, Total Abstinence Society and Abstinence Guild. Among other organisations associated with the church were a Young Ladies Society, a Men's Institute and "a Young Men's Guild which has a Guildhall open all week in which some 200 young men find amusement and instruction." [Mackenzie MacBride 1902]. The Christ Church Provident Society, founded by Florence Toms to encourage savings, had an annual income of over £800.

Members of Christ Church were also involved in providing education at the British School and later at Chase Side School, in campaigning to establish a School Board for Enfield, in improving healthcare and promoting temperance in Enfield and in establishing Christ Church Hall Mission (which is now Lancaster Road United Reformed Church). These subjects will be covered in two future editions of Enfield Society News.

In 1905 Reverend Henry Storer Toms retired after a ministry of 40 years and moved to Barnet, where he died in 1916.



South Side of Christ Church in 2019

A fuller history of Zion Chapel, Chase Side Chapel and Christ Church from 1780 to 2022 may be found in Christ Church (now a United Reformed Church) newsletters from January 2021. These are available online at ccurc.org.uk. A bibliography used in the preparation of this article may be found on our web-site. Some of the publications may be consulted at Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive.

Society/Council meeting, October 2021

Andrew Lack

Before 2021 the Society had established a quarterly meeting frequency with the Council but there was only two meetings in 2021. We are now working to re-establish dates for 2022. Our meeting on the 28th October was with Officers Sarah Cary, Director of Place, and David Taylor, Head of Traffic and Transportation.

Draft Local Plan. We learned that there had been around 7,000 responses to the Consultation. The Council still expected to continue the process to follow the previously announced time-line.

Consultation feedback wanted brown-field development to be prioritised and was not supportive of tall buildings or use of green-belt. Feedback had also indicated a focus of development in the East, which would be difficult given the need to maintain industrial land and it would be difficult to reconcile these views whilst achieving the 25,000 housing target, which not many respondents had challenged. We also learned that the Council did not make an application for Government funding for Brownfield land development, but would be doing so in the next round. The application to the Levelling Up Fund had not been successful and the Council were awaiting feedback.

The promised publication of consultation replies was currently not possible due to limitations with the Council's web-site and required resources to fix it.

Palace Square. Sarah Cary confirmed that Deutsch Bank had stopped work on the proposals and were considering their options. Meanwhile, Pearsons wished to make some alternations to the southern façade (which faces Marks & Spencers), which the Council supported.

Whitewebbs Lease. On the 25th October the Society wrote to Sarah Cary about the proposed lease to Spurs on the Whitewebbs estate. We have long been concerned that Spurs have failed to discharge their responsibilities under the 2018 planning permission to create a Nature Reserve at Dicken's Trough. We feel that, given Spurs' inaction to date on this matter, assurances given over the management and access to Whitewebbs are of little value.

We were told that Spurs currently had applications with the Council pending for the discharge of their obligations under the 2018 permission and that, should they be agreed, work would start before the end of 2021 to fulfil their three-year expiry period. Sarah Cary told us that the

granting of the lease would not happen until work on the nature reserve had begun.

We were assured that public access would be set out in the lease and related documents. These would cover, among other things, the preservation of the rights of way and other currently permitted paths.

The Society discussed the possibility of establishing a 'consultation body' to manage Whitewebbs after the lease was granted. Sarah Cary felt that the established model of 'Park Friends' would be a starting point and that such a body could consider the lease and other matters.

Museum and Archive. We asked for an update on this and were told that the Council were developing ideas for the reconfiguration of the Museum further and would share these with the Enfield Society "soon". [At copy date we had still heard nothing further.] In the interim the Archive would be relocated to the basement of Ridge Avenue Library and the Reading Room to the Civic Centre. These changes would be carried out before the end of 2021.

We now know that this didn't happen. The Archive is boxed up at the Dugdale Centre waiting to be moved and the Reading Room is closed. We understand that asbestos has been found in the Civic Centre which will delay the re-opening of the Reading Room.

The Society is concerned that the separation of the Reading Room and the Archive will be an operational difficulty for the staff and public using it. However when challenged on this point, Sarah Cary said that the Service had not raised any objections to the proposal. We were promised a meeting with the Archive Service to discuss our concerns over how this will work, but by copy date no meeting had been arranged.

Southgate House. The Council sold Southgate House in 2020 for 'unconditional business use'. As Southgate House is a listed building which apparently has surviving historic interiors, its ownership is a matter of concern.

New River Loop. The Society has now received a copy of the new management plan for the New River Loop through Enfield Town. Sarah Cary appeared not to be aware of the earlier Management Plan, created twenty years ago, so the Society has forwarded a copy to her. We urged the Council to improve its relationship with Thames Water and a meeting would be taking place.

Manifesto for Parks

Carole Stanley

Park Groups from across the Borough of Enfield have come together for the first time to collectively ask everyone standing in the May 2022 council election to commit to protecting and enhancing Enfield's green spaces.

The COVID pandemic and subsequent lock-downs have highlighted how important local, easily accessible green spaces are to the mental and physical health of Enfield's residents. Further to this, greater awareness of the climate crisis and the impact of years of destruction of the UK's natural habitat has resulted in more people wanting to protect green existing spaces and grow precious native natural habitats.

However, there have been concerns by many volunteers in local community groups that warm words on the importance of green spaces have not been met with action and investment by councillors of all political parties. Green spaces are not a 'nice to have', they are essential to the wellbeing of all Enfield residents.

The Enfield Friends Collective has therefore launched the *Love Our Parks* Manifesto. We ask all those standing for election to sign our manifesto and talk with Friends groups in their area about what they would do to put the manifesto commitments in to action if elected/re-elected in May 2022.

The manifesto will be published on EnCaf's website and will be kept alongside a list of prospective candidates who have committed to the pledge. The collective does not, and will not, support any particular party or individual candidate. We believe that we stand a greater chance of protecting our precious green spaces—and providing a better quality of life for the people we love—if politicians from all parties can commit to working together on the things that matter to Enfield residents.

To pledge your commitment, or if you have questions about the project, please e-mail LoveEnfieldParks@gmail.com



Bush Hill Park

Society guided walks

Stuart Mills

Our walks are open to all Society members. Travel details are correct at copy date, but please check with train operators for changes close to the date. Please always wear suitable footwear.

Thanks to John West, the e-mail based pre-booked system remains available for “informal” walks that will not appear in the newsletter. This facility allows walks to be arranged at short notice and for numbers attending to be pre-limited. To lead such a walk, or be added to this e-mail walks list, please contact j.west@enfieldsociety.org.uk

Wednesday 16th February.

Hertfordshire Rivers. Meet 10.36

Hertford North Station (10.15 train from Enfield Chase). About 7 mile circular walk with varied river scenes via the attractive town centre of Ware (lunch stop and option to end). Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Stuart Mills

Saturday 26th February. Watling Chase Timberland Trail. Meet 10.12

Elstree & Borehamwood Station (09.48 Thameslink St Albans train from St Pancras International mainline station, platform B). Otherwise, a lengthy bus journey from Enfield Town using 307 bus to Barnet and then 107 bus.

About 7 mile linear walk on field paths and tracks via farmland and woods with long distance views. Some paths in the morning can be very muddy. Lunch stop after 4 miles at Shenley Park café (with option to finish by bus to London Colney). Bring lunch or food available. Afternoon section also ends at London Colney retail park for return by 84 bus to Potters Bar Station. Leader: Mike Cranstone, contact 07597 122 554.

Wednesday 2nd March. Urban Green Routes. Depart 10.30

from Southgate underground station for a pleasant 4½ mile linear walk via parks and green spaces, to finish near Enfield Town. The route includes a surprisingly varied selection of architectural styles and makes use of several link paths in the urban landscape. Shorter option. Leader: Nigel King, contact 07973 747 454.

Saturday 12th March. River Peck (one of London's hidden rivers). Meet **10.35** Honor Park Station (via 09.55 TfL London Overground Crystal Palace train from Highbury & Islington—usually from platform 1).

6 to 7 mile linear walk that links green open spaces, including Honor Oak Park and Peckham Rye Park & Common, with Docklands via many points of interest, as

the route follows the topographical features of this semi-hidden river. The walk will probably end at Surrey Docks Station. Shorter option. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 098.

Tuesday 22nd March. City of London.

Meet **10.15** Moorgate Station for an interesting walk in the City that includes historic buildings, modern architecture and piazzas, monuments and open spaces, ending at a station. Shorter option. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Ian Reynolds.

Thursday 31st March. Enfield's

Countryside. Depart **14.30** from Crews Hill Station (14.15 train from Enfield Chase).

A 5 mile linear walk through farmland and part of the Enfield Chase Estate currently undergoing afforestation and creation of wetlands, ending at Chase Farm Hospital. Long distance views throughout the route. Shorter option when the walk crosses The Ridgeway near Botany Bay. Leader: Stuart Mills.

Wednesday 6th April. Epping Forest (South). Meet **10.30** Manor Park Station (10.12 TfL Rail Shenfield train from Liverpool Street mainline station).

geograph.org.uk



Lake on Wanstead Flats

8 mile linear walk from the open spaces of Wanstead Flats, through the Forest following the Centenary Trail via ponds, commons, heaths and native woodland, ending at Chingford Station (313 bus). Also option to end after 5 miles at Woodford Green lunch stop. Bring lunch or food available. The northern section of this trail will appear within a future *Guided Walks* programme. Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 098.

Tuesday 12th April. Hertfordshire Scenes. Meet leader in Bayford Village at **10.35** (10.15 train from Enfield Chase and on leaving Bayford Station turn right for a 5 minutes walk to the village).

About 7 mile circular walk from Bayford Station via Bayfordbury Estate to Hertford (lunch stop and option to finish), returning by field paths and woods to Bayford Village and Station. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Mick Spinks.

Sunday 24th April. Forest Scenes. Meet **10.30** Epping Station (about 40 minutes by Central Line train from Liverpool Street station).

10 mile linear walk on undulating paths and tracks through an area of the Forest that has fine mature trees, open spaces and the Ambresbury Banks fort. Lunch stop after 6 miles at High Beach (café and pub or bring lunch). Walk ends at Chingford Station (313 bus). No shorter option. Joint walk with Hampstead Ramblers. Leader: Hadi Samsami, contact 07590 604 391.

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May.

Chilterns. Depart **10.40** Chalfont & Latimer Station (toilets on London-bound platform). Either 09.56 Chiltern Railways Aylesbury train from London Marylebone Station or use Metropolitan Line train from King's Cross St Pancras Station but, if so, check train times with TfL close to date.

About 7 mile linear walk via the Misbourne Valley and Old Amersham, ending at Amersham Station. No shorter option. Lunch stop in pretty Chalfont St Giles village. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Mike Cranstone, contact 07597 122 554.

Saturday 14th May. Conservation

Countryside. Meet leader in Bayford Village at **14.35** (14.15 train from Enfield Chase and on leaving Bayford Station turn right for a 5 minute walk to the village).

About 5 mile circular walk from Bayford Station via pretty Little Berkhamsted village through an attractive patchwork of woods and small fields. No shorter option. Leader: Stuart Mills.

Thursday 19th May. In the footsteps of Charles Dickens. Meet **10.30** at the front entrance to King's Cross mainline station and facing the Euston Road.

Today's walk will explore some areas south of King's Cross, around Holborn and towards The Thames, associated with Charles Dickens. Shorter option. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Peter Mackey, contact 07506 334 019.

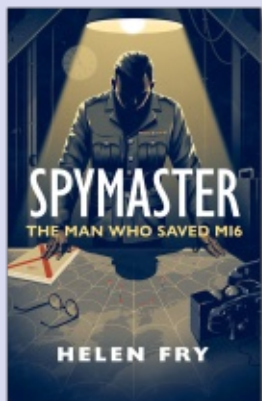
Talks calendar

Enfield Society

Our talks are held at Jubilee Hall and start at 8pm with doors open from 7.30pm. Non members are welcome for just £1 each.

Monday 21st March,

Spymaster—the man who saved MI6 by Dr Helen Fry. Historian Dr Helen Fry has written and edited over 25 books. Her works cover the social history of the Second World War. She is the leading expert on the “secret listeners” at special eaves-dropping sites by British intelligence in WWII. The talk will cover her latest book about Colonel Thomas Kendrick—the spy who was the commanding officer of Trent Park in WWII.



There is no talk in April due to the bank holiday.

Monday 16th May, *Thomas Hardy's Tortured Vocation* by The Right Reverend Dr Stephen Platten. Stephen is a retired Dean of Norwich and Bishop of Wakefield. He spent his early life in Enfield and has had a lifelong interest in the life and works of Thomas Hardy. Hardy's second wife Florence Dugdale came from Enfield and they were married in St Andrew's church.

Enfield Archaeological Society

EAS talks are being held on Zoom and are open to everyone. You will need to obtain the Zoom details for each meeting from their web-site: enfarchsoc.org

Friday 11th March 8pm. *Sri Lanka: Traders, Temples and a Tooth* by Ian Jones, Chairman, EAS. Aspects of the archaeology and history of this island off the tip of India from Palaeolithic hunters via Roman traders, Buddhists and assorted Europeans to independence in 1948.

Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

The EHHS talks are held at Jubilee Hall. Non-members welcome, £1 each.

Monday 21st March 8pm. Joint meeting with The Enfield Society, details above.

Wednesday 20th April 8pm. AGM. After the meeting there will be a talk by Dr Jim Lewis *Walthamstow Wetlands, the Lea Valley's Return to Nature*.

Historical Association (North London Branch)

Meetings normally take place at Jubilee Hall at 8pm. Non members welcome to attend for £2 each. If circumstances change, meetings may have to be held using Zoom.

Tuesday 8th March *Health, Technologies and the Everyday in Seventeenth Century England* Dr Elaine Leong (University College, London)

Tuesday 12th April *Why did the Roman Empire become Christian?* Dr David Gwynn (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Charity School, Edmonton

Richard Stones

You might think that rescuing a historic building is all about bricks and mortar—and money. But in the case of the Charity School in Edmonton the initial problems have been legal ones. In 2019 a conservation charity, London Historic Buildings Trust (LHBT), agreed with other stakeholders (including the Enfield Society) to manage a project for the restoration and repurposing of the buildings. But neither LHBT nor any potential funder could take on the building unless it was clear who owned it.

This might seem obvious; it is a fact of local history that a charity to provide a school for girls in Edmonton was established in 1778 and its present buildings in Church Street were built in 1784. But establishing ownership from a legal point of view requires documentary proof. By 2019 very few documents survived, and none of them dealt with ownership of the property.

Fortunately, one surviving document mentioned in passing that formal title to the property had been vested by statutory order in the Official Custodian of Charities. The Official Custodian confirmed this and provided a copy of the statutory order. This in turn mentioned a declaration of trust signed by the trustees of the charity in 1903, which was said to have been “enrolled at the Central Office of the Supreme Court”. Some quick research showed that enrolled documents of this kind are preserved in the National Archives at Kew. A visit to Kew found the text of the declaration in the court “roll”. It appeared (ironically) that even in 1903 the trustees of the charity had no documents to prove their title, so the declaration was a formal statement that they owned and were in possession of the property.

Following this it was possible to apply to the Land Registry for the Foundation's ownership to be registered, with the Enfield Society agreeing to fund professional legal advice, and registration was obtained in October 2021. Now the charity's ownership of the buildings has been established, the plan is transfer them to LHBT so as to extricate them from the very restrictive objectives of the charity. This will involve getting the approval of the Charity Commission, which is the next task to be undertaken.

continued from page 4

Otherwise, cross Hadley Road to enter either the hedge-lined pedestrian path or use the newly constructed combined use walking/cycle track ⑤ that goes through Ash Wood. Both go downhill with good views and they join together near Salmon's Brook. Then turn right and follow this combined use track for about 1¾ miles to reach Brooke Wood and The Ridgeway near the now closed Royal Chace Hotel.

Before entering Brooke Wood look back at the glorious view westwards towards the high ground of Wrotham Park beyond the Barnet to Potters Bar road (picture top of page 4). After leaving the Wood there is a view towards Alexandra Palace and London. Cross The Ridgeway very carefully and turn right to the hospital.

Over the past year the London Loop between Hadley Road and The Ridgeway has been significantly diverted from the original route with improved vistas from the landscape changes and hopefully resolving the flooding problems. Thousands of trees have been planted along the valley, new wetland sites created and, with seating and picnic areas, the route is now more user friendly although, admittedly, it has lost some of its original rural charm. When you exit onto The Ridgeway ⑥ there is now open a further two field section of the combined use track providing a link to Rectory Farm Road (please close the gates).

Can you help Firs Farm's heritage project?

In the winter newsletter we reported on the Stories of Enfield project—a National Lottery Heritage Fund initiative. With limited funds, the Council was not able to fund every project and the Society has been looking to support a small number of the unsuccessful projects where they meet the Society's aims and objectives. One of these involves the Firs Farm area

The project called *Time Together in Hidden History* will explore Firs Farm's heritage through the community. They are seeking information from local people who have local history knowledge of the Firs Farm or Firs Lane area, from any time period, but especially accounts pre 1950's.

Your knowledge will assist the Friends of Firs Farm to strengthen their knowledge and further build on the local history timeline, which would be fundamental to the creation of the potential heritage project with Enfield Society. The project would, utilising community built archives, create a heritage trail that highlights the history of Firs Farm as well as an online version in the form of a video tour, for ease of accessibility.

From the current archives it is known that Firs Farm has a rich history, which includes a working farm, prisoner of war camp and tennis pavilions—and potentially so much more, as there is a lot of hidden history to uncover!

To get involved, please contact the Friends of Firs Farm by e-mail to: friendsoffirsfarm@gmail.com

Social Media

The Enfield Society has had an active Facebook presence for some time now (facebook.com/enfieldsociety) as well as Twitter account (@EnfieldSoc) and 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 e-mail 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

Can you help save the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society?

The Edmonton Hundred Historical Society (EHHS) was formed in 1936 and is dedicated to the study of the history of the area which today includes Enfield, Edmonton, Southgate, Wood Green, Tottenham and out as far as South Mimms and Monken Hadley Barnet.

The EHHS is now facing a serious situation following the recent loss of some of its Committee; in particular it needs to find a Treasurer. Without someone coming forward in the next new weeks, there is the prospect that the Society could be wound up. If you are able to offer assistance to the EHHS, please contact the Chairman, Howard Whisker at howard.whisker@outlook.com

The Enfield Society works closely with the EHHS, including organising two joint talks each year, and we would be very sad to see this organisation have to close.

Andrew Lack

The "Conduit House", Whitewebbs Park

This curious structure, included in the Enfield Local List of heritage buildings, is at the north-west corner of the lake in Whitewebbs Park. You might doubt this, as it is virtually invisible in a thicket of trees and undergrowth. The Society recently inspected it with the assistance of the Parks Department.



The small square building is thought to date back to Tudor times and to have had something to do with the supply of water to Whitewebbs House. It is in poor condition, with the roof, shown in old photographs, caved in. It is in the part of the Whitewebbs estate which is to be leased to Spurs, so we will press the Council to make sure that Spurs acknowledges responsibility for its preservation—perhaps they can be persuaded to replace the roof?

Richard Stones

Coach outing to Deene Park, Northamptonshire Wednesday 8th June



We will leave from Enfield at 9.30am on Wednesday 8th June to visit the fascinating House of Deene Park and explore the extensive grounds. Deene Park has been owned by the Brudenell family since 1514 and was the seat of the Earls of Cardigan; the 7th Earl leading the charge of the Light Brigade in 1854.

We will have a private tour of the rooms still used by the family, which hold a large collection of art, furniture and porcelain, together with a display of memorabilia from the Crimean war. Lunch will be taken in the Old Kitchen and needs to be pre-ordered. It is included in the cost as is tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival.

It is also worth spending some time exploring the grounds and the garden should be at its best in June, with roses and other shrubs.

We will leave the Park about 3.30pm and should be back in Enfield approximately 5.30pm.

Cost is £45 per person unless you are a Historic Houses Association member when it is £36 and this *includes* a lunch of soup, sandwiches, a pudding and coffee/tea and biscuits on arrival. (If you do not want lunch then the cost would be £35 but no other food is available to purchase.)

To book please either e-mail j.mcqueen@enfieldsociety.org.uk or send a stamped-addressed envelope to Society Coach Trips, Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ, stating any allergies or food restrictions you have, if you want lunch and how much you are paying. Don't forget your contact details including a phone number.

You can also pay by bank transfer (The Enfield Society, Barclays Bank Account number 50363820, bank sort code 20 29 77) or cheque made payable to "the Enfield Society". *Please use your name and postcode as the payment reference with online banking.*

Society Directory

Joint Presidents: Colin Pointer, Monica Smith MBE

Vice Presidents: Matthew Saunders MBE, Alan Skilton, Leonard Will

Chairman: Dave Cockle

Hon. Secretary: Richard Stones

Hon. Treasurer: Tony Foster


Management Committee: Dave Cockle, John Cole, Sue Grayson Ford MBE, Anna Maria Foster, Tony Foster, Robert Fowler, Stephen Gilbert, Nigel King, Andrew Lack, Jan Metcalfe, Stuart Mills, Hilary Morris, Val Munday, Phil Page, Richard Stones, John West, Alison Yates.


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Messages left on this number will be dealt with as promptly as possible.

 enfieldsociety.org.uk

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 Instagram @enfieldsociety

How to contact us

To contact our specialist groups either use the contact given or use our general enquiries e-mail:

info@enfieldsociety.org.uk

Architecture and Planning: John West, 020 8886 6080

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group: Nigel King

Conservation & Heritage Group: John West

East Enfield and Edmonton: Val Munday

Footpaths and Open Spaces: Stuart Mills

Green Belt: Dave Cockle, 020 8366 2242

Historic Buildings: Stephen Gilbert, 020 8363 0031

IT Admin & Newsletter: Andrew Lack

Jubilee Hall bookings: Janet McQueen

Membership Secretary: Alec Tyler

Publications: Alison Parker

Records and Research: Hilary Morris, 020 8372 3080

Trees: John West

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Clarendon Arch twenty years on

Andrew Lack

Andrew Lack



The picture above was taken on the 23rd March 2002 just a few days after Thames Water opened the viewing area to allow the public to see the Grade II Clarendon Arch at Bush Hill. Twenty years on and the investment by the water company has gone to waste, with public access to the site barred and it totally overgrown (below). Worse, Thames Water sold off the land that allowed people to walk down to see the Arch.

The Society has tried several times in recent years to get access restored, but so far unsuccessfully. At least we have a photograph. . .



Join The Enfield Society

Membership of the Society costs just £5 per person per calendar year. Members are sent quarterly newsletters and can participate in walks, talks and other activities. Non-members are welcome to come along to talks for a charge of £1 before deciding whether to join. Why not give membership as a gift? You can join or renew membership via our web-site enfieldsociety.org.uk/join, or scan the QR code.

