

Council reveals plans for a 'new look' Dugdale Centre in Enfield

Virtual presentation claims the new space will provide “a best-in-class arts centre including theatre and museum”, but concerns remain

Jan Metcalfe

Despite the best efforts of the Society to get the decision overturned, the Council have pressed ahead to turn the first and second floors of Thomas Hardy House into offices and meeting spaces for its Children's and Family services. This has necessitated closing the well-used conference rooms on the first floor and finding new homes for the Museum and the Local Studies Library and Archive.

On 23rd February 2022 three of the Society's Management Committee, along with other local stakeholders attended a virtual meeting to update us on the plans and timetable for the refurbishment of the Dugdale Centre. The meeting was led by the Council Leader, Cllr Nesil Caliskan and presented by the Head of Culture, Rebekah Polding.

As reported in the last Newsletter, Local Studies has now been relocated and reopened in late February. Public access is via the search room now on the ground floor of the Civic Centre, which still contains the most frequently consulted material and books, although most of the Archive material is currently stored at Ridge Avenue Library and only accessible by request. Local Studies is open by appointment 11am–3pm, Tuesdays to Thursdays.

The Museum has had to clear both its permanent and temporary exhibition galleries plus back of house stores and office space from parts of the ground and first floors and is being found space for these functions on the refurbished ground floor.

Thomas Hardy House is the name of the whole building while the Dugdale Centre is the name for the public area on the ground floor. The Dugdale previously occupied the whole of two floors, but all those functions will now be housed in inevitably reduced circumstances on the ground floor. The existing studio theatre and ancillary spaces will remain as it is, leaving the remainder of the ground floor (approximately half) to house the permanent museum gallery, a temporary exhibition space, a café bar and kitchen, shop, ticket office/reception desk, offices for staff including the museum, events space, toilets and storage for the museum, furniture, equipment etc. A tall order!

Despite the clear lack of space for the majority of the cultural functions, especially for the museum, the presentation talked about the vision for the Dugdale

Centre being 'a best-in-class arts centre including theatre, museum, cabaret performance area, education space, pop-up shop and award-winning sustainable food café'. It was pitched as 'busy day to night', 'a driver of an emerging evening economy' and 'a showcase for all that is 'Made in Enfield'.

The design principles describe it as a 'welcoming building that draws you in from the street', is 'easy to navigate' and for the 'Museum to take central space with both permanent and temporary exhibition facilities'. One of the most obvious developments and perhaps a way of 'drawing in' visitors from the street, is the use of the outdoor space on the pavement at the front of the building, shown in the drawings with café seating and exhibition boards. Visitors to the building know that it sits on an extremely busy and polluted junction in Enfield Town and will probably not be keen to drink their coffee or view an exhibition outside in those circumstances.

The presentation was accompanied by some illustrations and drawings of the space, but when anyone commented on them or asked for further details they were described as only indicative and not the finished design. Some of them even appeared to illustrate aspects of other arts centres entirely. One of the illustrations is below.

Attendees at the online meeting are apparently not the only people concerned about how the refurbished centre is going to match up to the vision described. An article by Simon Allin, Local Democracy Reporter in the *Enfield Independent* of 23rd March, quoted local councillors as calling for 'more details on the planned £1.5m revamp of the Dugdale Arts Centre amid concerns over value for money' The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has sent back the report on the refurbishment to Cabinet with a

request for more information on finances and the 'apparent reduced space for the museum'.

Under questioning from councillors, Director of Property and Economy, Mark Bradbury admitted there would probably be less like-for-like square footage but qualified that by saying 'if you look at linear footage the amount of space for exhibits will be greater'. We understand this means piling exhibits one above the other up to the ceiling.

Dallas—Pierce—Quintero/LBE



Artist's impression of the new look Dugdale ground floor

continued on page 11

Presidents' Column



Monica Smith MBE and Colin Pointer

It is good to see a newsletter again which includes activities for members such as footpath walks and evening talks but it is disappointing that nobody has yet offered to organise our monthly morning meetings. These were very popular, especially with older members, many of whom do not care to come out in the evenings. It is not a demanding job as there are only ten morning meetings annually from September to June. The organiser arranges the programme, chairs the meeting, welcomes and introduces the speaker and arranges payment for him/her via the Treasurer. If you might be able to undertake this or would like further information please contact Andrew Lack at info@enfieldsociety.org.uk or leave a message with contact details on 020 8363 9495.

Like many local societies we have suffered a reduction in membership because of the pandemic so if you have not yet renewed your membership for this year, please send it without delay. The cost at present remains £5 pa per person—this approximately covers the cost of production and postage of the quarterly newsletter so we are very grateful to the many members who send an additional donation to fund campaigns and other activities. As you will know from recent newsletters there are several proposals in the pipeline which would seriously affect life in Enfield. Major concerns are the possible housing developments in the Green Belt, especially at Crews Hill, tower blocks in the historic conservation area of The Town, access to and location of the Archives and the Reading Room and the future of the museum. The Enfield Society will continue to closely monitor all these proposals and will try to ensure the most equitable results to reflect the needs and aspirations of all Enfield residents.

Planning

John West

As a member of our Architecture and Planning Group recently commented, these are interesting times in terms of planning developments.

At Cockfosters TfL station car park, the Council approved a high-rise housing scheme despite considerable opposition from local community groups. The Society had expressed concern about the height and the impact on views from Trent Park. Following this approval the Secretary of State for Transport overturned the Council's decision using one of his powers over TfL, a piece of the legislation that had never previously been used. This means that the scheme would need serious modification increasing the number of car parking places to be retained, if it is to proceed in the future. At the Arnos Grove TfL car park the Council refused a housing scheme that the Society thought was reasonably well designed only for that decision to be overturned at a Planning Appeal meaning that scheme can now proceed.

One of the difficulties, is that although the number of planning approvals for housing has recently increased, the Council has missed its government set housing targets over a number of years meaning that the Secretary of State has indicated that there should be a presumption in favour of development. This makes the Council vulnerable when there are planning appeals.

Planning application image



17-storey tower proposed for N18

The Society was pleased to see that Planning Committee refused a 17 storey housing development on the Gilpins Bell site in Fore Street Edmonton. This was a particularly poorly designed high-rise

proposal, the massing of which would have overshadowed the surrounding low-rise housing. In commenting on planning applications the Society tries to focus on the design issues to ensure that if development goes ahead, it is as well designed as possible and appropriate for the setting. The Society accepts that additional housing is needed but this needs to be well designed and to meet the needs of local people.

The Local Plan

Last year the Council published the draft Local Plan. The Plan is an important piece of planning legislation. Without an up to date Plan, the Council can be vulnerable to poor quality development proposals as it has no framework to guide developers.

The Society submitted very detailed comments expressing strong opposition to the proposals for extensive development on the Green Belt. We know that many of our members submitted comments and that around 7,000 were received by the Council. We understand that the Council is considering its response to the consultation and later this year the next version of the Plan will be published. This stage is known as Regulation 19. This will be the Council's response to the consultation, the proposals can be changed, modified or the Council can use the opportunity to respond to any objections.

The planning legislation allows a very short public consultation period of 6 weeks, but the Council can extend this period. The Society is already talking to other groups to ensure that we press for a full debate including an adequate consultation period. We do not know whether the proposals will be significantly changed or not, but given the housing pressures, there is a risk that many of the proposed development areas will remain unchanged from the draft plans. We are therefore working with other groups to ensure that we are ready for the next stage.

Following the Regulation 19 consultation stage of the Plan, the Plan moves forward to a Planning Examination in Public, a process similar to a very detailed planning inquiry. This is unlikely to take place before 2023. The Society will be working with other groups to ensure that we are properly represented at any Examination of the plans.

The White Lodge, Enfield

With the relocation of the medical centre to the new building in Chase Side, this Grade II Listed Building is now vacant.

In 2020, the owners submitted a planning application for the demolition of the single storey consulting room at the rear and the construction of four houses in the rear garden with associated parking and refuse areas. The house would be returned to residential use. The Society had some concerns about the number of new homes at the rear; a change in the character of the area; the impact on the Listed Building and noted that the architects had not correctly identified a former ice-house in the rear garden, referring to it as former Victorian basements. There have been extensive discussions between the Council's Planning and Heritage Officers as the Council also had reservations about the proposals.

As a result, the applicant submitted an appeal for non-determination of the application within the prescribed period. The Planning Inspector rejected this appeal finding in favour of the Council. In the Planning Inspectors report it was noted

"Evidence indicates that the site has formed the garden of No 68 since at least 1871 and thereby has had an historic, physical and functional relationship with the house. Although now in a non-residential use, the house and garden have largely retained a domestic appearance which enhances the experience of the heritage asset. The garden is bound by the listed wall, which, along with the mature landscaping, creates a well-defined space and sense of enclosure and seclusion at the rear of the property. Parking within part of the garden detracts to a degree from the space but nevertheless the appeal site makes a positive contribution to the significance of No 68 as a heritage asset and the ability to appreciate it".

We await any revised proposal from the owners, but the principle of building a number of properties at the rear of the house appears to be clearly rejected by both the Council and the Planning Inspectorate.

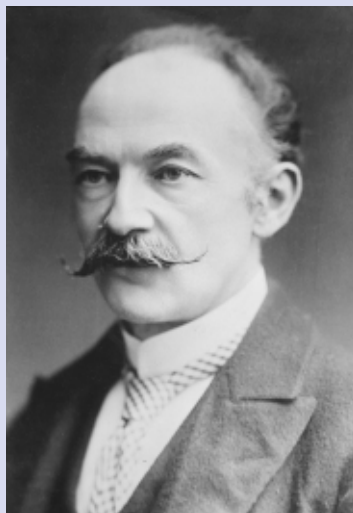
Stephen Gilbert has provided more details about the history of White Lodge on page 11.

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. There is no need to book a place—just turn up!

Monday 16th May, *Thomas Hardy's Tortured Vocation* by Rt Reverend Dr Stephen Platten. Stephen is a retired Dean of Norwich and Bishop of Wakefield.



Thomas Hardy

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.

Monday 20th June, *The Pymmes Brook Trail* by Colin Saunders. The 13 mile route starts at Hadley Green, where the headwaters of Pymmes Brook rise, then descends through East Barnet,



Pymmes Brook in Oak Hill Park

Osidge, Palmers Green and Edmonton to finish at Tottenham Hale where the Brook flows into the River Lea.

Colin is the author of *The Pymmes Brook Trail* which is illustrated with maps and photographs and available from the Enfield Society's online shop and at Jubilee Hall.

Jamze/Wikipedia



Surviving section of the Roman Wall near Tower Hill

Monday 18th July, *Running Rings around London* by Joe Studman.

London has been circled many times. The Romans built a wall around Londinium but The City boundaries were extended by chains in the 13th century and earthworks in the 17th. Then of course we have the roads, railways and footpaths. This presentation looks at these developments and at some that never happened.

The Enfield Society



Almshouses in Hertford Road

Monday 15th August, *The wonderful world of almshouses* by Simon Saints.

Simon is an ambassador for the almshouse movement. His presentation will include pictures set to music and the talk will cover a 1,000 years of fascinating alms history and showcases the many almshouses locally, the UK and world wide.

Edmonton and Eastern Enfield Group

Tuesday 17th May, 7:30pm at All Saints Church Hall, Church Street, Edmonton. Local historian Gary Boudier will be giving an illustrated talk *Lost pubs along the Hertford Road* and all are welcome.

Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

Wednesday 18th May, 8pm Jubilee Hall, *Picture Shows before Cinema* by Professor Ian Christie.

Membership

Having taken over from Anna Maria at the peak renewal time things have started to settle down. A big 'thank you' to Anna Maria for a smooth hand-over.

There have been a steady flow of new memberships and renewals over the last quarter but there are still some households who have not renewed this year. For those who have yet to renew, a final reminder is included with this newsletter and your membership will lapse after this issue if we don't hear from you. If you have received a reminder but think you have paid then please get in touch so we can check.

New Members' evening

We normally hold a New Members' evening once a year, but due to the pandemic none was held in 2020 and 2021. E-mail and postal invitations have now been sent for our May evening to members who joined between March 2019 and the end of 2021.

This social event is an opportunity to meet the Management Committee, find out more about the Enfield Society, what it does and how you could help by volunteering with us. Spaces are limited, so if you have received an invitation but not yet replied, please contact j.mcqueen@enfieldsociety.org.uk and let us know you are coming.

Latest members

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

A. Attar, N. Banton, C. Beckwith, L. Chesters, S. Fox, G. Garrett, G. Hollingsworth, R. Jasper, R. Jones, J. Khan, Z. Lahouasnia, P. Leedham, J. Lees, C. MacLeod, J. Malone, M. Morgan, G. Ogin, M. Oosthuizen, G. Parker, T. Pearce, G. Porter, J. Powell, M. Prime, A. Reeve, C. Singh, V. Smith, E. Thomas, V. Tilly, B. Vincent-Smith and C. Walker.

Alec Tyler

Summer events—come and meet us!

Summer is coming and we are now starting to plan for attending events around the Borough. Already booked is the Albany Park Community Fair on the **18th June** and the Winchmore Hill Fancy Fair on the **2nd July**.

These are great opportunities for the Society to get publicity, meet people, sell membership as well as some of our publications. Our stall needs to be staffed throughout the day and we rely on volunteers to run it as well as help erect it and transport books etc. We are always looking for more volunteers to help us, so if you fancy given up a couple of hours do get in touch with me at r.fowler@enfieldsociety.org.uk

And we look forward to seeing you over the Summer.

Bob Fowler

Grants made

The Society is able to make grants to organisations in order to further its charitable objects. Inevitably, the pandemic has reduced activity and, consequently, we've made fewer grants than might have been expected. From 1st January 2021 to 1st April 2022 we have paid or agreed to pay a total of £25,393.

We have continued to fund repairs, insurance and legal work at the Charity School Edmonton (see newsletter 225, Spring 2022, page 10) and over the period have given £7,193 for this work.

We have given £4,000 to the Canal and River Trust for the *History Detectives* project. More details about this work, which has involved local schools, is on page 9.

£2,800 has been given to the Enfield Archaeological Society to help fund a new book on Elsyng Palace.

Earlier this year we approved supporting two projects which had failed to receive grants from *Stories of Enfield*—the joint Council and National Lottery Heritage Fund initiative:-

£2,800 for the Friends of Salisbury House to install a greenhouse;

£5,000 for the Friends of Firs Farm for their project *Time Together in Hidden History* (see newsletter 225, Spring 2022, page 11).

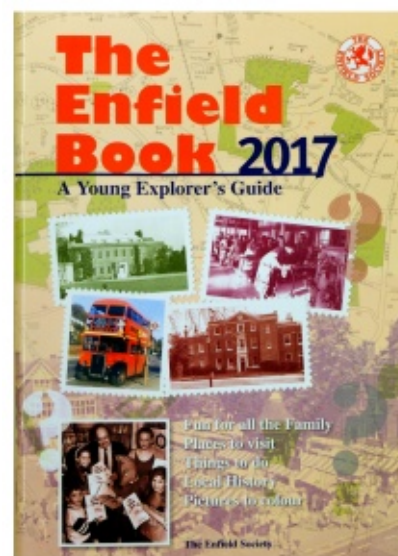
We have granted £2,000 to the Enfield Living Memorial and an update on this project appears on page 9.

Finally, three smaller grants have been agreed, £500 in 2021 and again this year to CleanupUK which helps us with our litter picks by providing the equipment, and £600 to the Friends of Bush Hill Park for materials for a Sensory Garden.

Andrew Lack

Publications

As the weather is getting warmer and we have lighter evenings, now is a good time to remind readers that we have a great selection of maps and guides to walks in Enfield. Discover hidden corners of our Borough with its beautiful countryside and buildings steeped in history, or revisit old favourites. Most are easily accessible by public transport. Have a look on our online store, or buy them at Waterstones in Enfield Town, Forty Hall and farm shop, and Myddelton House.



With school holidays coming up, we have the ideal answer for anyone with children to keep busy—*The Enfield Book, A Young Explorer's Guide*. A fascinating book for all age groups, and an ideal educational resource, it has sections on local history, parks, the New River, tree spotting, a quiz, pictures to colour and lots more, all for just £6!

Alison Parker

Trees Group

The Trees Group continues to manage a small tree nursery at Trentwood Side and makes trees available to the Friends of Parks Groups. Having recently been given some new saplings we are not currently looking for more plants. When the autumn planting season returns, we will be looking for new saplings. If you have saplings that you want to donate or sites that need replacement trees, please let us know by e-mailing trees@enfieldsociety.org.uk. Requests for street trees need to be made to the Council.

John West

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

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 areas between King's Cross and The Thames associated with the author. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Peter Mackey, contact 07506 334 019.

Saturday 28th May. Albany Park Wetlands & Gunpowder Park. **Meet 10.35** at the west side of level crossing at Enfield Lock Station (either 10.32 train from Brimsdown or about 30 mins by 121 bus from Enfield Town).

This 4½ to 5 mile (2¾ to 3 hour) linear walk will initially view the new Albany Park wetlands site, that will be the focus of a Thames 21 community festival on Saturday 18th June. Then via the London Loop to the River Lea and into the restored landscape of Gunpowder Park, before ending at a 121/491 bus stop in Enfield Island Village. Shorter option. Leader: Nigel King, contact 07973 747 454.

Tuesday 7th June. Islington. **Meet 10.30** at entrance to Highbury & Islington Station.

About 2½ hour linear walk along a history trail that tells the story of Islington's development from village life to the present day with over 300 years of social and political history. Ends at Islington Green, near Angel Station. Leader: Ian McGovern, contact 07815 658 328.

Thursday 16th June. In and around Hertford. **Meet 10.15** Hertford North Station entrance (09.45 train from Enfield Chase).

In the morning a varied 4½ to 5 mile linear walk via the Goldings Estate parkland, rivers and a nature reserve to end in Hertford town centre for a lunch stop and option to finish. After lunch, a walk that will explore some of Hertford's six centuries of history and architecture, before returning to Hertford North Station. Leader: Stuart Mills

Wednesday 22nd June. Elegant Kensington. **Meet 10.40** South Kensington Station (Piccadilly, Circle & District Lines).

A walk discovering elegant squares and mews, attractive streets and gardens with a visit to Holland Park's Japanese Gardens, before a lunch stop and option to finish in the Kensington High Street area. After lunch a walk through Kensington Gardens to end at Lancaster Gate Station (Central Line). Leader: Ian Reynolds.

Sunday 26th June. Leighton Buzzard Circular. **Meet 10.14** Leighton Buzzard Station (09.24 Birmingham New Street train from Euston mainline station).

A 12 mile circular walk through attractive, gently undulating countryside that includes the Greensand Ridge and, after a lunch stop in Great Brickhill, a return via the Grand Union Canal. Bring lunch or pub food available. Joint walk with the Hampstead Ramblers. Leader: Hadi Samsami, contact 07590 604 391.

Saturday 2nd July. Lee Country Park. **Meet 10.54** Cheshunt Station (10.44 London Overground train from Southbury Station or 10.40 Greater Anglia train from Tottenham Hale).

An attractive 6 mile circular walk with a mix of waterways, lakes and meadows. Option to end from lunch stop in Waltham Abbey town centre. Leader: Mike Cranstone, contact 07597 122 554.

Wednesday 13th July. Docklands to Blackheath. **Meet 10.30** Rotherhithe Station (London Overground train from Highbury & Islington).

8 mile linear walk from the Surrey Docks area via the former Royal Navy Dockyard at Deptford, the redeveloped Greenwich Riverside, Greenwich Park and across Blackheath Common to end at Blackheath Station. Lunch stop and option to finish in Greenwich town centre. Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 038.

Thursday 21st July. Mimram Valley. **Meet 10.30** Welwyn North Station ticket office (10.00 Great Northern Royston train from Finsbury Park mainline station or at 10.13 from Potters Bar Station).

About 6 mile circular walk with attractive views, woodland and village greens. Hilly in places. No shorter option. Lunch stop in Tewin village. Bring lunch or food probably available from pub and/or community shop/café. Leader: Mick Spinks.

Tuesday 26th July. Two River Valleys. **Meet 10.30** St. Margarets Station, either 10.14 London Overground train from Southbury Station, changing at Cheshunt, or direct by 09.55 Greater Anglia Hertford East train from Tottenham Hale.

About 6½ mile circular walk through the attractive landscape created by the Rivers Ash and Lea in this area. Option to end from lunch stop in Ware town centre. Leader: Stuart Mills.

Thursday 4th August. Ingrebourne Valley and Rainham Marshes. **Meet 10.35** Upminster Bridge Station (District Line).

9 mile linear rural walk through the varied scenery of Hornchurch Country Park, Rainham Marshes (RSPB reserve) and then along The Thames Path into Purfleet for return by C2C train to Fenchurch Street. Option to end from lunch stop in Old Rainham (bring lunch or food available).

Also, there may be the opportunity to visit the National Trust Rainham Hall, either during the lunch stop or by not joining the afternoon walk and returning from nearby Rainham Station. Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 098.

Saturday 13th August. Richmond Park and River Thames. **Meet by 11.00** in the entrance foyer to Richmond Station. Either 20 to 30 mins journey from Vauxhall mainline station or about 50 mins by London Overground from Highbury & Islington.

6 to 7 mile circular walk via the contrasting scenery of The Thames and Richmond Park. Option to end from the lunch stop at Ham Common. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Mike Cranstone, contact 07597 122 554.

Tuesday 23rd August. Lee Country Park (northern section). **Meet 10.30** Cheshunt Station (10.14 London Overground from Southbury Station or by 10.13 Greater Anglia train from Tottenham Hale).

6 to 7 mile circular walk through an area not covered by Mike's walk on 2nd July and with varied river, waterway and lake scenery, woodland and open spaces. Option to end from lunch stop near Broxbourne Station. Bring lunch or food probably available. Leader: Peter Mackey, contact 07506 334 019.

Autumn 2022 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 13th July 2022
and it will be published early
August 2022.

Forty Hall, Forty Hill Enfield, Part 1

Stephen Gilbert

Forty Hall Estate



Nicholas Rainton (1569–1646) was a rich London merchant who made his money by importing satin and taffeta from Florence and velvet from Genoa. A leading member of the Haberdashers Company, he became an Alderman of the City of London and Sheriff in 1621. He was elected Lord Mayor in 1632 and was knighted in 1633. He was President of St Bartholomew's Hospital from 1634 to 1646.

In 1616 he had purchased the manor of Worcesters from Sir Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury. On part of the land was an early 17th century building, later to be known as the Dower House (see newsletter 198, Summer 2015). Between 1629 and 1632 he built Forty Hall, possibly to a design by Edward Carter, Chief Clerk to the King's Works. Sir Nicholas was a Puritan and supporter of Parliament but in 1642, at the outbreak of the Civil War, he declined an offer of a place on the Committee of Safety and retired from his involvement in the City of London. He moved into Forty Hall where he died in 1646.



Forty Hall is one of only two Grade I listed buildings in the Borough. Seen here from the north-east, it is a red brick square house with three symmetrical façades which have later rectangular windows. Two lower wings were added to the service west side of the house in 1636. There is banding between each of the three storeys and rusticated quoins on the corners. It has a slate covered hipped roof. The chimney stacks have been restored or rebuilt.



There are porches in the centre of the north, east and south sides. The original entrance was through this porch on the east side. It has Ionic columns and pilasters and above is a segmented pediment with a cartouche (an ornamental panel).



The marble and alabaster Rainton family monument in St Andrew's Church (see newsletter 189, Spring 2013) shows Sir Nicholas Rainton lying clad in armour and wearing the robes, collar and badge of the Lord Mayor of London. Below is his wife Rebecca, who he married in 1602 and who died in 1640. She is shown in a dress and ruff of the early 17th century and is reading the ten commandments. At the bottom, possibly added later, are his

nephew Nicholas and his wife Rebecca, who was Lady Rainton's niece, together with their children including Nicholas, who inherited Forty Hall in 1646 as his father had already died.



Above the door is a semi-circular fanlight with wooden tracery.

continued



To the left of the passage from the present entrance on the north side of the house is the Great Hall, which was originally used for receptions and formal occasions and was later a dining room. It is separated from the passage by a 17th century screen into which a later door has been inserted. The screen is divided into three pilaster flanked bays which have scallop shell designs. At the top of the tapered pilasters are semi-grotesque heads of men and women. The geometric prefabricated plaster ceiling has curving Dutch style patterned strapwork.



The South East Drawing Room has 17th century, originally unpainted, panelling and a plaster ceiling with a geometrical design.



On the west side of the house were the service rooms. These included a servant's hall, steward's room, buttery, pantry and kitchen. This view shows how the kitchen might have looked in the 17th century. The area beyond is now an exhibition gallery and shop.



The panelled bedroom on the first floor is furnished in this view as it might have appeared in the 1640s with a four poster bed. The servants' bedrooms would have been in the attics on the second floor.



The 1630s Grade I listed brick gateway was restored in 1967. It has rusticated piers supporting obelisks and balls flanking an arch topped with a pedimented gable. It leads to a rectangular courtyard and a 17th century Grade II listed former stable and carriage block. After extensive rebuilding work in the 1960s this is now a cafeteria and a banqueting suite.



Part of this Grade II listed long narrow eight bayed building may date back to the late 15th century. It has had many different uses including as a farm cottage and as stables with a hay loft above. Partly timber framed and partly brick, it was restored in 1998 and together with the barn and other farm buildings is now leased to Capel Manor College (see newsletter 185, Spring 2012).

Society/Council meeting, February 2022

Richard Stones

On 8th February a number of the Society's Committee met Sarah Cary, Director of Place, for one of our regular meetings. Here are some of the issues we discussed.

Whitewebbs. We reiterated our concern that there should be some public input in relation to framing the proposed lease to Spurs and thereafter to the management of the estate. Sarah Cary pointed out that the process of negotiating the lease and dealing with the necessary planning permissions would take some time, and the latter would encourage and provide opportunities for public input.

It was noted that Spurs did not appear to have started work on the planned nature reserve, though they were apparently working on a temporary stadium for the women's teams on the site earmarked for the education facility. We were again told that the Council would be reluctant to give permission for the Whitewebbs works unless progress were made with Spurs' existing commitments.

Southgate House. The Council believed that this mansion, previously owned by the Council, had been sold to Atlantic Housing in April 2020. We commented that it was an important building, and we would need to be vigilant both about proposals for its development and about the risk of its falling into disrepair.



Grade II listed Southgate House which used to be Minchenden School

Footpaths. We again raised a number of footpath matters which remained unanswered from previous meetings; *Ponders End* the new footpath on West Bank of Lee Navigation and the provision of access for persons of reduced mobility; *Carterhatch Lane to Ladysmith Road footpath*: is this a footpath or linear park? *Rammey Marsh Open Space* formal adoption and signage of the footpath to New Ford Road; *Hadley Wood, Sewits Hill* what has happened with the claim for

public right of way?; *Edmonton, Bury Lodge Wetlands and Angel Walk*—status of new footpaths/cycleways.

We also raised a number of points concerning the re-routing of the London Loop between Hadley Road and Rectory Farm, for example was it a permissive footpath or public right of way? Will the London Loop be revised to traverse the new path? And will a central refuge be provided on The Ridgeway to make crossing the busy road safer? We have subsequently heard that the London Loop is to be re-routed but that no central refuge will be provided to assist with crossing The Ridgeway. Instead, some warning signs and road markings will be placed on the road.



No central refuge for the London Loop crossing on The Ridgeway

New housing construction. We referred to the report by *Better Homes Enfield* that 83 per cent of recent new builds had one or two bedrooms and only 17 per cent three or more. The Council were fully aware of this but said there were challenges, such as building larger homes involved building fewer; larger homes were being lost through subdivision; and, the size of proposed dwellings could not be a reason for refusal of planning permission.

However the Council aimed to do better at pushing for larger homes, especially in the case of Council housing. It was noted that in the case of Meridian Water, Phases 1 and 1a included larger dwellings; Phase 2, being near the station, was felt to be more appropriate for smaller dwellings. The Council were looking at including houses for families in the later phases.

Local Plan. We asked when the Council's Brown Field Register was last revised. Our involvement in the CPRE *Space to Build* survey had identified a significant number of brown field sites for potential residential development. The Council

admitted that the Brown Field Register had not been revised recently but it had been replaced by the list of Deliverable Housing in the draft Local Plan. Sarah Cary was aware of the CPRE survey, and the Council had taken into account usable land which it highlighted; however a lot of the suggestions related to Strategic Industrial Land.

You can find a link to *Space to Build* from our web-site.

Palace Gardens/Palace Exchange. We were told that in the light of the adverse reactions to their development proposals Deutsche Bank was doing some thinking about the way forward but there was no indication that they wished to dispose of the property. In the meantime they were being more cooperative about day-to-day matters, eg Christmas lights.

Enfield Town. We discussed the various plans for regeneration of Enfield Town. We noted the number of applications in Enfield Town for conversion of accommodation above shops to residential (there was a similar trend in Fore Street Edmonton) which could lead to problems with parking and access. Sarah Cary said she would look at this.

Arnos Grove Station Car Park Development. Sarah Cary said that the Planning Committee had rejected the development on the basis of heritage concerns, the loss of parking, and the balance between individual and family housing and that the Planning Committee's decision would be defended.

Other matters. We noted that the Edmonton Boundary Stream path had been cleared, though The Society was now involved with Thames 21 in work to get plastic litter out of the stream. Various public realm improvements were also planned.

Sarah Cary told us that following the failure of the recent bid for funding for various projects in Eastern Enfield from the government Levelling Up Fund, the Council were being encouraged to put in another bid, focussed on the north of the Borough.

The Society expressed approval for the Council's proposals for the management of the New River Loop, particularly the upgrading of the paths. However, we noted that the suggestion of creating wetlands on Chase Green might prove to be controversial.

The History Detectives

Clare Maloney, *Hinterlands London*

The History Detectives is a mobile phone 'app' and digital artwork exploring the industrial heritage in and around the Lee Navigation, created by young people in Enfield, in collaboration with digital media artists SDNA. The project is being delivered as part of the Hinterlands Arts Programme conceived by Canal & River Trust and is supported by The Enfield Society, RSA Trust, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England and the Canal & River Trust. The Enfield Society contributed £4,000.

Over the past six months 20 young people aged between 11 and 14 from Enact Youth Club and Orchardside School, Bullsmoor Lane, have visited key heritage sites and museums including

Wright's Flour Mill in Ponders End, the site of the former Royal Small Arms Factory in Enfield Island Village and the Markfield Beam Engine Museum in Tottenham. Through these visits they have collected sounds and images from each of these sites and

reimagined these through art, animation and digital media workshops. They have developed their story-telling and oral history skills through training sessions led by oral historian Laura Owen and collected living memories from older members of their local community and people who have worked in industries featured in the app.

The project has allowed participants to produce playful and compelling visual and audio content for the app, which will be launched at a special event at Enact Youth Club, Enfield Island Village, at 4pm on 3rd May 2022. All are welcome.

The app will be made freely available and is designed to be used during visits to the canal and heritage sites featured, as well as being used remotely.

Both Enact Community and Orchardside School felt that History Detectives participants could be creative, try something new, learn new skills, learn about the history of their local area. The young people developed skills including interviewing skills, questioning skills and how to engage and work together in a group. They also developed creative skills including sound design, stop-frame animation, scale drawing and painting.

The intergenerational nature of the programme helped to build relationships between younger and older members of the community.

"It was a great opportunity for these young people to experience something they never have. It opened their eyes to history, especially where they live" Enact Community Centre.



Children meeting David Wright (right) at the flour mill in Ponders End



Stop-frame animation in production

Enfield Living Memorial

Joe Robinson



After months of planning the first spade finally went into the ground on Friday March 18th to start the Enfield Living Memorial in Enfield Town Park. Initial hopes to involve sections of the public in planting was hindered by the uncertainties with COVID and the necessity to plant before April growth started in the trees. Capel Manor College were already assisting and have now stepped in lock, stock, spade, and wheelbarrow to make it happen. Finally, with students and staff help and a huge effort, the trees are starting to grow around the shape of a heart.

Work is now starting on a sculptural artwork for its centre and the steering group working on the project is planning an open day for the public later in the year. The project is being supported and funded through a variety of sources including public donations and has now reached over three quarters of its necessary goal. The Enfield Society contributed £2,000. Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so through a Go Fund Me page, the link can be found online at enfieldlivingmemorial.org

Jubilee mosaic for Gordon Hill station

John Cole

The Enfield Society has been awarded £10,000 by the The Arts Council England for the Friends Group to fund a community mosaic at Gordon Hill Station as part of its *Let's Create Jubilee Fund*.

Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations are a special moment in our collective history; one that gives us a chance to look back at what has been achieved over the last 70 years and also look forward to what is possible in the future.

The Friends of Gordon Hill Station plan to work with mosaic artist Alex McHallam who has recently produced work for Enfield Grammar School and Palmers Green Station. Alex will work with a small group of patients from Chase Farm Hospital to create and install a permanent mosaic celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the London bound platform at Gordon Hill Railway Station.

The final design for the mosaic will be approved by a small group of stakeholders including Govia Thameslink (Great Northern), The Enfield Society and Friends of Gordon Hill Station. All these Groups are supporting us to progress this project.

There will be a community event in June to celebrate its unveiling.

The proposal is also supported by Platform Poetry Station poet, Mary Duggan, who will write and present a special poem based on her experiences of the development of the Jubilee mosaic and the Jubilee.

Hiding in plain sight: Enfield's telephone exchanges, Part 1

John Liffen

Like most utilities, the telephone service is nowadays taken for granted and its visible infrastructure ignored by all but a few. In the London Borough of Enfield all the original buildings used for exchanges still exist and the current exchanges remain in use, at least for now.



Enfield's first exchanges: *Left*: Stag Cottage in 2012. Some time after the exchange was removed in 1908 the adjoining wall of the room was demolished and converted into part of the present bar, *right*: 63 Church Street in 2012, practically unaltered externally. During 2019 work began on a conversion for sheltered accommodation, still not completed in 2022.

The telephone first came to Enfield in 1899. The National Telephone Company (NTC) opened an exchange at Little Park Gardens, Enfield Town, on 17th June 1899. It was in a room of what was then called Stag Cottage, immediately next to *The Stag* public house. Take-up was initially low, with only 32 lines connected by 1902 and 54 in January 1904. Each telephone needed its own batteries for speech and a magneto generator for calling the exchange.

Nevertheless within a few years larger premises were required. On 15th April 1908 the exchange was removed to the upper floors of 63 Church Street whose ground floor was occupied by a branch of Saville Pianos. A more modern design of switchboard was installed with an ultimate capacity of about 1500 lines. Users' telephones no longer needed batteries or magnetos. Ownership changed in January 1912 when the Post Office took over all the NTC's infrastructure and operations.

Enfield's third exchange was the first to be housed in a building specially designed for it. Demand in the 1920s, especially from the new industries being established in eastern Enfield, made a larger exchange imperative. A new site was found in Cecil Road,



Enfield telephone exchange, Cecil Road, 2012

conveniently close to Church Street, and the new building, designed by Mr E Cropper, OBE, for HM Office of Works was opened for service on Wednesday 22nd July 1925. It initially had capacity for 1840 lines but was extended by another 1100 lines in April 1927. Over the next twenty years capacity was continually increased close to the theoretical maximum of 10,000 lines.

In the meantime telephone service had started in another part of the present London Borough. The sale of the Taylor estates in 1902 began the development of Palmers Green as a high-quality



11 Aldermans Hill, 2014 (nearest to camera)

suburb, whose residents were likely to want and be able to afford the convenience of the telephone. On 6th January 1908 the NTC opened an exchange on the upper floors of what is now 11 Aldermans Hill, Palmers Green Triangle. It was immediately successful and within a year there were 230 lines connected. The system installed here was obsolescent however, using magneto telephones of the type already superseded at Enfield.



Palmers Green telephone exchange, Bourne Hill, 2013

After the takeover the Post Office soon began seeking enlarged premises for Palmers Green but the new site, at 6 Bourne Hill (near the railway bridge), was not identified until after World War 1. The building, of a similar design to Enfield but rather larger, was opened for service on Saturday 18th April 1925. At long last users no longer needed to wind the magneto to call the exchange, or to 'ring off' when finished.

In Part 2 the remaining exchanges in the borough will be described and the story brought up to date.

White Lodge Enfield

Stephen Gilbert



Located at 68 Silver Street, the Grade II listed timber framed 17th century White Lodge has 18th century weatherboarding. The main block on the left is two storeys high with three dormer windows in the tiled roof. Under the eaves (the overhanging edge of the roof) the cornice has decorative ornamental moulding. The late 19th century casement windows have moulded frames. The older part of the house to the right has a 19th century sash window on the ground floor. In the back garden is an ice house.



In the centre of the façade is a weatherboarded polygonal bay decorated with classical friezes and dentilated eaves.



The doorcase has a round-arched fanlight with an open pediment above.

Despite extensive alterations to the interior, some of the earlier features, such as the corridor walls inside the entrance, can still be seen.

In the early 19th century White Lodge was occupied by the parish surgeon for Enfield, Dr Jacob Vale Asbury, who was a friend of the essayist Charles Lamb. Between 1862 and 1895 Joseph Whitaker lived there. He was the founder of Whitaker's Almanack which was a register of days, weeks and months of the year with astronomical information. There is a blue plaque on the front of the house to commemorate this.

More recently it was occupied by the White Lodge Medical Practice. The Enfield Society's late President, Dr Chris Jephcott worked there and for a while he and his wife Ursula lived in the house. White Lodge is now subject to a planning application to return it to residential use. See page 3 for more details.

Ray calls Time on The Clock

Ray Tuthill

It's now 34 years since the world famous former Royal Small Arms Factory (RSAF) at Enfield Lock fell victim to privatisation and asset stripping and closed its gates in 1988.

When Enfield Society member Ray Tuthill, a former RSAF apprentice from 1952, was prevailed upon by the late John Jackson to help with preserving something of RSAF's heritage, little did he realise and certainly did not intend to be taking on a job which would occupy some 25 years of his retirement! Nor did he or the directors of what was to become the RSA Trust appreciate the historical significance of RSAF's ancient John Thwaites clock of 1808 at the top of the clocktower.

With the encouragement of chairman Gary Walker and help of Lea Valley historian Jim Lewis, Ray planned and set up the RSA Interpretation Centre (mini museum), opened in 2001 below the clocktower, and has looked after it and expanded the collection of exhibits ever since. He also found an old record which enabled the team managing redevelopment of the listed machine shop, to trace the original makers of the RSAF clock—still in business!—and which enabled it to be restored back to full running order by them.

We now know that it is a "National treasure", one of very few of its type, still in largely original condition, still hand wound and still keeping time. After years of mystery, its unique provenance has also been identified in recent years by Philip Abbott, Records Manager at the Royal Armouries. With the aid of an annual inspection and service visit by Thwaites and Read, Ray has maintained and regulated the clock and kept it running for 21 years since it was restored and re-started in 2001.

Now nearing 86 and moving with wife Olive near to their daughter in Harrogate, Ray has at last had to hang up his boiler suit and say good bye to his 'pet' clock and the Interpretation Centre.

The clock and the exhibits will however remain in capable hands. Patrick Gray, the RSA Trust's Heritage Manager, now looks after the Interpretation Centre and Ray has handed over care of the clock to fellow RSAF ex-apprentice, Lee Bold, 30 years younger than Ray, so it's good care should be ensured for many years to come!



The RSAF clock dates back to 1808 and is still wound by hand

Council's plans for The Dugdale Centre, continued from page 1

The Society is unable to recall any items in the collection which could be treated like that from an environmental and conservation perspective. The practicalities of mounting museum artefacts in the air and even just from the point of view of being able to view things properly that are ten feet above your head is bewildering and shows a lack of understanding by Senior Officers.

The ambition is to open the Dugdale in time for the 2022 Christmas season with the first temporary exhibition planned as a display of the 13 projects that make up the current lottery funded *Stories of Enfield* project. We will continue to watch the Council closely on this issue.

Society Directory

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

Chairman: Dave Cockle

Hon. Secretary: Richard Stones

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The Enfield Society is a registered charity in England & Wales No. 276451 and limited company No. 312134.

Printed by Solopress, Southend

ISSN 2042-1419 (print)

ISSN 2042-1427 (web)

Cherry Trees, London Road

John West



It's that time of year again when Cherries and many other species of tree blossom. The National Trust now run an annual 'Hanami' (Japanese tradition of viewing and celebrating blossom) each Spring and encourage people to take part though social media.

The row of pink Japanese Cherries along London Road used to make a wonderful sight for a few days each Spring. Sadly the life-span of these trees is somewhat limited and in recent years the Council have been replacing them with less ornate varieties, with the consequent less impressive Spring display. The Society has taken this up with the Council in the past.

The problem is that the roots of the ornamental varieties are very close to the surface and lift paving slabs and tarmac pavements. The policy is therefore to plant native cherry or other species with deeper root growth. However the flowering is often much less spectacular. The more ornate cherry trees will still be planted in grassed borders where surface root growth is less of a problem.

Visit to Building Bloqs—the UK's first 'open access factory'

Building Bloqs have kindly agreed for Enfield Society members to visit their new premises at 2, Anthony Way, London N18 3QT on Saturday 21st May. Their factory is in the South East corner of the Borough adjacent to the Lee Navigation.

Building Bloqs is a social enterprise, their emphasis is on creating space and resources for people to make a living from their craft. Fully equipped workshops are provided for artists, blacksmiths, carpenters, tin smiths and seamstresses as well as other crafts.



The tour of the workshops is restricted to fifteen places for health and safety reasons. We plan to meet in Building Bloqs café at twelve noon where we be split into two groups. The first group will take the tour whilst the second can have lunch in the café and/or view an exhibition "Waterbourne"—paintings, etchings and textiles to the loose theme of water. The second group will take the tour after lunch.

To book places on this interesting visit please send an e-mail to visits@enfieldsociety.org.uk or leave a message on the Jubilee Hall voicemail at 020 8363 9495. Please include your phone number so that we can contact you in case of any last minute changes to the arrangements.

Dave Cockle