



## The Florence Trust set to move into Charity School Edmonton

Art group to take two year occupancy which will allow much needed improvements to be made to this important building

*Sue Grayson Ford*

**I**t may surprise you to know that for many years, artists have been in the vanguard of some of the UK's most successful major redevelopment projects. Ironically, this is the result of their constant, desperate quest for cheap studio space, especially in the face of an equally constant rise in rents. Artists have always had a gift for seeking out opportunities ahead of property developers, seeing potentially affordable studios in neglected areas, where developers see only wasteland! That's what happened in St Katharine Docks in 1978 where a group of impoverished artists (including the then young Op Artist Bridget Riley) rescued derelict Victorian dockside warehouses and filled them with vibrant creativity.

Then they founded SPACE, a charity providing studios for an even wider community of artists. Two years later, when commercial developers evicted them from the buildings they had refurbished with their own hands, some of them crossed the Thames to the equally rundown warehouses at Butler's Wharf. When architect and furniture guru Terence Conran noticed their potential, these erstwhile studios were rapidly converted into vastly expensive riverside penthouses and up-market restaurants.

Since those early days, SPACE has found studios for over 7,000 artists, many in areas like Brick Lane before they also became fashionable and gentrified, and more recently in Ilford and Colchester. ACME, founded by another group of artists fifty years ago to legally use condemned buildings as short-term live-in studios, also reinvigorated undesirable East London tracts, which —you

guessed it—have become highly desirable. Now ACME has been forced to look beyond London to rent or build studios in Sutton and Purfleet.

This is a long preamble to news that the Enfield Society is eager to share about a newer kid on the block: the Florence Trust. This arts education charity is occupying the Charity School, Edmonton on a 'Meanwhile' basis. An agreement with the Charity School trustees allows the Trust up to two years occupancy. The Group will pay a small annual rent and help make the space fit for use, as well as paying for the building insurance. This replaces the previous arrangement with the live-in guardians.

Planned work includes uncovering the front windows and repairing them to improve the front of the building. Safety work is also needed to the electrical system, cleaning the exterior brickwork, making the roof and gullies water-tight and painting/repairing internal walls and floors. This work will be required before the first six artists can move into their temporary studios.

In the mid-1980s, the Trust's founder, painter Patrick Hamilton, chose its name to reflect his happy, productive experience of sharing a large communal studio in Florence with other artists. Valuing the interaction and exchange of ideas fostered by this shared environment, he aimed to replicate it in St Saviour's, a deconsecrated church in Highbury. After renovation, supported by English Heritage and the Council for the Care of Churches, the studios welcomed their first artists in 1990.

For almost thirty years the Florence Trust provided year-long residencies at St. Saviour's for twelve artists from across the globe, celebrating their achievements with an annual public exhibition. However, now the diocese wishes to sell the church (no doubt for high-end flats!) and has terminated the Trust's tenancy.

*continued on page 5*



The last exhibition held at St Saviour's in February 2022



Repairs to the inside and the grounds have already been started by the Florence Trust

## Chairman's Column



Dave Cockle

The Society is particularly busy at the moment, working in connection with other groups on input to the Local Plan. Enfield RoadWatch, Enfield Climate Action Forum and Better Homes Enfield are together preparing for the next stage of the Local Plan. This is when the Government's Planning Inspector examines the plan to see if it is sound and local groups can submit evidence at this stage. The Council are also having a second "Call For Sites" (Brownfield) and we are contributing to this process.

The need for an effective civic amenity society such as ours has never been more pressing. With pressure on affordable housing, and the unfortunate sub-standard accommodation often provided by office conversions, we must maintain our stance of challenging the worst excesses of development. The Green Belt is still very much under threat with the recent planning application for housing on the Anglo Aquarium Plant's greenhouses, Strayfield Road, near St John's Church, Clay Hill. Our Architecture and Planning Group work hard in scrutinising planning applications and making constructive comments to planning officers.

We are pleased that, after much campaigning, the missing link in the mile-long footpath on the West Bank of the Lee Navigation at Ponders End has finally been opened. (See article on page 8). However, it is one of Enfield's best kept secrets as there is no signage! As we have been advised that there is no funding for this, the Society has offered to be the sponsor of this. The new footpath is a wonderful amenity for residents in the Ponders End/Brimsdown area, providing a pleasant waterside walk. Circular walks are possible by using the footbridge at Mossops Creek, returning via the canal tow path on the East Bank.

This poster board recently appeared beneath the railway bridge in Windmill Hill. It gave details of the nearest Police Station in Baker Street, Enfield, but it has been closed for two years! It would appear that it was a form of 'scam', illicitly put up with corporate notices designed to make the board look official. If no one had challenged the legitimacy of the board, after a short time an advertising agency would have started selling the space for commercial gain.



In closing, I would like to thank Nigel King, who is stepping down as Lead of the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group. Nigel has enthusiastically run the Group for the past six years. In addition, I should like to thank Alison Yates for agreeing to become Nigel's successor.

## Society News

### AGM, Thursday 22 September

Notice is hereby given that The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ on **Thursday 22nd September 2022 at 8pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business:

- to receive the Report of the Management Committee and the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021;
- to re-elect the Secretary and the Treasurer;
- to re-elect Trustees of the Society who retire by rotation;
- to appoint John Cole and Alison Yates as additional Trustees;
- to confirm the nomination of Janet McQueen as a Vice-President of the Society;
- to approve the increase of the annual rate of subscription for members of the Society. (Details of the increase can be found under *Membership* on the facing page.)

Any member may appoint any other person as his or her proxy to exercise all or any of his or her rights to attend and to speak and vote at the meeting.

John Cole was born on 22nd October 1961 and Alison Yates on 1st March 1956. Both of them are British and are retired and resident in the United Kingdom. Their address for service is the registered office of the Society.

### Availability of AGM Documents

Because of the increased cost of printing and distributing the various documents which relate to the AGM, the Management Committee has decided instead to make them available on our website at [enfieldsociety.org.uk/agm](http://enfieldsociety.org.uk/agm). There you will find a full agenda for the AGM, the Annual Management Committee Report and Summary Financial Statement for 2021, the full Statutory Reports and Accounts for the year, the Minutes of the 2021 AGM and a form of proxy.

You are entitled by law to receive a paper copy of the Statutory Reports and Accounts, and if you wish to do so, to receive paper copies of any of the other documents, please write to the Membership Secretary at Jubilee Hall, e-mail [info@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@enfieldsociety.org.uk) or leave a message on 020 8363 9495, giving your name and address and the documents you require.

### AGM talk by Joanna Moncrieff

Following the AGM, Joanna will give a talk to the meeting exploring Chingford's history from forest village to London suburb and we are promised a meeting with an unexpected cast of characters along the way. See also page 9.

Richard Stones

### Cleaner Neighbourhoods

Nigel King has been running the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group since 2016. In that time he has organised Litter Picks all over the Borough targeting areas at Turkey Street, Albany Park, the Boundary Steam footpath, Oakwood area and Salmons Brook to name but a few. He has worked with CleanUpUK for their Beautiful Boroughs Project and they have supplied equipment for use on the Litter Picks. Nigel has always made sure that the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group had a Litter Pick to coincide with the Great British Spring Clean organised by charity Keep



Britain Tidy. Nigel has now taken the decision to have a well-deserved rest from organising the group. We are really grateful to him for all his hard work and his example has inspired other Society members to form their own groups.

All members are welcome to join the next Cleaner Neighbourhood Group's Litter Pick which will take place on **Saturday 3rd September from 10am** for two hours when we will tackle the footpath which runs between Carterhatch Lane and Ladysmith Road, adjacent to the David Lloyd Centre. We will meet at the entrance next to 251, Ladysmith Road EN1 3AQ. The 191 bus from Enfield Town to Brimdown has a stop at Linwood Crescent/Ladysmith Road and the footpath is on the opposite side Carterhatch Lane. Walk along its short length to bring you to the meeting point. Please let Alison Yates know if you are attending on 07818 682 073.

*Alison Yates*

## Membership

Our costs for printing and distributing the newsletter continue to rise. Membership rates were last increased in 2013 and we are now running a deficit each year on providing the membership service. Reluctantly we have concluded that membership subscriptions will have to be raised. Your Committee will be recommending Individual Membership increases from £5 to £10 and Joint Membership from £10 to £15. A resolution approving these changes will be put to the AGM in September.

## New members

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

M. Abbott, R. Adams, K. Antoni, A. Connery, L. Gates, G. Hawksworth, R. Hinde, D. Hodson, B. Hunt, R. Nicholas, M. Riley, R. Sarll, C. Saunders, R. Shaw, D. Smith, P. Stockton, E. Theophanous, V. Thompson and C. Wilson.

*Alec Tyler*

## Conservation and Heritage Group

The group together with many volunteers is currently working in partnership with the Council's Heritage Team on a review of the Local Heritage List. The List identifies heritage assets that are valued

as distinctive elements of the local historic environment. These can be buildings, structures and sites which have special local interest, but which are not included in the national list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest, or in the national register of historic parks and gardens. The list provides clarity on the location of the asset, and its special qualities, ensuring that any planning development takes account of the desirability of their conservation. Inclusion on the list means that the conservation is a "material consideration" when deciding on planning applications. Volunteers are helping to survey the Borough to determine whether those heritage assets on the current Local Heritage List should still be included. They will also identify potential heritage assets which may be added to the List.

*John West*

## New heritage walks

We have just published two new heritage walk booklets; one on Southgate and one on Winchmore Hill. These are priced at £2.50 each and may be ordered through the website. Each booklet is 10 pages and includes a fold-out map for you to find the buildings described in the text. We would like to thank Southgate District Civic Voice for their help with producing these.

*Alison Parker*

## Architecture & Planning



Through the Group, the Society continues to monitor planning applications and in partnership with Enfield RoadWatch, Better Homes for Enfield and other groups we are continuing to prepare for the next stage in the development of the Enfield Local Plan.

Objections have been submitted to an

outline planning application for the demolition of the existing greenhouses and other structures and the construction of 58 homes, work units and flexible office space at 30 and 32 Strayfield Road, EN2 9JE (the Anglo Aquarium Plant). Our objections are on the basis that the site is in the Green Belt and within the Clay Hill Conservation Area. Development within the Green Belt should only be agreed if there are exceptional circumstances and a use compatible with the Green Belt. We can see no such justification in the application.

A number of Members in Enfield Town have drawn our attention to a planning application at 17 Sydney Road, on the corner with Cecil Road. This involves the conversion of a single family house into five self-contained flats including a substantial side extension. We have objected on the grounds that the proposal is over development of the site and out of keeping with the character of the area.

While we try to scrutinise all applications, we tend to focus on the larger developments because of the large number of applications that are submitted each week. If Members would like us to review a planning application we are always happy to assist. Please contact us at [info@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@enfieldsociety.org.uk)

In terms of the Local Plan, the timetable for the next stage (Regulation 19) remains late summer/early autumn, however the Council has decided to carry out a further 'call for sites' suggesting that the identification of potential housing sites needs further work. The Society will continue to press for the development of good quality family housing, but not at the expense of building over the Green Belt.

*John West*

## Trees

During the summer the trees group has been looking after over 100 saplings at the Trentwood Side tree nursery. The dry summer has meant that watering has been a priority. From November onwards we will be able to make the trees available to Parks Groups and for transplanting to other open spaces. If you are involved with any groups that require young trees please contact us at [trees@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:trees@enfieldsociety.org.uk)

*John West*

# Society guided walks

Stuart Mills

Our walks are open to all Society members. Please wear suitable footwear. Travel details correct at copy date, but it is essential to check with train operators near to the date as even slight changes frequently occur.

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

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

**Bank Holiday Monday 29th August.** Green Belt Countryside. **Meet 10.26** Cuffley Station (10.18 train from Enfield Chase).

About 6 mile linear walk through a mix of open countryside with long distance views, fields, tracks and a golf course. Lunch stop and option to end in Crews Hill. The walk finishes at Gordon Hill Station. Leader: Mike Cranstone, contact 07597 122 554.



View north from Crews Hill Golf Course

**Saturday 3rd September.** Hertfordshire Rivers. **Meet 10.36** Hertford North Station (10.18 train from Enfield Chase).

Between 6 and 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.

**Thursday 8th September.** Fashionable Notting Hill. **Meet 10.40** Notting Hill Gate Station (Central Line).

About 4 mile linear walk through an area of constant change and with interesting architectural styles, streets and squares. The walk will not include a lunch stop but will finish at Ladbroke Grove Station (Hammer-smith & City Line) by 13.30. Leader: Ian Reynolds, contact 07523 855 809.

**Sunday 11th September.** Knebworth. **Meet 10.39** Knebworth Station (10.08 Great Northern train from Finsbury Park mainline station or at 10.19 from Potters Bar Station).

Eleven mile circular walk in attractive countryside with lovely views via woods and open fields. Lunch stop in St Paul's Walden. Bring lunch or, weather permitting, "The Strathmore Arms" pub may have a BBQ, but otherwise no bar food on a Sunday. No shorter option. Joint walk with Hampstead Ramblers. Leader: Hadi Samsami, contact 07590 604 391.

**Friday 16th September.** Darlands. **Depart 10.30** from High Barnet Station, Barnet Hill (Northern Line, local buses or by 307 bus with a journey time of about 30 mins from Enfield Town).

About 2½ hour (3¾ mile) linear country walk in Barnet's Green Belt countryside connecting the Dollis Brook and Folly Brook valleys with Totteridge Village. The route includes a notable village church and visits the hidden Darlands Lake and nature reserve, before ending at "The Orange Tree" pub on Totteridge Common. From there, option of coffee/lunch before catching 251 bus to either Totteridge & Whetstone or Arnos Grove Stations. Leader: Nigel King, contact 07973 747 454.

**Saturday 24th September.** Pymmes Brook Trail (part 1). **Depart 10.30** from near Waitrose/toilets in The Spires Shopping centre, off High Street, High Barnet (about 34 mins by 307 bus from Enfield Town to Barnet Church and then 5 to 10 mins walk along High Street).

A 6½ mile linear walk following the Pymmes Brook Trail from Hadley Common via Monken Hadley, Jack's Lake, East Barnet, then Oak Hill, Arnos and Broomfield Parks to end at Palmers Green Station. Shorter options. Suggest bring packed lunch although, hopefully, there will be a stop for drinks etc at a park café. This walk will be led by Colin Saunders, the author of the Pymmes Brook Trail. Colin's contact 07768 453 159.

**Thursday 29th September.** Around Watton-at-Stone Village. **Meet 10.07** Walton-at-Stone Station (09.45 train from Enfield Chase).

A figure-of-eight walk with contrasting scenes and attractive countryside, woodland and long distance views. Full distance of up to about 6½ miles. Lunch stop in the village centre and option to end from nearby station. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Mick Spinks

**Tuesday 4th October.** Forty Hall Estate. **Depart 10.15** from front door of Forty Hall Mansion.

An attractive 3 to 3½ mile circular walk through the estate including sections of the original New River and some more recent estate developments. Leader: Peter Baker, contact 07946 518 838.

**Saturday 8th October.** Epping Forest. **Meet 10.30** at Chingford bus Station (313 buses have a journey time of about 30 mins from Enfield Town).

About 6 to 6½ mile circular walk through early Autumnal colours with a lunch stop at High Beach. No shorter option. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Stuart Mills.

**Thursday 13th October.** Royal Greenwich History, Heritage and Views. **Meet 11.05** at the bow end of the Cutty Sark ship (about 5 mins walk from Cutty Sark Station). Various ways of travelling there, but one route would be the 09.33 train from Enfield Chase to Moorgate, then Northern Line to Bank and then by DLR (destination Lewisham) to Cutty Sark Station.



Old Royal Naval College Greenwich

Four hour gentle walking across a UNESCO world heritage site with an optional free concert at 13.05 in St Alphege Church (designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor). After lunch the walk enters Greenwich Park and there is one of London's most spectacular views. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Sue Grayson Ford (Blue Badge Guide), *contact on day of walk only* 07947 346 050.

**Wednesday 19th October.** Pymmes Brook Trail (Part 2). **Depart at 10.30** from Palmers Green Station.

A 6½ mile linear walk following the Trail, as the Pymmes Brook flows eastwards towards the Lea Valley and ultimately joins the River Lea north of the walk's finish at Tottenham Hale Station. Shorter options. At lunchtime there will be a short diversion to use Tesco's café near Meridian Water. Leader: Colin Saunders, contact 07768 453 159.



**Saturday 29th October.** Waterways of East London. **Meet 10.30** Tottenham Hale Station (Victoria Line or Greater Anglia trains).

Seven mile linear walk following waterways south of Colin's walk. Varied river and canal scenes beside the River Lee Navigation and the Hertford Union and Regents Canals to reach Limehouse Basin and The Thames. A mix of open spaces and urban regeneration. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 098.

**Tuesday 1st November.** The Black Path. **Meet 10.30** immediately outside Walthamstow Central Station (Victoria Line & London Overground).

About 3 hour linear walk via Walthamstow and Hackney Marshes following an ancient drovers and porters route towards the City of London. Walk ends near London Fields Station with an option for lunch and/or return to Enfield Town Station. Leader: Margaret Redman, *contact on day of walk only* 07425 136 628.

**Thursday 10th November.** River Thames. **Meet 11.00** Putney Bridge Underground Station (District Line). About 6 mile linear walk with Thames scenes via Barnes Elms and Common to reach Barnes Village for a lunch stop with an option to finish. Then Peter crosses The Thames and takes the riverside path on the northern bank to end at Hammersmith Station. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Peter Mackey, contact 07506 334 019.

**Wednesday 16th November.** Barnsbury. **Meet 10.30** at entrance to Highbury & Islington Station.

About 2½ hour tour of Barnsbury Village looking at its early life as a rural village, various periods of gentrification, together with Georgian and Victorian developments in housing, hospitals and prisons. Leader: Ian McGovern, contact 07815 658 328.

**Saturday 26th November.** Docklands and River Thames. **Meet 10.30** at Wapping Station (TfL Overground trains from Highbury & Islington).

Seven mile linear walk discovering changes from Roman times to the present day along the northern bank of The Thames. Option to finish and/or visit the Museum of London Docklands from the lunch stop near West India Quay Station. Then via Canary Wharf, Mudchute Farm and Isle of Dogs to return from a DLR station. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 098.

Enfield Local Studies & Archive

## Visit to the Tudor Room, Little Park

**Tuesday 30th & Wednesday 31st August 2022**



We are delighted to offer members the opportunity to visit the Tudor Room at Little Park in Gentleman's Row, Enfield. This is an extremely interesting room as it contains original items rescued in 1928 when Enfield Palace was demolished. The wall panelling, plaster ceiling and fireplace all date to the sixteenth century and have a direct connection to Elizabeth I. The room survives thanks to one of the previous owners of Little Park—the Leggatt brothers—who purchased the Palace building (more correctly known as Enfield Manor) in 1918.

Thanks to the generosity of the present owners, Adrian and Anne Birchall, we have arranged for two separate evening visits to view the room and learn more about the history. These will take place on Tuesday 30th August and Wednesday 31st August. Our President Colin Pointer will be our guide on these occasions.

Visits are limited to 25 on each evening and will start at 7.30pm. Booking is essential and free to members, but limited to two places per application. To book a place, please e-mail [visits@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:visits@enfieldsociety.org.uk) and include your name(s) and state a preference for which evening you wish to visit on. You may also apply by post to The Enfield Society, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN1 0AJ and include a phone number and SAE. We will contact you a few days before the first visit to confirm the details of your booking.

### *The Florence Trust at the Charity School Edmonton, continued from page 1*

Given the changed situation we all find ourselves in, the Florence Trust has re-directed its focus towards creating full-time affordable studio space for artists. It hopes to increase its community outreach work and, eventually, resume its mission of hosting international residencies. In the meantime, it would be good to see Enfield artists benefiting from this enterprising studio provider, when it promotes these opportunities locally and beyond. Let's hope creative Enfielders are inspired by these new arrivals to convert some of our borough's many empty shops into vibrant 'Meanwhile' spaces.

The Trust's Programme Director, Steven Allbutt, has an impressive track record, informed by a background in banking, commerce and fine art, and has already founded five self-funding CICs (Community Interest Companies), which

provide affordable studios around the UK. In his words: *The aim of the Trust is to place creative practices at the centre of the community, establishing an environment in which resident artists and community members can collaborate to find creative solutions to problems and ideas.*

An impressive board backs him in this exciting work.

Douglas Smith



Artists at St Katherine's Dock 1968–70.



# Forty Hall, Forty Hill Enfield, Part 2

Stephen Gilbert

North of Forty Hall were the remains of Elsyng Palace, which was originally timber-framed but was rebuilt in brick in 1487. (See newsletter 198, Summer 2015). Soon after 1656 the Palace was demolished by its owner Sir Nicholas Rainton. He was the great-nephew of the Sir Nicholas Rainton who had built Forty Hall between 1629 and 1632 (see last newsletter). Like his great-uncle he enclosed common land in Enfield, despite local opposition.

In 1675 his daughter Mary married Sir John Wolstenholme, and on Sir Nicholas's death in 1696 the estate passed to the couple. In 1698 it was given to their son who became Sir Nicholas Wolstenholme. In 1700 he repaired and modernised the house. He married Grace Waldoc who, after his death in 1716, married William Ferdinand Carey, Lord Hunsdon. He improved the estate which had fallen into debt. Grace died in 1729 and Forty Hall passed to Elizabeth and Mary, nieces of Sir Nicholas Wolstenholme. Elizabeth married Eliab Breton while Mary continued to live at Forty Hall until her death in 1763.



In the 18th century Forty Hall farm was arable and the corn would have been stored in this Grade II listed large 18th century timber framed barn. The barn in the centre of the outer courtyard has part brick gable ends and is clad in timber weatherboarding and has clay peg roof tiles. Enlarged in the late 19th century, it was restored in 1998 and is now leased to Capel Manor College. (See newsletter 185, Spring 2012)

After Eliab Breton died in 1785, his widow Elizabeth sold Forty Hall in 1787 for £8,800 to Edmund Armstrong, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He spent £4,000 on repairs and alternations, including covering the external brick walls with white painted cement stucco. He died in 1797, leaving large debts and the estate was auctioned in 1799.



The Grade II listed entrance gates from Forty Hill date from around 1800. Stucco covered brick piers decorated with swags are on either side of the carriage entrance and the pedestrian side gates.

The gabled lodge to the side of the gates was designed by Sidney M. Cranfield in about 1903. He was also responsible for the 1904 Enfield Market House. (See newsletter 210, Summer 2018)



This print shows Forty Hall from the north-east in 1823. The entrance gates to the inner courtyard can be seen to the right.



◀ This decorative plasterwork in the former Steward's Room, now the reception area, is thought to have been installed by Eliab Breton in the mid 18th century.

The mid 18th century alterations also included replacing the wall between the passage and the south-west room with an open screen with two columns supporting an arch which extended up to the ceiling. It became known as the Rainton Room after the portrait over the fireplace. The portrait has subsequently been moved to an adjacent room known as the Parlour and this room is now the Forty Hall shop.



Enfield Local Studies & Archive



◀ This view shows how a room might have looked in late Georgian times. (It was created as part of an exhibition on Enfield and the Transatlantic slave trade in 2007.)

Forty Hall was bought by James Meyer for £11,940 in 1799. He was a wealthy London merchant with Dutch ancestry and was a local magistrate. He increased the size of the estate with land between Maiden's Brook and the New River. When he died in 1826, Forty Hall was inherited by his brother Herman and then in 1832 by Herman's nephew Christian Paul Meyer, who built Jesus Church nearby in 1835. (See newsletter 200, Winter 2015.) He married four times and in 1837 the estate passed to his son James, by his first wife.



James Meyer II was Chairman of the Board of Magistrates and Chairman of the Board of Health from 1850 until his death in 1894. He was also Chairman of the Governors of Enfield Grammar School, Chairman of the Trustees of Enfield Charities and parish overseer and churchwarden. In 1848 he built an Infants School north of Maiden's Bridge. (See newsletter 201, Spring 2016.)

Among the servants listed on census

returns between 1841 and 1891 were a cook and housekeeper, housemaids, children's maid, kitchen maid, under housemaid, scullery maid, coachmen and grooms. Most of the servants would have slept in attic bedrooms on the second floor.



◀ This view shows how a Victorian dining room might have looked when decorated for Christmas at Forty Hall.



This 1894 photograph shows Forty Hall from the north-east with two of James Meyer's daughters in a boat on the lake.

In 1895 Henry Carrington Bowles Bowles (sic) (1830–1918) of Myddelton House (see newsletter 183, Autumn 2011) bought Forty Hall for his eldest son Henry Ferryman Bowles and his wife. Considerable alterations and renovations were carried out in 1897 including the installation of a new main staircase, landing windows on the east front and a modern sanitation system. The stucco covering the external brickwork was removed at this time.

Up to the Second World War the indoor staff included a butler, footman, lady's maid, three housemaids, cook-housekeeper, kitchen maid and scullery maid. Outdoor staff included a chauffeur, handyman, carpenters, painter, gardeners, cowman, farm hands and a gamekeeper. Although the farm had previously been arable, during the 1920s and 1930s there was a dairy herd and some sheep, pigs and chickens were also kept.

Col. Sir Henry Bowles MA Cantab (1858–1943) was a barrister in the Inner Temple and a Justice of the Peace. He served on Middlesex County Council from 1889 and was the Conservative MP for Enfield from 1889 to 1906 and from 1918 to 1922. He was created a baronet in 1926 and was High Sheriff for Middlesex in 1928. His wife, who he had married in 1889, died in 1935. They were both buried in the family vault at Jesus Church.



In 1913 their daughter Wilma had married Eustace Parker who took the name of Bowles. The estate was inherited by Sir Henry Bowles's grandson Derek Henry Parker Bowles who sold Forty Hall to Enfield Urban District Council in 1951 for £43,000.

This room is furnished as how it might have looked during the early 1940s as part of an exhibition on Enfield during the Second World War.



The house became a museum and the grounds were also opened to the public. Extensive repairs and alterations took place in the later 20th century and more recently some of the rooms have been restored and furnished to how they might have looked at different periods in the past.

Forty Hall may be reached by buses 191 and 456 to the bottom of Forty Hill. There is also a car park and cafeteria at Forty Hall. Details of the current opening times and special events may be obtained by telephoning 020 8363 8196 or from the Forty Hall website, [fortyhallestated.co.uk](http://fortyhallestated.co.uk)

A bibliography used for this article can be found in the online version. See [enfieldsociety.org.uk/enfield-heritage-index](http://enfieldsociety.org.uk/enfield-heritage-index)



# Enfield's secret footpath: Lee Navigation west bank

Andrew Lack



With the completion in May of an eight yard section of footpath, which has taken LBE 16 months to undertake, it is now possible to walk from Lea Valley Road to Millmarsh Lane—about a mile—along the western side of the Lee Navigation in Eastern Enfield.

The southernmost section of this path, past the new Beavertown Brewery, was completed in early 2020, but an eight yard section and two steel fences prevented a through path being created until now.

We are delighted with this new path and congratulate the Council for the vision to have this installed as re-development of the industrial sites along the Lee as has allowed; and at a considerable expense as two bridges have been installed—one over Mossops Creek and another adjacent over the Lee. However, we are very disappointed to discover that there is no money to install any signage or maps, so this new path will remain largely unknown for the time being.

For the benefit of members, we are pleased to provide our own map of the area. You can see that having walked to Millmarsh Lane you can continue northwards along Walcot Road, across Brancroft Way and link up with the London Loop. There is a good bus service from Enfield Island Village, as well as along Mollison Avenue and Green Street, and two bridges cross the Lee to the better known eastern footpath/cycle way, to provide many ways to explore this area of the Borough. A detailed two-page guide can be found on our website. Go to [enfieldsociety.org.uk/walking-in-enfield](http://enfieldsociety.org.uk/walking-in-enfield)



Blink and you'll miss the new path





## Talks calendar

**Enfield Society** 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!

**Thursday 22nd September, *From Fields and the Forest to Royals and the Railway—the story of Chingford***. This talk will follow the Society's AGM, see page 2 for more details.



**Monday 17th October, *A Walk with the Admiral—The history of a suburban road***, by Richard Thomas. A simple story of a street, from the first land records in 1527 up to aerial photographs of the 21st century. You see the plans of the Victorian developer, meet the first families and follow the growth of the community up to the present day.

**Monday 21st November, *Memories of Chase Side County Junior School in the 1950s*** by Stephen Gilbert.

This will be an interactive presentation with everyone invited to share their primary school memories of lessons, craftwork and games, outings and holidays, poems, projects and pets, parties, plays and pantomimes. Please also bring along any photographs or artifacts you may have of your primary school days which you would like to show.

**Historical Association** meetings take place at **Jubilee Hall** at 8pm. Non-members are welcome for £2 each.

**Tuesday 13th September, *Lord Kitchener: the Man behind the Poster*** by Councillor Michael Rye. This meeting will be followed by the Branch AGM.

**Tuesday 11th October, *The Origin of Mass Society: Speech, Crime, Sex and Drink in Urbanising Britain 1780-1870*** by Professor Peter Mandler (HA President, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge).

**Tuesday 8th November, *From Ozymandias to Colston: the Changing Significance of Statues in Cultural History*** by Dr Tim Hochstrasser (London School of Economics).

## St Paul's Centre

Andrew Lack

At the end of June we were contacted by the University of the Third Age (U3A) to inform us that they had been given three months notice to quit from their use of this local building. We have since heard the same story from a wide number of local groups. The U3A told us that the closure of this large and well-equipped community centre will be a big blow to the Town.



The St Paul's Centre, Enfield Town

The Centre is under the ownership of the United Reformed Church. We requested a statement about the situation and David Skipp provided us with the following:

After more than 40 years serving the Enfield community, the United Reformed Church (URC) is deeply saddened to announce the closure of St Paul's Centre in Church Street. The decision was made in June by the Enfield Town and Forty Hill Churches Joint Trust, the managers of the building, because they were no longer able to run and maintain the building.

Notice was given in June to the community groups that use the centre. Responsibility for the building has now returned to the URC Thames North Synod who will be deciding on the future of the building in the next few months. During this interim period, the Synod has agreed to keep the building open until the end of October to give the community groups as much time as possible to find alternative premises.

The Revd George Watt, Moderator of the Thames North Synod, said: "Deciding to close the centre has been a very difficult decision for the church to make and it was not made lightly. It is an unfortunate and sad fact that many community organisations and churches have to face at times, especially after COVID."

There is speculation that the Centre could be re-developed as part of the current plans for the adjacent Metaswitch building, but at present the Society has no specific information about this.

## Local Plan petition

Andrew Lack

A number of local Community Action Groups, including the Enfield Society, are calling on the Council to hold a full debate on the Local Plan before it proceeds to the next stage of local consultation, known as Regulation 19. (See newsletter 224, Winter 2021, page 2, for an explanation of the Local Plan process.)

Whilst there was a full debate in June 2021, before last summer's consultation, the Council now has 29 new councillors following the May election, which is almost half of the total. It is therefore essential for new councillors to have the chance to discuss—meaningfully—what we expect to be controversial proposals in the final version.

The online petition was due to close on 31st July but because of IT failures with the petition website, the deadline has been extended to 31st August. You may sign the petition via our website.

## Summer Street Parties

The Council are running five street parties this summer with the following dates due to take place after this newsletter has been published. Each event starts at 12noon and ends at 6pm.

**Sunday 28th August** at Ashfield Parade, Southgate

**Sunday 11th September** at Hazelwood Lane, Palmers Green



Enfield Society walkers on the 1st February using that crossing in North West London

The Enfield Society is now in discussion with others to explore possibilities of maintaining its current use.

# Hiding in plain sight: Enfield's telephone exchanges, Part 2

John Liffen

Part 1 (see newsletter 226, Summer 2022) described the growth of telephone service in the present London Borough of Enfield up to the 1920s. In 1922 the Post Office took the decision to convert all exchanges within a ten-mile radius of Oxford Circus to automatic working. The first such exchange (Holborn) opened in 1927 but the work was bound to take some years to complete, with Enfield and Palmers Green low down in the queue as their manual switching equipment was quite new.

John Liffen



New Southgate telephone exchange, Marconi Place, 2015

At the same time demand for telephone service was increasing in the suburbs, requiring the building of further new exchanges which would all be automatic. Locally, the earliest of these was at Waterfall Parade, New Southgate. The exchange was named ENTERprise (one needed to dial the first three letters of the exchange name as well as the called party's number) and opened on 9th July 1936. It could not be named New Southgate because of a clash of numerical equivalents with other exchange names, but 'Enterprise' was felt appropriate for a growing neighbourhood.

John Liffen



Ponders End telephone exchange, High Street, 2013

The next automatic exchange to open was at 40 High Street, Ponders End, on 27th February 1937. No existing local name was found satisfactory. Instead an arbitrary name, HOWard, was chosen, after John Howard (1726–1790), the prison reformer, who was reputedly born in Enfield.

It was now Winchmore Hill's turn. The building, in Green Lanes at the corner of Firs Lane, was structurally complete by 1936 and is unusual in bearing the cipher of the arms of Edward VIII. The automatic exchange opened for service on 30th March 1938 and was named LABurnam, as again no local name was suitable.

John Liffen



Winchmore Hill telephone exchange, Green Lanes / Firs Lane, 2013

Very few manual exchanges were converted to automatic during World War 2 but Palmers Green was one of them, being 'cut over' on 29th May 1941. A second unit, FOX Lane, was opened in the same building on 24th April 1955. Subscribers on Enfield exchange had to wait for their automatic telephones until 5th October 1960, after the building was enlarged. This was the last conversion of the original 1922 scheme. A second unit, KEAts, was opened there on 24th April 1965.

John Liffen



Edmonton telephone exchange, Sterling Way, 2015

The last new exchange building to be opened in the London Borough of Enfield was EDMonton, in Silver Street by the railway bridge, on 11th February 1960. The evocative names fell out of use after 1967 when all-figure numbers were introduced. The installation of System X and System Y digital circuit switching equipment in the 1980s and 1990s required the buildings at Edmonton, New Southgate, Ponders End and Winchmore Hill to be enlarged as the demand for lines grew inexorably.

The widespread adoption of mobile devices for speech calls means that the 'landline' is now predominantly a data carrier for broadband services. In a few years' time BT expects to have completed conversion of all its switching networks to 'Voice over Internet Protocol' using much more compact electronics. This may mean that the present large and imposing buildings are no longer required. What will happen after that is unknown, but at present they remain in use, in full view but ignored by nearly all who pass by.



# Society/Council meeting, May 2022

Andrew Lack

Three members of the Society's Management Committee met with Sarah Cary (Director of Place), Rebekah Polding (Head of Cultural Services Department), Andy Robinson (Senior Arboricultural Officer) and David Taylor (Head of Traffic and Transportation) on 10th May. Though the local election had been held five days earlier, a number of cabinet posts were unfilled and as a result the Officers were unable to provide detailed answers to many of our questions.

**Housing delivery.** The Society sees an increasing time lapse between planning approval for housing developments and a start of site work, for example Colosseum Retail Park (B&Q site on the A10) where a year after planning approval no work has started. We asked for an explanation.

Sarah Cary cited increased building costs which meant that developers were delaying or rethinking schemes. This also applied to the Council where there was a question whether the housing scheme at Bullsmoor Road now made economic sense. Major schemes also faced delays of up to six months between the Planning Committee and the Decision Notice as the procedures to be gone through were complex, e.g. referral to the GLA. The Council did monitor the speed of this process.

Sarah Cary also said that these delays could not be used as a reason for not meeting Government housing targets and the Council was not currently receiving enough applications to meet the targets.

**Local Plan Regulation 19.** We asked for an update on the timing for the next phase of the process. The Society emphasised that it was important to ensure full publicity and suggested that there should be a period of 10 weeks consultation and that the matter should be taken to the full Council. Sarah Cary said it was helpful to hear our views but at present she could not comment.

We explained some of our concerns with the current proposal, such as housing density: size of units, height and the need for family housing. It was also important to include more brownfield sites such as land near Brimsdown, where waterside development would be popular. Sarah Cary commented that most of the Leaside area was categorised as Strategic Industrial Land and economically much of the land in the area was more valuable for industrial than housing purposes except near railway stations.

**Whitewebbs Lease to Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.** We were told that LBE were working on an agreement for the lease; on the planning side they were not yet at pre-application stage. LBE were not aware of any work being done on the nature reserve and suspected that Spurs would try to roll this into the new works on the Whitewebbs Estate. We reiterated our concern that Spurs' existing commitments should be enforced.

**Conduit House.** The Society has been in contact with Andrew Newman, who had written a Conservation Management Plan for the structure some years ago. We had also discussed the position with the LBE Heritage Team. We would write to Sarah Cary with proposals for an investigation of the state of the building. Sarah Cary was unable to agree to any proposal for public access, given the cost implications.

**Enfield New River Loop improvements.** We were told that LBE would circulate details of planned activities. These would include de-silting and footpath improvements. LBE were in discussion with Thames Water about the pump, which had been switched off.

*We can report that we have not yet received the Management Plan. Insufficient tenders for the de-silting work were received, so this*

*work will be re-advertised and will not start until (a least) the Autumn—always assuming the process completes successfully. We understand the Thames Water pump at Southbury is now working. Overall we feel momentum has not been kept up on this.*

**Edmonton Green Heritage Trail.** We reported that the Heritage Information Board outside Edmonton Green Station is badly in need of maintenance. We were told that this would put this on a list of capital works to be done. Rebekah Polding suggested that the content of the board might be improved as part of the *Untold Edmonton* project. (See back page.)

**London Loop Cycle Path.** We have been monitoring the new cycle path surface on the London Loop to the West of the Ridgeway as its condition appeared to be deteriorating. We asked for feedback on this. We were told that Ian Russell would reply on this matter, though he had walked the route recently and had seen no problems.

**Footpaths.** We asked for updates on the following: *Ladysmith Road to Carterhatch Lane*: awaiting views from Parks department. It was hoped that this path would be accepted as a permissive path. *Rammey Marsh to New Ford Road*: LBE were in discussions with Broxbourne Council, which needed to clear the matter with Hertfordshire County Council, but were willing to fund signage. LBE were speaking with National Highways in relation to the section under the M25, but ultimately it was assumed they had no objection. *Mollison Avenue to Millmarsh Lane alongside the Lee*: Work had started to create the missing link. We commented that signage was necessary to publicise the path, but LBE said that funding might be problematic.

The Society wanted to see the plans for the road safety measures where the re-routed London Loop crosses the busy Ridgeway near the former Royal Chace Hotel. LBE explained that there were immediate plans for rumble strips to reduce speed. However they were also giving consideration to a refuge or controlled crossing. Section 106 funding relating to the Royal Chace development was more likely to be used for a crossing in the Chase Farm Hospital direction.

**Mobile phone equipment.** The Society wants to see a harmonised colour scheme used for the road-side cabinets and suggested this approach be made through planning system. LBE agreed that a specified colour could be made a condition of installation. Planning officers could be given guidance to specify this. The Society suggested that the standard colour should be green.

**Unauthorised poster boards.** Over the first May Bank Holiday a local map board, together with Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams information was installed under the railway bridge in Windmill Hill. It incorrectly advised that the nearest Police Station was Enfield Town. The Police say that they did not put the map up and suggested it was the Council. We asked LBE who was responsible for amending the incorrect information. LBE had not put up the Information Board, and neither had the police or the railway company. It was a mystery. (See also Chairman's Column, page 2.)

**Boundary Park.** The Society is pleased to see the improvement work to the Boundary Park path from the Hertford Road through to Cuckoo Hall Recreation ground. We requested that some direction signage indicating where the path goes be installed at the Ponders End Station. David Taylor said he would see if Section 106 money was available.

**From the Council.** Sarah Cary reported that Brett Leahy would be joining the Council in July as the Director for Planning and Growth and would be dealing with all town centres.

## 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, Richard Stones, John West, Alison Yates.

**Office:** Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ  
Telephone: 020 8363 9495  
Messages left on this number will be dealt with as promptly as possible.

 [enfieldsociety.org.uk](http://enfieldsociety.org.uk)

 [facebook.com/enfieldsociety](https://facebook.com/enfieldsociety)

 Twitter @enfiefsoc

 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](mailto:info@enfieldsociety.org.uk)

**Architecture and Planning:** John West, 020 8886 6080

**Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group:** Alison Yates

**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

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 edition)

issn 2042-1427 (web edition)

## New Edmonton heritage project

*Dorian Knight*

Enfield Council has been awarded £248,500 by the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a two-year project to put the rich heritage of Edmonton on the map. This project has been supported by the Enfield Society and we will be involved in its development.

To launch the project Enfield Council will be delivering a festival celebrating Edmonton's rich cultural heritage from 7th September to 6th October 2022 and will include walks, talks, workshops and more, exploring topics as diverse as film history, contemporary poetry and industrial heritage.

Enfield Council will also be creating a cultural heritage volunteering programme for Edmonton residents. Volunteers will receive training in a wide variety of heritage skills—including archive research, events management, and creating museum exhibitions.

A steering committee will help direct the Untold Edmonton project by choosing project themes, make decisions on funding allocation, and support funded community organisations to deliver projects. Through the project the council will also be giving funding to community organisations in Edmonton to explore heritage and culture through projects, workshops and events.

If you would like to know more or take part in any of the opportunities listed above, please contact Cultural Heritage Development Officer Dorian Knight on [dorian.knight@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:dorian.knight@enfield.gov.uk) or call on 07786 627 684.

Further information about all elements of the project will be advertised later in the summer. At this stage the Council are particularly interested in hearing from Edmonton based organisations keen to receive funding for a heritage project or join the steering committee.

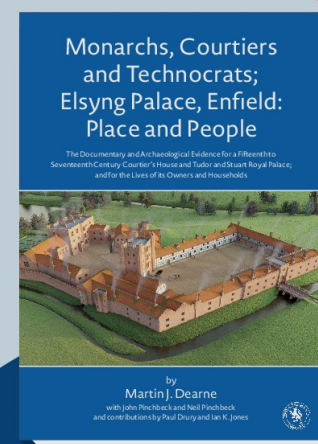


## New publication on Elsyng Palace

A new book by Dr Martin Dearne of the Enfield Archaeological Society (EAS) has just been published about this major site. The Enfield Society was pleased to be able to offer a grant of £2,800 to assist with its publication. Copies may be ordered through the EAS website at [enfarchsoc.org](http://enfarchsoc.org)

### Winter 2022 newsletter dates

We accept copy by e-mail or paper. Contact the Editor, Andrew Lack, ([info@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@enfieldsociety.org.uk)) if you have any questions about making a contribution. The copy date for the next newsletter is Wednesday 12th October 2022 and it will be published mid November 2022.



**336 pages, 85 figures, 74 plates**

Extensive documentary sources and 1960s excavation evaluations on CD

To order via PayPal go to [www.enfarchsoc.org](http://www.enfarchsoc.org)

\*UK delivery. International rates on application.

**£20**  
+ £5 p&p\*



## Join The Enfield Society

Membership of the Society costs just £5 per person per calendar year (subject to review). Members receive 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](http://enfieldsociety.org.uk/join), or scan the QR code.

