

Is this the end for Broomfield House?

Draft proposals from Enfield Council recommend demolishing what remains of the historic house in order to make improvements to the remainder of the Park

Andrew Lack

As this newsletter was in preparation we were made aware of new draft proposals for Broomfield House and Park by Enfield Council. The Grade II* listed 16th century house was first damaged by fire in 1984 followed by arson attacks in 1993 and 4 and then again in 2019. Since then there have been many attempts to have the house restored, including as a banqueting hall, a theatre, a public house/restaurant and sheltered housing between the house and the stable block. In 2003 it featured in the BBC TV programme *Restoration*, but sadly all these efforts have come to naught.



For nearly forty years the historic House has been propped up and protected by scaffolding. Is it now time to demolish the House? [Enfield Society/Andrew Lack]

Now in the latest proposals from Enfield Council, entitled *Unlocking Broomfield Park for the Community*, funding for work to the Park would be sought from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF). In a complicated and multi-phased plan the Council are proposing to develop a shared vision of the Park, involving the community by collecting their memories of the house and park, employing a Heritage Engagement Officer to lead on the community work and to assess and catalogue what remains of the historic interior of the house including items which are stored in shipping containers.

The new bid to the NHLF is intended to *kick-start the rejuvenation of Broomfield Park by dismantling the derelict shell of Broomfield House, and reconnecting the park and House through memorialisation, interpretation and landscaping. Heritage engagement activities over 2 years will involve the community and result in a shared vision & memorialisation of their memories of Broomfield House.*

The word which stands out in these proposals is “memorialisation” a clumsy word intended to mean replacing the historic house with

something less tangible. Colin Younger, Chair of the Broomfield House Trust writing on the Palmers Green Community’s website, detests the word for its negativity and wants to see it abandoned, preferring instead the title of the proposal which he said is much more positive. You can read Colin’s article at pgweb.uk

The Society published a History of Broomfield House in newsletter 211, Autumn 2018. This much-loved local historic building was purchased by Southgate District Council in 1903 for £25,000 (£2.3M today) and

has had a variety of uses including a school, maternity centre and dental clinic. The house famously contained a fine baroque oak staircase with an ornate balustrade. In 1726 the walls and ceiling of the staircase hall were covered with classical mythological paintings by the Flemish artist Gerard Lanscroon. Sadly only fragments of these murals remain after the fires, such as the Minerva panel, which is now restored following financial support from The Society.

The Enfield Society’s view is that whilst the House was once a very attractive country mansion, given the financial pressures on budgets and the number of very significant heritage properties needing Heritage Lottery Investment, sadly there seems no reasonable prospect of any funding forthcoming for restoration. As a result The Society regrets that demolition of the remaining structure appears to be the only sensible way forward. A focus can then be made on restoring other heritage buildings such as the stable block and the Baroque water garden.

The Society supports any efforts to create memorials, interpretation panels and possibly a visitors centre that record the history of Broomfield House and its importance in the history of Palmers Green and Southgate.

Presidents' Column



Colin Pointer & Monica Smith MBE

We were not surprised at the high response to the Tudor Room visit offered in the last Newsletter. It is some years now since we last visited this gem in Little Park at the conclusion of our guided tour of the historic parts of Enfield Town, which followed talks on and in both the Market Place and St Andrew's Church. This time, with so many requests for tickets, we were fortunate to be able to add a third visit for a further 25 applicants, but this still left very many disappointed members. As a result we arranged a fourth visit in October.

Many of us are still reflecting with sadness on the sudden death after such a long life of Queen Elizabeth II who gave so many years of service to this country and to the Commonwealth. Many members will recall her last visit to Enfield on the 15th October 2003 when the Borough celebrated the 700th anniversary of Enfield Market (below). The Society was honoured by the invitation of the then Chairman, Monica Smith, to a banquet at Forty Hall where she sat at the Queen's table. Monica told the Queen about the buried remains of Elsyng in the Great Meadow of Forty Hall, once the palace of Elizabeth I; but the Queen seemed to be unaware of that royal connection.

Enfield Old Charitable Trust



So on that day, 19 years ago, probably our two greatest and very long serving monarchs, separated by 400 years of history, came fleetingly close to each other in north Enfield—at least in spirit, one in person and the other in lasting historical memory. Both Queens loved horse riding, Elizabeth I frequently riding and hunting in Enfield Chase, a favourite pastime of all the Tudor monarchs when resident in Enfield, and Elizabeth II's love of horse riding, breeding and racing is well recorded.

The importance of history and historical connections is one of the reasons why our Society, with others, is determined to ensure that the new Local Plan will respect Enfield's past, especially by protecting Enfield Chase from housing development. The Council's policies cannot override centuries of our history and they must have special regard for it when opting for the provision of affordable housing, which of course the Society recognises as an essential need. (See centre pages.)

Society News

Subscription Rates

We reported in the Autumn newsletter how our costs for producing and posting the quarterly newsletter had risen considerably and were no longer being met by the subscription fee. The AGM in September agreed to increase membership subs by £5 so that Individual Membership will rise to £10 per annum and Joint Membership to £15 per annum.

AGM agreed that the Committee would also look at paperless membership, in order to offer a cheaper option in this time of generally increasing costs. At the October meeting of the Management Committee it was agreed to offer a paperless Individual Membership option at £5 per annum and a Joint Membership option at £7.50 per annum.

Members opting to go paperless will no longer receive a paper copy of the newsletter but will instead receive an additional e-mail with a copy of the newsletter attached as a PDF which can either be read on-screen or printed at home. These e-mails will be sent after the newsletter has been sent for postal distribution.

The Annual Renewal process will begin shortly and we will be reminding you of the new paperless option when we send out the reminders. Many members now renew each year using our website and you will find the paperless option on the Membership order-form web-page.

The new membership rates came into effect on Friday 21st October.

Standing Orders

We have several hundred members paying each year by bank standing order. If you are one may we please take this opportunity to ask you to amend your standing order to the new membership rates explained above. We will also be e-mailing reminders to all members with standing orders.

Alec Tyler

Palace Gardens: appeal for help



Enfield Society/Andrew Lack

During the Summer we were contacted by the management team who run Palace Gardens in Enfield Town. They are looking for community groups to help re-plant and maintain the five raised-brick flower beds in the Centre. The idea is to re-plant in order to increase bio-diversity. The Society is eager to assist but this needs some volunteers as well. If you would be interested to know more, without necessarily committing yourself at this stage, please get in-touch with us by e-mail to info@enfieldsociety.org.uk or writing to us at Jubilee Hall (address on the back page).

Plates auction

During 2020 Frank Bayford very kindly donated a limited edition set of six china plates with views of Enfield, to be sold to raise money for the Society. Unfortunately the pandemic intervened and prevented us from being able to show the plates to visitors at Jubilee Hall. Now with the resumption of Jubilee Hall talks, we will have the plates on display at the November and January evening talks, with a closing date for bids being 31st January 2023. You can also find the details of the plates on our website.

Andrew Lack



Cleaner Neighbourhoods

The Litter Picking Group had a very successful event in early September when twelve Society members spent two hours removing rubbish and pruning overgrown bushes on a footpath that borders the David Lloyd Centre between Carterhatch Lane and Ladysmith Road. This picture shows the rubbish and fly tipped items which were cleared.



On October 19th members also supported a joint litter picking event with the Friends of Enfield Chase and Botany Bay Farm clearing the new path between Ferny Hill and Rendlesham viaduct.

Future events

The first is on **Saturday 3rd December** from 10am to 12 noon meeting at the junction of Osborne and Goldsdown Roads EN3 7RW to work on the footpath from there to Carterhatch Lane. Brimsdown Station is nearby or take the 191 bus to Brimsdown Station and Osborne Road is very close to the stop on Brimsdown Avenue. Walk down Osborne Road to the start point at the other end.

Our second event is on **Saturday 14th January 2023** from 10am to 12 noon. We will litter pick a section of the Salmon's Brook path from Churchfield Primary School, Latymer Road N9 9PL to the A10 Road. From the All Saints Church W8 bus stop, walk away from Edmonton Green on Church Street and Latymer Road is the next right. The school is ¼ mile from the bus stop.

As usual participation for these events is at your own risk. All equipment will be provided if requested. Further details from Alison Yates 07818 682073.

Alison Yates

Conservation and Heritage Group

During the summer, volunteers from the group have been working hard reviewing Enfield's Local Heritage List. This work has involved checking the details of the original entries, updating them where necessary, taking up-to-date photographs of each site and putting forward sites, buildings and structures that could possibly be added to the List. The work of the volunteers has now finished, and we are incredibly grateful for their enthusiasm and hard work. Officers in the Council's Heritage Team with whom we have been working closely have also asked us to pass on their thanks. Without volunteers it would not be possible with the pressure on Council resources to carry out an in-depth review of the full Heritage List.

An assessment panel including a representative from Historic England will be considering the new entries and following consultation with property owners and Council approval, the aim is to publish the revised Local Heritage List in the spring. The current Local Heritage List is not always easy to navigate as sites are recorded alphabetically by road name. Once the new List is complete it will be possible to view the sites using an interactive map to identify their location.

John West

Architecture and Planning Group

Many developers are now reviewing their proposals, even those with planning approval, because of rapidly rising building costs. In many cases rising costs are removing all the profit from schemes. Colosseum Retail Park, Southgate Office Village, the Travis Perkins site in Winchmore Hill, all major housing schemes with planning approval are currently on hold, while the developers review proposals and costs.

At Meridian Water, the Council has given approval to the next stage of development. The Society has concerns about the height of the buildings, the density and access to open space, but given the need to provide homes, we have not submitted an objection.

We continue to oppose the high-rise development at Brimsdown on the site of the Station Tavern as it is inappropriate in this location. We have also strongly objected to the possibility of residential development on Green Belt land in Strayfield Road, Clay Hill.

In Southgate High Street (nos. 55–60) there is an interesting development involving refurbishment of the cottages with residential development in the rear yard. While we have some concerns about the details, the cottages are badly in need of refurbishment.

In Cecil Road, Enfield (no 26) there is a proposal to demolish the existing building and construct a part 3, part 4 storey block of flats. We suggested that in view of the impact on the Conservation Area, the developer needs to submit better plans showing the impact of the new building on the street scene and architectural improvements to the front elevation before we can provide detailed comments.

John West

Society guided walks

Stuart Mills

Our walks are open to all Society members. Please wear suitable footwear. Travel details are correct at copy date, but it is essential to check with transport operators near to the date as changes can occur and also with the possibility of more strikes.

Wednesday 16th November. Barnsbury Village. *Please note altered meeting location from the Autumn newsletter.* **Meet 10.40** at entrance to Caledonian Road Station (Piccadilly Line).

About 2½ hour tour of Barnsbury Village following its growth from a rural village, through periods of gentrification and Georgian and Victorian housing, hospitals and prisons. The first stop will be in the Caledonian Park/Market area. 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).



Thames Path approaching Docklands

7 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 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 07904 193 098.

Saturday 10th December. Richmond Park and River Thames. **Meet 10.45** 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 Richmond Park and The Thames. Option to end from the lunch stop at Ham Common. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Mike Cranstone, contact 07597 122 554.

Saturday 17th December. Christmas in St Albans. **Meet 10.35** at St Albans City

Station. Either by Thameslink trains at 09.51 or 10.06 from St Pancras International Station (platform B), or by 84 bus from Potters Bar Station currently at 09.38 (check bus times on Intalink as only 2 buses per hour).

3½ to 4 mile attractive semi-rural and parkland walk ending near the Cathedral and City centre for lunch. From this point the time is yours to spend independently. The Cathedral has the popular annual “Carols on the Hour” event (last at 16.00 hours). The City centre will have Christmas lights and market and, in the Town Hall, the Museum, Gallery and historic County Court and cells to view.

The 84 and frequent buses to City Station depart from near the Town Hall. Leader: Stuart Mills.

Thursday 29th December. Christmas scenes. **Meet 10.45** at Green Park Station near to the exit into Green Park (Victoria, Jubilee and Piccadilly Lines).

A varied mix of historic and Christmas scenes, many away from the usual tourist routes, ending at a station. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Stuart Mills

Friday 6th January. Trent Park. **Meet 10.30** at the Trent Park café/car park located off the Cockfosters Road (about 10 mins walk from Cockfosters Station).

A 2½ hour circular walk, including some of the recently opened access areas near the Mansion, and then visiting the Water Gardens and Camlet Moat. Perhaps a coffee afterwards! Leader: Nigel King, contact 07973 747 454.

Saturday 14th January. Evolution in the East End. **Meet 10.30** at the entrance to platform 1, Liverpool Street mainline station.

6 mile linear walk via Spitalfields, Bethnal Green and Victoria Park, including some less well known areas of the East End that have always been subject to constant change. The walk ends at an underground station. Many shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 098.

Tuesday 24th January. Beyond the City. **Depart 11.00** from the entrance foyer to Blackfriars mainline and underground station (Thameslink trains from Finsbury Park mainline station or by Circle and District Lines).

A walk through attractive streets, squares and open spaces between the City and Holborn, ending at a station. Shorter options including from the lunch break.

Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Stuart Mills.

Wednesday 1st February. City of London. **Meet 10.35** Tower Hill Station (Circle and District Lines).

This walk has an amazing variety of buildings, ancient monuments, historic churches, medieval alleyways and stunning modern architecture, ending at a station. Shorter options, including from the lunch break. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Ian Reynolds, contact 07523 855 809.

Tuesday 7th February. Northern Heights and Hampstead Heath. **Meet 10.20** near the ticket office at Alexandra Palace Station (10.03 train from Enfield Chase).

A very green 6 mile linear walk, that is almost entirely off-road, via the Palace grounds, parkland and woods into Highgate Village for a lunch stop and option to end. Bring lunch or food available. Afterwards, across Hampstead Heath to end at a station. Leader: Mick Spinks.

Thursday 16th February. Royal Parks. **Meet 10.45** near the café and toilets in the iconic Italian Gardens just inside Kensington Gardens. Access from the Bayswater Road is through Marlborough Gate which is almost opposite Lancaster Gate Station (Central Line).

5 to 6 mile linear walk through Royal Parks via The Serpentine, Hyde Park, Wellington Arch, St James’s Park and Horse Guards, and includes some outstanding statues and monuments, to end at The Thames, probably near Westminster Station. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Peter Mackey: 07506 334 019.

Saturday 25th February. Hanwell Locks and the River Brent. **Meet 10.30** at Boston Manor Station (Piccadilly Line).



Canal & River Trust

A 7 mile surprisingly rural walk within the urban landscape beside the Grand Union Canal and then the River Brent, ending at a station on the Central Line. Paths are mainly gravel and suitable for the Winter. Shorter option from the lunch stop near Hanwell. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 098.

London Loop update

Stuart Mills

It is now many months since the upgrading of the section between Hadley Road and The Ridgeway/Rectory Farm Road took place and early this year The Society raised questions with Enfield Council about the surface of the combined use track.

In many places it had been damaged by both use and water run-off and also seemed to have a surface that was inappropriately sandy in its finish. It lacked the compaction found on similar tracks on the Forty Hall Estate. The Council carried out some remedial work and considered the result to be acceptable, but, we continue to keep it under review, especially with the forthcoming Winter weather conditions.

Subsequent to the main works, a short extension of about 100 yards was built to run eastwards and parallel to Hadley Road from the original road exit towards (but not opposite) the pedestrian entrance into Trent Park. The Society has pointed out to the Council that, frankly, this has created a dangerous crossing point for anyone walking towards Trent Park, compared to using the remaining original exit. There is virtually no sight-line eastwards when trying to cross the road—you have to rely on hearing vehicles approaching at 50 to 60 miles per hour. Not much use for the deaf or hard of hearing. There has been no response from the Council.

With similar safety issues in mind, for a long time The Society had urged Enfield Council to install some form of safety measure, such as an island crossing, at the point where the Loop crosses The Ridgeway. When you stand there it becomes obvious that very few vehicles adhere to the 30 mph speed limit, even when driving out of Enfield. We are therefore pleased to advise that after the intervention of a local Councillor, an island will be built in the near future. However, until this is installed, for safety reasons the existing stile will remain on the southern side of the road.



Yes it looks inviting, yes it's a pleasant walk. . .but it's a dead-end

Enfield Council has a long-term aim to divert the Loop from Rectory Farm Road to go eastwards beside Turkey Brook and under the railway viaduct into Hilly Fields. The first section towards the viaduct is built (photo above) and open but negotiations continue with Network Rail. The Society has suggested to the Council that a no-through route sign be erected until the track is extended.

It is pleasing to note that the diversion of Turkey Brook and the Loop in Albany Park, with the creation of an outstanding wetlands and wildlife area, has been nationally recognised in the UK Rivers Prize event.

Chase Green Wetlands

Andrew Lack

Chase Green is a sensitive area for The Enfield Society; we were founded in 1936 when the then local council proposed a new town hall on the site. More recently we saw off attempts in 2012 by Enfield Council to have licensed entertainment on the Green.

Now LBE wishes to construct a wetlands area at the northern end of the Green (circled on map, below). This would produce a landscape similar to Firs Farm wetlands and those created in the Town Park in 2019.

The Council's proposals for the wetlands can be found in the news section of our website and we will be watching this one very carefully.



Our conservation areas need you!

Enfield has 22 conservation areas. These are areas protected by planning legislation where local authorities have a duty to preserve and enhance the area. Each conservation area is selected because it has a well-preserved character with buildings, structures and an environment that is worthy of protection. Each conservation area has a detailed 'character appraisal' of the area and 'management proposals' to ensure that any changes are sensitively implemented.

Many conservation areas have a group of volunteers who usually live in the area and value it because they are attractive, unique and their character is protected from damaging development. Sometimes these groups are called Study Groups, sometimes Friends of the Conservation Area. The groups do important work promoting the Conservation Area, educating residents and helping the Council ensure that damaging changes are not made to properties or the environment. They also seek to protect trees and other aspects of the built environment (such as shop fronts and pavements). Much of their work involves looking at planning applications in their area and ensuring that they are appropriate and informing the Council when development is carried out without any approval. Some Conservation Areas have active groups, some have no group at all. Everyone involved is a volunteer. The Society believes that these groups are important to help protect the areas. If you are interested in supporting a conservation area or would like to know more about a local group please contact us by email info@enfieldsociety.org.uk and we will put you in contact with a local group.

John West

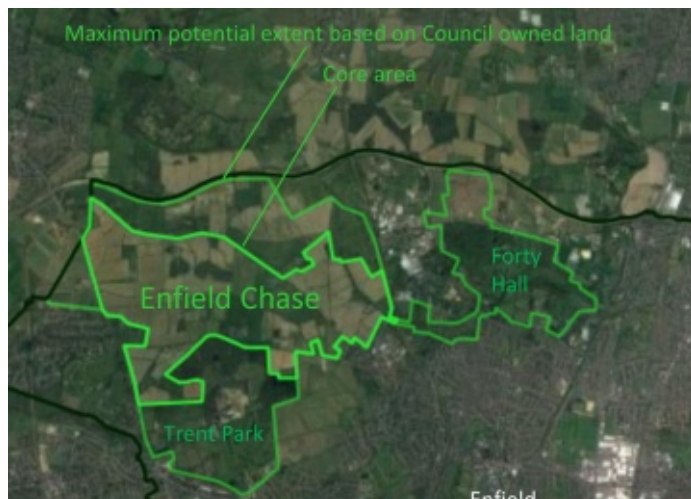
Rewilding Enfield

John Cole

On the 2nd September, the Government named Enfield Chase as one of twenty-two ‘landscape recovery’ schemes to benefit from a grant to help prepare for future delivery of a range of environmental benefits across farmed and rural landscapes to restore nature, reduce flood risks and boost biodiversity.

As a result Enfield Council has been awarded £500,000 to work together with its farmers and other organisations to develop local delivery plans centred on the Council’s Enfield Chase Restoration project. The grant does not itself pay for the physical work required, once the plans are prepared or agreed, further funding will be required (see facing page).

A presentation was made to councillors in September by Ian Russell (Principal Engineer, Enfield Council’s Watercourses Team) and the Enfield Society has obtained a copy. Within the up-beat explanation of the project a map reveals that it will only extend to a sub-section of the totality of the Council’s land holding of Enfield Chase, the so-called “core area” (see below). Of particular interest to The Society is the omission of those areas of The Chase which are included in the current Local Plan for development: Vicarage Farm, Enfield Road (south), Crews Hill Golf Course, New Cottage Farm and at Hadley Wood.



Map showing the area of Enfield Chase in Council ownership and the smaller area being considered for “rewilding”.
[Source: LBE presentation dated 7-Sept-2022]

Whilst we await the further detail of the plans from the Council it is likely the grant will be used to cover a two year project development phase allowing for project management, engagement and evidence monitoring, funding for various consultants to carry out surveys and feasibility studies, development of business plans with local tenant farmers and others and engagement with the public.

We understand the Council is working with Botany Bay Farm and other bodies like Thames21 and the London Wildlife Trust to develop deliverable plans that could build upon existing thinking within the Council to eventually create:

- a new flood plain management along Salmon’s Brook,
- moving a sewage pipe away from the Brook,
- new habitats and the reintroduction of species,
- cattle grazing in public areas,
- the restoration of hedgerows and other natural features.

Enfield Chase already represents London’s largest woodland restoration and rewilding initiative and has so far received around £1.3million funding in the last two years to deliver the planting of

100,000 trees across 60 hectares of new woodland along a corridor of land between the Trent Park and Clay Hill areas. It has also created dozens of small ponds and wetland scrapes, and upgraded a three-km long section of the London Loop footpath that links the area in the east of the Borough to the west with a new pathway, seating and several information boards (see update, page 5).

The Council has a manifesto pledge to plant a million trees, partly to help it meet its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. Thames21 has been asked to plant 36,000 trees across 18 hectares at Rectory Farm in January to March 2023 and there will be volunteer days on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The Council has also sought funding from the Levelling Up Fund, jointly administered by HM Treasury, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government and the Department for Transport. This appears to be in-line with the Council’s vision for The Chase as ‘cultural gateway’ and its attempt to transform the historic Enfield Chase area into the ‘leading outdoor cultural destination in North London and the surrounding areas and in doing so provide sustainable long term levelling up benefits to the local community’.

The Society’s view on the Rewilding Project

We welcome the Restoration project but at the same time are concerned that the Council has previously stated its intention to pay for this work through large-scale Green Belt development (see facing page). In engaging with the Council on plans for Enfield Chase, the Society will:

1. strongly support efforts for restoration of the whole of the Enfield Chase Heritage Area of Special Character (AoSC) as a key contributor to the character and identity of Enfield (see opposite),
2. insist that payments from development in the Green Belt to fund countryside projects can in no way compensate for the loss of the irreplaceable historic landscapes of the AoSC, and
3. push for the scope of the project area to be widened to include projects in areas of the Chase that the Council’s 2021 draft Local Plan have proposed for development, including improvements to the Merryhills Way through Vicarage Farm and improvements to biodiversity at Crews Hill Golf Course.

LBE Presentation 7-Sept-2022



The bid to the Leveling Up Fund includes this proposal for a visitor centre at Rectory Farm

Enfield Chase must remain a protected Area of Special Character

Dave Cockle

As reported last summer (223, Autumn 2021), the draft Local Plan proposes thousands of new homes on the Green Belt at Crews Hill Golf Course and at 'Chase Park' (north and south of Enfield Road). The draft policy wording for the proposed development of 3,000+ houses at 'Chase Park' states that "development should facilitate the rewilding at Enfield Chase" (Draft Local Plan, page 85). In practice, this is likely to mean that the developer will have to sign a 'Section 106' agreement with the Council for a substantial contribution to compensate for the loss of the Green Belt. Put plainly, the Council's 2021 draft Local Plan proposed to fund environmental improvements through large-scale building in the Green Belt.

The Council appears to be intending that the rewilding project will persuade the Planning Inspectorate that the proposed Green Belt developments are consistent with national planning policy, as set out in the box opposite.

Delays to publication of the next stage of the Local Plan may be at least in part due to the Council's need to reinforce its case for development in the Green Belt before it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in Public.

As set out on the facing page, the Council has been awarded £500,000 by DEFRA to produce plans for future phases of the Enfield Chase Restoration Project. Many of the proposals for improvements to the countryside are welcome.

However, the Council needs to be completely transparent about the uses to which the resulting plans will be put. It is clear from the rewilding plans put to Councillors last month (see opposite), the intention is to focus countryside improvements on a 'core' area north of Hadley Road, but not on privately-owned land north and south of Enfield Road where the Local Plan is proposing development. This land too forms part of the historic Enfield Chase, which once extended to Southgate (the clue is in the name). Most of our National Parks are privately owned, but this doesn't mean that the public authorities cannot work with landowners to achieve environmental enhancements and improved access.

Last summer's draft Local Plan omitted to mention that the *whole* of the open countryside of Enfield is designated as the

How might plans set out ways in which the impact of removing land from the Green Belt can be offset by compensatory improvements?

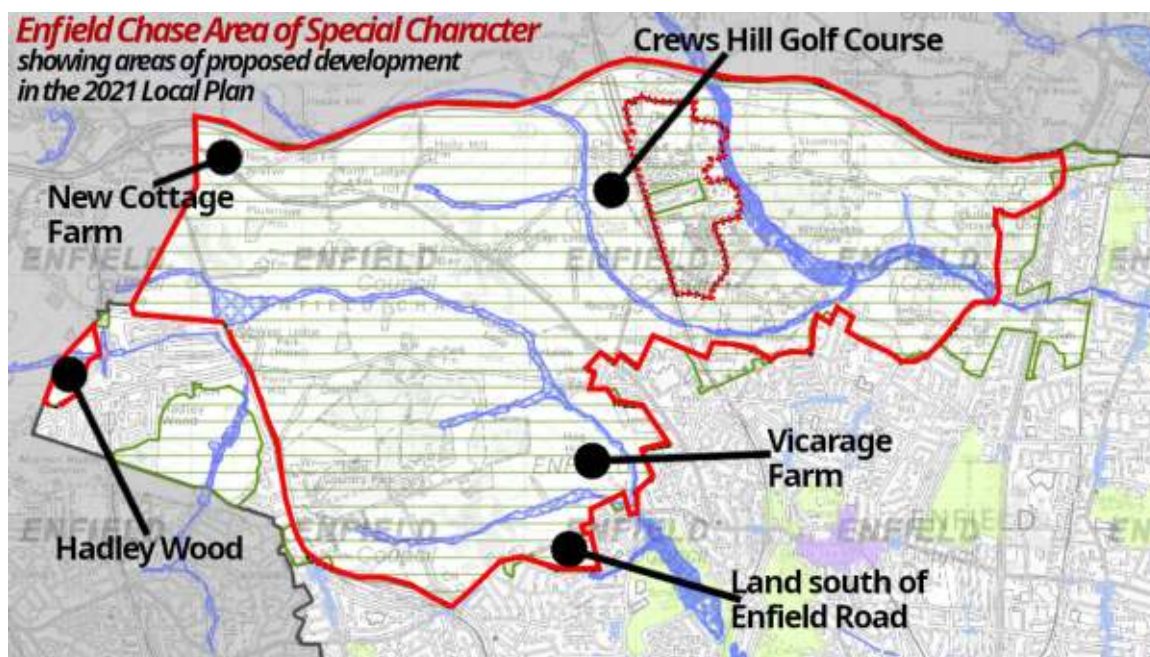
Where it has been demonstrated that it is necessary to release Green Belt land for development, strategic policy-making authorities should set out policies for compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of the remaining Green Belt land. These may be informed by supporting evidence of landscape, biodiversity or recreational needs and opportunities including those set out in local strategies, and could for instance include:

- new or enhanced green infrastructure;
- woodland planting; landscape and visual enhancements (beyond those needed to mitigate the immediate impacts of the proposal);
- improvements to biodiversity, habitat connectivity and natural capital; and
- new or enhanced walking and cycle routes.

Source: Paragraph 002, Reference ID 64-002-20190722, Revision date 22 07 2019 gov.uk/guidance/green-belt

Enfield Chase Heritage Area of Special Character (AoSc) and is protected by the current statutory Enfield Development Management Document (Policy DMD84) which states "new development within the Areas of Special Character will only be permitted if features or characteristics which are key to maintaining the quality of the area are preserved and enhanced." The AoSC was designated through the 1994 Unitary Development Plan following the recommendation by the Countryside Commission, English Nature, English Heritage and the London Ecology Unit based on its combined landscape, historical and nature conservation interests.

With over a thousand years of history (see page 8), the Chase, especially the Merryhills Brook valley, is vital to the character and identity of the borough. After rampant housing development nearly extinguished the historic Chase, the Green Belt and the AoSC should be recognised as irreplaceable historic landscapes, and not be sacrificed for the sake of "compensatory improvements to the remaining Green Belt land" (box above).



Enfield Chase Area of Special Character (solid red outline). Source: Enfield Council Planvu (planvu.co.uk/enfield)

Society publishes a new book on the history of Enfield Chase

Alison Parker

In 1986 local historian David Pam wrote *The Story of Enfield Chase* which for the first time gave a detailed understanding of the extent and importance of this local landscape. As part of our commitment to defending the Green Belt from proposed housing in the 2021 Local Plan, we had the book digitised and re-published it in full, making it freely available from our website. Website stats show the book has been downloaded hundreds of times.

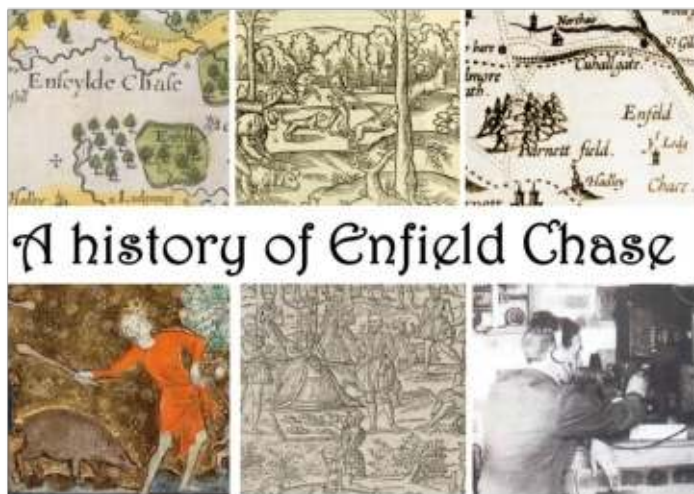
David Pam's book remains an important work but the story is presented in a somewhat academic format and stops at 1777. As a result one of our members, Martin Paine, has produced a new book entitled *A History of Enfield Chase*, which at 68 pages is more accessible and brings the story up to the present day. We are delighted to be able to offer this freely for download from our website.

The new book brings to life the 1000 years of Enfield Chase history, including;

ENFIELD OLD Park, an Anglo-Saxon precursor of Enfield Chase, which later served as a nursery for young deer which were released into the adjacent hunting grounds.

DETAILS OF the historic royal residences in the area and how Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth I and King James I were frequent visitors, mainly to enjoy hunting in the Chase.

THE COLOURFUL history of the various lodges and Rangers of the Chase, including how Sir William Pitt the Elder is reputed to have vacated South Lodge after discovering a frog in the library!



THE RICH folklore of the Chase, including the ballad of the King and Tinker, the highwayman Dick Turpin, the myth of Sir Walter Raleigh laying down his cloak for the Queen at Maiden's Bridge, and a duel set in a glade within the Chase by Sir Walter Scott in one of his Waverley novels.

BOHEMIAN PARTIES at Trent Park house in the 1930s at which royalty and the rich and famous were frequent guests, and the subsequent requisitioning of the house by military intelligence for use in eavesdropping the conversations of captured German generals.

A VIVID account of operations at the 469 Heavy (Mixed) Anti-Aircraft Battery at Hog Hill (now Vicarage Farm) drawing on the recently published diaries of Mary Churchill and newsreel footage of Prime Minister Winston Churchill's visit in April 1942.

TWENTIETH CENTURY development and the introduction of Green Belt, the founding of the Enfield Preservation Society and the ongoing mission to protect the heritage and open spaces of the area.

Whilst much has been written about Enfield Chase, often this is specialist in nature and does not show the importance of the Chase as a whole. This new History 'joins the dots' between different sources to provide a rounded account of the evolution of the area from the beginnings of history to the present day.



Download your copy of the book from enfieldsociety.org.uk/enfield-chase-books or scan the QR code.

The British Library



Pannage, the feeding of pigs on acorns in autumn, depicted in this image from The Queen Mary Psalter (1320–30)

HOW THE Chase was a crucial part of everyday life for local inhabitants, providing them with firewood and grazing for their pigs at Hog Hill, and how the Civil War and struggles over rights to the Chase led to a 'tragedy of the commons' and ultimately the division of the Chase in 1777.

THE STORY of William Crew of Crews Hill, a former under-keeper of the Chase who refused to pull down a house he built without permission and after serving time in prison became landlord of the Fallow Buck, dying age 104.

AP Archive, British Movietone



An ATS girl hands a bouquet of flowers to Clementine Churchill during the visit to the Hog Hill air defence position on 12th April 1942. The ridge behind is now Chase Ridings

Talks calendar

Enfield Society

Enfield Society talks are held at Jubilee Hall. As a trial we will be offering the January and February talks simultaneously on zoom as well as in the Hall. The zoom link will be sent in the monthly e-mail ahead of the meetings.

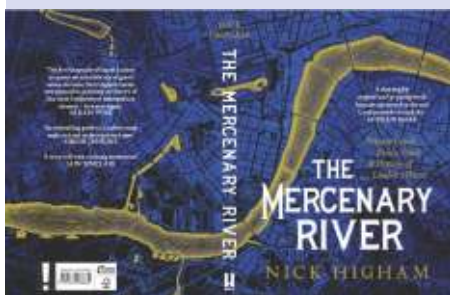
Monday 16th January 8pm <title to be confirmed> by Julie Chandler MITG.



Take a 'walk' with 19th century novelist Charles Dickens and hear his life story whilst discovering the London that sparked his imagination. Dickens called London his 'magic lantern' and it became his muse. He constantly walked London's streets, drawing on the places and people he saw to inspire many of his novels, including *Great Expectations*, *Oliver Twist*, and *A Christmas Carol*. So, see London through the eyes of its greatest novelist. Also available simultaneously on zoom.

Joint talk with the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society.

Monday 20th February 8pm *The Mercenary River* by Nick Higham.



No city can survive without water, and lots of it. Today we take the stuff for granted: turn a tap and it gushes out. But it wasn't always so. For centuries London, one of the largest and richest cities in the world, struggled to supply its citizens with reliable, clean water. Nick's talk is based on his book, *The Mercenary River*, which tells the story of that struggle from the middle ages to the present day. Also available on zoom.

Edmonton & Eastern Enfield Group

Tuesday 22nd November, 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*. Gary will continue along the road from The Boundary House to the border with Hertfordshire at Waltham Cross.

This is an open meeting and all are welcome. Free.

Enfield Society



The Picture Palace Ponders End (2001) now closed

Historical Association

These meetings will be held on zoom and are open to everyone and free. Contact the branch Secretary, Robin Blades for the zoom link, e-mail: robin.blades@outlook.com

Tuesday 10th January 2023 7.30pm, *Alfred the Great and the West Saxon Kingdom in the Ninth Century* by Professor Ryan Lavelle (University of Winchester).

Tuesday 14th February 2023 8.00pm, *That "Epidemical Madness": Women and Elections in 18th Century England* by Professor Elaine Chalus (University of Liverpool).

Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

Meetings take place at Jubilee Hall. Non-members are welcome to attend for £1 each.

Wednesday 16th November 2.30pm *The History of the Enfield Fire Brigade* by Chris Whippe.

Wednesday 21st December 2.30pm *WW1: Christmas in the Trenches* by Nick Dobson.

Firs Farm

Andrew Lack

Community Hub

The Friends of Firs Farm have already raised £200k for a community hub, café and changing places toilet. However, with the pandemic arriving during the fundraising, and now costs rising steeply, a further £25,000 is needed to fit out the building for its intended uses.



In addition to being a place to learn about the importance of urban wetlands, the hub will provide facilities to help regenerate the currently under-used sports pitches.

As a result crowdfunding has resumed and currently stands at around £7k. If you are able to help, you can donate at crowdfunder.co.uk/p/friends-of-firs-farm

Time together in Hidden History

Firs Farm was an unsuccessful applicant to the recent *Stories of Enfield* with a project to create a heritage trail of the site prior to it becoming the current wetlands and recreation area. The Enfield Society decided to donate £5,000 in order to allow the project to continue and now the first phase of the work is ending.

To date the project has been building an archive of information about the history of the site, which has included it being a prisoner of war camp and a pig farm. The next stage will be to turn this into a heritage trail which can be followed on the ground and online.

St Paul's Centre

We reported in the last newsletter that we were in discussion with local groups to see if anything could be done to keep this much-used Centre open. Unfortunately we have not been successful and groups using the Centre have been informed that the Centre will close after 31st December.

The Centre is now on the market for £2.25M, sadly a figure beyond even the Enfield Society.

Andrew Lack

The British School and Chase Side School, Enfield

Stephen Gilbert

In the 1830s nonconformists, including members of the Zion Chapel, the adjacent Chase Side Chapel and the Baker Street Meeting House raised £350 to build a non-denominational school in Chase Side. It was founded by Alderman Challis and Revd. Davis, minister of Chase Side Chapel and sponsored by the British and Foreign Schools Society. The balance of £250 was met from a Government grant and the British School opened in November 1838. It was maintained by voluntary subscriptions, small payments by pupils and grants made annually by the Government through the Treasury totalling £700.

The school had two classrooms, one for boys and one for girls, each measuring 40ft by 30ft, but no playground. Children of different ages were taught together in the same room. Leaflets advertising the school were circulated and on the first day 80 boys and 30 girls were admitted, with no restrictions being made on account of their religious denominations. The school soon became very popular, with children walking from as far as Winchmore Hill and Enfield Lock. They were taught reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, history, geography, scripture, musical notation and singing. In addition the boys were taught mental arithmetic. The girls were taught sewing and knitting and after buying wool at 3d (1p) an ounce would knit the black stockings they wore in class, although the teachers would turn the heel. These skills would be useful for those girls who later went into domestic service. Each year the children's copy books were subjected to outside inspection and children went out for an annual treat of roast beef and plum pudding.



Left: The former British School in 1970 [Enfield Local Studies & Archive]

Right: Henry Wakley, Headmaster 1838–88 [Christ Church URC]

The first headmaster and boys teacher from 1838 was Henry Wakely who was also a deacon and Sunday School Superintendent at Zion Chapel and later at Christ Church Congregational Church (see newsletters 224/5 Winter 2021/Spring 2022). He lived in a house adjacent to the school and died in 1895. In 1888 he was succeeded as headmaster by Harry Douglas Vincent, who had previously been a teacher at the school. In the 1890s the girls were taught by Miss Mavor. All the teachers used the cane on any latecomers to the school and to keep control and punish any miscreants in their classes.

From 1866 to 1894 Revd. Henry Storer Toms, the minister at Chase Side Chapel and later at Christ Church and Revd. Samuel Joseph Smith, minister on the Baker Street Meeting House, were co-secretaries of the British School.

Under the 1870 Public Education Act, locally elected school boards could be established where a need could be demonstrated. They would be able to build schools from public funds where children aged between 5 and 13 would be taught non-denominational religious education along with other subjects. With the population of Enfield rising from 19,104 in 1881 to 31,356 in 1891, the provision of school places at the mainly

Anglican voluntary schools was inadequate. The was despite efforts led by Revd. George Hodson, vicar of St Andrew's Church from 1870 to 1904, to increase the number of places available at the National Church of England schools and to open new schools. However Nonconformists did not want their children to have to attend National Schools where they would be given Anglican religious instruction. George Spicer, deacon and treasurer at Christ Church and the Revd. Henry Storer Toms were leaders in a campaign to establish a school board for Enfield.

Despite Revd. Hodson's efforts to prevent the setting up of a school board, the Board of Education, convinced that the provision of school places in Enfield was inadequate, issued an order for the establishment of a school board in 1894. The British School became one of the first board schools but was overcrowded with places for 345 children but 401 on its books.

In 1901 Christ Church bought the British School building for use by the Sunday School and other youth organisations including the Boys Brigade. A new room for the beginners department of the Sunday School was added in 1928. Christ Church sold what was then called the British Hall for £3,600 in 1938 to raise funds for a new church hall which was built in 1939. The British Hall because a milk distribution depot for United Dairies but is now the Moon Under Water public house and restaurant.

Both Enfield Local Studies & Archive



Left: George Spicer 1854–1911

Right: Revd. George Hodson 1897–1904

George Spicer, Storer Toms and George Hodson were all elected to the Enfield School Board in 1894 and Revd. Hodson became its first chairman. George Spicer was the leader of the Progressives (i.e. Liberals) on the Board from 1894 and became chairman in 1897. He was chairman of its successor Enfield Education Committee from 1903 until his retirement in 1907. Following George Spicer's death in 1911, a new Council School in Southbury Road was named after him in 1912. Between 1896 and 1914 nine new Board and Council elementary schools were built in Enfield, all to high standards, by G.E.T. Lawrence.

In 1901 children were transferred from the former British School to the newly built Chase Side School in Trinity Street. The children were split into three departments with places for 400 boys, 400 girls and 300 infants. The layout of the school with separate entrances, staircases and playgrounds ensured that the boys and girls were carefully segregated. There was a large central hall, a separate cookery room for the girls, a craft room for the boys, toilets on the far side of the playgrounds and a caretaker's house.



Sketch of Chase Side School in 1901

The headmaster up to 1925 was Harry Douglas Vincent. He was also the Sunday School Superintendent, organist and choirmaster of Christ Church. He died in 1950. His wife was the boys choir trainer. Subsequent headmasters were Mr Hird (1926–1944) and R.W. Taylor (1945–1967). Many of the children were also in the choir, Sunday School, Boys Brigade or Guides at Christ Church.



Boys at Chase Side School in 1926
(Chase Farm boys are in Norfolk Jackets)

In the 1920s and 1930s pauper children at Chase Farm Schools were transferred for their education to outside schools including Chase Side School. In 1940 an air-raid shelter was completed for the pupils.

In 1949 the secondary school girls on the first floor were transferred to Lavender Road School (in 1962 they moved to the newly built Chase Girls Secondary Modern School in Rosemary Avenue). From 1949 the former girls department of Chase Side School was occupied by Chase Side County Junior School for boys and girls aged between 7 and 11. The headmaster was Mr Casson and the school had a reputation for sending large numbers of children on to grammar schools after they had taken the 11+ examination. Miss Farr was the headmistress of the infants school.



The Junior School crest (left) worn on blazers and caps had the symbols of Enfield Chase—two oak trees and a deer with wavy blue lines between for the New River which flowed near the school. Below the crest was the school motto *God Grant Grace* which has since been dropped.

By 1955 the overcrowded Junior School had 460 children divided into classes of between 40 and 50 according to age and academic ability. For example, Class 2A (year 4) had 16 boys

and 28 girls. The pupils were not taught science or foreign languages and did not have homework, except for projects of their own choosing. From 1955 a school magazine was printed. This gave details of many of the school events including sporting activities, singing competitions, outings and performances of plays and pantomimes. Many of the children wrote about their interests or pets and composed stories and poems. They also wrote about what they would do if they were in charge of the school, including (from a girl) putting all the rough boys together in one class and (from a boy) equal punishments for boys and girls and pulling down the school and sending all the children on holiday!

After Easter 1956 the secondary school for boys on the ground floor moved to the newly built Chase Boys Secondary Modern School in Churchbury Lane. This allowed the Junior School boys and girls to have separate playgrounds and the additional rooms provided more space for craftwork and other activities.



Chase Side Primary School, April 1991

Following local government reorganisation in London in 1964, responsibility for schools was transferred to the London Borough of Enfield and Chase Side Infants and Junior Schools were combined to form Chase Side Primary School.

By the late 20th century children no longer normally walked to and from school on their own, but were taken and collected, often by car, by an adult. Corporal punishment was abolished, class sizes were considerably reduced and pupils were no longer allocated to classes according to academic ability or took the 11+ examination. With the availability of fountain, cartridge, ball-point and felt-tipped pens, children did not need to write with pen and ink using inkwells. Modern technology transformed the way subjects were taught.

In 2001 Chase Side School celebrated its centenary. For a week children had opportunities to sample life at the beginning of the 20th century, ending with a picnic where they dressed in clothes similar to those worn in 1901. A concert was performed by the children and a guided tour of the school for parents and some former pupils brought back many memories.

There will be an interactive presentation led by Stephen Gilbert entitled "Memories of Chase Side County Junior School in the 1950s" at 8pm on Monday 21st November at Jubilee Hall.

This article, along with all of Stephen's previous articles published in our quarterly newsletters, can be found on our website. Search for *Enfield heritage*. A detailed bibliography of the publications consulted for this article can also be found in the online version.

Society Directory

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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

 facebook.com/enfieldsociety

 Twitter @enfieldsoc

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How to contact us

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

info@enfieldsociety.org.uk

Architecture and Planning: John West, 020 8886 6080

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group: 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

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It's a pond Jim, but not as we know it*

Andrew Lack

Enfield Society/Andrew Lack



One of our members has written to the Society to bring to our attention the state of the once thriving pond at the top of Cat Hill, between Southgate and Cockfosters. Of course this summer has been exceptionally dry, which might account for the state of the ground, though posts to Facebook Group *Barnet a trip down memory lane* point the finger at a local property company.

The pond once supported Great Crested Newts. According to The Wildlife Trust, "this protected species favours clean ponds during the breeding season". Not much of that in evidence when I visited the pond in early October, though there was a heron and some water at the southern end of the site.

If there are members in the area who have similar concerns, contact us and we will put you all in-touch with each other to see if any restoration work can be arranged.

* as Mr Spock might have said, with tricorder in hand. . .



Have you thought of volunteering with us?

The Society is run entirely by volunteers and without sufficient numbers we have to reduce the range of activities we undertake. We are currently looking for someone to organise morning speakers for talks and someone to arrange for the Society's gazebo to attend local fairs and events. If you have a few hours to spare, do please consider helping out. You can contact us about these or other vacancies we have at info@enfieldsociety.org.uk and you can find more details about volunteering on the website at enfieldsociety.org.uk/volunteer-with-us or scan the QR code.



Join The Enfield Society

Become a member of the Society from as little as £5 per person. 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, or scan the QR code.

