



## LBE reveals scale of community response to Local Plan in 2021

The Society welcomes latest information from the Council but continues to call for full disclosure of the response content

*John West*

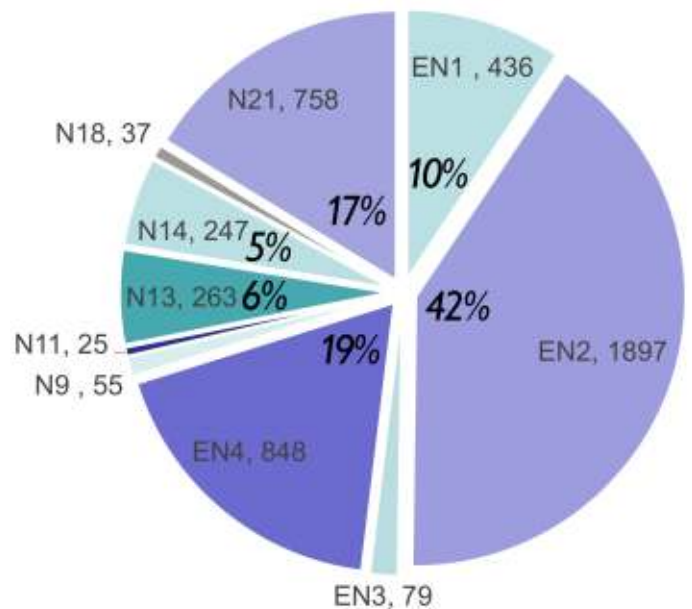
Members will recall the consultation that took place on Enfield's Local Plan during June to September 2021. Many of you expressed concern about the proposal to provide housing within the Green Belt and many people signed a petition sponsored by the Society, Enfield RoadWatch and other groups asking the Council to ensure a full and detailed consultation process at the next stage. You may be wondering what has happened to the Local Plan and the timetable for the next stages.

A Local Plan is required to ensure that all planning proposals can be considered within a structured framework. Without a Local Plan, developers can submit proposals that have a negative impact on the surrounding community and the Council will be in a weak position to oppose those developments. The Council's proposed Plan is intended to cover a 15-year period up to 2039. The consultation that took place last year is known as Regulation 18 and the next stage is Regulation 19.

A Local Plan is not a standalone document; it needs to cross reference an extensive evidence base covering housing policy, economic strategy, environment protection, design guidance, the Blue and Green strategy etc. The Council's recently appointed Director of Planning and Growth, Brett Leahy, has given a number of presentations to various groups including the Society. Brett has given a summary of progress so far and provided a timetable for further work. The Council is currently working on 10 place based policies, 36 strategic policies, 57 non-strategic policies and site allocations relating to 62 sites submitted as part of the 'call for sites'.

As a result of the Regulation 18 consultation last year, there were 7,267 responses, about 75% of respondents provided their postcode and the pie-chart shows where the responses came from. As the greatest number of responses came from the EN2 postcode we assume that this reflects comments submitted in relation to the Green Belt and perhaps the publicity given to the proposals by both the Society and other groups. The Council has not yet published a detailed summary of the responses but we are assured that this will be done before the next stage of the consultation takes place.

The number of responses from some postcodes in the east of the Borough is relatively low and the Council is considering ways to address this for the next stage. While we have not yet been given detailed figures of the numbers of people opposing and supporting various proposals, we have been told that there was considerable opposition to tall buildings particularly in Enfield Town and other



Where the responses came from by postcode. Source: Report to Environment Forum, 23rd November 2022, Brett Leahy Director of Planning and Growth, LBE.

historic centres. The Council is looking at providing 25,000 homes during the plan period and notes that the GLA has a policy that it will not agree to the release of strategic industrial land. The possibility of releasing some Green Belt land appears to still be part of the discussion.

In terms of timescale, the Council is currently working on the evidence base including further work on land availability, the Employment Land Review, Transport Assessment and cross boundary working. Early in 2023 the Council will provide an updated timescale for the publication of the proposed submission plan (Regulation 19) and a Statement of Community Involvement. The Council has established a cross party working group to review the next stage of the Plan and agreed that a full consultation process will take place—not the minimum 6-week period required in the planning legislation. In view of the need to undertake an extensive amount of work and respond to the comments already received, the public consultation on Regulation 19 will follow early in 2024. This is a longer timetable than originally proposed, but the Council has said publicly that they want to get it right. The Society will continue to monitor developments carefully and hold the Council to that commitment.



Dave Cockle

I recently participated in a webinar on the Enfield Town to Broxbourne walking and cycling route. This new signed route will keep off main roads by passing through the Willow Estate before going onto the New River at Tenniswood Road. A new section of the New River (West Bank) between Tenniswood Road and Carterhatch Lane will be opened up to the public for the first time. Safe crossing points will be made across Carterhatch Lane and Bullsmoor Lane. A new link to the walking and cycling route will be made from Worcesters Avenue. This is a welcome project that will utilise an existing asset for active travel.

The time frame for the Local Plan seems to be slipping, partly due to recent changes in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The draft Local Plan allocated sections of Green Belt land at Crews Hill and Vicarage Farm (farmland bounded by Trent Park/The Ridgeway/Hadley Road/Enfield Road) for housing. The Society has always fought to protect the Green Belt, and now the NPPF has generally tightened up Green Belt protection.

I was glad to read that the ornate brick built railway bridge in Chase Green Avenue, which is on Enfield's Local Heritage List, is to be strengthened and repaired rather than replaced by a concrete or steel bridge. The Parliamentary Act for the construction of the Railway extension from Enfield to Cuffley specified that the bridges across Windmill Hill and Chase Green Avenue should be built to a high standard of appearance to satisfy local residents. The bridge is suffering from water ingress due to failure of the track drainage system. In turn, this is causing spalling of the brickwork and is weakening the structural integrity of the bridge. Network Rail has devised a sympathetic repair programme, which involves cutting into the brick arch and inserting a web of steel rods before sealing them in with cement made from the brick dust from the cutting operations.

I have attended a series of meetings with Council officers and members of the Broomfield House Trust. This was to look at the next steps in a project to demolish the old house and provide a sympathetic landscape, which will reflect the history of the House. Hopefully, it will be possible to salvage some of the few remaining sections of architectural interest from the house for display in the Park.

Courtesy of I. Saliko, Wikipedia

## Society calendar

### Enfield Society talks

Enfield Society talks are held at Jubilee Hall except the April talk, which will be held at All Saints Church Hall, Church Street, Edmonton. Non members are welcome at our talks, £1 each.



Lamp by Louis Comfort Tiffany C 1900–10

**Monday 20th March, 8pm, *The World of Art Nouveau*** by Mark Lewis. This radical new style of art and architecture developed in Europe at the end of the 19th Century and was characterised by a spectrum of contradictory images and ideas that embraced the spirit world, fantasy and myth. The talk explains its origins, the key exponents of the movement and its eventual demise.

**Wednesday 19th April, 7.30pm, *Thirty years at the Edmonton Girls Charity School*** by Irene Money. This talk takes place at All Saints Church Hall, Edmonton and is an open meeting and free. A joint meeting of the Society's Edmonton & Eastern Enfield Group and the Edmonton Hundred Historical Association. *Please note the earlier start time and the location.*

**Monday 15th May, 8pm. *Monarchs, Courtiers, Technocrats and Kitchen boys of Elsyng Palace*** by Dr Martin Dearne. Following the publication of the results of 16 years of excavations and an extensive programme of historical research, Martin will speak about some of the many different people, from royalty down to lowly servants, who at different times were called courtiers at the then royal palace of Elsyng (in the

grounds of Forty Hall) home and how some of their lives were researched.

### Visit to Greggs Bakery, Brimsdown

Greggs have kindly agreed for Enfield Society members to visit their Bakery at 87, Millmarsh Lane, EN3 7XJ (ten minutes walk from 191/307 bus terminus) on **Friday 10th March**.



Each visit will be around an hour and there is a (minimum) donation of £2 to a local charity. ***The first visit will start at 10am and a second at 11:15am.*** Please ensure that you arrive ten minutes before the tour start time as there will be some Health and Safety paperwork to complete first.

The tour of the Bakery will be led by Eddie Terry, Greggs Site Manufacturing Manager. Each visit is restricted to ten places with a maximum of two tickets per applicant. Sensible shoes must be worn, no open toed or high heels, as Greggs will be providing us with shoe covers as part of personal protective equipment that must be worn.

To obtain free tickets for this interesting visit please send an e-mail message to [visits@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:visits@enfieldsociety.org.uk) or leave a message on our Jubilee Hall ansaphone 020 8363 9495. Please state the time of the visit you would prefer.

Dave Cockle

### Talks by the Historical Association

These meetings will be held at Jubilee Hall at 8pm. Non-members are welcome to attend for £2 each.

**Tuesday 14th March 2023, *The Peasants' Revolt of 1381: Some New Insights*** by Professor Andrew Prescott (University of Glasgow).

**Tuesday 4th April 2023, *"Beyond the Seas and Return": the English Catholic Cross-Channel Community in the 17th Century*** by Dr Liesbeth Corens (Queen Mary, University of London).



# Enfield's new museum opens but fails to deliver

Val Munday

In October 2020 The Enfield Society published an alternative vision for the Museum space at the Dugdale Centre entitled *Ever Stronger: Revising Enfield Council's Plans On Dugdale Centre / Thomas Hardy House*. We argued for the retention of the existing Museum displays and the Archive and Local Studies on the first floor, as we did not expect that the Children and Youth Services would require the whole of the 1st and 2nd floors due to changes with working arrangements from COVID. The Society also offered Enfield Council £20,000 if that arrangement was retained. The Council did not take up our offer and pressed ahead with the costly changes to the Centre.

The Society was invited to the launch event on the 15th December. [A separate report appears on page 11.] Through online meetings we had been kept informed on the design, including presentations by the architects at which a larger space for the museum had been promised. This was difficult to imagine since also the café was to be expanded and a tiered studio area was being created for performances.

In March 2022 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council became concerned about the project's value for money and called for more details of the planned £1.5m redevelopment of the ground floor. Supporting the case for an enhanced museum, Mark Bradbury (Director of Property and Economy) under questioning from councillors admitted there would probably be less floor space for the museum. But he added: "if you look at linear footage, and the amount of space there will be for exhibits, it will be greater." [Enfield Dispatch, 22nd March 2022]

Now that the building has opened, we are dismayed at the paltry space that has been created.

The new museum at the Dugdale in 2011 had followed National Standards recommended by the Arts Council, the governing body of museums, so that objects could be insured by the Government Indemnity Scheme and hence borrowed from National Museums such as the British Museum and other national museums.

There are no longer appropriate display cases for temporary exhibitions like those held by Enfield

Museum at Forty Hall prior to 2011 (*Enfield and the Transatlantic Trade*) and those held at the Dugdale such as *Roman Enfield* and *150 years of Weddings in Enfield*, which used costumes saved from Broomfield House.

In the reconfigured ground floor of the Dugdale Arts Centre, the permanent exhibition space is tiny and the space allocated for temporary exhibitions consists of simple moveable stands for displaying text and a small case for objects. It's easy to see that these stands could easily be removed reducing the museum to an even smaller space. The whole rationale of museums is the display and use of objects which are much more evocative than just the written word.



A feature in the new space which had been promoted was a tiered seating area that could be used for performances and used by the museum. It's hard, to justify this area (except for storage underneath), since the museum had previously used the main theatre space and first floor community rooms for delivering sessions for schools and other educational activities and this had worked well. It will be difficult to



close this new area off for schools just using curtains, which has been suggested.

The museum has not only lost the temporary exhibition rooms on the ground floor but also the permanent displays that were on the first floor where the Archive and Local Studies was located. This separation of Local Studies from the museum is a retrograde step since joint exhibitions held displaying fragile and vulnerable objects from the archives will be more difficult to organise, with Local Studies now being based at the Civic Centre, and in any case these items will be impossible to display.

It's hard to imagine how both services will be able to retain their accreditation giving them access to grants from National bodies.

With over 20,000 items in its collection, Enfield Museum not only has objects reflecting the London Borough of Enfield's rich history dating back to Prehistory, but also items reflecting the diverse communities that live in the Borough today. We question how these objects can now be displayed adequately for visitors to enjoy and learn about the history of Enfield, which a museum's permanent and temporary displays are designed to do.

It may be that more extensive displays will be created at Forty Hall but this is likely to be difficult if the venue continues to primarily be used as a venue for weddings and other functions.

The jury is out as to whether Children and Youth services will require the whole of the first and second floors at the building, since evidence so far seems to suggest that the majority of people working for the council are continuing with hybrid working, spending time both at home and in the office.

The Management Committee has agreed to request a meeting with museum staff in order to explore the problems which have been identified. We are keen to understand if changes might be possible in order to improve the museum, and in particular extend the scope of exhibits which it might be possible to display in the future.

Photographs by Andrew Lack/  
Enfield Society

# 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 with the probability of more strikes, please check with transport operators close to the date. If walks need to be altered or cancelled, where possible, prior notification will be issued by e-mail via John West's walkers' e-mail list and/or the Society's member e-mail list.

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

A surprisingly rural 7 mile linear walk within the urban landscape beside the Grand Union Canal and then the River Brent, ending at a Central Line station. 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.

**Wednesday 8th March.** Enfield's Urban Landscape. **Meet 10.15** at Southgate Station (Piccadilly Line).

About 5 mile linear walk linking open spaces and parks by use of pleasant urban footpaths and based upon The Enfield Society's recent Heritage Walks publications No's 6 and 7. The route includes The Minchenden Oak, Christ Church and Southgate Green, Grovelands Park (possible coffee stop), Grange Park and Cheyne Walk Open Space, ending at Enfield Chase Station. Many shorter options. Leader: Hadi Samsami, contact 07590 604 391.

**Tuesday 14th March.** The Old and New River (Part 2). **Depart 10.30** from front door of Forty Hall Mansion.

About 3 mile circular walk that further explores both the original and existing courses of the New River. Leader: Peter Baker, contact 07946 518 838

**Thursday 23rd March.** Islington Pubs Past and Present. **Meet 10.45** outside Sadlers Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4TN which from Angel Station (Northern Line) is about a 6 mins walk via St. John Street for 300 yards and then right into Rosebery Avenue.

About 2 hour linear guided walk discovering Islington entertainment and social history over the last 250 years, concluding at The Canonbury Tavern, Canonbury (near Highbury & Islington Station). Shorter options. Leader: Ian McGovern, contact 07815 658 328.

**Wednesday 29th March.** From The Strand to The City. **Meet 10.45** beside the

Eleanor Cross Monument in the forecourt of Charing Cross mainline station and fronting The Strand (Bakerloo and Northern Lines).

About 4 mile linear walk towards The City with a varied mix of historic streets, squares and buildings, interesting monuments and some river scenes, ending at St Paul's. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Ian Reynolds, contact 07523 855 809.

**Good Friday 7th April.** Conservation Countryside. **Meet 10.31** Bayford Station (10.18 train from Enfield Chase). Car drivers could meet the group in Bayford Village at 10.40—please park considerably but not in the pub car park.

About 6½ to 7 mile circular walk in unspoilt pretty countryside with lunch stop in Little Berkhamsted Village. No shorter option. Bring lunch or food available. If there are muddy paths, please use boot covers before entering the pub. Leader: Mike Cranstone, contact 07597 122 554.

**Thursday 13th April.** New Discovery Quiz in Covent Garden area. **Meet by 10.55** at the front entrance to St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church overlooking Trafalgar Square (about 5 mins from Leicester Square Station: Piccadilly and Northern Lines).

Depart 11.00 on this fun event lasting about 2½ hours that will test your observational skills. Limited walking. The party will be divided into smaller groups with a leader and return to the start for answers and perhaps lunch in the Crypt café. Please do not use the Internet. Coordinator: Mick Spinks.

**Tuesday 25th April.** 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.

**Bank Holiday Monday 1st May.** Chilterns. **Depart 10.40** from Chalfont & Latimer Station (toilets on London-bound platform). Either 09.56 Chiltern Railways Aylesbury train from London Marylebone Station or use Metropolitan Line train from King's Cross St Pancras Station (currently 09.28 but check close to date).

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

**Saturday 13th May.** Between the Rivers Beane and Mimram. **Meet 10.15** Watton-at-Stone Station (09.48 train from Enfield Chase).

About 7½ mile linear walk through attractive countryside with long distance views and varied woodland, ending at Hertford North Station. No shorter option. Bring lunch or food usually available at Rose & Crown pub. If there are muddy paths, please use boot covers before entering the pub. Leader: Stuart Mills.

**Friday 19th May.** Dollis Valley. **Depart 10.30** from lower entrance to High Barnet Station, Barnet Hill (toilets inside entrance barriers). Either Northern Line, local buses or about 30 mins journey time on 307 bus from Enfield Town.

About 2 to 2½ hour linear walk mainly along well-maintained paths southwards through a semi-rural route with open spaces and remains of old hedge-lines, probably ending at Woodside Park Station but with option to return to Barnet area by bus. May include a coffee stop. Leader: Nigel King, contact 07973 747 454.

**Bank Holiday Monday 29th May.** London Loop. **Meet 10.30** at Chingford bus station by 313 bus or by London Overground trains from London Liverpool Street, Hackney Downs or Walthamstow Central. Chingford rail and bus stations are adjacent to each other.

An 8 mile linear walk through woodland and open countryside via Chigwell for a lunch stop and option to finish walk. Then part of the Three Forests Way to end at Hainault Country Park for bus to Romford and train into Liverpool Street. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 098.

Andrew Lack/Enfield Society



Canonbury Tavern



# "No" to Chase Green Wetlands

Richard Stones

The Council's proposal to create wetlands at the northern end of Chase Green raises difficult issues. The Society generally views such schemes favourably, and we recognise the benefits this scheme would provide.

At present surface water from the area around the Green is piped into the New River Loop opposite the Crown and Horseshoes. Surface water from the streets tends to be polluted by oil and other chemicals: this contributes to the poor quality of the water in the New River Loop and threatens its biodiversity.

Some years ago an "oil interceptor" was installed under the Green. This is intended to catch and retain the oil. However the accumulated oil needs to be cleared periodically, a process which we understand is the responsibility of Thames Water but which is not carried out reliably. There is also the risk that the oil will be released if the flow of water is swollen by heavy rain.

The plant life in a wetlands scheme would absorb the pollutants naturally and more effectively. In addition, the diversion of additional surface water flows through the wetlands into the New River would reduce the risk of flooding when the present drainage system is overloaded.

Notwithstanding these benefits, we have concluded that Chase Green is not the right location for a wetlands scheme.

The Green is registered as a village green under the Commons Registration Act 1965, and as such it is intended as a place for "exercise and recreation". In our view this means it should be a flexible open space with the minimum of obstruction.

The proposed scheme would form a barrier across the widest part of the Green. In addition there is a townscape and heritage aspect. The present open grassy space surrounded by trees on one side and low rise building on the other two sides is what the Society fought successfully to preserve in 1936. It remains a distinctive and valuable part of the Enfield landscape, preserving the atmosphere of a village green in the middle of an urban environment. It should be left as it is.



The proposed wetlands would be in this area of Chase Green

# Whitewebbs lease to Spurs

Andrew Lack

In mid December the Council published a formal notice of its intention to lease Whitewebbs for twenty-five years to Tottenham Hotspur Football Club. The Society has reservations about the proposals, most notably the inclusion of large parts of the woodland area to the west which appear of no relevance to Spurs, whose main interest is in creating a women's football training area on part of the former golf course

The Notice is a legal formality which the Council is required to publish. No precise details of the Lease or the use of the land has accompanied the Notice. It is difficult to make a judgement on the lease without more information, and this has fuelled campaigning by community groups as it appears consistent with the Council's past track-record of not being open with residents.

The Society's view is that the Council's financial situation is such that disposal of the land is inevitable, and given that the proposal from Spurs seems an acceptable option. We reserve our position, however, until the terms of the lease are made public and a detailed planning application is submitted when, hopefully, this will become clearer.

## Legal position

Enfield Roadwatch (ERW), CPRE London and the Friends of Whitewebbs have sought legal opinion, to test the legal status of the land and whether the Council can lease it out. A letter was sent to LBE in November. You can read the letter on ERW's website at [enfieldroadwatch.co.uk/uncategorized/whitewebbs-park-future-update](http://enfieldroadwatch.co.uk/uncategorized/whitewebbs-park-future-update). As this newsletter was in preparation the Council had responded to the letter and this is a continuing matter.

## Our objections to the lease

Although our view is that the Spurs option is an acceptable outcome, we have submitted a letter of objection. This includes our point about the woodland as well as a series of requirements which we want to see as part of any lease, for example:

- The part of the Property to be enclosed for the Women's Academy will be strictly as shown in the THFC proposal,
- The remainder of the Property will not be fenced except where there is existing fencing, and will be accessible to the public and "free to roam" at any reasonable time. Access will be available at all points where this is currently the case,
- The part of the former golf course not enclosed for the Academy will be maintained as open grassland in the style of a country estate. The Woodland (if included in the Lease) to be managed as a whole with the woodland which is to be retained by the Council, with the objective of protecting and enhancing the whole as a biodiverse woodland environment,
- The Council and THFC will cooperate to have the access paths designated as rights of way.

You can find the full letter of objection on our website.



THFC promise restoration as part of their public proposal



## Fancy lending us a hand?

We have a number of roles we would like to find volunteers for. If you have a few hours to spare, do please consider helping out. You will find details of all the positions on our website at [enfieldsociety.org.uk/volunteer-with-us](http://enfieldsociety.org.uk/volunteer-with-us) or scan the QR code.



Contact details can be found on the back page.

## Shows and Events

Every year the society attends a number of events and shows in the Borough. These events are a great opportunity to promote the society, its supporting activities and engage with the general public. It has consistently proved a good source for the recruitment of new members and an opportunity to highlight the range of volunteering opportunities the society offers.



Andrew Lack/Enfield Society

The Society wishes to increase the number of events attended and to enable this requires a volunteer Shows & Events Co-ordinator. This role entails a range of logistical and other activities, engaging with volunteers, hosting organisations and others. At these events, we have some displays about the society, our range of publications, other merchandise, membership and publicity material.

If you are looking for an opportunity to become more involved with the Society and the role of Shows and Events Co-ordinator appeals to you, please contact us for more information. You can find contact details on the back page.

*Bob Fowler*

## Strategy

During 2022 the Management Committee looked at developing a strategic overview for the Enfield Society. This was an exercise to think beyond the coming year and focus on what the Society wanted to achieve longer term, over the next ten years or so. This involved analysing our aims and objectives to see if they were fit for the Twenty-first century and the changing borough we live in; what we do, how we currently do these things, as well as where we wanted the Society to be in ten years' time.

This was a significant agenda and the Management Committee dedicated a day last Spring to this endeavour. There were many lively debates and differences of opinion within the members of the Management Committee. All ideas were expressed in an open and frank atmosphere

and these were then analysed and discussed in depth.

The Aims and Objectives of the Society, we felt, are still valid and pertinent to our current situation, although we may clarify a few areas and we felt there is a need to be clearer in our articulation of our vision for Enfield. In reviewing the structure of the organisation, it was agreed that our Special Interest Groups do still reflect the practical areas of the Society. We conducted a Skills Audit, a list of the expertise needed to run the Society. This is being used to compare the skills we need against the skills we already have within the current members of the Management Committee. This Audit will equip the Society to recruit new Management Committee members with the necessary skill sets and will inform induction content and training needs for current and future work.

Another area we looked at was increasing membership, improving the diversity within our membership as the borough population changes and how to achieve this. To support our volunteers, we now have a Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Working with other groups was considered a good way to increase our reach and influence. We already do this with major planning consultations such as the current Local Plan and will look to increase this type of partnership in other areas as needs arise.

We will always be looking to keep improving our publicity and communications, and we considered whether we should have an education element to our work to inform the next generation of the importance of our heritage and environment using social media.

This Strategic Review has been a fascinating process that has revealed not just how we can change and improve our working practices, how we need to appeal to a changing borough population but also how robust and relevant our aims and objectives created nearly 90 years ago still are.

*Hilary Morris*

## Newsletter editor

The Management Committee is very sorry to learn that Andrew Lack wishes to step down from his positions as Newsletter Editor and IT Administrator. In the latter capacity Andrew designs and manages our website, answers queries sent to the Society's general e-mail address and produces our monthly e-news. Andrew's departure will leave us with a big hole to fill, as both the Newsletter and the website

are fundamental to the operation of the Society.

If you would be interested in helping us with any aspect of these operations, please contact me at [secretary@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@enfieldsociety.org.uk). We are in the course of preparing job descriptions which will give more details of what the various jobs involve.

*Richard Stones*

## Cleaner Neighbourhoods

This photo shows some of the rubbish and fly-tipped articles cleared on the Cleaner Neighbourhoods December Litter Pick in Brimsdown. The footpath between Goldsdown Road and Carterhatch Road proved to be a rich source of discarded bags of household rubbish, tyres, a television and table and other sundry items.



Avril Nanton

Eight Society members worked with great enthusiasm despite the unpleasant nature of the task and 36 bags of rubbish were left in two locations for collection by the Council.

The first Litter Pick of 2023 was along a section of the Salmon's Brook, east of the Great Cambridge Road to Churchfield School, on the 14th January. There are no litter bins on this footpath but there are bins for dog walkers to use and these seem to be a magnet for people to deposit their unwanted rubbish beside!

**Saturday 4th March** is the date of our next Litter Pick. As usual we will work from 10am to 12 noon and will meet at the corner of Bulls Cross and Turkey Street opposite the entrance to Myddelton House Gardens, EN1 4RJ. We plan to work on Turkey Street and the New River path.

If you are coming by public transport, Turkey Street station is on the other side of the A10 or alight at the Turkey Street Station stop on buses 217 or 317 towards Waltham Cross.

Participation is at your own risk and equipment will be provided if requested. Further details from Alison Yates 07818 682073.



If members have suggestions for footpaths they know could do with some attention, we would be very grateful for that information.

*Alison Yates*

## Grants made in 2022

The Society is fortunate to have funds which can be granted to organisations whose work is allied to our own. Whilst the membership subscriptions pay for running the day-to-day expenses, we are gifted money by members and through legacies, for which are most grateful.

A total of £12,360 was paid in 2022, with a further commitment in principle to another £17,150. In 2022 our main contributions were to the following projects:

- £4000 for the History Detectives project which involved local schools collecting oral histories and creating an interactive app. [See Newsletter 226, Summer 2022.]
- £2,800 to help the Enfield Archaeological Society publish a book on Elsyng Palace,
- £2,000 to support the Borough's participation in Open House 2022,
- £2,000 to support the Enfield Living COVID memorial in the Town park,
- £960 for funding repairs, insurance and legal work associated with the Charity School Edmonton.

We have pledged future funding for a number of important projects including:

£7,500 to the Council to assist with displays, events and activities associated with the Untold Edmonton project [See Newsletter 227, Autumn 2022.]; £5,000 for the project at Firs Farm to research the heritage of the area and £3,500 for a community noticeboard at Chase Green Gardens.

If you would like to make a grant application, you can find the form and guidance on our website at [enfieldsociety.org.uk/grants](http://enfieldsociety.org.uk/grants)

*Andrew Lack*

## Membership

We finished the year with 1799 members with numbers slightly down on 2021. It has been a busy period of processing renewals over the last couple of months with around half of the membership renewed so far. We have seen a good take

up of the paperless option that we have offered for the first time this year. The introduction of the compostable envelopes also seems to have worked well. We will send an e-mail to those of you who have not renewed shortly but if you have no e-mail address registered then we have included a renewal form as a gentle reminder. If renewal does not complete by the end of June we will remove you from the membership. Enjoy being a member!

*Alec Tyler*

## Publications

At this time of year we welcome the lengthening days, and the chance to get out for a walk. Our store has a selection of booklets showcasing walks within the borough, full of fascinating historical nuggets. Even if you've lived in the area all your life, you may well discover something (or somewhere) new about it! Our walks booklets start at just £1.

When the weather doesn't look so inviting, stay indoors and delve into one of our books about Enfield. We have an extensive range available online.

We are pleased to add two more titles to our range of Alan Godfrey maps: Edmonton (Picketts Lock) 1935 and Edmonton SE & Chingford SW 1936. Each map features extensive historical notes on the reverse about the area shown.



The range of reproduction Ordnance Survey maps cover most of our borough and are available at £3 each from our website.

*Alison Parker*

## Planning update

*John West*

### Bury Street West

Firstly some good news, the new housing development off Bury Street West on the former Council depot is nearing completion. The scheme has 50 new homes, 65% of which are three and four bedrooms

Andrew Lack/Enfield Society



Sayersbury Way in the pre-Christmas snow. Prices start at a cool £504,000

and 50% let at London Affordable Rents. Known as Sayersbury Way, the development is currently being marketed. The Society supported this development when it was at planning stage on the grounds that it provided well designed family housing, much needed in the Borough. The development has won an award from *Inside Housing* Magazine and a second award was won by the in-house Council team responsible for the development. The magazine noted that the project was an outstanding demonstration of how an ambitious local authority can develop beautiful family homes and use them to generate a haven for biodiversity. In their comments the judges noted "Enfield's commitment to design principles, environmental improvement and sustainability was impressive, but the commitment to creating a real community stood out". Well done Enfield Council!

### Brimsdown

Unfortunately these design principles haven't extended to a development in Brimsdown. Planning Committee recently agreed not to refuse a 21 storey tower block on the site of the Station Tavern Public House by Brimsdown Station. The Society had objected to the scheme on the grounds that is inappropriate for the area, too high and provides no family housing. Council Officers gave strong planning grounds for refusing the application, but the Committee agreed not to refuse the scheme, but to give the developer more time to address the concerns raised.

### Meridian Water

The Society is pleased to see development taking place with the first new homes

*continued next page*

# Society/Council meeting report

Richard Stones

*continued from previous page*

ready for occupation. However during the design and development stages housing density appears to be increased with family homes promised during later phases. While the Council has committed to high quality landscaping and open space this also appears to be squeezed in the Meridian One development. The Society will continue to monitor the development and press for both family housing and good quality open space making use of the opportunities to link the Lea Valley corridor and towpath with the Pymmes Brook trail.

## Jubilee Cottage

Last year a planning application was submitted to change the use of Jubilee Cottage on the north side of Enfield Road into a 50 place day nursery. The Society objected to the application on the grounds that the use of a residential property for commercial purposes was not compatible with the Green Belt designation of the land and because of concerns over the amount of traffic likely to be generated. With part time nursery places and staff cars the Society estimated that there could be up to 160 traffic movements in and out of Jubilee Cottage crossing the cycle way and the footway each day. The Council refused the application.



Jubilee Cottage, Enfield Road

Unfortunately the applicant appealed and the Planning Inspector overturned the Council's decision and has agreed that the nursery can proceed. The Inspector dismissed concerns about the traffic generation and it appears from the their report that the Council did not provide sufficient information on traffic flows to satisfy the Inspector. Unfortunately once a planning application has been agreed by the Planning Inspectorate there is very little action that can be taken.

John West

A delegation met Council officers on 31st October for one of our regular meetings. The meeting was chaired by Joanne Drew (Acting Director of Place) and included Brett Leahy (the new Director of Planning and Growth), Doug Wilkinson (Director of Environment and Corporate Services) and David Taylor (Head of Traffic and Transportation).

## Tower Block at Brimsdown Station

**Tavern.** LBE explained that Councillors had required the decision to be deferred and had given the Planning Team six months to negotiate changes to enable approval. We asked if there would be Section 106 funds for transport improvements. LBE said this was a possibility, but it depended on having an up-to-date Infrastructure Delivery Plan and this would need to be developed as part of the Local Plan process.

**Palace Gardens Development.** LBE said this was not being actively pursued because developments were being reviewed in the light of the current level of cost inflation.

**Meridian Water.** Phases 1 and 2 were well under way. The Council had received £160 million of funding from the Housing Infrastructure Fund, but needed more from the Government for infrastructure. The Council was in discussions with Waltham Forest about making the best use of the Banbury Reservoir and opening access to it for Enfield residents, as well as making sure that the open spaces and infrastructure in the area worked well for residents. We noted the relevance of the Pymmes Brook Trail, which would go through the Meridian Water site.

**Housing Need Figures.** We queried the figures which the Council Leader had cited for housing need. LBE said that the figures derived from a formula determined by the Government (though this was somewhat up in the air following successive Government changes). LBE said that there had never been a greater pressure on the housing system in Enfield—homeless services were costing £8–9 million annually after Government grants.

**Local Plan.** LBE said that a timetable clarifying the next steps would be available by March 2023. The current position was that they had reviewed the response to the Call for Sites and were now analysing the results. We asked about the cross-party group which had been promised in the recent debate on the Plan. Brett Leahy said he would be meeting the Council Leader and the Opposition to agree the format. He thought the Group would focus on the Call for Sites.

**Policy on Views.** We asked if the Council had any policy about the effect of developments on views: for example the impact of the Southgate Office Village development. LBE confirmed that this issue was a material planning consideration, and that in relevant cases they required applicants to provide visualisations of distant views. We should highlight the issue where we felt it was a concern.

**Improving Integration of Public Transport .** We asked what role the Council could play in this: we mentioned the cases of Brimsdown, Enfield Chase and New Southgate stations where bus stops were not sited conveniently for the stations. LBE said they had some influence via the planning system and also as a highways matter. However changes required a case to be made, for example growth of use.

**Pymmes Brook Path.** We expressed concern that the path had been closed without notice at Millfield House. LBE explained that this had been necessitated by anti-social behaviour, but agreed that something needed to be done to resolve the situation. We noted that the Ordnance Survey still showed the path as terminating at Picketts Lock, whereas the path had been diverted to Tottenham Hale.



Lee West Bank Path

**Lee Navigation (West Bank Path).** We pointed out that there was still no signage on this new path in Brimsdown. LBE said that the path was the responsibility of the various landowners through whose land it passed. However they would consult internally about the issue. We mentioned that we were prepared to provide funding for the signage.

## St Paul's Centre, Enfield

We understand that the Seventh Day Adventists are to buy the Centre. At present we do not know what their plans are for the building but we are hopeful that this popular centre will remain open and available to the local people of the area.



# Society illuminates Lancaster Road with 'Here Before Us'

Alison Yates

For over a year a group of local residents and business owners in the Lancaster Road area have been actively trying to increase the foot-fall, improve the look of the road and engender a greater sense of community pride.

A litter picking group meets once a month to pick up rubbish along a route from the Hop Poles pub to Gordon Hill Station. A neglected flower bed on the corner of Chase Side and Lavender Hill has been recultivated and planted.

A huge community effort centering on the shop Boho Flo—inspired by its owner Kerrie—decorated the street furniture with hand painted plant containers and painted bicycle wheels. There was great distress when all these items were stolen in the early hours of 4th August 2022 and much thought was given to what could be done next.

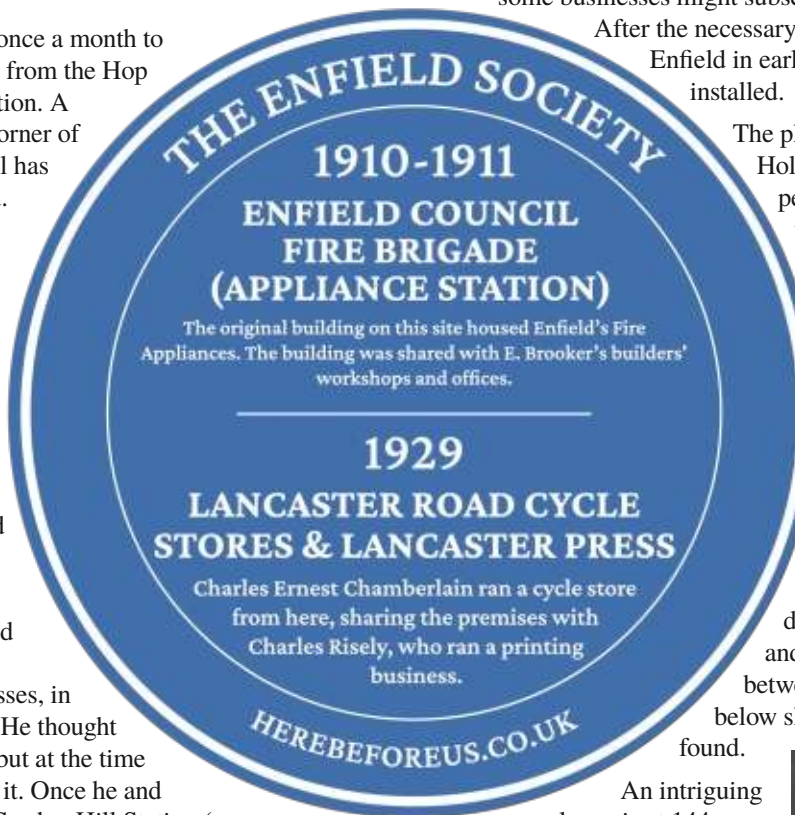
Society Trustee John Cole had previously seen blue plaques, which celebrated past businesses, in shop windows in Folkestone. He thought the concept was a great one, but at the time had no opportunity to pursue it. Once he and Alison had joined forces on Gordon Hill Station (see newsletter 225, Spring 2022) it seemed like a perfect idea to use it with the Lancaster Road Community Group.

would be interested, but at a cost of £75 each, few thought it was affordable. When the idea came up at the Society's October Committee, Trustees agreed to fund the full costs hoping that some businesses might subsequently make a contribution.

After the necessary research, Simon came to Enfield in early January and they were installed.

The plaque for Nisa, formerly the Holly Bush Pub, highlighted a period between 1871 and 1950s when the pub was run by the Chandler family, father and son William and Benjamin. His great-granddaughter Philippa Gardener was delighted to see the plaque and recounted what a generous and popular man he was, frequently taking locals to the races in his charabanc.

The plaques detail many different trades and occupations and shine a light on life in the road between 1731–1950s. The map below shows where the plaques can be found.



An intriguing plaque is at 144 (Boho Flo) and details the case of a Greengrocer, Mary Anne Dearman who was tried for the murder of her alcoholic husband. The transcript of the trial at the Old Bailey can be seen in the shop.

Following the installation the scheme has been enthusiastically received by traders who have reported additional foot-fall as a result. The Society will now consider other areas of the Borough to be similarly illuminated.

The plaques, made of vinyl which are displayed inside shop windows, are researched and made by Folkestone resident Simon Warren of *Here Before Us*.

Alison visited Lancaster Road and enquired how many shops



Philippa Gardener whose great-grandfather once ran the Holly Bush Pub pub where Nisa is today



Benjamin Chandler

Philippa Gardener

## Finding the plaques

1. Nisa
2. The Laurels
3. Street Kidz
4. Boho Flo
5. Capital Lock and Safe
6. Primitive Butchers
7. James Whitaker Hairdressers
8. The Tanning Room
9. Atkinson's Estate Agents
10. The Hop Poles pub



# Healthcare, Temperance and Mission

Stephen Gilburt

Dr John James Ridge was born at Gravesend in Kent in 1847 and came to Enfield in 1872. He took over the medical practice at Carlton House at Baker Street, (from where his great-grandson only retired a few years ago). He was a deacon at Christ Church (Congregational) in Chase Side, Enfield for 33 years (see newsletter 225, Spring 2022). He was also an active member of the Liberal Party and supported the establishment of a local school board (see newsletter 228, Winter 2022).

Enfield Local Studies & Archive



Dr John James Ridge 1847–1908

Enfield Local Studies & Archive



Carlton House, Baker Street

Dr Ridge campaigned to establish a local Cottage Hospital where he was to become one of the honorary medical officers. It opened in 1875 in Chase Side and cost £1,632 plus £215 for the furniture. A new Jubilee ward opened in 1887, with further bedrooms being added in 1892 and a children's ward in 1906. After the First World War it was further extended between 1922 and 1924 at a cost of £12,000 to create a total of 52 beds. It then became known as

Enfield Local Studies & Archive



Enfield Cottage Hospital opened in 1875

Enfield War Memorial Hospital. After the formation of the National Health Service in 1948, local GPs were able to treat their

own patients there and later generations of Drs Ridge were keen to use it. It was demolished in 1986–7 and was replaced by private warden-controlled retirement flats.

In 1881, Dr Ridge was appointed as Enfield's first salaried Medical Officer and held the position until his death in 1908. He was responsible for many improvements in sanitation and health and was a scourge of slum landlords. Enfield's health problems included frequent epidemics of various infectious diseases. In

Enfield Local Studies & Archive



South Lodge Hospital

1900 he finally succeeded in establishing a permanent isolation hospital, at what later became South Lodge Hospital, in World's End Lane. It was destroyed in a fire in 1996 and the site was redeveloped.

In the 1870s members from Christ Church, led by Mr J. Neville and Dr Ridge held open air services in New Lane (which was renamed Lancaster Road in 1887) to meet the spiritual needs of the growing population in what was then one of the poorer parts of Enfield. A tree trunk was used as a pulpit and Dr Ridge played the cornet to accompany the singing, before a corrugated iron church costing £100 was erected in 1880.

In 1885 a permanent building for Christ Church Hall Mission was constructed at a cost of £998 by Messrs. Tinsons on the corner of Browning Road and what is now Lancaster Road. The iron church was sold and dismantled and then re-erected to become St Luke's Iron Church in Acacia Avenue. (See Newsletter 202 Summer 2016).

Enfield Local Studies & Archive



Iron Church used by Christ Church Hall Mission and later by St Luke's Church

Mr Neville was Superintendent of the Mission until 1888, when the work was continued by Dr Ridge and others in collaboration with a committee appointed by Christ Church. Dr Ridge was also Sunday School Superintendent and founder and first Captain of the 1st Enfield Company of the Boy's Brigade in 1888. He was a strong supporter of the Band of Hope temperance movement which advocated total abstinence from the consumption of alcohol and he published several tracts about the evils of drink.



# A tour of the Dugdale Centre

Stephen Gilburt

He opened the British Workman coffee tavern in Baker Street and in 1881 the Duke of Lancaster coffee tavern in Silver Street. This also offered tea and cocoa and had a bagatelle room and twelve bedrooms. He also worked at the Temperance Hospital in London.



Christ Church Hall Mission built in 1885

Attitudes towards the consumption of alcohol among non-conformists had clearly changed from what they were 100 years earlier when Zion Chapel was founded by a retired innkeeper. (See newsletter 224, Winter 2021).

The Christ Church Hall Mission was expanded with halls in Armfield Road built by Allen Fairhead at a cost of £4,300. The opening and dedication service took place on 25th September 1909. Revd. Dr John George James, the minister of Christ Church conducted the service and Revd. Henry Storer Toms, the former minister gave the address. The main hall was designed to be dual purpose, with services held on Sundays and other church activities during the week. However the building in Lancaster Road was retained and was later refurbished to continue serving as the church, leaving the buildings in Armfield Road as halls. Groups using them included the Sunday School, Band of Hope, Boys Brigade, Guides and Brownies.

The Mission became independent from Christ Church in 1917 and since 1972 has been known as Lancaster Road United Reformed Church. Since 2015 it has shared its minister with Christ Church and Bush Hill Park United Reformed Churches in a joint pastorate.

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



Armfield Road Halls built in 1909

The Dugdale Arts Centre at the junction of Cecil Road with London Road in Enfield Town, re-opened to the public on Friday 16th December after extensive alterations to the interior. The theatre is unchanged and will continue to be used for a variety of shows. The remainder of the ground floor has been re-designed, following the closure of the museum on the first floor and the relocation of Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive.

The new entrance in Cecil Road leads directly to a small information and shop area.

The café has been moved and is now fully open in the evenings, as well as during the day. The adjacent tables and chairs can be used by customers to the café, as well as by visitors to the displays, participants in workshops and audiences at performances, as was demonstrated on the opening night.

There is a new centrally-located temporary exhibition area. Its interesting and varied first presentation, which is open until April 2023, tells Stories of Enfield, mainly through panels with text, photographs, sketches and maps. There are recordings of older residents memories of Enfield's past, views of Pre-Raphaelite stained glass windows at Christ Church Southgate and finds excavated by members of Enfield Archaeological Society at Elsyng Palace, together with displays by various community groups and local organisations. Behind is a very small permanent museum with artefacts illustrating aspects of Enfield's history. [See also our article on page 3.]

The Centre was formally opened by the Mayor of Enfield, Cllr. Doris Jiagge on the evening of Thursday 15th December. Among the invited guests was the Enfield Beast, who was introduced to the Mayor.



One of the performance areas has tiered bench seating, with a flat area in front (pictured above). The audience, such as groups of children, can be seated facing performers. Alternatively, as the Reggae Choir demonstrated on the opening night, performers can stand on the tiered area while the audience faces them. At the opening there was also poetry from various individuals and dancing by girls and young women from ChickenShed in Southgate. They later danced in another performance area in front of a balcony. Both locations have music desks and changing areas and toilets are nearby. The evening concluded with a drag queen singing from the balcony.

The Dugdale Arts Centre now seems designed to attract younger and more diverse audiences, particularly in the evenings. The new museum has a greatly reduced display of information and artefacts relating to Enfield and its history, although it is possible that future temporary exhibitions may display some more items from the permanent collection. The location of the museum and the temporary exhibition area should ensure that they are seen by visitors to the performances and the café.



# How 'The Dandy' saw us in 1969...


Andrew Lack

We were contacted by member Paul Whelan before Christmas who sent us this cutting from issue 1440 of the The Dandy dated 28th June 1969. The Dandy was a very popular children's comic and was first published in December 1937, but which finally closed in


December 2012. For many years it featured *My Home Town* and printed a series of illustrated facts about the locations. The Enfield of 1969 was noted for its manufacturing, with Belling, Reeves and the Royal Small Arms Factory being mentioned.

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## MY HOME TOWN




The essayist, Charles Lamb, spent most of his later years in Enfield. Lamb is best known for "The Essays of Elia" and for "Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare," which he wrote with his sister Mary. He died in 1834.




The great house of Trent Park, in Enfield, was mentioned by Sir Walter Scott in his novel, "The Fortunes of Nigel." King George III gave the house to his doctor, in gratitude for saving his brother's life at Trent, in the Tyrol.

# ENFIELD

ENFIELD is a residential district ten miles north of London, in the county of Middlesex. Amongst its industries are wire-working and the manufacture of plastic goods.





One of Enfield's hot spots is the factory which produces a popular brand of electric fires, ranging from wall-mounted bathroom heaters to big fires that have special effects like burning coal and flickering flames—without smoke, soot or ash!




If you like drawing and painting, then you'll probably have a paintbox made by an Enfield firm. The company is one of the biggest manufacturers of artists' materials in Britain.

A DANDY PRIZE FOR EVERY READER WHOSE ENTRY IS FEATURED ON THIS PAGE

Enfield is the site of the Royal small arms factory which developed the famous Lee-Enfield rifle. This weapon became the standard rifle of the British Army and the Royal Navy in 1903.



Edmonton, a little south of Enfield, was the birthplace of Jim Standen, who played in goal for West Ham United when they won the F.A. Cup in 1964 and the European Cup-Winners' Cup the following year. Also in 1964, Jim was a star bowler in the Worcestershire team which won the County Cricket Championship.

Remember to put your name, age and address on your entry and say which prize you would like best from this list.

**COMPLETE COWBOY OUTFIT, NURSE'S OUTFIT, BALL BEARING ROLLER SKATES, £1 POSTAL ORDER.**

**THIS WEEK'S WINNER—**

**-I. S. CAPES,**  
**5 ABBOTS CRESCENT,**  
**ENFIELD,**  
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**"MY HOME TOWN"**  
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**18a Hollingsworth St.,**  
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Write about your home town and win a DANDY prize. Anything interesting or out of the ordinary—that's what to write about. And just two or three items are enough.

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