

Battle lines drawn over the Enfield Local Plan

Council Leader Cllr Nesil Caliskan describes the plan as “deeply green” but 13% of the Green Belt is to be de-designated to make way for 10,000 homes.

Andrew Lack

The long process to create a Local Plan for the London Borough of Enfield took another decisive step in December when the Council published the final draft of the Plan. We are now in a twelve week period where the plan can be studied. A formal vote by the full Council will take place on 6 March, after which (assuming it passes, but is there any doubt?) we will enter a formal six week consultation known as *Regulation 19*.

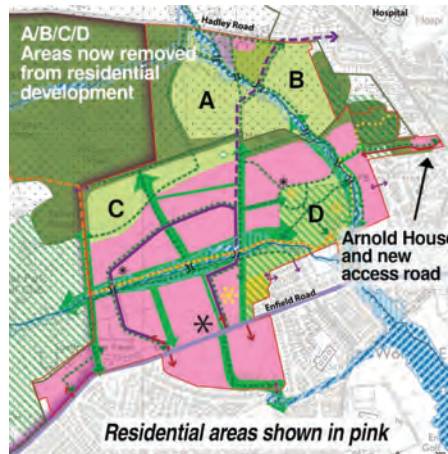
Members may recall that a draft of the Plan was published in June 2021 and the public given twelve weeks to comment on it. We covered this extensively at the time as well as reporting on some of the more significant responses in our Autumn 2023 newsletter. The 7,000+ responses seem to have done nothing to dissuade the Council—quite the opposite; even more homes are now proposed on the Green Belt and none of the other parts of the Plan that we and others objected to have been removed.

Chase Park, also known as Vicarage Farm, has been reduced slightly in size, but once the Plan is approved, work would start immediately. It is a similar story with Crews Hill; a slightly smaller area but development to start immediately. At Hadley Wood 160 homes are planned on an area of Green Belt which has only just been ‘protected’ by a Council-approved Neighbourhood Plan.

The threat to the historic heart of Enfield Town, which became the focus of our attention in 2020/21, returns within the Tall Buildings Policy. If approved this would permit a tall building at Palace Gardens up to 39m (13 storeys). Though half the size of the previous suggestion, this is still far too high for The Society. Elsewhere in the Borough tall buildings would be permitted; for example in Palmers Green (one site at 24m), Southgate (four sites up to 30m).

Members can lobby their local Councillors now and urge them to reject the Plan at the vote in March. However, it is also very important that members also respond to the Regulation 19 consultation which follows the vote, as any comments submitted beforehand will be junked. The Society is currently working on the information members and public will need in order to make their response at Regulation 19 really count.

Residents of Hadley Wood took part in a referendum in November 2023 and overwhelmingly approved a Neighbourhood Plan for the area. This is the first time that a Neighbourhood Plan has been created within the Borough. The Council subsequently approved it on 22nd November. The Plan’s first aspiration is *protect the Green Belt and Local Green Spaces, both within the boundary of Hadley Wood and in the immediate surrounding area* and, later, Aspiration



Map showing residential areas proposed at Vicarage Farm (Chase Park)
[Source: Local Plan page 92]

HW(iii): The Green Belt (page 48) says *This Neighbourhood Plan proposes that Green Belt boundaries and designations within and surrounding Hadley Wood remain unchanged. The Plan strongly opposes inappropriate development within the local Green Belt.* So the inclusion in the Local Plan of Green Belt for 160 houses within the Neighbourhood Plan’s boundary appears to ignore the residents of Hadley Wood.

We reported in the Summer 2023 newsletter (page 3) that an application to demolish Arnold House on The Ridgeway had been submitted. This is one of the last of the original gentleman’s villas which once lined the road. We now learn that the proposals for the site include a new road which would give access to the Vicarage Farm site. This is obviously an attempt by the Council to head-

off criticism that, should Chase Park be built, there would be traffic chaos getting into and out of the site.

This news is also interesting for another reason. In the 2021 draft Chase Park was promoted by the Council as *relatively well served by public transport, with three stations within an approximately 30-minute walk, and two further stations within a 45-minute walk. It also has regular bus services running through and around the area. National Cycle Route 12 runs to the north* [page 81]. The new road appears to acknowledge that few will be walking or cycling to the local stations and the “relatively well served” public transport needs improving.

The Society submitted a very detailed response to the 2021 draft, running to over 100 pages. You can read this on our website at enfieldsociety.org.uk/localplan. We are now working on our submission to the Regulation 19 consultation which will include working with external professional consultants to build a strong case to support our objections. *For more details, see page 4.*



‘Protected’ Hadley Wood site where 160 dwellings are proposed.



Dave Cockle

John West and I recently attended a meeting of the London Forum, an umbrella organisation which represents civic society groups throughout Greater London. During the evening there was a discussion on the topic **"Is Building on the Green Belt Inevitable?"** There were two speakers, Mike Kiely (Chair of the Planning Officers' Society) and Sam Watling (Economist and "Priced Out" Associate) whose view was that building on the Green Belt was inevitable. John and I, representing The Enfield Society, as well as Alice Roberts (Campaign to Protect Rural England) took the opposite view. Enfield's proposed Local Plan was used as a case study.

After the presentations there was a lively discussion between the presenters and audience. It was interesting to note that *the central question was never resolved*. There was the unanimous view that the Government should stop artificially stimulating demand via its "help-to-buy" policy and depressing interest rates, etc., the main effect being to raise property prices.

Enfield Council has made its case for Green Belt development "in exceptional circumstances" based entirely on quoting housing waiting lists and the number of families in temporary accommodation. There is no evidence that all the alternative sites have been looked at, not just in Enfield but across the London Plan Area. The Mayor for London is against Green Belt development. He has described Enfield's plan for Green Belt development as being premature and unjustified. The Society takes the view that it is neither necessary nor desirable. The Society's main argument is that the proposed development of sites at Chase Park and Crews Hill form important parts of the historic Enfield Chase, which is essential to the character of the area. It is highly valued by many residents. We hope that the Mayor adheres to this clear policy.

Society news

Val Munday

Val Munday, who has been a Trustee of the Society since 2013, has retired from the Management Committee. We are grateful to have had the benefit of her wisdom and experience, which has been particularly useful in relation to our efforts to oppose the Council's continual programme of cuts to the Enfield Museum Service.

Painting Auction

We are delighted to report that Laura Chesters and Daniel Donaldson were successful in the recent auction for the oil painting of Carr's Basin in Enfield Town. Laura and Daniel made a generous bid of £65 for the picture. The Society thanks them and also Philip Taylor for donating the picture.

Membership

If you have already renewed your membership for 2024 then thanks for your continued support. We have included a membership renewal form for those who at time of printing had not renewed. The website payment screen has been updated to make it clearer for the credit card option so hopefully this will make it easier to use but all methods are gratefully accepted. Don't forget to tell your friends or neighbours about us as it would be great to increase the membership this year after a small decline.

New Members

The Society warmly welcomes the following members who have joined since our Winter Newsletter:

P & L Andrade, G Andruszkiewicz, S Averill, S Bird, R Bunce, L Conway, J Edwards, N & S Espeut, R Falsey, V Garey, N Gee, R Gow, N Halil, M Harden, K Hinds, A Matthews, B Munson, S Neville, I Robson, C Searing, S South, E & R Twitchin and S Zoidu.

Alec Tyler

Membership Secretary

Society Publications

Our online store has a great range of maps and guides for spring walks in Enfield. Eight self-guided heritage walk booklets, costing from £1, cover the borough, and if you want to know how your neighbourhood looked over a century ago, we have a Godfrey reproduction Ordnance Survey map (£3) to cover it.



Browse the store and you'll also find a unique and comprehensive range of books on Enfield.

Alison Parker

A New Home for Local Studies

In 2020 the Council announced the closure of the Local Studies Library at the Dugdale Centre. Despite efforts from The Enfield Society and others to persuade the Council to think again—including the offer of £20,000 from the Society—the closure went ahead.

Worse, the solution was to split the Archive from Local Studies, with the former going into the basement of Ridge Avenue Library and the latter into a scruffy back office at the Civic Centre.

In what can only be seen as an outbreak of common sense by the Council, Local Studies have now been relocated to Ridge Avenue

Library, where a large space has been created in this otherwise under-used but much loved local library building.

Appointments can be booked by contacting Local Studies in one of the following ways: Phone: 020 8132 1226 or e-mail: local.history@enfield.gov.uk

Andrew Lack



The new Local Studies space at Ridge Avenue Library

The National Lottery in Enfield

Since 2021 the National Lottery Heritage Fund has been focussing on, among other places, Enfield. Here we report on three cases where lottery bids have been successful. The NLHF places emphasis on local support, and in all these cases the Society supported the application. In two of them we agreed to provide match funding.

Broomfield House

During the autumn, a Heritage Lottery bid was submitted by the Council and supported by the Society to fund major works in relation to a “memorialisation” project at Broomfield House. This Grade II Listed Building has been vacant for nearly 40 years and is an eyesore within the park. Following further fires, all the original structure, including original structural beams, have been lost and sadly Historic England has agreed that there is now nothing of architectural merit to be saved.



Broomfield House, chimney stack

We are pleased to report that the grant has been approved and that further consultation will now take place with all the interested parties to remove the scaffolding around the burnt-out shell of the building, lower unsafe areas of the structure and create information panels and features that explain the history and layout of the house. Development funding of £532,490 has been awarded by the Heritage Fund to help the Council progress their plans to apply for a full National Lottery grant of £3,672,231 at a later date. The project will include reconnecting the House and Park through landscaping which will include restoration of the unique Baroque water garden. While many people would have liked to see the house rebuilt, this has been explored on many occasions and funding has not been forthcoming. Deterioration of the structure means that Historic England has now agreed that demolition and a memorialisation project is the only way forward.

John West/Enfield Society



Broomfield House, damaged beams

The Council holds various artefacts such as the Gerard Lanscroun murals and staircase timberwork that was removed after the first fire in storage. We hope that these can be displayed at some time in the future and be referred to in the memorialisation.

John West

Lavender Hill Chapel

In November 2023, Enfield Council, in conjunction with London Historic Buildings Trust, applied to the NLHF for a Grant to procure a specialist, professional team to undertake historical research and structural condition and ecological surveys of the Non-Conformist Chapel in Lavender Hill Cemetery.

Alison Yates/Enfield Society



Lavender Hill Chapel

The Society has agreed to provide some financial support for this, and we are delighted to learn that the NLHF will make a grant to support the project and that thanks to further support from the Pilgrim Trust, the work mentioned above will be able to proceed. The Grade II Listed Neo-Gothic building, completed in

1871, has been on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register for over 25 years but despite this still retains many well-preserved features, both internally and externally.

The Grant will also cover a community audit to establish local needs for a “meanwhile” and a long-term use, as well as delivering Heritage activities for education and entertainment and to raise awareness of the Chapel and surrounding cemetery. It will pave the way to further grant aid for restoration and adaptation work.

Alison Yates

All Saints Church Edmonton

The NLHF has made a grant to All Saints Edmonton, Edmonton’s historic parish church, for its project ‘Reviving All Saints in the Community’, to which the Society has also agreed to contribute. The project seeks to revive their church’s presence amongst Edmonton’s communities, and to improve the management of the historic church. Urgent capital repairs will be undertaken to the south chapel parapet. The overall aim is to establish an inclusive and sustainable future for both the heritage building and organisation.



All Saints Church

The project will also deliver a range of community-based heritage activities, including opportunities for young people to gain transferable skills. An oral history strand will capture memories of the ‘Windrush’ community, and their first impressions of All Saints— its ancient fabric and its light filled interior— and what the building has come to mean to them now.

...More to come?

The NLHF’s priority for Enfield ends in April, but hopefully there will still be opportunities in the future. For example, the Society would like to explore the possibility of NLHF funding for a bridge at the end of the lake in Trent Park to restore a link between the Lime Avenue and the Japanese Garden.

Richard Stones

Enfield Society

John West/Enfield Society

Enfield's Local Plan in more detail

Andrew Lack

The recently published Local Plan runs to around 600 pages and contains scores of new policies. There are two significant challenges for LBE; housing and climate change. The Local Plan lays out, in some detail, how it intends to deal with these major topics, as well as protecting the environment (the 'Blue and Green' Strategy), the design and character of buildings, growing the economy, Town Centres and Culture, Leisure and Recreation.

With such a broad range of topics, The Society cannot respond to all the proposed policies. Instead it must concentrate on those aspects which it feels are the more egregious and which are closely aligned to our Charitable Objects. Trustees have therefore agreed to concentrate on two aspects of the Plan; the attack on the Green Belt and the Tall Buildings policy.

As noted in our lead article, once the Plan is formally approved by the full Council on 6 March, when we expect the Regulation 19 period to commence. Though just six weeks in duration, this is a critical period for the Plan. During this time people have the opportunity to raise objections. These objections must be recorded by the Council and then, at a later time, an independent Inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State, will hear the objections and test if the Plan is legally compliant, technically called "sound".

Objections at the Regulation 19 stage must be based on arguments consistent with National Planning Policy. For the majority of the public this presents a significant barrier; objections which are not so based can be dismissed by the Inspector. There will also be a 'correct' way to lodge objections using a defined template. The Society is very keen to see a large number of people contributing to the Regulation 19 stage, and to make this 'easier' is developing a web-based form for members and the public to use.

The Spatial Strategy

This is an important part of the Plan and it is used to justify many other parts of the Plan, including land use and nature recovery. The Society will be examining this component and including a commentary in our Regulation 19 submission. We do not expect members to respond to this element, so will not be providing any further public information.

Defend our Green Belt

Strategic policies PL10 (Chase Park, also known as Vicarage Farm) and PL11 (Crews Hill), as well as sites SA RUR.02 & 04 (Hadley Wood and the M25/J24) are all similar in that, if passed, they would see a large section of our Green Belt opened up to development. Our arguments here will include the loss of the historic landscape, as this was all part of the once extensive Enfield Chase. Members will recall we have raised this point in a number of recent newsletters (223, 227, 230 & 231) and this will be a major argument in our submission. However, we also wish the Inspector to see that *this landscape is valued* and to that end it is essential that large numbers of members and the public use our web-form and respond to these particular policy areas. Other arguments include the impact on views, traffic pressures and impact on areas designated as important for Nature Conservation.

Can't see the wood for the tall buildings

Policy DE6 sets out in some detail where in the Borough tall buildings would be considered. The policy zones the Borough into eleven areas for residential blocks and to five zones for industrial use. [A tall building is one above 21m (assume 3m per storey).]

Area 1 (Cockfosters), Area 2 (Enfield Town), Area 6 (Southgate) and Area 8 (Palmers Green) are of particular concern. In Enfield

four sites are identified at up to 42m. At Southgate four sites either adjacent to or close to the Circus are identified at heights up to 30m. Arguments to be used with these sites include the impact on views and the impact on neighbouring areas.



View of Crews Hill golf course in October 2020.

What can you do?

Nothing can be done until the Council starts the Regulation 19 consultation. In the meantime members may wish to visit our website (enfieldsociety.org.uk/localplan) and familiarise themselves with the policies of concern and our arguments which can be used in Regulation 19 responses.

We will notify members when the Regulation 19 period has started. Until then spreading the word through any networks you have will be very helpful.

A December walk at The Prospect of Whitby



Photo Ian Reynolds

For future guided walks see page 10.

A Day in the life...

Avril spends her days in various parts of London, guiding a variety of clients, both local, national and international. The majority of her clients are from the USA, but she also has many European and British clients. Her most popular walks are the Black history of the City of London, the Black Statues of Westminster and the Black history of Brixton, all of which she does at least once a week. Her other walks are: Hyde Park War Memorials; The Black history of Islington; and Tottenham, where she has 4 different walks.

Avril's journey as a tour guide began in 2016 when she set up her business, Avril's Walks and Talks, after being made redundant. Since that time the business has grown from strength to strength.

Avril moved to Enfield in 2000, first living in Edmonton Green then moving to Brimsdown in 2009. Since 2016 Avril has spent time trying to find information that will help her put together a Black history tour around Enfield but to date has been unsuccessful. Avril always tries to find positive stories about Black people where possible but does not shy away from mentioning slavery and other negative aspects of Black life. She spends almost



every Wednesday at the Enfield archives but, unfortunately, the information she has found has not been enough to put together a walk around the Borough.

The serious lack of Black historical information at the archives is telling. This is something that needs to be rectified and she wants to start building up the information available about the Black community in Enfield over many years. Avril is hoping to find a significant Black person who lived and had a history in the Borough. She recently found a Will dating from 1729 which included the ownership of a slave in the borough. There is also a book called Enfield and the Transatlantic Slave Trade [edited by Valerie Munday – Enfield Museum Service, 2008] which Avril is using to help her track down as much information as possible.

Avril's daily life consists of meeting clients at various points around London, usually tube stations. Clients can number from one-

Avril Nanton, a Trustee of the Society, is a tour guide and researcher into Black History

to-one (private tours) or up to 20 people. The tours last approximately one and a half to two hours. Avril has also written a book called Black London: History, Art & Culture in over 120 Places and also created a Black London History map, both of which she sells to clients on the walks.

When she isn't guiding, Avril is an experienced presenter and gives presentations on Black history. Her talks cover the black statues that can be found around London; a talk about Winifred Atwell the first Black person to have a number one hit record in this country and also the first Black woman to sell over one million records in the 1950s; Jack Johnson the world's first Black heavy-weight boxer; Dr Barnardo, the first person to take in Black children for foster care and adoption; Black people at the Old Bailey 1674-1913 showcasing stories of Black people who were either witnesses, defendants or prosecutors at the Old Bailey during those times.

If you would be interested in doing a walk with Avril, contact her via her website www.avrilswalksandtalks.co.uk. She can also be found on all the usual socials @avrilswalksandtalks

A Stroll Through Enfield Town John Cole

Curate Enfield Public Art Champion and Enfield Society Trustee, John Cole, led a walk on 2 December around public art in Enfield Town to celebrate a new mural 'A Stroll Through Enfield Town', commissioned by Enfield Council through their Arts Council England financed 'Curate Enfield' grassroots public art programme.

The striking mural, designed and painted by Anna Nicolò, brings some colour to the rather dark alleyway that joins Cecil Road to the Palace Gardens Shopping Centre. The mural, running the length of one side of the walkway, celebrates walking and shopping and the rich heritage, landmarks and curious stories of Enfield Town (and its surroundings). Local community memories and personal links to Enfield Town were sought, including those from Enfield Society members.

The walk started at Gordon Hill Station and continued by rail to Enfield Chase Station (thanks to Great Northern) to see Alex McHallam and Debbie Dean's mosaics. Other public artwork visited included the Millennium Fountain (Sun Dial) by Wendy Taylor CBE; the Enfield Living Memorial in the Town Park; the Alevi Faith Art Crossing (in



The new mural



The Millennium Fountain

Church Street) by Hasan Bölücek; and The Trees are Watching, a neon installation by Lauren Baker. Speakers included Dave Cockle and Sue Grayson Ford of the Enfield Society. The walk was joined by The Mayor of Enfield, Suna Hurman, and was followed by a small celebration at Sophie's Bakery and Café.



Alevi Faith Crossing



The Trees are Watching, Library Green

The new mural was painted by the artist and Bud Studios with the help of pupils from Enfield County School, and various local people including a reparation project through Enfield's Youth Justice system. Local public art champions Aisha Bocas, Shan-Jay Daley and John Cole led the project through all the stages: exploring possible locations, seeking local input, writing an artist's brief, evaluating artist bids, choosing and working with the selected artist, attending workshops and social media and public engagement. They were guided by artist-mentor Mark Beattie and council lead Clare Moloney.

Curate Enfield is a borough wide programme with public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England to create five new public artworks for the borough - one for each of our town centres: Enfield Town, Palmers Green, Angel Edmonton, Southgate and Edmonton Green.

St Mary Magdalene Church, Windmill Hill, Enfield

Stephen Gilbert

Following the extension of the Great Northern Railway to Windmill Hill in 1871, the Bycullah, Ridgeway Park and Old Park estates were developed with "villas of a character to suit professional and business men" who would commute into London from the new Enfield station.



Georgiana Hannah Twells

In order to meet the spiritual needs of the new residents to the area, Georgiana Hannah Twells, who lived at Chase Side House where Enfield Town library is now, paid for the building of St Mary Magdalene Church at the top of Windmill Hill, 205 feet above sea level. It was erected in memory of her late husband Philip, a banker and MP for the City of London, who had died in 1880. It was built by Messrs Norris of Sunningdale, in the Decorated Gothic style in cruciform shape with a west tower and spire 140 feet high. The architect was the famous high Anglican Victorian William Butterfield (1814-1900). Mrs Twells laid the foundation stone in 1881 and the church was consecrated by the Bishop of London in 1883.



St Mary Magdalene Church seen from the south-east in 1901.

Enfield Local Studies & Archives



Hand coloured postcard view from Old Park Road. The windmill was erected in the early 1800s, on the site of an earlier one, but was not used after 1887. It lost two of its sails in 1901 and was demolished in 1904

Stephen Gilbert/Enfield Society

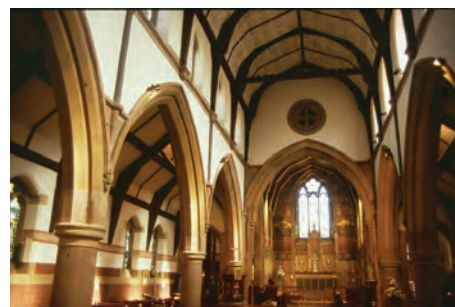


View of the Grade II* listed church from the south. It is faced with Kentish Ragstone and Bath Stone.

Stephen Gilbert/Enfield Society



The former vicarage, now Ridge End House, was built in 1883, also to a design by William Butterfield, in materials to match the church. It has a polygonal bay and oriel with chequer work of dressed stone and rubble in the gables of the porch and west end. It is listed Grade II* as a group with the church, adjoining hall, and forecourt walls.



This view of the nave is looking east towards the chancel. The walls are faced in pink and white stone. Above the arches is the clerestory. The interior of the church makes extensive use of coloured Minton tiles and Devonshire marble for which Butterfield was well known.

Stephen Gilbert/Enfield Society



View of oak chancel screen which dates from the 1880's before it was moved to its present position at the back of the nave in 1982.

St Mary Magdalene Church Archives



New high altar and reredos at the east end of chancel.

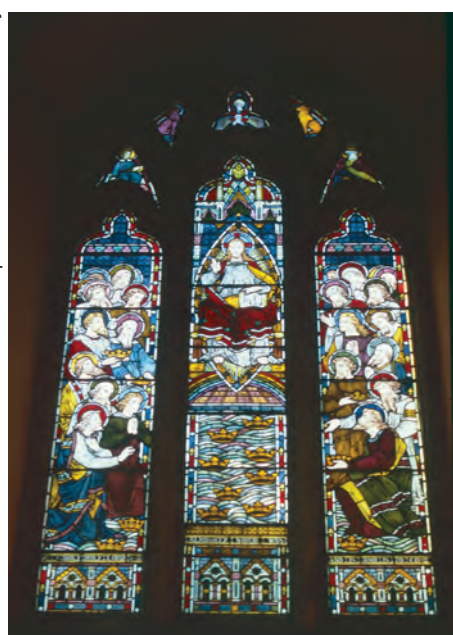
Stephen Gilbert/Enfield Society



Butterfield's original marble and alabaster font is under the tower arch.



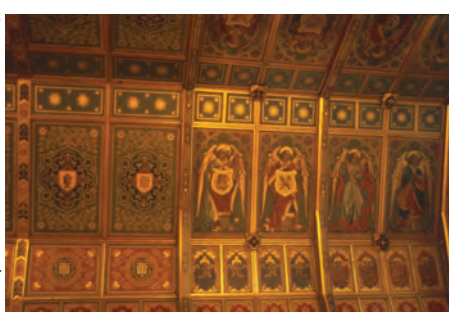
In 1907-8 a Lady Chapel was built by Allen Fairhead at a cost of £417 next to the South Transept. This is the altar.



All the stained-glass windows were made by the firm of Heaton, Butler and Baynes which existed from 1851 to 1953. Subjects include various figures from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible



Above the altar in the chancel is the east window. At the top Christ in Glory is attended by angels. In the centre are the Virgin Mary and the infant Jesus with shepherds approaching from the side (Luke 2 v 1-20). Below are two pictures of Mary Magdalene, one anointing Jesus's feet (Luke 8 v 37-38) and the other showing her meeting Jesus in the garden outside the tomb after the Resurrection (John 20 v 11-18).



The ceiling and east wall of the chancel were painted by Charles Buckridge in 1897-98 while N. H. Westlake completed the side wall in 1899. The ceiling, shown above, includes representations of

cherubim, seraphim and archangels. On the east wall the Angel Gabriel announces Christ's birth to the shepherds and the Magi are shown approaching. On the south wall are saints, with prophets, patriarchs and kings on the north wall. The cost was met by Georgiana Twells who died in 1898.

In 2012 £80,000 was raised to clean and restore the paintings. There was a Heritage Lottery Grant of £50,000, a grant from the Enfield Society and many individual donations (see TES News 179, 186 and 187 Autumn 2010, Summer and Autumn 2012). The work was carried out by Hirst Conservation of Spalding.

Photos by the author were taken when the church was opened to the public as part of the annual Open House London weekend.

For more information see *St Mary Magdalene Enfield, a Visitor's Guide* by Nick Read based on research by John Puddicombe and Harold Clutton, *The Buildings of England London 4: North* by Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevsner 1998, *Treasures of Enfield, Discovering the Buildings of a London Borough* edited by Valerie Carter EPS 2000, *Enfield Past* by Graham Dalling 1999, *The Enfield Book* by Graham Dalling 2007, *A History of Enfield Volume Two 1837 to 1914 A Victorian Suburb* by David Pam EPS 1992.

Volunteers Needed!

We would like to thank all Society members who volunteer for us. It is much appreciated. Volunteers may choose the activity they would like to become involved with (see our Website - About Us - for opportunities) and the amount of time that they are prepared to give. It could be as little as two or three times a year or weekly. It is fine if you wish to just be a passive member, but becoming involved can be both interesting and rewarding, so please do take a look at our volunteering list and consider what you are able to offer. An inevitable and positive spin-off is that through networking with other groups within the Society, many contacts and friendships have evolved.

Dave Cockle

Group Activities

Architecture and Planning Group

Very few major planning applications have been submitted over the last quarter. Progress has stalled on a number of housing schemes where planning approval has been gained such as the Colosseum Retail Park in Southbury Road, Southgate Office Village and the former Travis Perkins site in Winchmore Hill, and at other sites where approval was being sought. Developers appear to be holding back due to high construction costs and higher interest rates. The Society also believes that housing developers are holding back to see if Enfield's Local Plan is approved, and Green Belt land released. Developers always prefer to build on open farmland, which is cheaper and more profitable to build on, than on brownfield sites that have had previous uses.

John West

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group

The photo shows some of the thirteen volunteers who came to work on a section of the Cemetery Walk in Edmonton on Saturday 13 January. We left bags of rubbish and miscellaneous items in four locations along the footpath and collected 53 bags in total.



This year ten Litter Picks are planned in various locations around the Borough with the onus on keeping footpaths free of rubbish but also clear of overgrown bushes.

- On the 17 February we focussed our efforts on cutting the overgrowth back on the footpath which runs between Ladysmith Road and Carterhatch Lane.
- On Saturday 23 March we will work on the footpath which runs beside the Trent Park Equestrian Centre. Our meeting point is the green area near Greggs, 197, Bramley Road, Oakwood N14 4XA (What3words:///puddles.audit.stocks). Oakwood tube station on the Piccadilly line is very close or alight at Trent Park Golf Course stop which is served by buses 121, 307 or 377.
- Saturday 4 May sees us tackle Picketts Lock Lane. Meet outside 8, Picketts Lock Lane N9 0AY (What3words///

heavy.chins.tower) Alight at the Meridian Way stop served by the W8 bus and walk on down the hill turning right to meet on the corner of the T junction.

All Picks start at 10 am and finish at 12 pm. Participation is at your own risk and please bring gloves and wear stout footwear. Equipment can be provided if requested.

Please let Alison know if you are attending. 07818 682073

Conservation and Heritage Group

In December, the Society's Conservation Heritage Group held their quarterly meeting. The Group brings together representatives from all the Conservation Area Groups; other community groups; members involved in updating the Local Heritage List; and Council Officers. Its role is to monitor development in Conservation Areas, review the condition of Listed Buildings including those on the Local List and consider other heritage matters. Following our work on the Local List we have focused on buildings on the Historic England 'Buildings at Risk Register.' These are important buildings that have been identified as being in serious risk of deterioration. A full List of these buildings was included in the Autumn 2023 newsletter.

We are pleased to report that there has been significant progress on a number of the buildings. At the Charity School, Church Street, Edmonton, design work continues on the major scheme, and we look forward to seeing invitations to tender later this year.

In Whitewebbs Park, North Lodge has now been sold to Tottenham Hotspur Football Club who have protected the building from further deterioration and are talking to the Council about the restoration of the buildings.

John West

Untold Edmonton

John West

Each year the Society supports a number of projects by providing grants. One of the projects that we have supported is 'Untold Edmonton', a National Lottery Heritage Funded project to record some of the untold history of Upper and Lower Edmonton. The Council has received £250,000 to fund individual projects, festivals and a volunteering programme. A number of projects have already reached a conclusion.

During the autumn, the Enfield Peoples Theatre presented a play following the story of the 1915 rent strike in Edmonton during the First World War. With pressure on housing, landlords raised rents to unreasonable levels and as a result of the efforts of local people refusing to pay, the government under Lloyd George introduced the first rent control legislation. A real piece of untold history, excellently turned into a play.

Another exciting project that has been completed, is a film produced about the Newbury Club in Bury Street. This club from the 1950's onwards provided support for a wide range of youth facilities and a successful football club. The Newbury provided a valuable community for many first generation black young people living in the area. The film, play and the other Untold Edmonton community heritage stories will all be shown at the Dugdale Arts Centre and other venues during the summer.

You can find details of further events in the Untold Edmonton programme in our website calendar.

Enfield's Railway Stations

The Enfield Society has a rich history of supporting local railway stations. Former President of the Enfield Society Chris Jephcott was active across many areas protecting Enfield but he was also to be found volunteering at his beloved Southbury Station. Here is a round-up of recent activity at stations on the Hertford Loop.

Grange Park

Grange Park station is part of the Grange Park Conservation Area. It was built by Richard Metherell in the early 1900s together with the shops in The Grangeway and a number of Arts and Crafts houses. Metherell had negotiated a deal with the rail company which involved an exchange of land and an agreement to build a certain number of 'good class' houses to guarantee commuting customers for the rail service, in return for which Grange Park station was built.

After the rail company's Centenary celebrations in 2010, recognising the extension of the line out to Cuffley in 1910, a small group of community volunteers raised over £500 and renovated and planted the gardens at the lower level. This was extended in subsequent years, and every year a couple of volunteers look after and keep tidy the gardens; this involves pruning, planting and litter picking and generally making the area welcoming to travellers both leaving and arriving in Grange Park.



Grange Park Station

Small efforts have also been made to involve the local community including the Grange Park Prep school who provided some Christmas decoration this year and plan to build a bee / bug station. While Grange Park doesn't have a warm and dry ticket office, this now being a nursery, it does offer a unique sloping pathway up to the station platforms.

Paul Hutchinson

Enfield Chase

The Society was recently awarded a Department for Transport grant from the 'Your Station, Your Community' Fund following a successful bid last year. The grant will facilitate an artist-led project to "create a unique and memorable welcome" to both the station and to the Enfield Town area, celebrating and promoting the history and heritage of Enfield and Enfield Chase Station.

Hive Curates will commission a local artist to instal a large community-developed mural on the northbound platform, which will be seen by everyone who arrives at the station after travelling in from London.

Local residents will be invited to participate to help inform the artwork at Enfield Chase Station, while Shaypress will be commissioned to add some additional artistic elements to the same platform.

Dave Cockle



Enfield Chase Station – the new mural will be on the rear wall of this platform

Gordon Hill

The Friends of Gordon Hill Station – a group within the Society - have been shortlisted at Silver level in the category of *It's Your Station* at The Community Rail Awards for its work since July 2022 including:

- Delivering an Arts Council funded Jubilee community mosaic and working with men from Enfield Sheds (AgeUK Enfield) to make and install a bench from repurposed wood.
- Establishing a gardening group, creating a new garden area encircling the car park, and growing hops for a community ale project.
- Curating poems on posters (Platform Poetry) with local poets.
- Commissioning an artist-led map of the area (a project which also involved volunteers) and a new direction sign to support a wider programme to reinstate a walking route to the London Loop and promote rail travel.
- Creating with volunteers and The Bee Friendly Trust an eye-catching insect home and wild-life area, visible from the aerial walkway complete with bird boxes.
- Delivering several projects with two local primary schools and publishing a photo-book of the Hertford Loop with the Edmonton Camera Club..

The winners of the Award will be announced at a high-profile Awards Ceremony in Swansea on Monday 18 March 2023. The event is jointly sponsored by Great Western Railway and Transport for Wales.



Students at One Degree Academy Art Club with their local wildlife inspired paintings – John Cole is on the left.

John Cole and Alison Yates

Opportunities to volunteer on other lines

Rail company Greater Anglia also has vacancies for 'station adopters' at Enfield Lock, Brimsdown and Meridian Water on the West Anglia Main Line through eastern Enfield. There is also a gardening group at Bush Hill Park on the London Overground.

Please email John Cole (j.cole@enfieldsociety.org.uk) for more information if you would like to help at one of these projects or are interested in beginning a new project.

Society guided walks

Stuart Mills

Walks are open to all members. Please wear suitable footwear. Travel details correct at copy date, but with engineering works and strikes, please check with transport operators close to the date. If walks need altering or cancelling, and when possible, notification will be issued via John West's walkers e-mail list. To be added to the list, please e-mail j.west@enfieldsociety.org.uk

Thursday 29th February. Waterways and Olympic Park. **Meet 10.45** at Limehouse DLR Station at the exit near Limehouse Basin. Limehouse is about 25 minutes from Highbury & Islington, changing at Shadwell onto DLR, or about 6 minutes on DLR from Bank Station.

5 to 6 mile linear walk via waterways and greenways into the Olympic Park. Shorter option. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Peter Mackey, contact 07506 334 019.

Wednesday 6th March. Monken Hadley. **Depart 10.30** from The House Cafe, 18 Chalk Lane, Cockfosters (100 yards from the station). As the cafe usually opens from 09.30, if you require tea or coffee, please arrive well before the walk's start-time.

About 2½ hour linear walk via varied areas of Monken Hadley Common, the historic Church and buildings around Hadley Common, ending at The Spires in High Barnet. Leader: Mick Spinks.

Thursday 14th March. Parks, lakes and open spaces. **Meet 10.15** near the 121, 307, 377 and 456 Chase Ridings (towards Oakwood) bus stop on Slades Hill.

About 2½ hour linear mystery walk using surprisingly green paths that link open spaces in the urban environment. There are shorter options and, whether from them or the walk's finish, there are buses that return to central Enfield. Leader: Stuart Mills.

Tuesday 19 March. Trent Park. **Meet 10.30** at Oakwood Station for about 2 to 2½ hour walk in Trent Country Park. Perhaps the daffodils near the Mansion will be in flower?

The walk ends either in the Oakwood area or at Cockfosters Station, both with the opportunity for refreshments afterwards. Leader: Nigel King, contact 07973 747 454.

Tuesday 26th March. River Crane. **Meet 10.40** at Richmond Station.

Either 20 to 30 minutes journey time from Vauxhall mainline station or about 50 minutes by London Overground from Highbury & Islington.

7 to 8 mile linear walk following the River Crane Trail through nature reserves, former gunpowder mills and heathland. The route ends on Hounslow Heath with a brief bus ride to Hounslow East Station (Piccadilly Line). Shorter option of about 3½ miles by ending at lunch stop in Twickenham town centre. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 098.

Wednesday 3rd April. River Thames & historic docks. **Meet 10.45** North Greenwich Station (Jubilee Line).

About 6½ mile linear walk, initially along the south bank of The Thames and past the Thames Barrier to Woolwich. Then across or under the river to the northern bank and near London City Airport and the Excel Centre to end at Royal Victoria Station (DLR). Interesting views throughout. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Ian Reynolds, contact 07523 855 809.

Sunday 7th April. Southgate to Enfield Chase. **Depart 10.00** from Southgate Station (Piccadilly Line).

A 4 to 5 mile linear route with open spaces, changing styles of architecture, and through Cheyne Walk open space to finish at Enfield Chase Station. Shorter options. Joint walk with Hampstead Ramblers. Leader: Hadi Samsami, contact 07590 604 391.

Monday 15th April. Grand Union Canal and Regent's Park. **Depart 10.30** from near the entrance to platforms 9, 10 and 11 at King's Cross mainline station.

About 3 hour (3½ to 4 mile) linear walk. Initially via the redeveloped area of Granary Wharf, and then along the canal, past London Zoo and into Regent's Park. Ends near Baker Street underground station with the opportunity for lunch. Shorter options. Leader: Mick Spinks.

Tuesday 23rd April. Barnsbury Village. **Meet 10.40** at entrance to Caledonian Road Station (Piccadilly Line).

About 2½ hour tour of Barnsbury which grew from a rural village, through Georgian and Victorian housing into the gentrified and sought after area of today. Route will end at a station but has shorter options. Leader: Ian McGovern, contact 07815 658 328.

Bank Holiday Monday 6th May. Conservation countryside. **Meet 10.30** at Bayford Station (10.17 train from Enfield Chase). Car drivers could meet the group in Bayford village, *but please park considerably and not in the ex-pub car park.*

About 6 mile circular walk in unspoilt countryside with lunch stop in Little Berkhamsted village. No shorter option. Bring lunch or food probably available from pub and village shop. Please remove/cover muddy boots before entering the pub. Leader: Mike Cranstone, contact 07597 122 554.

Tuesday 14th May. River Thames. **Depart 11.00** from Richmond Station. Either 20 to 30 minutes journey time from Vauxhall mainline station, or about 50 minutes by London Overground from Highbury & Islington.

About 5 mile linear walk with attractive semi-rural scenery beside The Thames and Kew Gardens. Lunch stop and option to finish at Kew Green (food available) with the full route ending at Kew Gardens Station (District & London Overground). Leader: Peter Mackey, contact 07506 334 019.

Wednesday 22nd May. Green Chain Walk. **Meet 10.40** at Charlton Station. By Thameslink Rainham (Kent) train at either 10.02 from St Pancras International Station (Platform A) or at 10.18 from London Bridge mainline station.

8 mile linear walk via the grounds of Charlton House, parks, woods and near Eltham Palace to end at Mottingham Station. Shorter options. Bring lunch or food probably available at Oxleas Wood (park café). Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 098.

Thursday 30th May. Hampstead Heath. **Meet 10.30** at Lauderdale House cafe in Waterlow Park off Highgate Hill. The 210 bus stops outside and takes about 15 minutes from the Wells Terrace bus station outside Finsbury Park rail station.

5 to 6 mile linear walk across the Heath with lunch stop at Kenwood House (café or bring lunch) and option to finish. After lunch option to view the House, or the walk continues via historical landscapes, and a zoo to end at Golders Hill Park café. Return by 210 bus to Finsbury Park. Leader: Stuart Mills.

Society Talks and Other Events

All our talks take place at Jubilee Hall. Please note that the talks alternate between evening and morning times.

Monday 18 March 2024 8pm

The Genealogists Picture Book

Andrew Davis is the Image Librarian and Heraldry Archive Editor at The Heraldry Society. If you've ever wondered if you were entitled to a coat of arms come and listen to this talk.

It starts from the beginning but shows how heraldry can illuminate family history.

But there are many other ways to present it.

Joe Studman



Tuesday 2 April 2024 11am

The Elizabethan Image

Paintings of the Tudor court are well known particularly those of Elizabeth I as the Virgin Queen. In this talk we will look at Elizabeth's life and times, her courtiers, friends and relatives. We will focus particularly on their images, what they were trying to say and how they did it. Enfield too was important to Elizabeth and we will try to locate her here and in the surrounding area.

Janet McQueen



Monday 20 May 2024 8pm

Ann Cable: The Deputy Lieutenant of Enfield & Chief Commissioner of St John

Well known, but not known well...what lies behind two familiar badges often seen at community events? St John Ambulance people are familiar figures in the community but how exactly does that organisation work and equally you may see someone wearing the badge or uniform of the Lieutenancy but what exactly is that? A brief insight into the histories of these organisations and the role they play today in serving the community.

Ann Cable



Edmonton and Eastern Enfield Group Meeting

On Wednesday 20 March at 2pm, the Society's Edmonton and Eastern Enfield Group will be holding a meeting at All Saints Church Hall, Church Street, Edmonton.

Former Edmonton resident Peter Seymour will give a casual presentation and 'memory lane' session centred around the N9/N18 area in the 40s and 50s.

This will be a joint meeting with The Edmonton Hundred Historical Society. All are welcome.

Talks from other Societies and Groups

Enfield Archaeological Society

Talks take place at Jubilee Hall at 7.30pm (doors open from 7pm). Open to non-members for a fee of £1.50 each payable at the door.

Friday 8 March 2024

Excavating Large Burial Grounds by Claire Cogar (Iceni Projects)

Friday 12 April 2024

Enfield Archaeological Society Fieldwork in 2023 by Dr Martin Dearne (following AGM)

Friday 10 May 2024

Not yet finalised

Historical Association (North London Branch)

Talks take place at Jubilee Hall at 8pm.

Non-members are welcome to attend for a fee of £2 each, payable at the door.

Tuesday 12 March 2024 Perceptions of Stonehenge and Other Prehistoric Monuments in the 17th Century by Professor Alexandra Walsham (HA President, Emmanuel College, Cambridge)

Tuesday 9 April 2024 William and Mary and the effects of the Glorious Revolution on Britain by Dr David Smith (Selwyn College, Cambridge)

Tour Followed By Talk at The Drill Hall, 1, Old Park Avenue, Enfield

We are delighted to offer members the opportunity to have a tour and talk at the Drill Hall, a fine building which is on Enfield's Local Heritage List. The visit will take place on **Sunday 24 March** at 2.30pm. After the tour Joe Studman, our talks organiser, will give an illustrated talk on the Drill Hall and refreshments will be provided.

The Drill Hall was originally built for The Enfield Company of 1st Volunteer Battalion of The Middlesex Regiment. During World War I it was the drill station for Company 7th Battalion of the Cambridge Own (Middlesex Regiment). To this day there are still some visible signs of the past dotted around the interior.

We are most grateful to the Management Committee of The Enfield Drill Hall Sports Club for making this event possible.

Booking is essential and limited to two places per application. A voluntary donation at the end of the event would be appreciated. The event is restricted to fifteen people.

To book a place please e-mail visits@enfieldsociety.org.uk. You can also apply by post to The Enfield Society, Jubilee Hall, 2, Parsonage Lane, EN2 0AJ. Please include a phone number with your booking to enable us to contact you if there are any changes.

Applications must be received by **Sunday 10 March**. Due to limited numbers, names will be drawn from a hat and you will be notified on **Monday 11 March**.

Society Directory

Joint Presidents: Colin Pointer, Monica Smith MBE

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

Chairman: Dave Cockle


Hon. Secretary: Richard Stones

Hon. Treasurer: Tony Foster


Management Committee (Trustees):


Dave Cockle, John Cole, Tony Foster, Robert Fowler, Stephen Gilbert, Andrew Lack, Jan Metcalfe, Stuart Mills, Hilary Morris, Avril Nanton, Richard Stones, John West, Alison Yates.

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

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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:
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Architecture and Planning:

John West, 020 8886 6080

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group:

Alison Yates

Conservation & Heritage Group:

John West

East Enfield and Edmonton:

Dave Cockle

Footpaths and Open Spaces:

Green Belt: Dave Cockle, 020 8366 2242

IT Admin: Andrew Lack

Jubilee Hall bookings: Janet McQueen

Membership Secretary: Alec Tyler

Publications: Alison Parker

Records and Research: Hilary Morris,
020 8372 3080

Stations: Enfield Chase:

Dave Cockle, Gordon Hill: John Cole

Trees: John West

Volunteer Coordinator:

Claudia Deutschmann

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Public Paths - a Maintenance Crisis

Stuart Mills

Previous newsletters have mentioned the lack of maintenance over several years on Enfield's network of rural public rights of way (ROW's) and associated permissive paths. The Society has raised the topic at our regular meetings with the Council, members have logged individual notifications with the Council and the North London & South Herts Ramblers have submitted numerous emails with site specific photographs.

Historically, Enfield Council had a contract with third party contractor(s) whereby these routes were maintained on a structured basis with a site inspection/clearance/maintenance visit once per annum, usually taking place early/mid-summer after spring growth. This seemed to end several years ago.

The result is now, frankly, that the paths are in a deplorable state. In places, they have become unusable due to collapsed bridges. For instance, on the permissive path southwards from ROW 279 towards the Cockfosters Road and on the path crossing Holyhill Brook near East Lodge Lane. Elsewhere lengthy sections are blocked by hedge growth. For instance, on ROW's 111, 276 and 279. Understandably, walkers are now finding ways around by trespassing onto adjacent fields.

To allow such decay of health-providing public amenities is not acceptable.

Considerable time and money was spent in creating them and regular annual maintenance would be a small cost in comparison. This contrasts with land just outside Enfield between the M25 and Northaw where paths and bridleways have been significantly improved, or



Libby Martin

Footpath 111 south of the M25

created as public ROW's. Perhaps the current situation simply reflects Enfield's desire to build over our countryside.

All local authorities have a statutory duty to keep public highways for which they are responsible (which includes public ROW's) open, maintained and usable.

To apply more pressure, could all TES members finding our paths unusable or needing maintenance, please report this to Enfield Council via its website reporting system with a brief summary and location details. ROW numbers can be found on the TES Footpath Map. For permissive paths, please identify it as the path linking A to B and, again, the location. A grid reference and photo would help.

Thank you.

Libby Martin



Broken bridge east of Stag Hill

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 website enfieldsociety.org.uk/join, or scan the QR code.

