

## Local Plan submitted for independent examination

Society members help provide a massive response to the consultation

Andrew Lack

As this newsletter was in the final stages of preparation the Council announced that it had submitted the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for examination. By the time you receive this we expect to have heard of the appointment of an Inspector and a timetable for the hearings into the Plan.

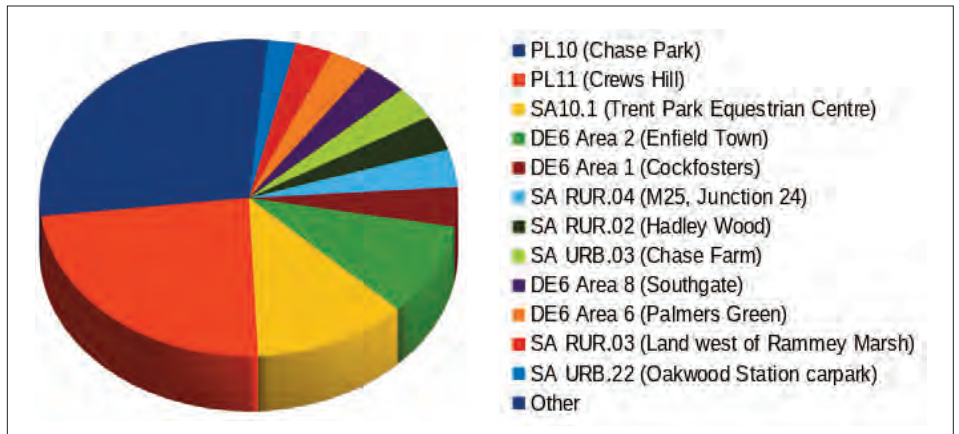
The news from the Council on the submission was accompanied by the figure of “over 10,000” responses being received in the final stage of consultation which ended on 20 May. This represents a very sizeable number, far higher than local plans usually attract.

With the submission of the Plan and the appointment of a Planning Officer to assist with the administration of the process, we expect the Examination to begin in the autumn.

### Regulation-19

As our last newsletter was being printed the final days of the so-called “Regulation-19” consultation came to an end. By the closing deadline of the 20th May we logged 4,088 submissions making 7,054 separate comments on aspects of the proposals with 50% of the responses received coming in the final five days. This was far larger than we had expected and obviously shows the depth of feeling over this controversial Plan.

Some members may have had difficulties submitting a response with our form and a number of bugs appeared over the period which affected some people. To reduce the impact we printed all the submissions and handed them into the Civic Centre on the 20 May. We closed our form at 11pm on the 20 May and submitted a further batch of responses electronically to the Council.



### What the responses show

Basic analysis of the responses received shows that, perhaps not unexpectedly, the top concern was building on the Green Belt at Vicarage Farm, where 1,900 comments (26.9%) were made, followed by Crews Hill, 1,689 (23.9%). We also received a lot of responses to the tall buildings policy. Here Enfield Town topped the list with 667 comments (9.5%). We also looked at the geographic spread of the responses made, based on postcodes and, again unsurprisingly, by far the largest number came from EN2. We also carried out an anonymised data match with our membership list and were delighted to find that around 51% of our members made a submission. Thank you!

You can find the full details of our analysis on our local plan web-page, [enfieldsociety.org.uk/localplan](http://enfieldsociety.org.uk/localplan).

Enfield RoadWatch



The printed responses are delivered to the Civic Centre.



Members of the Society and Enfield RoadWatch with some of the printed local plan responses.

Enfield RoadWatch



*Dave Cockle*

On several recent walks around the borough there appears to be an increase in graffiti, mainly tags. Graffiti suggest that in that locality there is disorder and neglect. Graffiti and litter can create an environment which encourages further disorder and anti-social behaviour. Visible neglect signals to the community that the area is uncared for, leading to more neglect, anti-social behaviour and negative perceptions of an area's attractiveness. We can all contribute to a more pleasant street scene by reporting graffiti and fly-tipping as soon as they arrive. In my experience, the Council's "Report it" website works well and a response is usually within a few days. The Society's Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group, lead by Alison Yates, has regular blitzes on litter "hot spots" around the borough, thereby enhancing the environment.

I always say that attractive planting in parks and in planters along the street is the opposite of graffiti, sending out a message that the area is cared for. The Council has recently undertaken a re-vamp of the planting by the War Memorial on Chase Green, thus creating a welcoming Western entrance to Enfield Town. A similar improvement has been made on the Hertford Road by the entrance to Boundary Brook path. The former small car park, which was subject to regular fly-tipping, has been converted into an attractive small parklet with seating.

*See the photos on page 7.*

The Society's Footpaths and Open Spaces Group has recently seen a drop in the number of people joining walks. The number of walks leaders has also fallen resulting in the existing leaders having to commit more of their time to lead walks. The Society's walks are varied taking in both town and country. There is much interest to see on the walks and the opportunity to meet other members. If you have not been out on one of our walks before, please do consider joining in. If you have a favourite country walk or are knowledgeable on a particular area of Greater London please do consider sharing this and offer to lead a walk. A walk could be anything from two to ten miles.

## St Mary the Virgin Church, Churchgate, Cheshunt

*Stephen Gilbert*

A church is recorded as being at Waltham in 1035 and the Domesday Book of 1086 records a priest at Cheshunt so presumably there was a church there. A church, which came under the see of London, was mentioned in manorial documents in the 11th and 12th centuries.

There was a revival in church building in the 15th century and when Nicholas Dixon was rector the church at Cheshunt was rebuilt in the Perpendicular Gothic style between 1418 and 1448. Much of the present building dates from this time. Following the rebuilding the dedication was changed from St John the Baptist to St Mary the Virgin.

This view of the south front shows battlemented parapets on the nave, south aisle and tower. The tower at the west end of the church was built of ashlar stone. It has a taller south-east stair turret and low buttresses. The aisle windows have flattened arches with three lights. The clerestory windows to the nave have two lights.



This view of the interior is looking east from the nave towards the chancel and the high altar under which Nicholas Dixon was buried. The 12th century font bowl probably came from the previous church on the site. The stencilled and painted decoration of the nave probably belongs to the restoration of 1874 under Bodley.



The photographs were taken by the author in 1982.

For more information see *Cheshunt in Hertfordshire* by Jack Edwards, 1974 and the *Buildings of England – Hertfordshire* by Niklaus Pevsner, 1953.

## Annual General Meeting reminder

A reminder that the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on **Thursday 19 September** at Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ. Doors will open at 7.30 pm and the meeting will start at 8 pm. The business of the meeting will be to

- receive the Report of the Management Committee and the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023;
- consider the appointment or re-appointment of officers of the Society.

The proposed appointments will include Avril Nanton, Alison Parker and Alec Tyler, who have been co-opted to the Management Committee since the last AGM. They were born on 28 July 1958, 18 January 1954 and 30 June 1961 respectively. Avril is a tour guide and Alison and Alec are retired. All of them are British citizens. Their address for communications is Jubilee Hall.

Any member may appoint any other person as his or her proxy to exercise all or any of his or her rights to attend and to speak and vote at the meeting. A form of proxy is available on our website.

The meeting will be followed by a talk entitled *Here Before Us* by Simon Warren, designer and researcher of the new blue plaques in Enfield (see under *Society Talks* on page 8).

Also a reminder that the following documents will be available on the Society's website from the beginning of September

- The Statutory Reports and Accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2023;
- A more detailed agenda for the 2024 Annual General Meeting; and
- The Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Members of the Society are legally entitled to receive a hard copy of the Reports and Accounts, and if you wish to receive them and/or copies of the other documents listed above, please write to the Secretary at Jubilee Hall or email him at [secretary@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@enfieldsociety.org.uk).

## Members new and old..

The Society warmly welcomes the following members who have joined since the Summer Newsletter: J & J Nunn, P & E Agathaangelou, C Isherwood, K Spinnler, A & D Salvi, K Morvan, M McHugh, G Shepherd, A Takoushis, J Miller, S Rabin, D Dalglish, S Campbell, S Davies, R Kirby, R A C Barnard, L Hawkins, I Turner, C Portsmouth, W Martins, I D'Souza, P O'Neill, S Whelpdale, C Hill, V Marrison, S Cude, B Bowe, C Bassett-Jones, C Wraight, G Jameson, M & A Fielding, A Cocca, C Ives, A Crowley, G Ezra, E Breeze, E Bird, J Basquil, A & W Garrett, T Charles, R Gillan, B Hood, G Ford, S Paisio, M Kassapi, C O'Donoghue, S Bilgehan, S Cirillo, L Collier, R Davies, A & D Fether, E Heron, J Mason, V Shepherd, A & J Singer, Z Simon, A George, J Baker, A Whelan, S Whelan, L & E Aresti, R Morgan, C Grilli, C D Hays, C Webb, S Moseley, Y Itoku, D Styles, A Holmes, R Bennett, R Gibson, P Meehan, M Bowman and S Vickers.

A few of our members have been with us for 60 years or more. In recognition of their life-long involvement, the Management Committee has decided that they should be entitled to life membership without charge.



Claudia Deutschmann

The Society had a stall on Enfield Market on 9 June at the Community Fundraiser Day. The Mayor, Cllr Mohammad Islam, is seen browsing a book on our stall and talking to Dave Cockle.

## Publications

The new Enfield borough footpath map is nearing completion and we hope to have it on sale in early September. The map is unique and our biggest-selling publication.



This has been a major project as there have been many changes since the last edition was published in 2016. It will be bigger and brighter than earlier versions and with more detail but will still fold down to about the same size.

The new map has been a labour of love for Stuart Mills, who leads our Footpaths and Open Spaces Group, as he has spent hundreds of hours researching the routes, writing descriptions of walks and plotting the new layout with our designer Keith Phillips (who also designs the Newsletter).

The map will be available in the online store of our website, price £5 + p&p.

# The Trees of Enfield

John West

The Society has a long history of supporting tree planting, with volunteers working on the Enfield Chase reforestation, maintaining saplings at our Tree Nursery at Trentwood Side and working with the Council and others to ensure that trees along our streets and in parks are maintained and replaced as needed.

In July we had an open afternoon at the Tree Nursery and it was good to see how many of our members share our concern for trees.

One of our members, Frank Bayford, is currently writing a book *Visits and Reminiscences volume 2 – Enfield*, to be published later this year. Here is an extract that he has shared with us –

“The trees they grow so high and the leaves they grow so green” Those opening words of a favourite English folksong remind me that Enfield has its fair share of wonderful trees, especially in such locations as Hilly Fields and Whitewebbs. Another wonderful location is the Beale Arboretum in the grounds of West Lodge Park. Visitors can explore a wide variety of magnificent specimens all clearly identified.

Some trees have gone from the Enfield landscape such as the Uvedale Cedar that stood in the grounds of the old Enfield Palace (now Pearsons). Another old cedar was destroyed when St Michael’s Hospital was demolished. A tree that I clearly remember was a magnificent swamp cypress that grew by the New River as it wended its way through the grounds of Enfield Grammar School. Its distinctive outline could be seen from nearby Baker Street, but alas no longer. At one time, a black mulberry grew in the grounds of Fir Tree House in Silver Street. When its copious fruit had ripened and fallen, the pavement would be blotched and stained purple. Both the house and the tree went to make way for the Civic Centre, but a replacement mulberry was planted nearby.

I warm to the delicate beauty of the Cornelian Cherries that grow in St Andrew’s Churchyard in the Enfield Town, especially in Spring when they bear masses of tiny yellow flowers. That golden hue is also evident in Burlington Road (near Lancaster Road) when in Autumn the leaves of the many ginkgo trees that line both sides of the street have turned colour. At the junction of Baker Street with Clay Hill and Myddelton Avenue, the tall trees there have great bunches of mistletoe in their upper branches. Are any of these saprophytes descended from the ones that Mr Bowes had in his garden at Myddelton House and whose pips he gave to selected friends with instructions on their propagation? From my dining room window, I can see a mature maple in Tenniswood Road and I get great delight from watching the squirrels dash their helter-skelter ways through its bare branches before the leaves have opened. Wood pigeons, collared doves, crows, magpies,



A mature tulip tree, one of the trees that the Society is trying to encourage in parks and open spaces

John West

jays and ring-necked parakeets are amongst the bird life frequenting the great boughs.

The plane tree that in my childhood used to produce the so-called ‘itching powder’ that unscrupulous boys would hawk to their gullible mates still stands opposite my old home in Laurel Bank Road!

For me and many others, trees form a life-affirming part of a landscape, whether it is a crowded urban one or another that is openly rural. Their workings are essential to the health of the environment and their structures are homes to myriads of wild creatures. Their incidental beauty is undeniable, except by those who have little or no sense of wonder. It is a shocking fact that trees are often taken for granted. Sometimes decisions are made to fell mature trees to make way for development and airy statements are made that ‘although mature trees are removed, a number of young saplings will be planted in their place’. A young sapling does not replace the

huge interdependent wildlife community that an aged specimen has attracted over its many years. Often there is no mention about the essential aftercare that young trees require. No doubt there are needs for new homes, but the word accommodate has more than one meaning. Some years ago, when orchards were cleared to make way for a new estate, the planners sensibly decided to keep as many trees as possible; this they did by arranging for all the new houses’ gardens to retain one of them.

The community should always be vigilant when proposals are made that will entail the demise of trees, woods or parkland. As Joni Mitchell once sang “You never know what you’ve lost ‘til it’s gone” – and paving has indeed been strewn upon Paradise.

With many thanks to Frank Bayford. This item has been slightly shortened from the original to fit the Newsletter.

# The Environment Forum – cancelled!

John West and Mustafa Ibrahim

In April this year, the Management Committee was concerned to learn that the Council's Environment Forum would cease to exist, as part of a reorganisation of Council Committees. The Environment Forum was set up to deal with matters previously dealt with by the Conservation Advisory Group (CAG), the Green Belt Forum and the Transport Users Forum. It involved community groups such as the Enfield Society, the Public Transport Consultative Group and the various Conservation Area Groups. While the terms of reference were broad, it provided a useful forum where various groups could come together and discuss planning, environmental, heritage and transport issues.

The Council has concluded that these areas will now be included in a new Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee. While Scrutiny Committees have a key role, they exclude community input. The Society was disappointed that there was no consultation before the decision was taken. Community groups that formed part of Environment Forum only found out about the decision through the Council minutes.

Our concern is that in the remit of the new Scrutiny Committee there is no reference to conservation or heritage. The Borough has 22 Conservation Areas, over two hundred Listed Buildings on the Historic England National Register and a recently updated Local



"Conservation areas need careful monitoring" – Forty Hill

Heritage List of sites and buildings. The Borough's history and heritage makes it an attractive place to live and encourages inward investment. Supported by the Society, there has been excellent progress over the last few years in relation to many historic buildings. The Charity School in Edmonton is being given high priority for investment by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we have a potential solution to Broomfield House after over 40 years of decline and progress is being made on a number of buildings on the Historic England 'At Risk Register'. This progress is the result of close consultation and collaboration between the Council, the Enfield Society and other community bodies. We are anxious that this is not lost or diminished.

Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas need careful monitoring to ensure that they remain in good condition and that inappropriate developments are dealt with through the planning and enforcement systems. The Society has written to the Leader of the Council seeking answers to the following questions -

- If the Scrutiny Committee does not include conservation and heritage, how will these issues be monitored at Member level in a way that reflects the importance that the Council places on them?
- Are the Council willing for conservation and heritage representations to be made at Member level if it proves necessary? We note that community groups cannot make representations to a Scrutiny Committee, but could a lead Member be identified?
- Can the actions and commitments made by the Environment Forum be followed through? One example is the preparation of planning guidance on mobile telephone masts including the higher 5G masts. Again, this needs a lead Member to raise the matter and ensure that it is given priority.

The Enfield Society has formed a Conservation and Heritage Group to bring interested community groups together following the end of the Council's CAG. We continue to monitor buildings at risk and other conservation and heritage matters and report matters to council officers as appropriate. We will continue to seek assurances that Councillors recognise the importance of conservation and heritage matters.

## News on Broomfield House

Following our questions to Council Officers in June, they explained the Council's immediate plans for the "Development Phase" of the work to "memorialise" the house, funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. (The Development Phase is essentially a process of scoping out and laying the groundwork for a more substantial Lottery Grant to fund the actual work.) The Council's approach is structured into three distinct packages: a project package, a design package, and a heritage package.

**Project Package:** the Council explained that they were in the final stages of appointing a Technical Project Manager, with the selection process set to conclude in July 2024. Following this appointment, the

Technical Project Manager will be responsible for procuring a business planner.

**Design Package:** This package will be led by a team of multi-disciplinary conservation landscape architects. The Council anticipate having this team in place by October 2024.

**Heritage Package:** The team responsible for cataloguing and assessing the salvaged remains of Broomfield House will be procured later in the year, subsequent to the appointments of the above packages.

In addition to these packages, LBE were actively recruiting for a Community Engagement Officer to facilitate engagement activities with residents regarding the memorialisation of Broomfield House. They aimed to have the successful candidate in post by September 2024. The Development Phase is projected to be completed by December 2025.



The interior of Broomfield House

# The Law and the Land

*In relation both to the Local Plan and to Enfield Council's lease of land at Whitewebbs the question of the legal protection of open spaces from development has arisen. Richard Stones explores the legal issues.*

In the Summer Newsletter Hilary Morris and Joy Heywood explained how the Duchy of Lancaster and Trinity College Cambridge sold land in Enfield Chase to Middlesex County Council with the specific objective of protecting it from development, and stipulated this as a condition of the transactions. It is easy to assume that such arrangements provide permanent protection, but things are not as simple as that. If such commitments are simply terms of a contract, they can usually only be enforced by the vendor or possibly by the owners of neighbouring land – not by members of the public. And in any case the courts are usually hesitant to enforce open-ended contractual commitments many years after they were made.

The position is different where the local authority is bound by some statutory requirements. In the case of the Whitewebbs land Sean Wilkinson's team were able to establish that at least part of it was acquired – originally by Middlesex County Council – under the *Public Health Act 1875*. This Act gives local authorities power to acquire and maintain land to be used for “public walks or pleasure grounds”. Although this is not stated in the Act, it is established from case law and other legislation that land acquired in this way is “held in trust for the public”. In other words it is not an asset which the Council can deal with freely.

This position is reinforced by the *Greater London Parks and Open Spaces Order*, confirmed by Parliament in 1967 – this Order sets out a set of rules for the use and maintenance of open spaces controlled or managed by a local authority. It includes restrictions on the circumstances in which public access to any part of the open space can be impeded.

But the waters are muddied by “deregulatory” provisions in the *Local Government Act 1972*. These provide a mechanism which allows local authorities to “appropriate” (ie change the use of) land or to sell or lease it so long as specified conditions are met. It specifically applies to land held in trust under the Public Health Act and says that any appropriation or sale of public trust land will free it from any trust existing under that Act.

A key question underlying Sean Wilkinson's claims against the Council in the Whitewebbs case has been the interaction between these statutory provisions. The Council argued that it was entitled by the Local Government Act to grant a lease of the land, and had met the specified conditions – in particular it had given notice of its intention to grant the lease and had “considered any objections” made. (Many of the Council's opponents disputed the adequacy of this “consultation”, but this was not apparently raised in the legal proceedings.) Sean Wilkinson argued that

- the grant of a lease would impede public access to the part of the Land to be used for the Women's Academy in a way prohibited by the Open Spaces Order; and

- the Open Spaces Order restrictions overrode the right of the Council to dispose of the Land under the Local Government Act – so the Council could not grant the lease.

The judge agreed with the first point, but not the second. In his view the right of disposal under the Local Government Act was a separate matter from the powers and restrictions in the Open Spaces Order, and so the fact that public access to the Women's Academy area would be restricted would not affect the Council's power to grant the lease.

Usually when trust land is sold the proceeds of sale become part of the trust property. Sean's barristers argued that this meant that that the “premium” (capital sum) payable by Spurs to the Council on the grant of the lease would have to be held on trust to be reinvested in the part of Whitewebbs retained by the Council. Since the Council had publicly stated its intention to use the money to reduce its debts, it had made its decision on a “legally flawed” basis. In essence the judge decided that this was incorrect. The “public trust” created under the Public Health Act was not like an ordinary trust – when the Land is disposed of the trust ceases to exist. So the money received from Spurs was not subject to any restrictions.

If these decisions are right the Local Government Act procedure gives local authorities a relatively simple route to dispose of or change the use of open spaces. In the words of a Supreme Court judge “the requirements of [the procedure] are not onerous.. The difficulty of selling the land .. will depend on the number and persistence of the objectors.” At the time of writing it is not clear whether Sean Wilkinson will be allowed to appeal - if he does, this position may change.



The lake at Whitewebbs

## Open House

Open House is an annual London-wide festival that opens and celebrates the city's architecture, special places and neighbourhoods, with free open days and events taking place across all of London. In previous years buildings such as Grovelands House (Grade I), Lambs Cottage (Grade II), Deephams Sewage Works and buildings at the King George V Reservoir have all opened. In recent years due to constraints on public sector expenditure the Society has part funded the administrative cost of putting on and

publicising Open House. This year the Society has agreed to fund 75% of the cost with the Council providing the remainder. The list of sites to be open in 2024 is still being confirmed but all the events will take place between **Saturday 14 - Sunday 22 September**. Details of the sites to be open, together with opening times and booking details, if required, will be published on the Society's website and on the Open House website [Open House website](https://open-house.org.uk) [Open City \(open-city.org.uk\)](https://open-city.org.uk)

*John West*



John West

# Improving Public Spaces...

Dave Cockle

Seasonal planting at Cenotaph gardens has been abandoned as a result of the Council's budget cuts. Instead a new layout of planting beds with shrubs and small trees has been created. The site remains an attractive western entrance to Enfield Town.



Dave Cockle

Hertford Road by the entrance to Boundary Brook path. The former small car park has been converted into an attractive small parklet with seating.



Street closure at Devonshire Road, Palmers Green – this is to be made permanent and the area further landscaped to create a new square.



The end of Little Park Gardens next to the main Post Office – to be named “Saddlers Mill Square” – is to be landscaped in a similar way.



The Society seeks to support projects in the east of the borough and one of our aims is to increase our membership east of the Great Cambridge Road. We have supported the National Lottery Heritage funded ‘Untold Edmonton’ project as reported in previous Newsletters and we were pleased to see that the Edmonton Pavilion has now been completed on Edmonton Green. This performance space will allow dance, drama and storytelling groups to have a bandstand venue in the heart of Edmonton.

John West

## Spotlight on a Trustee – Stephen Gilbert

At the Enfield Society AGM in September Stephen will be retiring after 23 years as a member of the Management Committee.

Stephen has lived in Enfield since 1948. He attended Chase Side Infant and Junior Schools from 1950 to 1957 and Enfield Grammar School between 1957 and 1965 where he passed English, History and Geography A-level GCEs. He then spent 30 years in the Civil Service. For much of this time he worked in the Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings Division of the Department of the Environment. He was involved with the presentation of ancient monuments to the public and with preparing educational materials and organising courses. He later worked on Royal Palaces and ceremonial events. Memories of his school days and working life were recorded for an oral history project sponsored by the London Borough of Enfield.

Since 1962 Stephen has been a member of Christ Church United Reformed Church in Chase Side. He served for many years as an elder and church secretary. He is the church archivist and has written a history of the church, a book of hymns and numerous articles on the Bible in art for the church's newsletters. In 2025 Christ Church will be celebrating its 150th anniversary with a programme of events, exhibitions and guided tours, including ones for Enfield Society members. Stephen has travelled extensively around the world attending many classical music festivals and taking photographs of many places which he has used in talks to various groups.

Stephen is a fellow of the Historical Association and President of its North London branch. He has written many local history articles for Edmonton Hundred Historical Society, including the multi-part *From Zion Chapel to Christ Church - a story*



Hilary Morris

*of Congregationalists in Enfield.* For ten years he organised the Society's evening programme of talks at Jubilee Hall. He has arranged Historic Building Group walks, and also visits to several local places not normally open to the public including Enfield Grammar School, Enfield Court, the Russell Mansion Hadley Wood, Old Park and Roger Elkin's model railway layouts. Since 2008 he has written over 70 articles on Enfield's historic heritage for the Society's Newsletter. He hopes to continue writing about historic places in and around Enfield.

# Society Talks and Other Events

## Heritage Walks in Enfield

Joe Studman



Church Hill, Winchmore Hill

A reminder that we are providing two heritage walks led by the well-known Joe Studman. We thank him warmly for offering his services.

### **Sunday 22 September, 2pm. WINCHMORE HILL VILLAGE**

Centred on The Green the surrounding streets and buildings echo the lost village that Henrietta Cresswell recalled of her childhood in the 1860s. Like her we will recollect the coming of the railway, discover historic pubs, churches and meeting houses and hear about the characters that lived there.

### **Sunday 20 October, 2pm. EDMONTON CONSERVATION AREA**

Church Street and The Hyde encompass an ancient parish church, Georgian terraces and a garden city. Charles Lamb and John Keats resided here and it was the scene of a horrific plane crash and a railway riot. These and other stories will be revealed today.

These walks are **free to Enfield Society members**. Any non-members who wish to attend are welcome at a cost of £10 which will include membership of the Society until December 2025.

To book please send an email to [j.mcqueen@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:j.mcqueen@enfieldsociety.org.uk)

or write to **Jubilee Hall 2, Parsonage Lane Enfield EN2 0AJ**. The starting point for each walk will be provided after your booking has been received. Numbers are limited and booking is on a first come first served basis.

## Society Talks

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

**PLEASE NOTE THAT AS FROM JANUARY 2025 EVENING TALKS AT JUBILEE HALL WILL START AT 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)**

### **Thursday 19 September 2024 - Society AGM, 8pm HERE BEFORE US**

You have seen blue plaques on the former homes of Mozart, David Bowie and Jane Austen. Here Before Us produce individually customised blue plaques that commemorate the ordinary previous residents of local buildings - less celebrated, perhaps even forgotten, residents who may nonetheless have had interesting lives and occupations. **Simon Warren** – who is behind the 37 plaques recently installed in shops in Enfield – will enlighten us further.

### **Tuesday 1 October 2024, 11am Subject and speaker TBA**

### **Monday 18 November 2024, 8pm BRUCE CASTLE OLD AND NEW**

Bruce Castle Museum



Hear more from **Deborah Hedgecock**, Curator, as she shares old stories and the new discoveries found during the current building conservation project at Tottenham's magnificent Grade 1 listed and former 16th century manor house of Bruce Castle.

### **Tuesday 3 December 2024, 11am ENFIELD PALACE**

**Ian Jones** from The Enfield Archaeological Society will disclose his research into the history of Enfield Palace where Pearsons Department Store now stands. He will also reveal an artefact relating to Robert Uvedale's tenancy that has been sitting in the TES archive.

### **Monday 20 January 2025, 7.30pm ENFIELD FIRE BRIGADE**

Enfield Local Studies



**Chris Whippe** will bring his knowledge of the history of Enfield Fire Brigade and show us some of his memorabilia collected over many years.

## Talks and activities of 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 13 September** – *Whitechapel Excavations* by Dougie Killock

**Friday 11 October** – *Newgate Street Excavations* by Kathy Davidson

**Friday 8 November** – to be confirmed

**Friday 13 December** (via Zoom) – to be confirmed

**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 10 September** – *Henrietta Maria, Queen, Generalissimo, Catholic whore* (illustrated) by Cllr. Michael Rye, OBE (Historian, Branch Member)

**Tuesday 8 October** – *Why Wellington won and Napoleon lost – The Battle of Waterloo* (illustrated) by Professor Michael Clarke (King's College, London)

**Tuesday 12 November** – *The Army that Never Was: D-Day and The Great Deception* (illustrated) by Taylor Downing (Historian and Broadcaster)

**Tuesday 10 December** – *Richard III and the Battle of Bosworth* (illustrated) by Professor Anne Curry (Southampton University)



# Meeting with Council Officers

John West

Dave Cockle and John West met Karen Page, Head of Planning & Building Control, and David Taylor, Head of Highways, Traffic and Parking, on 3 June 2024. Here are some of the issues discussed.

## Action points from the last meeting held on 18 April 2024:

**Conical Corner EN2: path linking Chase Green Avenue with Public Footpath 112**

The Council's legal team had been consulted and it was agreed that the footpath would be placed on the Council's Public Right of Way List. This would be by agreement so there was no need to complete 'evidence of use' forms.

**Calder Close, EN1: Provision of double kerb to prevent parking on the grass**

The grass strip was the responsibility of the freeholder. The freeholder had been written to asking for bollards to be positioned to stop parking on the grass. We asked if the Council could raise the kerbstones. Given pressure on Council budgets this was thought to be a low priority.

**"Man and Van" advertising bicycle at Southgate Underground Station**

We had reported this to Planning Enforcement along with a photograph on 4 February! On 5th March advice was received that Waste Services would be asked to remove the bicycle. The bicycle with its advert was still in situ. LBE admitted that there had been a communication breakdown in making arrangements to remove the bike. Waste services would be asked again to remove the bike. *(The bike – or a successor – was still in situ on 17 July.)*



The bicycle at Southgate Station

## **New River Loop (Enfield): maintenance**

We expressed concern about the state of the watercourse by Silver Street Bridge and alongside Portcullis Road, and the presence of Japanese knotweed. LBE said that site maintenance and the treatment of invasive species fell under the Parks operational remit. While there was no formal date set for the treatment of invasive species, the operational team was aware of the issue and would prioritise it alongside other borough-wide concerns. The Officers would bring this matter to their attention once again. *(TES reiterated our offer to involve The Society's Cleaner Neighbourhood Team with a clean-up of the banks of the Enfield Loop.)*



The New River Loop at Silver Street – July 2024

## **New issues:**

### **Enfield Town Liveable Neighbourhoods Projects**

We asked for an update of the planned schedule for the four project sites – i.e. Library Green, Saddlers Mill Square, Fountain Island and Enfield Town Station Plaza. LBE said that the work was being funded by TfL in two phases. Library Green and Saddlers Mill Square would be dealt with first with work to start this summer and hopefully be completed by the end of the year. The second phase would be Fountain Island and Enfield Town Station Plaza: this would take place over 2025/26, subject to the TfL funding for this work.

### **Local Plan, Reg 19**

Over six thousand responses had been received. It was anticipated that the responses would be sent to the Planning Inspector by the end of the summer. The examination of the Local Plan by the Inspector was expected to take place between autumn and Christmas.

### **Grass verges**

A number of our members had expressed concern about overgrown grass verges. Re-wilding had its place, but the lack of maintenance was starting to create a very poor urban environment. LBE commented that this was being driven by financial pressures. Difficult decisions had to be made, with safety always being put before aesthetics. Officers and councillors were aware of the concerns.

### **Footpath from Lavender Hill Cemetery to Rectory Road Farm Road**

We asked about the target date for getting this new footpath open. LBE said they were aiming to open the path by the end of 2024, although this was contingent upon securing approval from Network Rail for the section under Rendlesham Viaduct, which was an ongoing process.

## **Signs of progress on previous issues we have raised with the Council:**

- Work appears to have been scheduled for the pedestrian refuge where the London Loop path crosses the Ridgeway;
- A billboard on Whitewebbs Lane announces that 'Work will begin to create Dickenson's Meadow Nature Reserve in the coming months.'

# Society Guided Walks

Stuart Mills

## News on Walks

Unfortunately, the number of attendees on walks has been significantly reducing during the 15 months ending 31 July 2024. It is now consistently at the lowest level in the past 45 years of regular Society walks. Only eleven people on the Highgate walk, including the leader (see photo), is not unusual. Even on dry and sunny days frequently there have been far less than 10 attendees - the lowest being three plus leader!

Occasionally transport issues and poor weather have played a role. However, on sunny and dry days, and despite ease of access and the very short train journey from Enfield Chase, walks from stations on the Hertford North line often barely reach double figures. Recent walks starting within Enfield fare little better.

Also, the comment “we have previously started from ...” has been made as the reason for not participating. With up to 45 walks per annum and the need to find public transport connections convenient to Enfield (so those without cars can join), there has to be some limitation to possible starting points. However, this does not mean the route will be a repeat. Often they are completely different and leaders always try to include varied points of interest.

Although numbers are not everything, it is extremely disheartening to leaders who have given an undertaking for perhaps months ahead and yet, on a day with good weather, it then appears that people are not interested enough to attend.

At the same time, the number of leaders is reducing and few others seem willing to come forward. If the programme is going to continue at anywhere approaching the current volume (which is well below the 60 annual walks held pre-Covid), then the Society does urgently need several more walk leaders.

Please support the walks programme and give thought to volunteering. Thank you.

## Future Walks

Walks are open to all members and friends. Please wear suitable footwear. Travel details correct at copy date, but with engineering works, 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 email list. To be added to his list, please email [j.west@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:j.west@enfieldsociety.org.uk).

**Thursday 5 September.** Hampstead Village and Heath. **Meet 10.30** at Hampstead Heath Station (London Overground from Highbury & Islington). Note: for toilets near to the start, exit station and turn left towards Royal Free Hospital for 200 yards.

About 5 to 6 mile circular walk with a varied and surprising mix of architecture, history and part of the Heath. Shorter options including from the lunch stop in Hampstead Village. Bring lunch or food available. Leader: Ian Reynolds, contact 07523 855 809.



Society members visit the Karl Marx statue in Highgate Eastern Cemetery during Ian Reynolds' Highgate walk on 28 June 2024

**Contributions in the form of articles, photographs, letters to the editor and comments on current issues within the scope of the Society are most welcome, and should be sent to [newsletter@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@enfieldsociety.org.uk).**

**We may not be able to publish everything and we reserve the right to shorten or modify contributions. All items will be attributed to their authors – anonymous items will not be published.**

**Saturday 21 September. Jubilee Path Clearance Event (10.00-14.30)** on northern section of path 276 from The Ridgeway down to Salmon's Brook cutting back hedges etc. Tools, gloves and tea/coffee supplied but please bring own water and lunch.

Path entrance is 200 yards along The Ridgeway from Holly Cottage 313 bus stop after Botany Bay Village (09.37 313 bus from Enfield Town). Parking at high level car park at Botany Bay Farm. If possible, please notify intended attendance to [info@friendsofenfieldchase.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofenfieldchase.org.uk)

**Thursday 26 September.** Hertfordshire Scenes. **Meet 10.00** at Bayford Station (09.47 train from Enfield Chase). Car drivers can meet the group in Bayford Village at **10.10**, but please park considerately.

The full circular walk is about 7.5 miles. Morning route is via Water Hall, Roxford and the Cole Green Way into Hertford. Bring lunch or food available in Hertford Town and option to finish. The return to Bayford Station will be via field paths, Sailor's Grove and woodland. Leader: Mick Spinks.

**Wednesday 2 October.** North London Open Spaces. **Meet 10.30** at the Seven Sisters Road entrance to Finsbury Park Station (Mainline, Piccadilly and Victoria Lines).

A varied 7 to 8 mile linear walk via parkland, waterways, nature reserves, historic buildings and a cemetery, ending in the Lea Valley at Hackney Wick Station for return by London Overground to Highbury & Islington. Shorter options including from the lunch stop. Bring lunch or cafés/pubs available. Leader: John West, contact 07904 193 098.

**Note: As at our copy date, we are unable to compile a list of walks for later in October and in November due to time constraints and a currently reduced number of leaders.**

**Please give serious thought to offering a walk.**

**Any walks for those months will be announced in our monthly enews and on our website - they will also be announced via John West's walkers email list. If you wish to be included on the email list please contact [john.west@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:john.west@enfieldsociety.org.uk)**

## Norman Coles



We were very sorry to hear of the death of Norman in July at the grand age of 96.

Soon after joining the Society Norman volunteered to lead his first Society walk in July 1993. During the next 25 years he organised over 130 walks and visits, including from 2016 what he called his strolls, before “retiring” in late 2018 at the age of almost 91. Norman clearly demonstrated the benefits of exercise and social interaction in later life and it kept him young at heart.

Norman had an involvement in the implementation of the planned Stevenage New Town and, from this, he developed an appreciation of the Hertfordshire countryside and its landscape, river valleys and geological features. These aspects were often detailed in his walks. He had similar knowledge relating to north and west London and his strolls often included visits to areas such as Hilly Fields and Epping Forest with their evidence of geological and glacial upheavals.

Norman was always interesting, knowledgeable and good company. We extend our sympathy to his daughter, Debbie, and family on their loss.

## Heritage at Risk

John West

### Conservation and Heritage Group Meeting

Eleven members of the Conservation and Group met on 24 June 2024 to review heritage issues. We were pleased to welcome Michael Kennedy (LBE Planning and Place Shaping) and Nicholas Page and the newly appointed Yu Tung (LBE Conservation and Heritage)

Among the current issues discussed were:

#### *Environment Forum*

There was considerable concern that Environment Forum had been ended with no consultation with community representatives. It was agreed that the Society would draft a letter to the Leader of the Council on behalf of the group and circulate the draft to the group for comments. (See further the article on page 5)

#### *The Historic England Risk Register*

It was noted that there was positive progress in relation to Broomfield House, the Charity School and Lavender Hill Chapel. These and the other sites and buildings on the ‘At Risk’ register were discussed.

#### *Local issues*

- *Temporary container at Southgate Station* – It was noted that this was still on site but understood that it was to be moved soon and work on a pocket park could then proceed.



The temporary container at Southgate station (with the beginnings of the pocket park)

- *The Fox, Palmers Green* – New tenants had taken over following controversy over the licence and the imposition of noise restrictions.



The Fox, Palmers Green

- In Palmers Green there were concerns over the number of *empty shop units*, particularly the former Barclays and HSBC bank buildings, both on the Local List. There is also a wider problem of banks closing; these are often important landmark buildings.
- The Society was seeking to build links with the *Lea Valley Heritage Group*, as there were important links with the Borough and its industrial heritage.

#### *Update on the Local Heritage List*

The Society had been given a commitment by Karen Page, Head of Planning and Building Control that the update of the revised Local List would be given priority. Yu’s appointment would assist this aim. The Society had expressed to the Council that the delay was embarrassing as it had involved the work of so many volunteers.

#### *List of heritage street furniture*

Avril Nanton expressed an interest in taking this on. Avril had reviewed the list of street furniture previously produced by the Society. She was aiming to visit each site, update the list and take photos. A draft list would then be circulated to the group for comments. Once complete, it would be posted on the Enfield Society website. Nicholas Page noted that this was probably a better place for the list than on the Council’s website as it linked to the Society’s work and database on local history.

#### *Major planning applications causing concern*

- *Former Station Tavern site in Brimsdown* – It was noted that the developer for the site was having discussions with the Council to consider how the Planning Officers’ concerns could be addressed. The application would return to Planning Committee once discussions have concluded.
- *Whitewebbs Park*. The planning application for the Women’s Football Academy had been published, consultation ended on 31 May. The Society had submitted detailed conditions that it considered the Council should impose, if it decided to approve the application. Those conditions should be included in both the lease and the planning conditions. It was noted that this was a controversial application. With the judicial review finding in favour of the Council, there was a view that the Council was likely to approve the application. The group noted that there was a lack of trust in terms of Spurs due to outstanding conditions from previous planning applications and the lack of any master plan for development – schemes came forward in a piecemeal way. *The Society’s conditions as set out its planning submission are summarised on the TES website.*

# 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, Alison Parker, Richard Stones, Alec Tyler, John West.

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

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

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

 X @enfieldsoc

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## How to contact us

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

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

## Architecture and Planning:

John West, 020 8886 6080

## Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group:

Alison Yates

## Conservation & Heritage Group:

John West

## East Enfield and Edmonton:

Dave Cockle

## Footpaths and Open Spaces:

Green Belt: Dave Cockle, 020 8366 2242

## IT Admin:

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

([volunteers@enfieldsociety.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@enfieldsociety.org.uk))

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# Society Activities – please come and join us!

## Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group

Our last three litter picks of 2024 will see us returning to footpaths which we have cleaned in the past but still need our care.

On **Saturday, 19 October** we will work on the Salmon's Brook Path starting at Churchfield Primary School, Latymer Road, London N9 9PL and finishing at Little Bury Street. Alight from the W8 Bus at All Saints Church stop and walk away from Edmonton Green along Church Street. Latymer Road is the next right turn and the School is ¼ mile from the bus stop.

**Saturday, 23 November** finds us meeting at 189A Carterhatch Road, Enfield EN3 5EB to clear the footpath down to Osborne Road, Brimsdown. Buses 121, 191 and 279

serve the Oatlands Road stop on the Hertford Road where you should alight. The walk east on Carterhatch Road to 189A takes 8 minutes.

Our final pick of the year is on **Saturday, 21 December** when we return to the Cemetery Walk in Edmonton. Please meet at the start of the footpath on Plevna Road N9 0BX opposite Asda in Edmonton Green shopping centre. From the bus station, which is served by routes 102, 144, 149, 191, 192, 259, 279, 349, 491, W6 and W8, walk south on the Hertford Road and take West Mall to its end on Plevna Road.

All Litter Picks are from 10am until 12pm and participation is at your own risk. Please bring your own gloves. If you require equipment please contact **Alison Yates. 07818 682073**



Hoe Lane Open Space before and after our litter pick in June

## Clearing the Jubilee Path

The Jubilee Path runs down from The Ridgeway near Botany Bay to Salmon's Brook. The Society proposed and built this path to mark the late Queen's Silver Jubilee. Society members gave over 2,600 hours to construct the 1¼ mile path, work which involved clearance, stream diversion, bridge building and hedging and fencing the entire route. It was opened in February 1979.

Now it is seriously overgrown and we are joining with the Friends of Enfield Chase on **Saturday 21 September** between 10am and 2.30pm to clear and widen the path. Work will involve scrub and path clearance, branch lopping, cutting back hedges etc. Please join us - for more details see the entry under *Future Walks* on page 10.



Jubilee Path at the Ridgeway

## 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](http://enfieldsociety.org.uk/join), or scan the QR code.

