



Monica Rowland Smith MBE (1932–2024)

Richard Stones and Colin Pointer

It is with great regret that we report the death of one of the Society's Joint Presidents, Monica Smith. Monica had a long and distinguished involvement with the Society. She was a member of our Committee of Management (later renamed Management Committee) from 1992 to 2015 and served as Chair from 2001 to 2005. She also acted as Treasurer for eight years. She became Joint President, with Colin Pointer, in 2018 and continued to provide us with the benefit of her experience until shortly before her death. She was a wonderful model of commitment to the heritage and environment of Enfield and will be much missed.

Monica was born in Wood Green and educated at Palmers Green High School, Enfield County School and Royal Holloway University of London, where she obtained a BA in English Literature and Language. In 1956 she joined The British Council for six months' work experience and stayed for 35 years, working first as an Overseas Student Welfare Officer in London, Sheffield and Reading. She was then transferred to the Overseas Service and was posted to Bangkok, Thailand, Santiago, Chile and Kumasi, Ghana.

During a home posting in 1976 she moved to Southgate and joined the Society, mainly to take part in the walks of the Footpaths Group. In 1983 she was awarded an MBE for her work in Ghana. She retired, a little early, in 1991, moved to Enfield and began to take a more active role in the Society. Apart from her periods as Chair and Treasurer (and for regularly leading walks and giving occasional talks), her major responsibility for many years was for the publishing activities of the Society. In this connection she wrote *The Enfield Book – A Young Explorer's Guide*, an entertaining account of Enfield's history interspersed with puzzles, pictures



Katrina Campbell

Monica photographed during COVID lock-down in April 2020 outside her home in Holly Walk

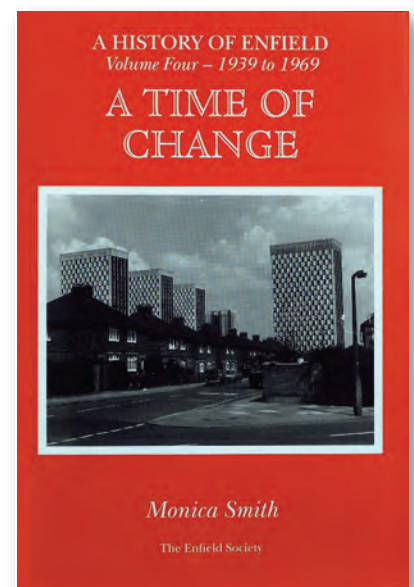
to colour and other things to do. This was followed by the major undertaking of bringing David Pam's monumental *History of Enfield* up to date with a fourth volume, *A Time of Change*, covering the period from 1939 to 1969. Colin Pointer, her fellow President edited her draft. He remembers that the speed at which Monica

wrote each chapter was astonishing and kept him feverishly trying to keep up with her output. Monica also formed the Society's Edmonton (now Edmonton and Eastern Enfield) Group, led walks along Church Street, Edmonton and actively promoted projects in the area.

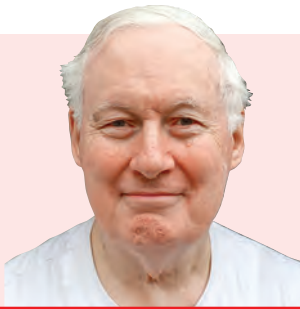
Colin Pointer adds: "When we were confirmed as Joint Presidents in 2018 we both agreed that although entitled to attend the monthly Management Committee meetings we would not do so, nor interfere, as far as possible, with the complex business of running the Society, which we were happy to leave to the younger generation.

"But we were kept in the loop of information sent out to every member of the Management Committee. So every four months when we met for lunch Monica and I would put the world to rights, our Council to rights and of course then The Enfield Society to rights.

"I will miss those lunches with Monica – I will greatly miss Monica."



Monica's *A Time of Change*, published in 2015



Stephen Gilbert

As the Society's newest Vice-President I have been asked to contribute this column. It was our late President Monica Smith who invited me to join the Society's Committee of Management 23 years ago – she was very good at encouraging people to take on tasks!

I recently attended the ceremonial "opening" by the Mayor of Enfield of the murals on the platforms at Enfield Chase Station (*see page 3*). We should thank all of those involved in organising the project as well as both of the artists. The largest picture includes some of the historic buildings in Enfield Town and ingeniously incorporates images of some of the famous people and events associated with Enfield – Monica Smith is among the women mentioned in the text. Two of the other murals have railway connections. There is a view of Rendlesham Viaduct with squirrels, and an image of passengers seen through carriage windows, which to me is reminiscent of the work of Norman Rockwell, the 20th century American artist. On the other platform is an imaginary view through a window showing the New River, Gentlemen's Row and Barney the cat who lived in River View. There is also an area for children, a café and an exhibition in the waiting room which explains how the murals were created. All of these are well worth visiting, even if you are not going to catch a train! However, because of the flights of stairs to the platforms, they cannot be easily seen by those with mobility problems. Lifts are needed at both Enfield Chase and Gordon Hill stations. The latter also has artworks at platform level and an exhibition in the waiting room.



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.

Local Plan Update

Andrew Lack

Under threat; the classic view of Enfield from the south-east edge of Trent Park



Andrew Lack

When the Society submitted its detailed comments as part of the Regulation-19 consultation, we asked to be represented at the public hearings. A small group from the Society's Management Committee and the Architecture and Planning Group continue to monitor developments in relation to the Plan and prepare for the next stage. Our work continues to protect the Green Belt and our historic town centres from inappropriate development.

In early August the Council submitted the Local Plan for Examination. Steven Lee BA (Hons) MA MRTPI has been appointed as the Inspector together with Annette Feeny as the Programme Officer.

At the same time the Council published all the representations made at Regulation-19 back in the Spring. The Society has a copy of all the submissions made via its website and checked the Council data against its own copies. We found over 1,000 names completely missing from the Council records and a further 180 names where one or more representations were missing. Throughout September we have been working with a Council officer to try and identify why so many are missing. The Society has now supplied 2,659

representations to the Council which we have determined are missing. As this copy was written in mid-October we are still not clear what the problem has been and when it will be resolved.

In the meantime the Council has withdrawn all the redacted representations made, which were visible in early August, and this is restricting our consultants' efforts to prepare statements for the hearings. We have written to the Programme Officer about this. We now expect hearings to commence early in 2025.

On the 10 September Steven Lee issued a set of preliminary questions to the Council. Many of the points raised are technical, but the Inspector's first request was for an update on the missing representations (PQ1) and there was also a request for a 'statement of conformity' with the London Plan (PQ5). This is interesting as in several places within our representation we have drawn attention to how the draft Local Plan is not in conformity with the London Plan. It was also striking that the Regulation-19 pro-forma used did not mention the London Plan. You can read the Inspector's letter via our website: enfieldsociety.org.uk/localplan

Spotlight on a Trustee – Alison Parker

Alison was born and brought up in Tottenham, attending Tottenham County Grammar School and going on to study French and German at the South Bank Polytechnic. She moved to Enfield in 1986, having fond memories of visiting the town and market as a child.

Alison started her career in magazine publishing, joining a motorcycle title which gave her the opportunity to try out the latest test bikes. After a knee injury forced her to give up riding, she moved into print production until taking early retirement.

A lifelong Spurs fan, she takes solace in travel, having backpacked in China, Africa



and Australia in retirement, spending time at her house in the Pyrenees and playing golf badly. She has been an Oxfam volunteer for nearly twenty years and is a volunteer part-time shop manager.

Alison has an interest in genealogy and local history, which led to her joining the Enfield Society. A member of the Society's Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group, she takes part in its regular litter picks. In 2021 she took over from Monica Smith as the Society's Publications Officer and joined the Management Committee in 2024.

New artworks at Enfield Chase Station unveiled

John Cole

Enfield Chase station users are now welcomed by a very large community-developed mural, titled 'The charter of the forest...there is a magical place for the lure of history' plus three new pieces of street art. A launch event was attended by the Mayor of Enfield, Mohammad Islam, on Saturday 28th September.

The highly detailed mural has been created on the northbound platform, welcoming passengers from central London. It celebrates North West Enfield's colourful history, its landmarks, notable people and also includes community art and words reflecting Enfield Chase's diverse community, heritage, and culture.

The entire project was designed and overseen by the Society's Chair, Dave Cockle, and John Cole, another Society Trustee. They secured funding from Great Northern via its 'Your Station, Your Community Improvement Fund'. This follows on from the success of other heritage projects at Gordon Hill one stop further north on the Hertford Loop line.

It was decided to create the mural at Enfield Chase because of the station's importance as a gateway to Enfield Town



Left to right: Dave Cockle, Kremena Dimitrova and Cllr Mohammad Islam, Mayor of Enfield

with its rich history, culture and bustling market and town centre. The mural replaces a recently removed advertising hoarding (after a decade of abandonment) and the smaller artworks conceal a boarded-up door and window and an uneven wall damaged by removed equipment.

The Enfield based illustrator-as-historian, Kremena Dimitrova, was selected from 17 applications. She held arts-based workshops with Chase Side Primary School and at Enfield Town Library to help develop ideas and create drawings, poems, leaf printing and tracings. She met with

many locals including a knitting group, station users and pub-goers, uncovering and visualising ideas, stories and memories which were then woven with archival research and poetry within the artwork.

As well as the main mural, local street-artist Shaypress, who has done many other works around the borough, including Gordon Hill Station, has created three pieces. One on the southbound platform represents a window through which one can 'see' the War Memorial, the Jephcott Bridge and Barney the Cat. This 'virtually' re-opens one of the long-shuttered windows which exist in the canopy walls on

both platforms. Shaypress's other work includes a train carriage and a the driver's view of the Hertford Loop travelling north.

Local art student Shan-Jay Daley has created a leaflet to enable rail travellers to explore further public art close to the station. You can also browse the details of the artworks included on our website: enfieldsociety.org.uk/enfield-town-art-walk

There is a small exhibition with posters about the creation of the mural on Platform 1 next to the café and in the waiting room.

Andrew Lack

Creatures of Gordon Hill Station

John Cole

The Friends of Gordon Hill Station (FoGHS) is an Enfield Society group. FoGHS collaborates with the local community to create a welcoming, green and culturally enriching space for commuters and visitors alike.

This year FoGHS was keen to improve its green credentials. It already runs a gardening and wildlife group that tends a community garden and planters around the station with wildlife friendly plants.

FoGHS had already joined forces with Bee Friendly Trust to create a bug hotel up-cycled from old parquet flooring from the ticket hall and a forgotten artwork salvaged from Barbican Underground Station. It's proof that anything can be transformed into a welcome home for wildlife and get the community to help build and look after it.

Working with Bee Friendly Trust, the volunteers have now created a small wildlife sanctuary with a pond, nesting blue tits and many other visitors including birds, squirrels, muntjacs, foxes, stag beetles and slow worms: many 'captured' on wildlife cameras. This sanctuary is visible through the windows on the ramp to the platforms.

Travellers are encouraged to drop-off bird food.

FoGHS has also created, through a series of art workshops at One Degree Academy, an 'I Spy wildlife' information panel encouraging families to look for wildlife at the Station. Their artwork is also on display at the Station.

This has led to Great Northern and Bee Friendly Trust creating similar "homes for nature" at various nearby stations including Grange Park.



Wildlife poster at Gordon Hill Station

John Cole

Theobalds, Temple Bar and Theobalds Park Cheshunt

Stephen Gilbert

Theobalds, Cedars Park, Waltham Cross

William Cecil, later Lord Burleigh, was Secretary of State and Lord High Treasurer to Elizabeth I. In 1563 he purchased the manor of Theobalds and in 1564 built a mansion, which was substantially enlarged over the next 20 years to become one of the most lavish residences in England and resembled a palace. It was built of red brick with stone dressings around two courts. There were ornately decorated state apartments around the second or Fountain Court after the model of Hampton Court Palace. The gardens were magnificently laid out with lawns, boating lakes and an enclosed park where deer and other game were kept for hunting. Queen Elizabeth visited Theobalds at least 15 times before Cecil's death in 1598. The aerial view below by Ian Dunlop shows the extent of the enlarged palace.



Burleigh was succeeded at Theobalds by his son, Sir Robert Cecil, who entertained the new king James I here in 1603. The king liked Theobalds so much that he obliged Robert Cecil to exchange it for the old brick palace at Hatfield in 1607. James spent much of his time at Theobalds enjoying entertaining, hunting and falconry. He died in what was now a royal palace in 1625.

During the Commonwealth much of the palace was dismantled and the materials sold. In 1783 the remaining part was described as being in a ruinous state and today only small fragments remain.

Temple Bar

Temple Bar was originally built in 1672 by Joshua Marshall and Thomas Knight, master masons to the City of London, (possibly to a design by Sir Christopher Wren), at the junction of Fleet Street and the Strand. It marked the boundary of the City of London. It had three arches, the central one spanning the road, with smaller pedestrian arches at the sides. Above the main arch was a room with central windows. On either side of the windows were statues by John Bushnell of James I, his wife Anne, their son Charles I and his son Charles II. The lower part had rusticated Tuscan pilasters and the upper part Ionic pilasters flanked by volutes. This view shows it in 1750.



By the 1870s the central arch needed to be shored up, causing traffic congestion which led to its demolition in 1878. The stones were numbered and stored. Sir Henry Meux obtained permission to restore and re-erect Temple Bar at his estate at Theobalds Park Cheshunt, just north of Bulls Cross in Enfield. The work was completed in 1888 at a cost of £10,000.

This 1963 view shows Temple Bar with a concrete fence erected around it in a vain attempt to protect it from vandals.



Stephen Gilbert

This 1975 photograph shows the upper part of Temple Bar before the statues were removed to protect them from further damage



Stephen Gilbert

In 1976 Hugh Wontner, Lord Mayor in 1974, established The Temple Bar Trust with the intention of returning the Bar to the City. The Trustees were drawn from members of the City of London together with others involved in the preservation of the nation's architectural heritage, including several livery companies. In 1984 the Temple Bar Trust became owner of Temple Bar and permission was granted for the removal of the Bar from Theobalds Park. The reconstruction and restoration were completed in 2004 placing Temple Bar back in the City, in Paternoster Square, near to St Paul's Cathedral.



Grant Smith/Temple Bar

Temple Bar in Paternoster Square.

Theobalds Park, Bulls Cross Ride

George Prescott, who had been a banker in Italy, returned to England in 1762, became a Member of Parliament and purchased the Theobalds estate, building Theobalds Park mansion in 1768. Many additions were subsequently made by members of the wealthy Meux brewing family who occupied the estate from 1820 to 1929.

Stephen Gilbert



This 1997 photograph shows the entrance front of the house. It has five bays and is two and three storeys high with a one storey colonnade in the centre and has small outer wings. The garden front has a central bay window flanked by Venetian windows on two floors.

Stephen Gilbert



The original part of the house has an Etruscan style entrance hall with the ceiling painted by an Italian artist.

The music room has Stuart period panelling.

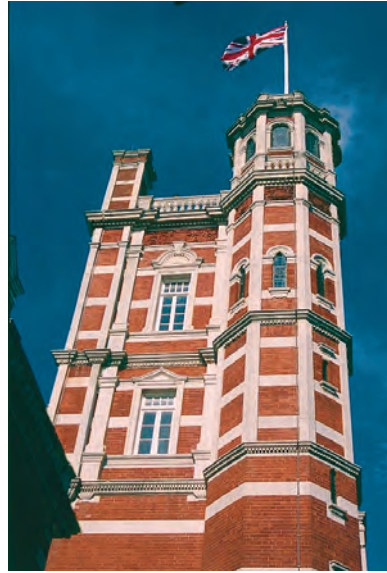
In 1878 Sir Henry Meux, the third and last baronet, married Valerie Susie Langdon whom he had met when she was a hostess at the

Casino de Venice. Subsequently Theobalds Park became a scene of entertaining on a large scale. Lady Meux installed a swimming pool, Turkish bath, tennis court, roller skating rink, menagerie and a museum containing a collection of Egyptian relics for the pleasure of her numerous guests. She rode to hounds, had shooting parties, where one of the guests was Edward VII, and bred the winner of the Derby in 1901 under the pseudonym of Mr Theobalds. When her husband died in 1900 she was one of the richest women in Britain.

Stephen Gilbert



This ceiling is also in the Etruscan style.



This broad big tower was added to one end of the house by Lady Meux in the Edwardian period.

Stephen Gilbert



Extensive views can be obtained from the top of the tower. In the garden is an ornamental lake formed from the New River.

Stephen Gilbert

When Lady Meux died in 1910 most of her possessions were sold and the illustrated catalogue shows their splendour. The estate then passed to Hedworth Lambton, a young naval officer who changed his name to Meux. When he died in 1929 the estate was valued at £998,000.

The house and gardens were then sold and turned into a hotel in 1934. In 1938 it was purchased by Middlesex County Council and, after war time occupation by troops, became a secondary school for Enfield children from 1950 to 1969. The house was subsequently used as an environmental studies centre and from 1973 as a residential college. It later became Theobalds Park Conference Centre and then once more a hotel. At the time of writing the estate is for sale following the insolvency of the hotel company.

The first two illustrations are from *Palaces and Progresses of Elizabeth I* by Ian Dunlop. For more information see *Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire* by Jack Edwards, 1974 and *The Buildings of England, Hertfordshire* by Nikolaus Pevsner, 1953, also websites cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/attractions-museums-entertainment/temple-bar and templebar.london.

The Restoration of Enfield Chase

Multiple initiatives aim to “restore” the Chase – what is the Society’s view?

John Cole

Enfield Council’s rural landholdings comprise over 1,500 hectares of land in the north-west of the borough. Currently this land is mostly leased to tenant farmers; it also includes open spaces, golf courses and large country parks. The Council’s ambition for this land, its “Rural Enfield Placemaking Vision”, is set out in the draft Local Plan:

By 2041, the arc of open spaces and woodlands surrounding Enfield Chase and Lee Valley Regional Park will undergo a remarkable transformation, emerging as the leading outdoor countryside destination in North London and surrounding area.

In close proximity to the urban communities this area will offer a diverse tapestry of sustainable and easily accessible rural activities. These activities will encompass local food production, forestry initiatives, landscape restoration projects, eco-tourism ventures, sporting opportunities, natural burial grounds, countryside education, and recreational pursuits.

This transformation will enhance the landscape, making it a haven for residents and visitors, granting access to wildlife-rich blue-green spaces, pristine clean air, locally sourced food production and world-class sporting facilities.

Enfield Chase Landscape Recovery Project

We reported in the Winter 2022 Newsletter that Enfield Chase had been named as one of 22 ‘landscape recovery’ schemes across the country to benefit from a £500,000 development grant to help prepare a final case to seek further funding from DEFRA to deliver a range of environmental and community benefits.

Headed by Cheryl Wilson, Head of Rural Transformation, Enfield Council, the Project Development Phase commenced in May 2023 and ends in April 2025. The ambition is to restore a significant proportion of this area for nature to benefit people and wildlife. This involves working with land managers in farms and parks groups to evaluate the potential for river naturalisation and reconnection of floodplains, creation of wetlands, and restoration of woodland and grassland habitats; with the ambition to reduce downstream flooding, improve water quality, create and improve habitats for wildlife and reconnect people with nature.

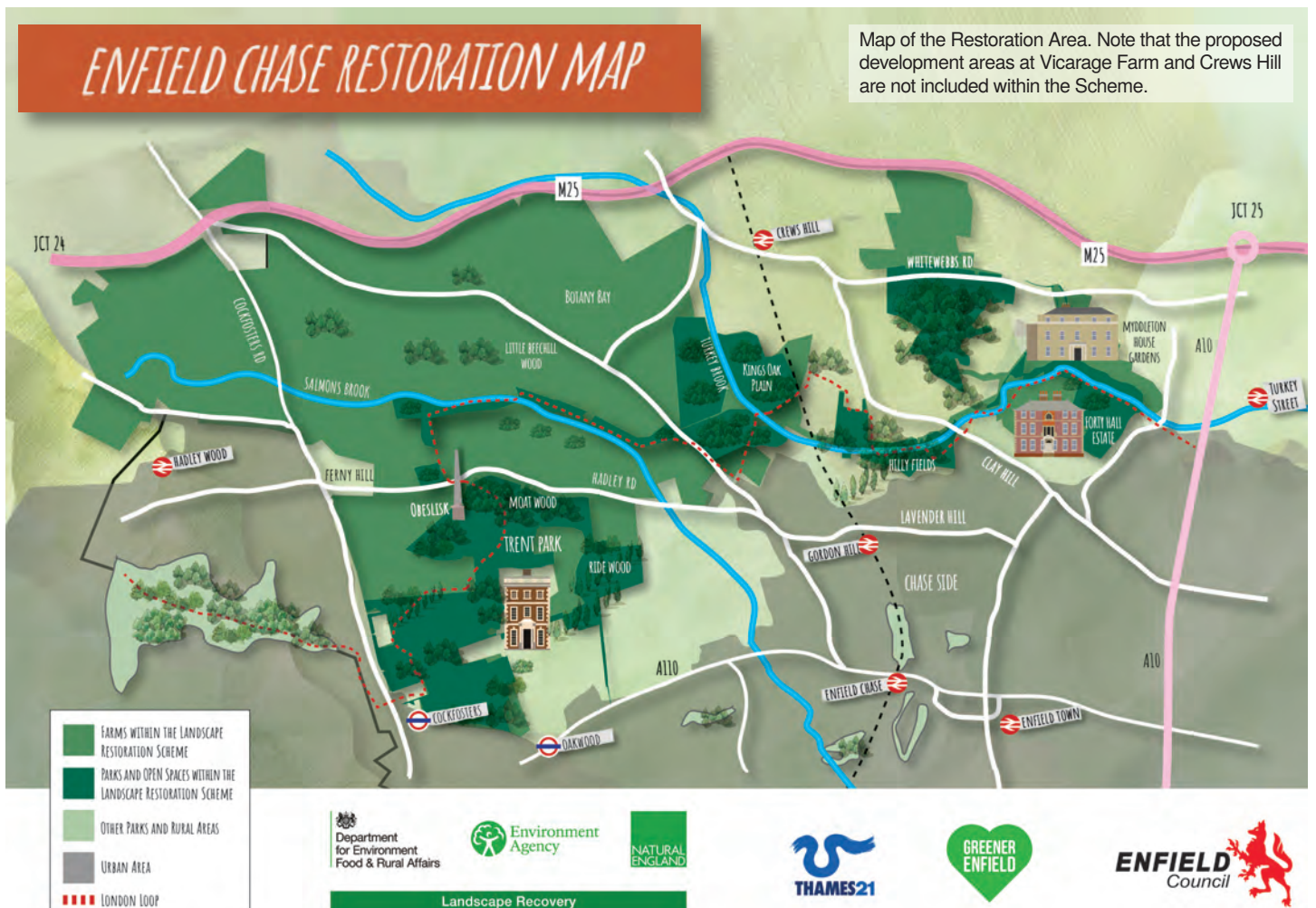
Specific deliverables being discussed include:

- Improved access and accessibility;
- Moving a sewage pipe away from Salmons Brook, and new flood plain management;
- New habitats and the reintroduction of species such as brown trout and grayling fish and water voles;
- Cattle grazing in public areas;
- The restoration of hedgerows and other natural features;
- A community interest company to oversee the project delivery and management;
- A programme of events and activities.

The Council has established various bodies to oversee the first stage. The Enfield Society, Friends of Trent Park and Friends of Enfield Chase and environmental charity Thames 21 have been involved in the stakeholder engagement working group. Members may have seen a public survey which opened earlier in June seeking input from Enfield residents.

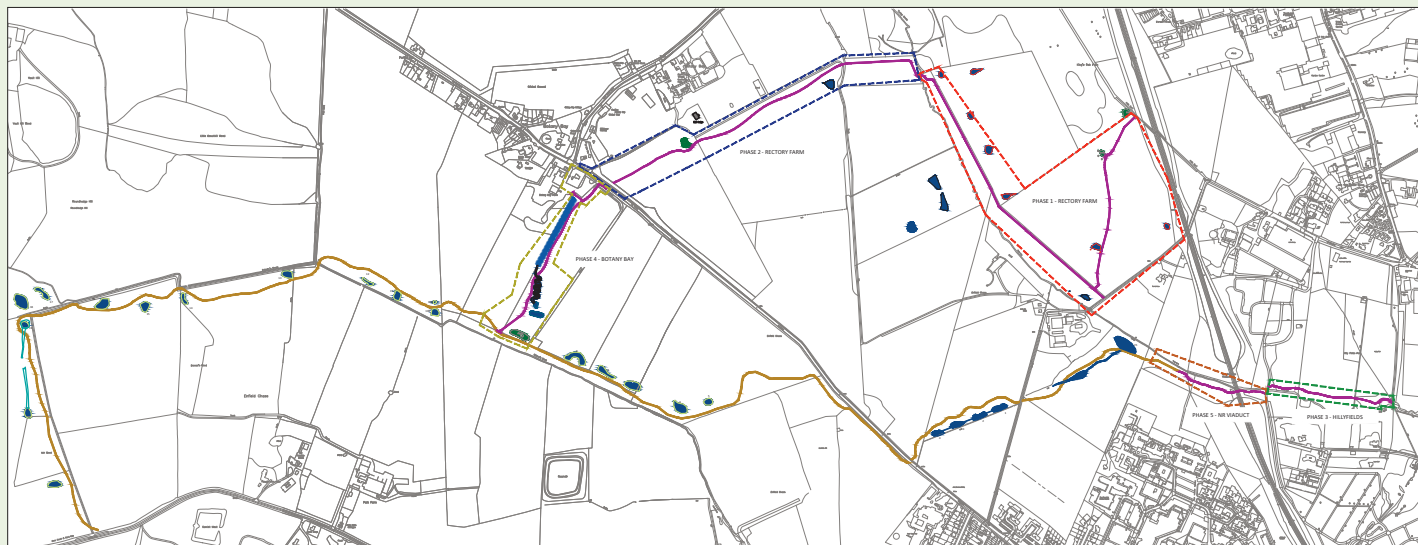
Accessing the Chase

We reported in April 2023 that Enfield Council had been awarded £500,000 through the second round of the Mayor of London’s Green and Resilient Spaces Fund. The funding was to create new pathways and a further 50 hectares of woodland by 2025.



Proposed woodland and paths.

Regrettably it is not possible to reproduce this plan large enough to make the wording legible. Botany Bay is in the middle of the map with The Ridgeway running from top left to bottom right. The brown line shows the upgraded London Loop. Purple lines show new paths made this year; the areas enclosed with coloured dotted lines are planned woodland; wetland is in blue; existing ponds are in green.



So far new pathways and rest areas have been created north and north-west of Rectory Farm and towards Botany Bay Farm. The path from Hilly Fields to Rendlesham Viaduct has also been completed as has the road crossing on the Ridgeway. Other improvements are planned including upgrading existing paths and adding way-finding including to and from Gordon Hill Station and Crews Hill Stations.

There are still firm plans, but no timescales, to finally reopen the London Loop beneath Rendlesham Viaduct, although it is hoped to commence work early next year.

Enfield Chase Woodland creation tree planting winter 2024-25

Around 140,000 trees have been planted over the past four years.

There will be further woodland creation this year using a variety of methods including natural colonisation and whip planting. Furthermore, following survival surveys in areas planted within the last four years, and as part of tree aftercare good practice, an additional 1,000 trees will be planted in October of species which are shown to have a high survival rate on the site.

Maintenance

The Society, Friends of Enfield Chase and Enfield Council have restored the Jubilee pathway from the Ridgeway to Salmons Brook. In the last year the pathway had become unusable.

Friends of Enfield Chase continue to support and provide essential tree aftercare every Tuesday to the new woodlands, wetlands and public pathways.

What is the Society's view of these plans?

Members and Trustees of the Enfield Society have been active participants in the Enfield Chase Restoration project over a number of years, and we recognise the ecological and environmental benefits of the initiatives described above. However we are concerned that the Council has previously stated its intention to pay for some of this work through large-scale Green Belt development. We firmly oppose any suggestion that improvements in one part of the Chase in any way justify the destruction of another. In engaging with the Council on plans for Enfield Chase, the Society will

- strongly support efforts for restoration of the *whole* of the Enfield Chase Heritage Area of Special Character (AoSC) as a key contributor to the character and identity of Enfield.
- insist that payments from development in the Green Belt to fund countryside projects can in no way compensate for the loss of the irreplaceable historic landscapes of the AoSC.
- push for the scope of the project area to be widened to include projects in areas of the Chase now threatened with development, including improvements to the Merryhills Way through Vicarage Farm and improvements to biodiversity at Crews Hill Golf Course.

Finally, the word 'restoration' needs to be treated with caution. Enfield Chase is a historic landscape of post-enclosure farmland, and it is essential to that historic character that it should continue in productive

agricultural use. The restoration project is not attempting to restore a 'pristine' pre-farm woodland or wood-pasture similar to Epping Forest, but to make improvements to the watercourses, improve wildlife and habitats and help to fix or improve the existing permissive paths. Whilst the word 'restoration' is suitable in terms of denoting habitat, it should not be used to imply that the current landscape is degraded. Indeed, the area is characterised by relatively small fields bounded by hedgerows of the tenanted small farms that form part of the historic interest of the Chase.



Clearing the Jubilee Path

Society Talks and Other Events

Society Talks

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

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

Enfield Local Studies



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 Society's 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.

**Tuesday 4 February 2025, 11am
DOLLY SHEPHERD**

Kirsten Forrest



Kirsten Forrest, Curatorial and Interpretation Manager at Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust will talk about the fascinating story of Dolly Shepherd, who was a pioneering fairground parachutist. She was a daring performer who made her first and last jumps at Alexandra Park but also had a successful career nationally and unlike many of her pioneer friends survived accidents and went on to serve in both the First and Second World Wars.

Kirsten will also update us on recent developments at Alexandra Palace.

**Monday 17 March 2025, 7.30pm
NEWBURY FOOTBALL CLUB**



Berkely Gardener carrying the Olympic torch through Enfield 2012. (Berkely played and managed Newbury)

Avril Nanton, Trustee of the Society and Director of Avril's Walks and Talks, will tell the tale of a little known but massively important local football squad that made waves in the Black community. The club, Newbury Football Club, were the only all Black youth team in Enfield. In 2024 Eastenders actor Rudolph Walker made a film about the club called "When Newbury Ruled" which looked at the lasting impact the team had at the time.

Please note that as from January 2025 evening talks at Jubilee Hall will start at 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

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.

Please contact the Society for forthcoming talks.

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 December

Richard III and the Battle of Bosworth (illustrated) by Professor Anne Curry (Southampton University)

2025

Tuesday 14 January

Queens as Co-rulers: Examining power sharing and ruling partnerships in the premodern world (illustrated) by Dr. Ellie Woodacre (University of Winchester)

Tuesday 11 February

From Sweeney Todd to Varney the Vampire: Popular Literature in the age of the Chartists, 1830 – 1850 (illustrated) by Professor Rohan McWilliam (Anglia Ruskin University)

Tuesday 11 March

Remembering the Reformation (illustrated) by Professor Alexandra Walsham (Cambridge University)

Society Walks

Stuart Mills

The Autumn 2024 newsletter referred to the lower number of walks we are able to offer due to the reduction in available leaders.

We are therefore very pleased to report several members have volunteered to lead. This is greatly appreciated and, already, some have been included within the October and November walk lists with, hopefully, the others being able to lead in the not too distant future.

However, for at least the time being, and unlike in the past, we are unable to provide a newsletter programme of walks for a period of three months after a newsletter distribution date. In the past this has required some leaders committing to a future date that could be up to four or five months ahead of the Newsletter copy date.

Therefore, please note that walks for the next calendar month(s) will be notified via the Society's monthly enews mailing, in the Society's calendar list of events on its website and via John West's walkers email list. To join John's list, please contact John on j.west@enfieldsociety.org.uk

Finally, for those who do not wish to join a full day's walk, please note that almost all walks have one or more shorter options – this is shown within the walk text.

Conservation and Heritage

John West and Richard Stones

The Group met on 9 September – nine members attended and we were pleased once more to welcome Michael Kennedy of LBE Planning and Place Shaping and Nicholas Page and Yu Tung of the LBE Heritage Team.

Among the issues discussed were:

- *The Environment Forum* – The letter to the former Leader of the Council (Councillor Caliskan) and the Acting Leader (Councillor Erbil), expressing concern that the Forum had been abolished without consultation, had not yet received a reply. The correspondence would be chased as soon as a new Leader of the Council was appointed.
- *The Historic England Register of Buildings at Risk* – There were eleven buildings on the Register, three parks and two Conservation Areas. In addition, we were concerned about the scheduled ancient monument at Clarendon Arch and the Conduit House (locally listed) in Whitewebbs Park.
- At *Broomfield House* consultants had been appointed to take the consultation and design process forward. It was understood that the Council's Property Team were seeking Cabinet approval to dispose of the stable block. There were serious concerns that the stables might be lost while the National Lottery bid for the House was being developed. Osterley House (National Trust) and Ashton Court (Bristol City Council) were examples of successful cafes and events spaces in similar former stable blocks. The Society would to raise concerns with the Council.
- Progress was being made in relation to *Lavender Hill Cemetery Chapel*, with events taking place during the Open House event.
- Nicholas Page was in contact with UK Power Networks regarding the former *Enfield Electricity Works* (Ladysmith Road).
- *Clarendon Arch* – The Society had been in touch with the Surveyor's Department at Thames Water who had indicated that it might be possible to lease or licence the former viewing area to the Society: they had promised to investigate the feasibility of doing so.

The List would be updated later this year in consultation with Historic England, but no sites could be removed from the List at present.

- *Conservation Areas – matters of concern*
 - *The Town* – Dennis Stacey raised concerns about shopfronts and the current trend for dark or even black facades.



Andrew Lack

The overgrown viewing platform at the Clarendon Arch

- *Trent Park* – Juliet Barnett expressed concern that the Grade II Listed gates had still not been repaired. It was understood that the matter was still with the Insurers.
- *Station car parks* – The Secretary of State had now given TfL consent to proceed with the housing development at Cockfosters. A similar scheme at Arnos Grove car park was currently being redesigned and it was assumed would be subject to a revised planning application shortly.
- *Grange Park* – 110 Old Park Ridings remained in a derelict state. The Society would also pursue this with the Council.
- *Southgate* – The Maze Inn site in Southgate remained vacant. The developer was expected to bring forward planning proposals following a low-key consultation exercise. The former Police Station just outside the Conservation Area had recently been refused permission to turn the building into a hostel. This was on the grounds of small room sizes, a lack of communal facilities and a lack of clarity over the management and operation of the hostel.
- *Conservation or enhancement?* – There was concern to clarify whether we should be seeking to conserve the original design features in a Conservation Area, for example front doors or fenestration, or whether enhancements should be allowed that would improve a building, for example improved insulation. Nicholas Page explained that each case needed to be looked at on its merits. Unfortunately, precedents that have been created could influence a Planning Inspector. For example, if several houses have a box dormer and an adjoining property wishes to provide one, it can be difficult to refuse an application. Similarly, if a property has been significantly altered, it can be difficult to justify forcing an owner to put the house back into its original condition. The overall aim was to conserve significant features and the established character of a Conservation Area, but the Council could not force 'betterment' on property owners.
- *Local Heritage List* – Because a number of Council officers had needed to focus on the Local Plan submission to the Planning Inspectorate, it had not been possible to move the List forward as quickly as previously discussed. However, Yu Tung was starting work on the consultation with property owners whose sites were being added to the List.
- *List of heritage street furniture, etc.* – Avril Nanton was working on this project and as soon as a draft list was available this would be circulated to all members of the Group for comments and additions.

Andrew Lack



Electricity Works, Ladysmith Road

Meeting with Council Officers

Richard Stones

Dave Cockle, Richard Stones and John West met Karen Page, Head of Planning & Building Control, and David Taylor, Head of Highways, Traffic and Parking, on 24 October 2024. Here is an outline of the issues discussed.

Adding paths to the Public Rights of Way List (PROW List)

LBE apologised for lack of progress on the question (see page 12). It was agreed that David Taylor and Dave Cockle would meet to discuss the issues and to decide priorities. On specific issues:

- *Conical Corner* – This was on Council land and a short report should be enough to allow its inclusion on the PROW List.
- *Lincoln Road railway crossing* – This would need discussions with Network Rail. LBE agreed to send us a copy of an email from Network Rail which had suggested there were complications.
- *Calder Close* – This was private land and David Taylor doubted whether the Council had any power to do anything. He suggested we (or preferably a resident) contact the managing agents.
- *Kirkland Drive - Gordon Hill Station* – This was on the Council's list of the highways they maintained, so it should be fairly easy to include it on the PROW List.

LBE commented generally that there were difficulties in adding cycleways to the PROW List – if they were categorised as footpaths they could not be used for cycling!

New River Loop

LBE had referred our queries about maintenance to the Parks Department but had not had a response.



View of Vicarage Farm from the South

Local Plan

LBE said they were committed to sorting out the missing representations issue (see page 2). Their target was to submit all outstanding representations by 1 November.

It was expected that the public hearings would take place early in the New Year or in the spring – this depended on the completion of the examination of the Bristol plan, which our inspector was dealing with.

We raised our concerns that

- it was being said that the areas of Green Belt which the Council wanted to develop were “inaccessible”. Both Vicarage Farm and the land at Crews Hill were accessible by existing footpaths;
- it was suggested that there was not enough non-Green Belt land to meet housing need. This ignored the backlog of developments which had been approved but had not been implemented.

Whitewebbs

The proposals would come to the Planning Committee on 19 November or 17 December. TES made the point that Spurs had failed to comply with its obligations under the 2018 Agreement and this gave no grounds for confidence that they would comply with any new agreements. There was a danger that they would simply build their football complex and drag their heels on the rest. Karen Page noted these points.



Boarded-up buildings at Chase Farm – see below

Lavender Hill Cemetery, Non-conformist Chapel

We were pleased to note the progress with developing options for the building. We were concerned that a stumbling block might be an insistence by LBE on obtaining a full market rental for the chapel – some flexibility would be needed. Karen Page said that this was a matter for the Property and Cemetery Teams.

Removal of Litter Bins

We noted that some litter bins in public places had been removed and asked if this was a matter of policy. LBE said they thought there was a feeling that litter bins tended to attract the dumping of waste in bags, etc. They would find out if there was a policy of removal, and if it was a trial. We suggested that if there was a policy it should be publicised.

Proposed Traveller Local Plan

We queried why the list of proposed sites in the LBE's draft Traveller Local Plan did not include any sites in Edmonton, where there is an existing Traveller Community. LBE explained that the sites listed in the draft Plan were limited to land in Council ownership. They were expecting to do a further “call for sites” in the course of the planning process.

We commented that the proposed site off Bulls Cross was accessed off a narrow road, which seemed unlikely to be suitable for large vehicles.

Café in Grovelands Park

We asked about the future of the café, which had been closed since it was damaged by a falling tree. LBE said they would chase up the Property Team for a response.

Chase Farm Hospital site

We expressed concern about the future of the locally listed buildings at the front of the site, which appeared to have been put up for sale by the Hospital Trust. LBE said that they were committed to ensuring that any development would involve retention and refurbishment of the buildings.

Enfield in Bloom award for Enfield Chase Station

The team of Enfield Society volunteer gardeners were delighted to learn they have been awarded a “Gold” in the category Best Public Building. This is for colourful container planting on the platforms. This year’s award follows recent success with Silver last year and Gold in 2022.

Dave Cockle

Dave Cockle



Stephen Gilburt thanked at AGM

We reported in the Summer Newsletter (page 7) that the Society was planning to produce a limited printed edition of Stephen’s collected essays on the Borough’s heritage. We had hoped to have this completed by the AGM in September and present a copy to Stephen in recognition of his contribution to the Society. Unfortunately work on the book continues and instead Dave Cockle presented Stephen with a framed print of the proposed cover. We plan to have the book on sale in 2025.

Andrew Lack

Andrew Lack



Dave Cockle presents Stephen with a framed copy of the book’s cover at AGM

Membership

A warm welcome to all the new members who have joined since the last Newsletter:

J & C Abbott, H & E Aresti, E Benihaud, T Calvert-Linnell, J Coleman, S Dawson, N & S Doraisamy, L Duxon, C Evans,

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J Fernandez, D & R Gandhi, C & D Gill, G Goddard, F Gruncell, R & M Harding, J Hatherley, B Jenkins, N Jessop, R & F Jussa, M Kirkland, A Lovett, J Miller, M Noon, J Reed, J Reiners, J Somma, M Sweeny, M & R Thanawala, E Theophanous, G Thorp, C Wharmby, B Whitaker, V Wooderson, P & K Woodhead and S Yau.

A reminder that renewals are due at the end of the year. Our renewal form will come with the Spring newsletter to those that have not already renewed by that time.

Alec Tyler

Publications – The Enfield Society Footpath Map

We are pleased to report that the revision of this publication has now been completed and, as at the Newsletter copy date, is being passed to the printer.

We must thank our designer, Keith Phillips, for his help, technical assistance and patience with this complex task which has resulted in over 350 alterations and updates to both the map and text.

Significantly expanded information is shown on both the map and within the text. This includes marking those roads in yellow that currently have bus routes, although the actual route number(s) are not shown as they could be subject to change. Where feasible for the map scale, useful entrances to parks and open spaces are shown.

We have included additional detail within the urban area to illustrate how paths can, for instance, link together parks and open spaces.

On the map, and shown in purple, we have created an “Enfield Orbital Path” that encircles Enfield by using both rights of way and permissive paths.

At only £5, an excellent Christmas filler present!

Stuart Mills

Richard Stones



St Aldhelms church

Andrew Lack

Grants

Thanks to the generosity of members in making donations and leaving legacies, the Society is able to make small grants for projects which further its statutory objectives. This year we have paid, or are about to pay, grants

- to the church of *All Saints Edmonton* as “matched funding” for a National Lottery bid which is funding urgent structural repairs and various initiatives to increase the profile of this important medieval church;
- to *Enfield Drill Hall Sports Club* as a contribution to the installation of new external doors appropriate to its locally listed façade;
- for an “options appraisal” to explore ways of restoring the Grade II listed *Non-conformist Chapel in Lavender Hill Cemetery* and putting it to a new use;
- to *CPRE, the Countryside Charity* as a contribution to funding the Enfield section of its project to create a continuous ring of woodland around Greater London.

We have agreed to make further grants

- to *Enfield Volunteer Action*, to support “Enfield Our Stories”, a project to provide funding and assistance to voluntary groups who wish to record and celebrate local heritage;
- to the Grade II listed *St Aldhelm’s Church* in Edmonton, as a contribution to the cost of repairing its roof; and
- to *Enfield Council* to support the appointment of an education officer to work with the Enfield Museum Service.

We welcome applications for grants for projects which will further our objectives – for more details and an application form, visit our website.

Society Directory

Joint President: Colin Pointer,

Vice Presidents: Janet McQueen,
Matthew Saunders MBE,
Stephen Gilburt, Alan Skilton,

Chairman: Dave Cockle

Hon. Secretary: Richard Stones

Hon. Treasurer: Tony Foster

Management Committee (Trustees):


Dave Cockle, John Cole, Tony Foster,
Robert Fowler, Andrew Lack, Jan
Metcalf, Stuart Mills, Hilary Morris,
Avril Nanton, Alison Parker, Richard
Stones, Alec Tyler, John West.


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Society Activities - Please join in!

Alison Yates

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group

There are 10 Litter Picks scheduled for 2025 and we would be delighted to see members at any of them. They all take place on Saturdays from 10am to 12noon.

On **11 January 2025** we will be at Weir Hall Recreation Ground N18 1JW. Our meeting point will be the entrance nearest the Pasteur Gardens bus stop (served by 144, 217, 231 and 444 bus routes) on the east side of the A10,

[what3words:///impact.zest.edges](https://www.what3words.com/impact.zest.edges)

On **8 February 2025** our second event will be on a section of the London Loop from the A10 to Forty Hill. The meeting point is the start of the footpath adjacent to the Crematorium bus stop, served by 217 and 317 bus routes, on the west side of the A10 close to the overhead walkway, EN1 4PN, [what3words:///tips.hang.united](https://www.what3words.com/tips.hang.united)

Our third litter pick will be on **8 March 2025** and is one we have tackled twice before, the Salmons Brook Path in Edmonton from Plevna Road to Montagu Road. Meet at the entrance to the footpath next to Clarke Mews, N9 0GP,

[what3words:///leaves.being.hooked](https://www.what3words.com/leaves.being.hooked).
Edmonton Green has an overground station and a bus station served by routes 102, 144, 149, 191, 192, 259, 279, 349, 491, W6 and W8. Walk south along Fore Street and take West Mall next to Asda Superstore to its end on Plevna Road.

Our other seven meetings will take place on: 5 April, 10 May, 14 June, 26 July, 6 September, 18 October and 6 December.

Participation is at your own risk. Please bring your own gloves, wear stout footwear and let Alison Yates know if you are attending and need equipment. 07818 682 073.



Stephen Elston

Look what we collected!



From the Local List...

The current Local Heritage List boasts 260 entries. Many of the listed buildings we probably pass by without noticing. Here is a picture of the Church School of Industry in Silver Street. The school was originally established in 1806 and moved to these buildings in 1876. The school was a charity run by the Vicar of St Andrew's and a committee of seven ladies. Its object was the free education of girls between nine and eleven. They were given a basic education and training in the skills necessary for domestic service. It closed in 1909. There are obvious similarities with the Charity School in Edmonton.

Information from the Local Heritage List

Missing Footpaths on Public Rights of Way map

Dave Cockle

One of the Society's aims is protection of footpaths and to suggest extensions to the network. Enfield Council have a website called "Find my nearest" which shows Public Rights of Way (PROW) on a map of the Borough. A close scrutiny of the map revealed the following paths to be missing.

1. Links (via steps) from Lea Valley Road to Alma Road at Ponders End.
2. Link (via steps) from Smeaton Road (by the bridge over Lea Navigation) to Government Row at Enfield Lock.
3. Footpath from Kirkland Drive (off Holtwhites Hill) to Gordon Hill Station.
4. Footpath from Lonsdale Drive into Highlands Village (Bayliss Close).

5. Footpath crossing over the Railway (Enfield Town Branch) at Lincoln Road.

We have raised these issues with the Council and a meeting is to be arranged to discuss them – see page 10.



Andrew Lack

Railway Crossing at Lincoln Road