

Assault on an Ancient Oak

Richard Stones and John West

In April we were all shocked to read that Mitchells & Butlers, the owner of the Toby Carvery in Whitewebbs House, had ordered the destruction of a 500 year old oak tree in the grounds of the House. M&B initially struck a defiant note: they had consulted an expert who had said that the tree was dead, and they had taken urgent action to protect the public. The land round Whitewebbs House is leased from the Council, who took a (perhaps unexpectedly) militant line: the Council Leader promised an investigation, and the Council produced evidence from planning documents that the tree had been recently examined and was good for another 50 years. M&B backed down, apologised and referred to the need to “tighten its protocols”.

We cannot put the severed branches back on the tree, but we can try to reduce the risk of this happening again. One lesson is that we cannot rely on commercial bodies to act responsibly on such matters: inevitably they have other priorities. Another is that councils do not usually put Tree Preservation Orders on trees on council property. This may make some sense when the council is directly using the land, but none at all where the land has (as in this case) been leased to a third party. This is all very relevant to the Council’s intention to lease a swathe of the Whitewebbs Estate to Tottenham Hotspur: we have written to the Council suggested that the planning conditions and lease must require consultation on work to mature trees in the leased area. We are also asking the Council to ensure that the same applies to

the Toby Carvery site so that in future historic trees are not removed without any further investigation.

That said, Tree Preservation Orders don’t save trees, people do: a valuable lesson is the need to get the public aware of our oldest and most valuable trees. We must congratulate the Guardians of Whitewebbs for getting such extensive coverage of the matter in the national media (not forgetting the role of our own Emma Halstead). It was also encouraging to see the number of young faces among those protesting at what had happened. It would be good if we could tap into some of their enthusiasm on other environmental issues which concern us.

For more on Spurs and Whitewebbs, see page 8.



Emma Halstead



Janet McQueen

While abroad on a recent holiday the news hit about the ancient oak tree felled in Whitewebbs. I heard first via a series of emails from various Management Committee members who had responded to one of the Guardians of Whitewebbs contacting them. It then snowballed, as you all know, reaching the National Press and radio as well as featuring on the BBC TV. It seems likely there will now be a legal process but none of this will return the tree to its previous state. Hopefully a new one will be planted and our great (many greats) grandchildren will enjoy it.

This has however made me think of the proliferation of activities undertaken by the Enfield Society in trying to maintain Enfield as place to where we can live in some degree of harmony with nature despite the growing pressure of an increasing population and climate change.

Other emails from various public bodies came in too in the 12 days I was away. The Enfield Cultural Network asked the Society to write regarding an application to the Arts Council England, in support of activities for young people in the Borough. Even the Environment Agency got in touch asking for feedback from our Society about the Houndsden Stream Action Plan. They had been alerted to our interest in the matter though the last Newsletter and John West's article.

A member of the Society raised the changes she had found to the path between Trentwood Side and Merryhills Way (see page 11).

Besides the outside bodies and our members contacting us, there were internal emails about grants, Broomfield House, discussion about the Cleaner Neighbourhood Group run by the Society and future litter picks, the Enfield Heritage Walk, the maintenance of Jubilee Hall, the next Newsletter, the coach trip to Stourhead (see page 11) amongst others.

All this takes time and we could do with more volunteers to help as well as more members from which to get them. Please do consider asking your neighbours, friends, and relations to join the Society - the work being done is vital to keep Enfield a wonderful place to live as you can see from just a typical 12 days of emails.

Restoring the Enfield Chase Mosaics

John Cole

Members may be aware that the forecourt of Enfield Chase Station is the location of three large mosaic pieces by Debbie Dean. They feature the Bycullah Athenaeum (a popular performance venue which once stood further up Windmill Hill), the Windmill after which the road is named, and the Station in its original location. Two mosaics were funded by Great Northern and the Bycullah Athenaeum by a Heritage Lottery grant. The Society has assumed responsibility for their upkeep.

John Cole



The Athenaeum mosaic

The Athenaeum mosaic was damaged by an impact that was exacerbated by the poor condition of the lower half of the marine-ply backing, and has been in store. The others show signs of aging and some dampness.

The total cost of the repairs is around £3,000, and the Society has agreed to fund this, partly from its general funds and partly from a surplus in the Enfield Station Garden Fund.

The Society decided to undertake the repair work itself. Mosaic artist Alex McHallam has agreed to manage the project on behalf of the Society and to undertake the necessary work to repair, clean and frame all



Alex McHallam at work

three mosaics and reinstall them at the station. Alex has just completed (with Liz Tiranti) 28 mosaics forming a "Portrait of Southgate" Art Trail, inspired by Southgate's heritage and vibrant mix of residents. She has also created the mosaics at Palmers Green and Gordon Hill stations.

John Cole



To help undertake this work we identified a short let within Palace Gardens that has been offered on a community basis free of charge. This has permitted Alex to work on all three mosaics simultaneously.

The temporary workshop

John Cole

150 Years of Christ Church, Chase Side

Stephen Gilbert

This year there will be a series of events to celebrate the 150 years since the first services were held at Christ Church on 18 November 1875. The church will be open for lunches between 12 noon and 2pm on Saturdays 14 June, 9 August and 11 October. There will also be a Church Fun Day in June.

To coincide with the London Open House Week, Christ Church will be open between 11 am and 4pm on Saturday 13 September. There will be refreshments and guided tours around the church. There will also be historical visual displays and exhibitions about the Grade II listed church, its predecessors Zion Chapel and Chase Side Chapel and the people and activities associated with the churches past and present. A new illustrated publication "From Zion Chapel to Christ Church – a story of Congregationalists in Enfield" will be available.

At 7.30pm on Saturday 8 November, the Enfield Choral Society (which was founded in 1938 as the Christ Church Choral Society) will present a concert in the church.

There will be an Anniversary service at 10.45 am on Sunday 16 November. It will be led by the Revd. George Watt, Moderator of the Thames North Synod of the United Reformed Church.

At 3pm on Wednesday 19 November I will give an illustrated talk "From Zion Chapel to Christ Church – a story of Congregationalists in Enfield" in Jubilee Hall to the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society. All Enfield Society members will be welcome.

The year of celebrations will conclude in December with a Christmas Tree Festival and various Christmas services. For more information on events throughout the year visit www.ccure.org.uk.



Sketch of the proposed church

Enfield Local Studies and Archive

Recording Street Furniture

John West and Avril Nanton

During the updating of the Enfield Local Heritage List (see Newsletter 237, Spring 2025), volunteers found many interesting items of street furniture. These include foundation stones, cast iron street and bridge signs, boundary markers, cattle troughs not identified on the Heritage List and many others.

It was agreed with the Council's Heritage Team that as 50 new sites and buildings were being added to the Local Heritage List, rather than extend that List further, a separate Enfield Street Furniture List would be developed. Once completed, the List will be published on the Council's website and the Society's website. The purpose of identifying historic street furniture is to ensure that it is protected and safeguarded during highway works. The Society is aware of items such as cast-iron pavement parish markers that have been removed by highway works or statutory work undertaken.

photos John West



Weight limit sign, Hertford Road, Turkey Street.

Some street furniture, including the finger posts on Green Lanes and some cattle troughs, are included on the Local Heritage List, but in the main that list includes buildings and sites. The definition of street furniture that the Society is currently working on is as follows: –

Items of a durable nature fixed to the highway – both the carriageway and footway – and to adjoining structures, visible from the public highway.

This definition is intended to include signs on bridge parapets and buildings on roads, including permanent murals. It excludes items on private land and roads, and in other areas such as parks and open spaces. This definition can be reviewed, but the current priority is to



Malvern Road, cast iron sign.

produce a definitive list and seek views prior to publication. The Society's Conservation and Heritage Group has produced a draft list and Avril Nanton and John West from the Group are currently visiting each site, photographing and recording the items. Once this work is complete, we will publish the List on the Society's website and seek views from members. It is likely that members living across the Borough will be able to identify items that have been missed and should be added to the Street Furniture List.



The Iron Horse, Montagu Road.

Spotlight on a Trustee – Bob Fowler

Bob became a member of the Society in January 2003: reasons for joining being an interest in local heritage and conservation. Bob was impressed by the Society and its many significant achievements over the years. When an opportunity arose to join the Publicity Group, he accepted. Shortly after, when Beryl Dorrington decided stand down as the Group chair, he was invited take up that role.

Apart from chairing Group meetings and co-ordinating some of its activities, he was involved in supplying membership invitations and surplus newsletters to some libraries and community centres and maintaining notice boards at Frogs Bottom and Enfield Chase station.

He was invited to join the Management Committee in 2007 and elected a Trustee at the following AGM.



He was instrumental in writing regular TES columns for The Enfield Advertiser and Enfield Echo, and occasional articles for Enfield Independent and EN Magazine.

Over the years, Bob has been part of the organising team for shows and events, including volunteers, transporting equipment, gazebo and Society publications to and from site. In 2017 he arranged for a new, eye-catching red replacement gazebo, which appeared at The Enfield Autumn Show in Town Park and other events around the Borough. Other activities he has participated in are talks to other civic societies and various other groups about the Society, its work and achievements; the new members evening; and preparing press releases on Society news.

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. Evening talks normally start at 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

Monday 21 July, 7.30pm

CHARLES LAMB AND THOMAS HOOD

Sara Lodge

Charles Lamb and Thomas Hood became friends when Hood joined the London Magazine, where Lamb was a star essayist. Both writers shared a liberal outlook and came together in the 1820s to take a stand against the war on homelessness created by new regulation. Sara's talk will be about Lamb and Hood's friendship, their similarities and differences, and how the 'light' and playful qualities of their writing for a long time blinded critics to the pointedly political nature of their works.

Sara Lodge is Senior Lecturer in the School of English at the University of St Andrews, specialising in nineteenth-century literature and culture. She is the author of *Thomas Hood and Nineteenth-Century Poetry* and *Jane Eyre: A Reader's Guide to Criticism*.

Tuesday 5 August, 11am

THOMPSON AND BYWATER. EDWARDIAN JUSTICE ON TRIAL

Doreen Tayler



More about a judge's bias and assumptions, than actual evidence. A woman destroyed for the morals of the time (after the Great War) and for word crimes. A truly sensational case with the verdict still being debated today. So how would you vote today as a jury member?

Thursday 18 September, 8pm

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ENFIELD SOCIETY – SOCIETY AGM

In anticipation of the Society's 90th anniversary in 2026 this short talk will celebrate the history, successes and aspirations of the Society over the past nine decades.

Tuesday 7 October, 11am

UNLOCKING BROOMFIELD



Enfield Trustee **John Cole** is now working in collaboration with Enfield Council on a National Lottery funded project focussing on Broomfield Park and House (see page 5). He will talk about the Project.

Talks and activities of other Societies and Groups

Enfield Archaeological Society

Talks in person 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. For Zoom access details, visit www.enfarchsoc.org

Friday 12 September

to be confirmed

Friday 10 October

Tudor Coin Hoards in England and Wales by Murray Andrews (by Zoom)

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 9 September

Pre-literate societies and the impact of writing by Dr. Jennie Somerville (Branch member)

Tuesday 14 October

'Wives of The Devil and His Brood': Eleanor of Aquitaine and Her Contemporary Queens by Dr. Gabrielle Storey (Historian and author)

The Arts Society Enfield

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at Enfield Baptist Church, Cecil Road, Enfield EN2 6TG. Lectures start promptly at 10.40am (doors open from 10am). We are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors. The visitors fee for a single meeting is £10.

Could you be our next talks organiser?

After two years organising daytime and evening talks for members, Joe Studman has decided to stop. This means we now need to find a new volunteer to arrange talks for members. This is a very popular benefit of membership and we regularly get 50 or more at talks. If you think you might want to give it a try, please do contact us and we can give you more information. It would be a shame if talks were to stop after December 2025.

Thursday 16 June

Pop-up Pyramids and Lift-the-Flap Anatomy: The Pleasures of Print in Early Modern Europe by Dr Christine Faraday

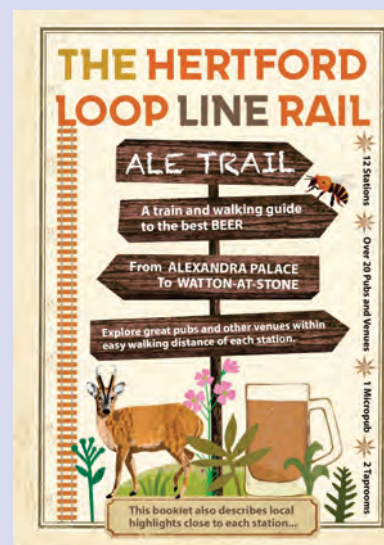
Thursday 31 July

Catherine the Great: The World's Greatest Collector by Andrew Prince

Thursday 25 September

Banksy: Fraud or Genius? by Pepe Martinez

All Aboard for Great Beer!



The Society, in partnership with others, has produced a pocket-sized guide to some of the best pubs and bars near stations on the Hertford Loop Line. Each station section includes a brief look at the local area and a handy map, making it easy to navigate your pub adventure. The booklet is beautifully illustrated by Kremena Dimitrova, the artist behind the mural on Enfield Chase Station platform 2. Pick up your free copy at Enfield Chase, Gordon Hill, or participating pubs from June 6th. Keep an eye on social media for details about a launch event in early June!

Broomfield Park: A New Chapter Begins

John Cole

In December 2023, Enfield Council secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the project *Unlocking Broomfield Park for the Community* to give Broomfield Park a much-needed refresh—making it an even better place for everyone to enjoy.

One of the most significant changes on the horizon is the removal of the burnt-out parts of Broomfield House and its long-standing scaffolding. Rather than leaving the house as a ruin, the Council is planning to honour the site's rich history while improving the park's overall look and feel.



The mural: a close-up

As the House is Grade II* Listed, consultations took place with Historic England who have agreed that it is now appropriate to remove the scaffolding and structure and commemorate the house through the National Lottery funded project. While early ideas include reviving elements of the original Baroque water garden, the final vision will be shaped by those who know the park best—its users.

Artelia Group have been appointed Project Sponsors on behalf of the Council. In early May 2025 a landscape-led Design Team will



The community mural

be announced to lead the transformation — look out for news on the Society's website for updates. Local people—including groups like the Enfield Society, Southgate District Civic Voice, Friends of Broomfield Park and the Broomfield House Trust, who all had a big say in the development of the bid to the Heritage Fund, will once again have a meaningful say in what happens next by participating in an influential committee alongside Ward Councillors and other local representatives.

The Council is encouraging everyone to get involved in shaping the park's future. You can express your opinions on the project by using the QR code below or by attending future events and picking up a paper survey.

In early 2026 a further bid for money to complete the capital works will be made to National Lottery Heritage Fund.

In the meantime there are plenty of activities to enjoy this year. A community archaeological excavation, conducted by the Enfield Archaeological Society and involving local schools, has found traces of an additional water feature (see below), and there will be nature walks and wellbeing



Community archaeology

events. And there has even been a face-lift for the hoardings round the ruins: they are now adorned with a new community mural celebrating the history of the Park and House. This follows workshops with the Art Students at Laurel Park School, who helped to create elements in the design, and a public "Paint Jam".

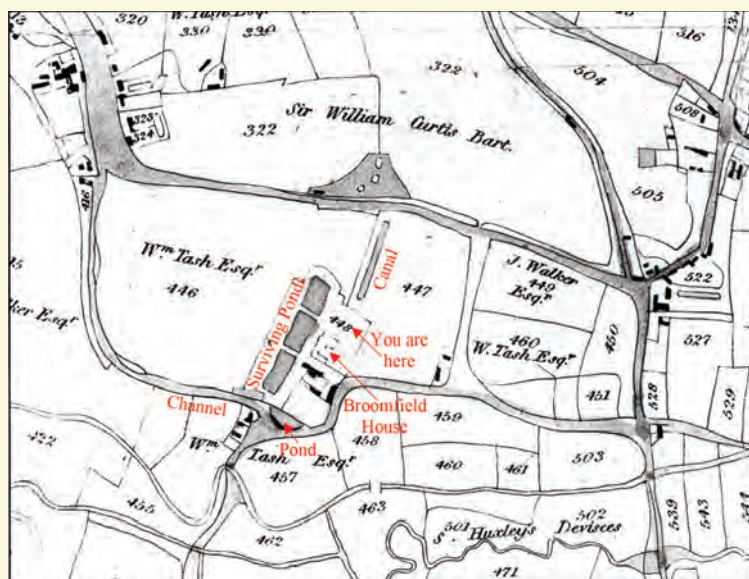
Besides being a Trustee of the Society, John is the Council's Community Engagement officer for the project.



A "Dutch style" baroque water garden...

"Baroque" in the sense of formal, "Dutch" because rectangular expanses of water were popular in the Netherlands, the Broomfield lakes date from around 1720 to 1730 and were probably developed from medieval fishponds. They are flanked by the Grade II/II* listed walls dating from 16th to 18th century, creating a walled enclosure embracing Broomfield House. From the lakes there was a westward vista along an elm avenue (replanted some years ago with limes). The whole forms a baroque ensemble which can still be "read" as a whole. The Enclosure Map of 1801 shows a further narrow stretch of water or "canal" to the north, and the community archaeological project has revealed traces of a second, smaller canal under the east lawn.

The proposed work on the lakes includes de-silting to improve the ecological health of the water which will enhance wildlife; reintroduction of the historic garden boundary in the Baroque style; repointing of the lake frontages; and repair and reinstatement of the cascade. Other improvements could include reinstating period elements and highlighting existing ones.



Enclosure Map, 1801, showing the lakes and 'canal' to the north. "You are here" marks the site of the archaeological excavation.

Baker Street, Enfield, Part 1

Stephen Gilburt

Baker Street, also previously known as Bakers Street and Beaker Street, extends north out of Enfield Town from Silver Street (see Newsletter 237, Spring 2025) to Forty Hill (see Newsletter 198, Summer 2015). In the 18th century Baker Street was lined with grand houses including Enfield Court (see Newsletter 192, Winter 2013). Many were owned by London merchants. In the 19th century there were also chapels, schools, public houses, terraces of shops and houses. Most of the remaining large houses were replaced in the 20th century with private and council housing. In 1936 a long time local resident recalled a time when within half a mile there were three public houses, five beer shops, a temperance hall, the remains of the old Shoreditch workhouse, five courtyards, one brewery, various trading and business establishments and a building where prize fighters were trained.

The Enfield Society



Picture 1

Rectory Manor House stood on the north side of Parsonage Lane. It was sold in 1926 and houses in Monastery Gardens were built on the site. Its wrought iron gates were taken to Trinity College, Cambridge which had owned the house.

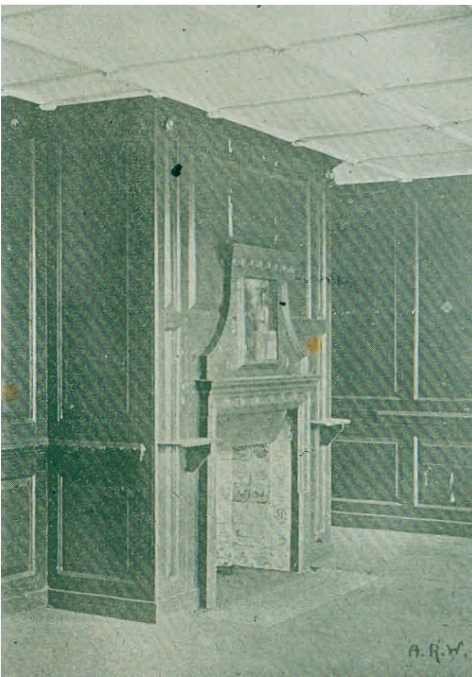


The Enfield Society

Picture 2

Fox Hall, opposite Graeme Road, dated from the mid 17th century. Entrance lodges flanked ornate 18th century wrought iron gates. To the north was a barn with a tiled roof. The house was demolished in 1963 and housing was built on the site. Part of the wall of one of the lodges can still be seen.

The Enfield Society



Picture 3

The interior of Fox Hall contained panelled walls and carvings. The dining room had a low ceiling with Tudor roses. A spiral staircase led to bedrooms with marble fireplaces on the first floor.

Picture 4

Meeting House Yard was the location of a Baptist chapel established in 1669. It was taken over by the Presbyterians in 1689 when the minister was Revd. Obadiah Hughes. A new chapel was built in 1702.



Enfield Local Studies & Archive



Picture 5

In the 19th century the chapel was run by Congregationalists. It was rebuilt in a classical style in 1862 with seating for 500. Revd. Samuel Joseph Smith was the minister for 58 years. After a period as a Salvation Army citadel from 1924 to 1933, it was acquired by the Old Baptist Union and was known as Emmanuel Baptist Church. The church was demolished in 1977 for road widening, but the hall at the back was for a time used by Enfield Evangelical Church.

Stephen Gilburt

Picture 6

This view of the interior of the church shows it decorated for Harvest Festival in 1914.



Picture 8

The Jolly Butchers public house at 168 Baker Street is locally listed. It was built in 1906 to an exuberant Edwardian design by William Stewart. It has rough cast gables, turrets and an extensive plaster frieze between the first and second floors. There was originally a road between the public house on one side and the off licence on the other side.



Picture 7

The various brick and weatherboarded 19th century houses and shops shown here were replaced by sheltered housing following their demolition in 1977. The alley on the right next to the Baptist Church led to a small Post Office which I remember visiting.



Picture 9

174 Baker Street is an early to mid 18th century two storey brick house which is listed Grade II. It has stone coped gable ends and dormer windows in a tiled gambrel roof. It also has a basement where the servants would have worked. The adjoining late 19th century former shop has a weatherboarded side



Picture 10

A school for poor girls was set up by Nonconformists in 1806, opposite the junction with what is now Gordon Road. It was funded by collections at Baker Street chapel and the two chapels in Chase Side, annual subscriptions and the sale of work done by the children. The 50 pupils were given dinners on school days during the winter and were instructed "in working and reading". 40 of them were provided with school uniforms. The alcove between the windows above the entrance originally had a statue of a girl reading a book, similar to the one at the Edmonton Girls Charity School (see Newsletter 195, Autumn 2014). The building ended its life as Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. Although listed Grade II, it was de-listed prior to its demolition in 1977.



For more information see:

Victoria History of the County of Middlesex vol V, 1976

A History of Enfield by David Pam, volume 1: *Before 1837*, 1990; volume 2: *1837-1914*, 1992; and volume 3 *1914-1939*, 1994

A Glimpse down Baker Street by Daren Gordelier, EHHS newsletters, 2012

Treasures of Enfield, Discovering the Buildings of a London Borough edited by Valerie Carter, EPS, 2000

Local Heritage List, Enfield Council, 2024

Enfield Past by Graham Dalling, 1999

The Enfield Book by Graham Dalling, 2007

A-Z of Enfield's Pubs Part 1 by Gary Boudier, 2000

Whitewebbs – an update

Richard Stones

We are aware that our qualified acceptance of the Spurs' scheme has angered some of our members, and at our last AGM a member made unfavourable comparisons with the Society's campaign to save Chase Green in the nineteen-thirties. As we said at the AGM, the issue is a matter of judgment on which different views are possible. We thought that it was highly unlikely that in the current economic and political circumstances the Council would spend the money necessary to keep up the Whitewebbs Estate. The attraction of the former golf course lies in its nature as open parkland—this requires management to maintain its character. We therefore believed and continue to believe that the Spurs' proposal is broadly acceptable, but this depends on Spurs being held to account as regards the community benefits which it offered in its planning application.

Planning Conditions

The Report on Spurs' application by Council officers set out a significant number of Conditions, and also the terms of an agreement that Spurs will have to enter with the Council. These deal, among things, with the following issues.

The Landscape Generally

A detailed Parkland Management Plan is to be submitted for approval by the Council before development commences, and must be complied with for the duration of the Training Facility. It must include details of the community engagement undertaken to inform the Plan, and the timetable for implementation of the management and maintenance arrangements. A monitoring report must be submitted to the Council annually for the first five years of the lease and thereafter five-yearly.

The "Historic Carriageway"

Spurs made quite a play of the restoration of the original carriageway from the North Lodge to Whitewebbs House (and indeed the Council Heritage Officer regards it as a "heritage benefit" of the overall scheme). However Spurs' proposal that this should become the public vehicular access to the Carvery attracted considerable opposition (from the Society among others) on the grounds that having two parallel roads through the estate would be excessive and would leave the Pond in a kind of traffic island. Spurs conceded at the last moment that vehicular traffic should continue to use the existing road.

According to the Enfield Dispatch report of the Planning Committee meeting, the agreed solution was that traffic "would be banned from the historic carriageway". This suggests that its physical reinstatement will go ahead. **We have asked the Council to confirm that the specification of the carriageway as set out in the Planning Report will be modified**

accordingly – for example, the width of the carriageway should be reduced and there will be no need for road traffic paraphernalia such as lighting or bollards.

Perimeter of the Spurs Enclosure

We made the point that the perimeter of the Spurs enclosure should not be planted with laurel hedges, as is the case with the existing Spurs facilities – this would damage the rural feel of the environment. It appears that Spurs is wedded to laurel hedges, but as a compromise it has agreed that there should be laurel hedges on the inside of the fences and planting of native species on the outside – see the illustration.



Proposed design for the boundary of the Spurs enclosure

Lighting

Floodlights on the pitches may not operate after 8.30pm. There is reference in the Report to only one pitch being illuminated at a time – **we have suggested to the Council that this should be made a Condition.**

Paths and Signage

Various new paths are to be created. These include paths along the course of the New River Loop where it crosses the estate (see below).

A scheme of heritage walking trails and interpretation boards of heritage assets within the Park and its settings are to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Council. The scheme must be developed in conjunction with local interest groups including the Society.

The Facilities at the Southern Clubhouse

These are to include a café, to be run by Spurs or its agent, and a community room which will be used some of the time by the Council, but will otherwise be available for public use at hire rates reflecting only the cost of its provision.

These must be complete before the Training Facility starts operating.

The car park will have 95 spaces (it is claimed that the maximum current usage is 85). **It is not stated that parking will remain free – we have suggested to the Council that this should be clarified.**

Access

It is stated in various places in the Report that the estate will be open from dawn to dusk, but there is no Condition to this effect. **We have suggested to the Council that this should be clarified.**

It is envisaged that there will be gates on the entrances: those at the North and South Lodges will be replicas of the gates shown in historic photos, and the design has to be approved by the Council.

Heritage

The Stable Block ("Northern Clubhouse")

This is to be extended to provide the indoor premises for the Training Facility. The Council Heritage Officer "has raised concerns about the level of information provided making it difficult to understand whether the works would conserve the heritage asset". A detailed schedule for the conservation and repair of the structure will be required.

Remains of the Walled Garden

These are at the car park to the Stable Block. The development is to include the use of cobblestone paving to indicate the line of the walled garden together with the repair of the upstanding remains.

The Conduit House

The Conditions envisage restoration of this building, repairing the walls and constructing a new roof. The asset would subsequently be maintained and managed by the applicant, but open to community use.

The New River Loop

The proposals include the creation of two publicly accessible routes that follow the route of the New River in the parkland area. There is to be work to conserve the remains of the Loop.



The "historic carriageway" as it is now

Clearly the effectiveness of these requirements depends totally on their not being watered down in negotiations between the Council and Spurs, and on their being properly enforced. The conduct of both Spurs and the Council in relation to Spurs' current facilities and the proposed Nature Reserve at Dickinson's Trough do not encourage optimism about this. The Society is thinking of assembling a group of volunteers to monitor the progress of the works with a view to holding Spurs and the Council to account if they fail to honour the commitments they have made. We will give more details in the next Newsletter.

All growth, no green?

We reproduce below the editorial from the Spring edition of the Open Spaces Society, of which the Enfield Society has been a member since 1998. It reflects the opinion of the OSS, but one with which many of us will have sympathy.

In the late 1940s, when the country was on its knees after the second world war, the Labour government nevertheless found room for vital legislation beyond the economic emergency: the National Health Service Act 1946, the Town and Country Planning Act 1947, and the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

Our economy is pretty dire today. The government should emulate its predecessor and invest in social goods.

Cliché

Instead, we have the cliched slogan that growth must override everything else. On 29 January Rachel Reeves, chancellor of the exchequer, gratuitously accused those who want to see the right development in the right place as ‘Mockers’, and said that developers should stop having to worry about ‘bats’ and ‘newts’, proxies for the value of nature.

The revised national planning policy framework gives us no confidence that the government intends to protect green spaces. Our proposal that developers should be compelled to designate new town and village greens in their plans—to protect open spaces and give people rights there—has aroused no ministerial interest.

How does all this growth-and-development noise chime with the recent welcome pledges from government?

To mark the seventy-fifth anniversary royal assent of the 1949 act, government promised, among other things, stronger laws and guidance for national parks and national landscapes, to widen the public’s access to nature. And at Christmas we learnt that the government will repeal the pernicious 2031 cut-off for claiming historic paths—all good stuff.

Now we have a consultation on a land-use framework. In 2022 we gave evidence to a House of Lords committee on land use in England, and called for public access to be at the heart of land-use policy. A positive report ensued but was buried.

The headline this time is ‘to protect the most productive agricultural land and boost food security’. This will presumably appease disaffected farmers, but the framework must be comprehensive; it must not sideline public

access but ensure that it is maximised, along with nature and natural beauty.

Comely

To achieve change we need legislation—a new National Parks and Access to the Countryside Bill perhaps. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs must fight for parliamentary time (we understand it has no slot in this session), and demonstrate that to achieve growth we need a happy, healthy population and a comely environment resistant to climate crisis.

That means that people must have safe, good-quality access close to home as well as in the wider countryside, so that they can understand nature and want to fight for it—just as the Labour government recognised in the 1940s.

The Open Spaces Society was founded in 1865 and is the country’s oldest national conservation body. They campaign to protect common land, village greens, open spaces, public paths and the public’s right to enjoy them. For more information, see their website, www.oss.org.uk.

Andrew Lack



Growth not green? – Crews Hill Golf Course

Update — Enfield’s Local Plan

Following the Stage I Examination hearings in January, the Planning Inspector is currently at the hearings of the Bristol Local Plan. The Programme Officer has now issued further questions that the Inspector has asked of the Council and an outline timetable. The Society has already advised the Inspector that it wishes to be a participant in the Stage 2 Examination. We have the opportunity to submit further statements if required and the hearings start again on 7 May. Initially the Inspector proposes to conclude any matters outstanding from Stage 1. The sessions relating to the Green Belt allocations will be on the weeks beginning 30 June and 21

July. The Society also wishes to be represented on the matters relating to tall buildings, although it is not yet clear when that matter will be discussed.

Since the end of the first stage, the Council has been working on a new Representation Database following the difficulties last year when some submissions were not recorded or made available to the Inspector. The new database is now available and we urge all members who submitted representations either directly or through our website to check that their entries are present. This is a critical matter which the Inspector will want assurance has been properly addressed. The Society’s representations are all recorded, but we understand from other groups that some submissions are still missing. Please contact us with any anomalies discovered. You can find a link to the new database from our local plan page on our website: enfieldsociety.org.uk/localplan,

John West and Andrew Lack

Memories of the Blitz in Enfield

Michael Bing writes:

“When my mother, Valerie Braunston, recently went into care, I had little choice but to clear out her house in readiness to sell it. Little did I know that in her writing room I would find the manuscript for her story of growing up



in Enfield during the World War Two. For five years, Valerie lived in Bush Hill Park and her book documents many dramatic events such as spending eight months of the Blitz hugging her teddies and living in an Anderson shelter (or taking cover in the toilet under the stairs). She recalls events such as when a child with missing fingers from playing with unexploded munitions was paraded in front of the school as a harsh lesson. The book is packed with wonderful local experiences, sights and sounds.”

London Can Take It by Valerie Braunston is not available from the Society, but you can get it from Amazon or via www.londoncantakeit.co.uk. Valerie’s evacuation to Lincolnshire in 1944 is being serialised for BBC East Midlands, who described it as “brilliant...it’s a really enthralling story and so well told”.

Notes on the Southgate Heritage Walk

Richard Purver

I was pleased to be asked by Alison Parker to revise the texts provided by my late Southgate District Civic Voice colleague Peter Hodge for the Enfield Preservation Society book *Heritage Walks in the London Borough of Enfield* (2007), for use in the Heritage Walk booklets for Southgate and Winchmore Hill (Nos 6 and 7 in the series) which were published in 2022. My approach was to add buildings which had been listed nationally and locally since 2007 and new items of information which I thought would be of interest.

Minchenden School War Memorial

My additions included the reference in section 5 in the Southgate walk to the Minchenden School war memorial board being transferred to the Museum of Enfield and relocated across the road from its original site to Southgate Library in 2022 (due to the building's conversion for use by Durants School) with the support of Southgate District Civic Voice. In fact although the memorial was taken to the library it had yet to be installed, but expecting this to take place not long after the guide's publication I took the risk of implying it had already occurred.

27 High Street

The Southgate walk also includes (in section 10) the locally listed 27 High Street but the 2024 Enfield Local Heritage List states that it was removed from the list in 2022 'due to very limited interest, despite the shopfront being sympathetically designed'.

I understand it can be difficult to reinstate an entry once de-listed but if it is possible in the future perhaps this could be considered on the grounds of historic association as 27 High Street was the premises of the Eagle, one of the area's old beerhouses, as described (with accompanying photograph of the frontage and licensee Police Constable C Pizzey) by Alan Dumayne in *Southgate: A Glimpse Into the Past* (1987, second edition 1989).



Enfield Local Studies and Archive

Eagle Hall

As well as the Eagle public house there is also a reference in section 10 to the birth at the nearby Eagle Hall in 1784 of the poet, essayist and critic Leigh Hunt and the Southgate Civic Trust / Southgate Reform Synagogue blue plaque commemorating the event. The building was demolished after bomb damage in 1941 and later replaced by the synagogue, where the plaque was originally unveiled in 1986 before being brought forward to its present location at 41-43 High Street after flats were built on the site. After a restoration of the plaque in 2013 it was reinstalled in the presence of the late Jean Seales and her son Nigel, direct descendants of Leigh Hunt, and members of their family.



Richard Purver

[*Heritage Walks 6: Southgate and 7: Winchmore Hill* are available from the Society's online store at £2.50 each plus postage and packing. We must admit to being involved in the deletion of 27 High Street from the Local List as being of limited interest. We should have studied its history more carefully!]

Society Activities

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group

Saturday 14 June finds us in Oakwood. Please meet at the corner of Enfield Road and Lowther Drive EN2 7HX, what3words.com///wide.secret.energetic

Alight at the Lakeside bus stop for routes 121/307.

Saturday 26 July sees our group return to Edmonton to tackle another footpath close to Plevna Road. This one is located on the end of Menon Drive adjacent to Aulay Lawrence Court N9 0GE (What3Words.com///vibe.sharp.client)

Edmonton Green bus station is served by routes: 102, 144, 149, 191, 192, 259, 279, 349, 491, W6 and W8. In addition there is an overground station on the Weaver Line.

Walk south along Fore Street and take West Mall next to Asda superstore to its end on Plevna Road. Turn left and walk north east and Menon Drive is the third turning on the right.

On **Saturday 6 September** we will return to Turkey Street and the New River Path near Myddleton House.

Please meet on the corner of Turkey Street and Bull's Cross EN1 4RJ (What3Words.com///pipe.whips.safety)

Bus stop Turkey Street on the A10 served by routes 217 and 317 is the nearest public transport. Walk west on Turkey Street past St Ignatius School and over the bridge and continue until the road meets the junction with Bull's Cross.

As usual we will meet at 10am and finish at 12 noon for all of these litter picks.



Alison Yates

Participation is at your own risk, please bring your own gloves and let me know if you require equipment.

Alison Yates 07818 682073



Unfortunately the installation was then deferred because of funding problems, thus rendering my text inaccurate. I had hoped in due course I would be able to report an actual date the memorial had been put up so I could set the record straight but the forthcoming closure of Southgate Library means that the plan to do so has had to be abandoned. The board remains in the Museum's collection and will be included in the current project to digitise their objects for display online. It is also listed on the War Memorials Online website.

The memorial did however feature in the exhibition Enfield at War 1939-45 at the Dugdale Centre in 2019-20 and SDCV went ahead with the publication in 2024 of the book related to the project, *Minchenden School War Memorial* by Eileen Bostle, which has extensively-researched biographies of all 55 people named on the roll of honour.

– please come and join us!

Coach trip to Stourhead, Saturday 5th July 2025

This year we are going to the National Trust property of Stourhead in Wiltshire. Leaving Enfield at 9am, we will have a stop en route for coffee etc before arriving at Stourhead after 12 midday. You will then have about 4½ hours to enjoy the Palladian house, and world famous gardens, shops, and eateries at this highly recommended NT property before we leave for the return trip to Enfield arriving about 7pm.

Stourhead was built in the Palladian style over 300 years ago by the Hoare family. It has a regency library, Chippendale furniture and wonderful art. The house is surrounded by extensive grounds with temples, towers and grotto to explore besides the lake and longer estate walks to do if you have the energy. There are the usual excellent National Trust shops and restaurant to enjoy as well as a picnic area. Disability vehicles are available but best to book them in advance.

Cost will be £36 for NT members and £52 for non-members. If you are interested in coming please contact Janet McQueen by email at visits@enfieldsociety.org.uk or send a SAE to *Coach trip, Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AN* with a cheque payable to “The Enfield Society”.

Andrew Lack



Society Walks

Walking is one of the best ways to stay fit and healthy. Throughout the year the Enfield Society has around 25 to 30 guided walks. As well as excellent exercise, the walks have a social element providing an opportunity to meet people with similar interests.

These walks include country walks in Hertfordshire, Essex and Kent, local walks in Enfield and the surrounding area, walks throughout London and heritage walks in areas with historic interest. Walks are open

to all members. No need to book, just turn up on the day.

Guidance is given on the length of each walk and any difficulties. All walks use public transport to start and finish the walk.

Details of walks are given on the Society's calendar list of events on its website, and in our monthly enews mailing to members.

Members can also join John West's "walkers email list", which provides details of walks and can also give notice of last-minute alterations.

To join John's list, please email him on j.west@enfieldsociety.org.uk

Ian Reynolds



A walk with a difference! TES walkers about to board the IFS Cloud Cable Car on 10 April to cross the Royal Docks and River Thames to land at North Greenwich

Changes on the Merryhills Way

At the end of Trentwood Side a new footpath, turning right and following the Southern boundary of Vicarage Farm, now provides the link to the Merryhills Way.

John West



The new bridge

This new path was the route originally agreed with Luke Comer (owner of Vicarage Farm), and is shown on Ordnance Survey maps. It was held back due to no money being available, at the time, for a new bridge over Merryhills Brook.



The blocked route

The old route, from the end of Trentwood Side, going in a north-westerly direction to cross Merryhills Brook by means of an existing farm track was a temporary arrangement. It has now been blocked off.



Kissing gate at the western end of the path

Pushing the path to the southern boundary of Vicarage Farm maximises possible future development opportunities. Comer has also installed new kissing gates at two points on Merryhills Way: these are not now recommended for footpaths as they pose obstacles to disabled walkers.

Dave Cockle

Richard Bunce

Richard Bunce

Society Directory

President: Colin Pointer

Vice Presidents: Stephen Gilburt,
Janet McQueen, Matthew Saunders MBE,
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
Metcalfe, Stuart Mills, Hilary Morris,
Avril Nanton, Alison Parker, Richard
Stones, Alec Tyler, John West.

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Telephone: 020 8363 9495

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



enfieldsociety.org.uk



facebook.com/enfieldsociety



Instagram @enfieldsociety

How to contact us

To contact our specialist groups either
use the relevant contact details given
below or use our general enquiries e-mail:
info@enfieldsociety.org.uk

Architecture and Planning:

John West, 020 8886 6080

Cleaner Neighbourhoods Group:

Alison Yates

Conservation & Heritage Group:

John West

East Enfield and Edmonton:

Dave Cockle

Footpaths and Open Spaces: Stuart Mills

Green Belt: Dave Cockle, 020 8366 2242

IT Admin: Andrew Lack

Jubilee Hall bookings: Janet McQueen

Membership Secretary: Alec Tyler

Publications: Alison Parker

Records and Research: Hilary Morris,
020 8372 3080

Stations: Enfield Chase: Dave Cockle,
Gordon Hill: John Cole

Trees: John West

Volunteer Coordinator:

Claudia Deutschmann

volunteers@enfieldsociety.org.uk

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Society News

Membership

Thanks to all those who have renewed so far
and for the kind donations that have been added
to membership fees by many of you. It is much
appreciated. There are still over 250 households
yet to renew and it would be great if you can
continue to support us.

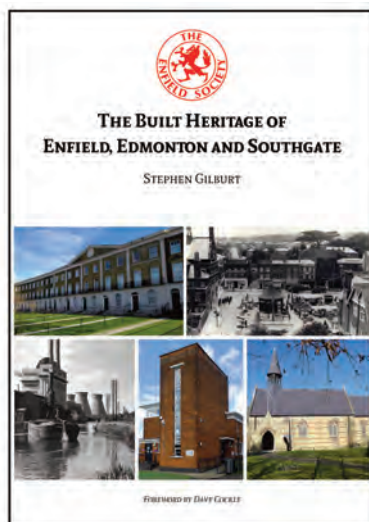
We welcome the following new members:

A Afsarpour; T & A Boorman; H Brennan;
R Brown; M T Duggan; C Green; R Green;
K Hallsworth; J Henderson; L Jenner;
G Lewis; J Line; P Mari; C Nash; S Palmer;
V Perin; J Robertson; B Roden; J Smyth;
K Treacher; F Ward; K Waterman and
C Wilkins Molloy.

Alec Tyler

Publications

**New book – Stephen Gilburt on Enfield's
Built Heritage**



The Society has now completed a new book of
the collected articles on the London Borough of
Enfield by Stephen Gilburt. Titled *The Built
Heritage of Enfield, Edmonton and Southgate*,
the book reprints 62 articles from Stephen
which had previously appeared in our quarterly
newsletters since 2008. The book includes a
comprehensive index with nearly 1,000 entries.

Copies can now be ordered from our website,
priced £14.99 + £4 P&P or can be purchased
from our Sales Table at Society meetings
at Jubilee Hall. This is a very low volume
print edition, so order early to avoid
disappointment!

Notice of Annual General Meeting

This is to give formal notice that the 2025
Annual General Meeting of the Company will
be held on Thursday 18 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 2024;
- consider the re-election of the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer; and
- consider the re-election of members of the Management Committee who retire by rotation; and
- consider the election of to the Management Committee of any other members recommended by the Committee.

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.

The meeting will be followed by a talk: *A Brief
History of the Enfield Society*.

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 2024;
- A more detailed agenda for the 2025 Annual General Meeting; and
- The Minutes of the 2024 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.

Richard Stones

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.

We reserve the right to shorten or modify
contributions. Articles attributed to an individual
author do not necessarily represent the views
of the Society.

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.

