THE ENFIELD SOCIETY

Enfield Society News

Winter 2025

Dave Cockle steps down as Society Chair after twelve years

At the Society's AGM in September members were able to thank Dave Cockle for his hard work steering the Society since 2013. He was presented with a railway totem, in Great Northern blue, commemorating his time as Chair.

In thanking Dave for his work for the Society, John Cole noted that he had served for a longer continuous period than any previous Chair. Among the many achievements which are attributable to Dave were the designation of the Merryhills Way as a right of way (2013); ensuring other footpaths were adequately maintained; helping protect the Green Belt; and opposing unwise development such Palace Square in Enfield Town (2021). Enfield Chase Station was perhaps Dave's personal labour of love. From getting it listed as a local heritage asset to brightening it with plants, art from local schools, a huge mural and the three mosaics outside the station, he poured in the kind of care that comes from real pride in place.



John West, Dave Cockle and John Cole

Andrew Lack/Enfield Society

But beyond the projects and campaigns, it was Dave himself that had made the difference. As a born-and-bred Enfieldian, he seemed to know everyone and everything — which was invaluable to the whole Society. Dave brought with him the qualities he honed in his long railway career: organisation, persistence, and above all, reliability. And he was still pursuing four trains an hour on the Hertford Loop!

Taking on the role of Chair

John Cole and John West write:

We were honoured that at the July Management Committee meeting we were elected to take the Society forward as Joint Chairs. Dave has devoted so much time and energy to the Society that he will be a hard act to follow, but we will do our best. Here are our objectives for the role, as we set them out for the Committee.

- To increase our membership to over 2,000. This has been a long-term objective of the Society's Management Committee. We believe that we should encourage members in Winchmore Hill, Palmers Green and Southgate areas where we are not as strong as in Enfield, Oakwood and the northwest of the Borough. Greater membership in the east of the Borough remains a priority. This will also help us to increase the diversity of the Society's membership.
- To ensure that we recruit at least two new members to the Management Committee.
- To ensure longer-term succession planning by seeking volunteers to shadow all key Management Committee posts- Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, IT/Publicity lead.
- To continue to support and grow all our working groups.
- To continue our relationship with the Council as a 'critical friend', highlighting areas where we disagree with planning policies and putting forward alternative approaches as necessary. The protection of the Green Belt is currently uppermost in our minds.
- To ensure that members of the Society are consulted on major decisions so that we reach a majority view on complex issues.
- To continue all the great work that Dave has achieved.

It will be the Society's 90th birthday next year, and we want to celebrate that achievement. If you have any ideas on that or any other matters, please contact us on chair@enfieldsociety.org.uk

Vice-President's Column



Matthew Saunders

Listing — can you help?

One of the highlights of the first few months after my retirement was being commissioned in November 2018 by Historic England to write a report on listing, now available on the HE website at `https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/about-the-list/saunders-report/#16885bfd`.

I found a system without rival in the world, and moreover one that works. Since 1978 there have been applications to demolish 8,700 listed buildings — without the protection of listing, they would have been destroyed without let or hindrance.

And the all-important listing description, which describes the building and explains the reasons why the State has decided to protect it, is now, at its best, as comprehensive as an (unillustrated) guidebook. But many could be better — much better.

Historic England (HE) had already reached out to the interested citizen to help hone the descriptions when it set up the "Enrich the List" (ETL) facility in 2016. This allowed those with knowledge outside HE to improve the factual comprehensiveness and accuracy of the descriptions, and to add photos. I had my misgivings — there is no moderation of the new content when it comes to accuracy, no quality control over the photos, nor a requirement to date them — and above all, I feared that the existence of ETL, despite any intrinsic virtues, would be an exercise in mitigation: a substitute for the systematic, officially verified resurvey of the whole country that is the only sure way forward.

However, I am sufficient of a realist to know that such a resurvey does not coincide with the political will of the present government — and that this, a principal recommendation of the report, will not be pursued.

This makes exercises in amelioration more, not less, valuable. ETL has now been rechristened the "Missing Pieces Project," but the purpose is unchanged. I wonder if some of our members might like to join the project? Just Google "Missing Pieces" on the HE website and all will be explained. There are formal Terms and Conditions, so do read these first.

Planning

Andrew Lack



Part of a "new town? A view across Vicarage Farm from Bramley Road

Government 'new town' at Crews Hill and Vicarage Farm

On Sunday 28th September the Government's New Town's Taskforce announced the proposed locations for twelve new towns in England. The proposals include Crews Hill and Chase Park in an enlarged combined new site. The story was widely reported by many news outlets and the Society was contacted by the Telegraph, BBC and The Sun.

The proposal is for a new town of up to 21,000 dwellings covering an area of 884 hectares, which is at least twice the size of the current Local Plan proposals for Crews Hill and Chase Park. It seems, therefore, that much more of the Green Belt is now under threat from this proposal than was previously the case and this represents the biggest threat to Enfield's Green Belt since the formation of the Society. As a result we will need to strengthen our campaign team and are now looking for volunteers from the membership to help. Please consider if you can lend a hand — **If you want to be involved, or to know more about doing so, just send us your name by e-mail to** `greenbelt@enfieldsociety.org.uk`

As members will know, the London Borough of Enfield is part-way through the Local Plan Examination which resumed on the 21st October. The Council has referred to the announcement in a letter which forms part of its submission, saying the announcement "serve[s] to underline the significant potential of Crews Hill and Chase Park to deliver sustainable development in Enfield in a well-connected location." The Inspector has also referred to the announcement, and in letter IN11 he writes "Your letter provides some initial views on how you consider this announcement affects the Plan. However, I note that the Council is also seeking additional advice. I am therefore writing to ask the Council to provide me with its full formal position on how it considers the New Towns announcement effects the examination of the Local Plan, if at all. This should include views on any procedural implications."

You can find links to the Government's announcement, a statement by the Leader Ergin Erbil, and reporting by the Enfield Dispatch, Telegraph and BBC on our website.

Traveller Local Plan

As this Newsletter was being assembled LBE started a six-week final public consultation on its plans for Travellers in the Borough. By the time this Newsletter reaches members the consultation will have ended.

The Plan identifies two sites for permanent pitches: one at Bulls Cross opposite Myddelton House and the second on The Ridgeway near St John's School. A third site for transit pitches is proposed beside the A10 near Church Street in Edmonton. The Society will be submitting a representation.

Matthew Saunders was born in Enfield, went to Latymer School and cut his teeth in conservation with the Enfield Preservation Society, as it then was. He retired in 2018 after forty years as Secretary, Ancient Monuments Society and Director, The Friends of Friendless Churches. He has been a Vice-President of the Society since 2000.

Conservation and Heritage Group

John West



Trent Park gates under repair

The Society's Conservation and Heritage Group meets quarterly. The aim is to review listed buildings on the Historic England 'At Risk Register' and matters of concern with other listed buildings and sites in conservation areas. The meetings are attended by representatives from the Conservation Area groups, Council officers and other interested groups such as the Enfield Archaeological Society. The Group is also working on a heritage street furniture list. There remain 11 buildings on the Historic England 'At Risk Register' in Enfield plus 3 parks and 6 conservation areas. In addition, the Group keeps a watch on the scheduled ancient monuments at Clarendon Arch and the Conduit House in Whitewebbs Park. Despite work with private owners, the Council and the submission of National Lottery Heritage bids, the situation remains that there are no sites that can be removed from the 'At Risk Register'.

There is some positive progress. At Broomfield Park, the Lottery funding is being used to develop options for the house and lakes. At the Charity School, Edmonton, despite the failure of the Lottery bid, it is hoped that the use of the buildings for artists' studios can continue, and funding has been found to carry out essential repairs to make the building watertight. At Trent Park the gates are being repaired and Section 106 funding has been agreed to provide a bridge at the east end of the lake linking to the Japanese Garden. At Forty Hall, a schedule of work has been drawn up to clear areas of shrub growth and self-seeded trees that need to be removed around this site of Elsyng Palace: this will allow further archaeological exploration in future years. The Council has carried out visits to Whitewebbs Barn and confirmed that some work has been carried out on this building to prevent further deterioration. This timber barn was part of the original Whitewebbs House, a meeting place for those involved in the Gunpowder Plot of 1605.

The Group's aim is to reduce the number at sites that are at risk, but we accept that there are challenges: funding is tight; older buildings often require extensive repair work and if a building is listed, the work has to be carried out to a standard that meets the Historic England specifications and is appropriate for the age and style of building.

The Changing Landscape at Rectory Farm

Andrew Lack



Rectory Farm in October 2025 compared to July 2020.

In July 2020, in preparation for an article for newsletter No. 219, I walked the footpath from The Red House to Tingey-Tops Pond. Rectory Farm was then cultivated for cereal and the views across to the Ridgeway were dominated by the ripening crop.

Now in October 2025 the same field, known as King's Oak Plain, looks very different with grass and young trees, all part of the Enfield Chase Restoration Project. Not clear from the picture, however, is the construction at the former Royal Chace site, where the new building is more prominent than the old hotel.

Andrew Lack

Hedgerow Removed at Vicarage Farm

Sarah Banbury

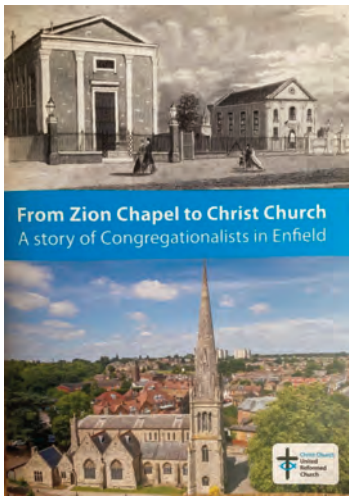


In early October we were alerted by a member to an apparent act of environmental vandalism on Vicarage Farm. A significant hedgerow, approximately 40m in length, had been completely removed. The incident was swiftly reported to LBE's Planning Enforcement team, as hedgerow removal requires prior planning permission. The Council's initial response, sent to one our members and on our website, only confirms that investigations are continuing. The Council has been told the work is "agricultural". In the meantime work on the site continues, causing alarm to local residents.

Andrew Lack

Society News

Publications



Stephen Gilburt has written a new book about the history of Enfield's Christ Church since 1780. This 48pp book is illustrated with over 100 prints and photographs, many of them in colour, of Zion Chapel, Chase Side Chapel and the Grade II listed Victorian gothic Christ Church on Chase Side which replaced them, together with their ministers and members. Price £5, available from our online store and at Enfield Society talks.

Our online store has a wide range of guides, books and maps on Enfield, but if you attend our popular talks at Jubilee Hall, you'll have the chance to browse the range and buy them without having to pay for postage! We also have an ever-changing selection of used books on Enfield at bargain prices.

Membership

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

R and D Brain, J Brewer, C Byamukama, A Cox, C Coyne, C and P Daff, D and M Daniells, A and P Dexter, C Field, L Fox, K and S Francis, D Garnsworthy, G Jones, R Katten, A Liddiard, M Lyons, S Moffett, A Murray, H Nicolaou, I Ridley, A Robertson, T Sanford, R Storey, J Uddin, A Watts, N Woodroffe, B Young

It's that time of the year to renew your membership and the best way to do this is via our website where you can pay by card. We are happy to receive bank transfers, and we still accept cheques sent to Jubilee Hall for those that prefer. There will be no increase in membership fees for 2026 and we are still offering the paperless option where you receive the quarterly newsletter by email. To spread the workload we will send a reminder to renew in December for all those that have an email and then add a renewal form with the Spring paper newsletter to cover those that have not renewed and don't have an email subscription with us.

Please tell your family, friends and neighbours about us as we really want to grow our membership. Maybe you can gift a membership as a Christmas present… Thanks for your support.

Alec Tyler

Changes to our Rules

Since the Society now has joint chairs the Management Committee has made a new Rule to clarify how their functions will be shared. You can find the revised Rule on our website at `enfieldsociety.org.uk/about-the-society/#docs`.

Society Talks and Other Events

Society Talks

All our talks take place at Jubilee Hall. The talks alternate between evening and morning times. Evening talks normally start at 7.30pm (doors open 7pm). Talks are open to non-members for a fee of £1.

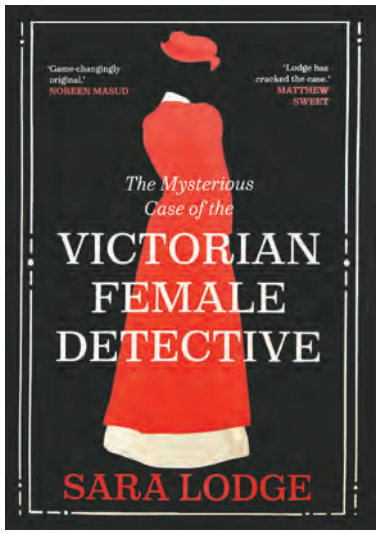


Julie Chandler

Tuesday 2 December, 11 am
PLEASURE GARDENS: A PLACE TO SEE AND BE SEEN

Before the days of amusement parks and fairgrounds, Londoners enjoyed an evening in a pleasure garden. Famous for their entertainment and notorious for the fun and frolics that went on there, pleasure gardens were the places to see and be seen. Take a stroll through London's famous pleasure gardens with **Julie Chandler** and enjoy what goes on after dark.

Tuesday 13 January, 11am
THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF THE VICTORIAN FEMALE DETECTIVE



Sara Lodge will be talking about women detectives in the London police, in private enquiry agencies (sometimes running their own) and on the stage— especially in the East End, where as many as 4,500 people piled into the Britannia theatre nightly to see Sara Lane strut her stuff as a cross-dressing, fist-swinging female detective, getting the better of a no-good wife murderer who happens to be her sister's fiancé. Sara's book will be available to purchase on the night.



Monday 9 February, 7.30pm
FOOD AND DRINK EMPORIUMS OF THE WEST END

A tour of the West End's most famous food and drink emporiums, from breakfast tea to after-dinner drinks. City of Westminster Guide **Joanna Moncrieff** will lead you on a virtual tour through the fascinating history of some of the West End's household names such as Twinings and Fortnum & Mason. Come along and hear about surprising beginnings and the significant events in their history which put them on the path to world-wide fame.

Tuesday 10 March, 11am
THE SOUTH LODGE OF ENFIELD CHASE



Not much is known about the South Lodge of Enfield Chase, established in the early 15th Century. We have few details about it until after the Civil War; for some of the 19th century it was a school, and a prospectus published probably in the early 1900's gives us our only interior pictures, to go with various 18th and 19th century exterior views. **Ian Jones** will be giving a talk about the site's history and what lies there today.

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 please visit `www.enfarchsoc.org`

Friday 12 December
Roman painting and decoration by Han Lie (by Zoom)

For details of any further talks, see the society's website at `https://www.enfarchsoc.org/`.

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 December
Christmas on trial during the English Revolution by Dr Ariel Hessayon (University of London)

Tuesday 13 January
Nicholas II and Stalin: a comparison in tyranny? by Dr George Gilbert (Southampton University)

Tuesday February 10th
Who did Henry VIII think he was? by Professor Steven Gunn (Oxford University)

Tuesday March 10th
Discovering Charles I by Professor Cust (University of Birmingham)

The Arts Society Enfield

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at Revival Christian Church, 47, London Road Enfield EN2 6DS. 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.

Thursday 18 December
Christmas in Bach's Leipzig: The Christmas Oratorio of 1734/5 by Sandy Burnett

Thursday 29th January
Arcimboldo at the Court of the Alchemists by Rupert Dickens

Thursday 26th February
London City of Scientific Discovery by Aaron Hunter

Thursday 26th March
The Queen Mother at the Castle of Mey by Jeremy Mainwaring-Burton

There will also be a **Special Interest Day on Wednesday 18 March**, consisting of a three-lecture day on *The Rise and Fall of Napoleon and Josephine* by speaker Stephen Duffy. Coffee and biscuits and lunch are included with a total cost of £40 for non-members of the Arts Society. Doors open at 10am. Please book by phoning 020 8367 7374 or email `jntmcqn@gmail.com`.



Stephen Duffy

Spotlight on a Trustee: Andrew Lack



I joined the Enfield Society in 2018 to be its newsletter editor and to run the website. This seemed like a good idea as I had worked in IT for 35 years before retiring in 2014 and had a keen interest in publishing. I had worked for a London University, delivering computing services to students and staff, and had first met 'the web' as long ago as 1993. My IT background is in UNIX systems and though it was Windows-95 which popularised 'the web' for ordinary folk, it is UNIX, and the popular UNIX-like Linux, which powers the Internet. So, my background fits nicely with the Society's web-services which all run on Linux.

While in employment I was a work-place trades union representative and served seven years as a Trustee and Officer with the South West Coast Path Association. [If you have never heard of the South West Coast Path, it is a long-distance coastal walk in the south west of England and Cornwall.]

In 2021 I attended the first meeting of a group of people representing interests in opposing—in differing ways—the Enfield Local Plan. This group has continued to meet regularly and to work on regulation-19 representations, campaigning with local people in Spring 2024 and latterly the Examination Hearings. It was never my intention to be so involved but I felt it was necessary to follow what was being planned, and as it turned out it has been very helpful in terms of getting the message out to members.

Andrew Lack stopped editing the Newsletter at the end of 2023 but continues to run the website and is a member of the Membership and Publicity Group.

Baker Street, Enfield, Part 3

Stephen Gilburt



The Enfield Society

Picture 1

The locally listed The Rosary at 278 Baker Street was built in 1763. The house is two storeys high with two dormer windows in the gambrel roof which has coped gable ends. The ground floor bay windows are late Victorian insertions. There were also a coach house, stables, tennis courts, bowling green and extensive gardens. A considerable part of the grounds were sold off by the Rumney family and houses in Weardale Gardens were built on part of the site.

In 1910 The Rosary was leased to the Conservative Club who bought the freehold in 1948. A lounge extension was added in 1953 and a hall, snooker room and offices were built at the rear in 1971.

Until replaced by Chace Boys Secondary Modern School in 1956, there was a farm between Baker Street and Churchbury Lane. The farm house was accessed by an unmade track down the side of Carlton House. A tree which was next to the farm house can still be seen. The school is currently being rebuilt on part of the playing fields.

Picture 2

Carlton House was built in the 18th century opposite the junction with what is now Lancaster Road. From 1782 Benjamin D'Israeli, father of Isaac and grandfather of the prime minister Benjamin Disraeli, lived in Baker Street, probably at Carlton House.

In 1872 Dr. John James Ridge (1847-1908) took over the medical practice of Dr. Benjamin Godfrey at Carlton House. For 33 years Dr Ridge was a deacon at Christ Church (Congregational) on Chase Side. (see *Newsletter* 225 Spring 2022). He was an active member of the Liberal Party and supported the campaign to establish a school board for Enfield. He played the cornet to accompany singing at outdoor services in New Lane (now Lancaster Road) before Christ Church Hall Mission iron chapel was erected in 1880. He was also Sunday School Superintendent and in 1888 was the founder and first Captain of the 1st Enfield Company of the Boys Brigade at what is now Lancaster Road United Reformed Church (see *Newsletter* 229 Spring 2023). He was a strong supporter of the temperance movement which advocated abstention from alcohol and wrote a number of tracts on the evils of drink.

Dr Ridge established a cottage hospital on Chase Side in 1875 and was Enfield's first salaried Medical Officer of Health from 1881 to 1908. His son Leslie, grandsons Ben and Eric and great-grandson Tim were all doctors at Carlton House surgery. In the mid 20th century there were three doctors at Carlton House. There were no advance bookings so patients would shuffle along bench seating around the walls of the doctor's waiting room until they reached his consulting room. I was told recently that doctors then also dispensed medicines and would leave them outside on a shelf to be collected by the patients.

In 1965 the practice moved to new premises built in what had been the back garden of Carlton House. The house was then demolished although part of the wall of the garage can still be seen.



The Enfield Society

Picture 3

A cottage on the site of the Hop Poles operated as a beer house in the early 19th century. The first purpose-built public house was a two storey weather-boarded structure. In 1852 it was replaced by the long one and two storey plastered brick building shown in this 1890 photograph. It had a parlour bar, saloon bar, public bar, tap room, clubroom, office, storerooms, public toilet and coal cellar. At the rear was a large yard, stabling for travellers and workmen and a kitchen garden. Beer from a barrel was twopence a pint. The bars were sprinkled with sawdust and at midday were full with workers having a drink with their meals. There was a lot of drunkenness.



Enfield Local Studies and Archive



The Enfield Society

Picture 4

The present locally listed Hop Poles, designed by Messrs F. J. Eedle and Meyers in a "Tudor" style opened in 1909 and cost £3,960. It had two public bars, saloon bar, bar-parlour, tea room, billiard room and off-licence. There was "oak panelling… leaded lights and coloured glass in abundance" (Enfield Gazette 1909). At the top of each gable was a terracotta dragon. Various alterations were made in 1938, 1982 and 1990.

An outhouse, since demolished to extend the car park, was used by Bellings to manufacture their first fires.

For more information see the publications listed in parts 1 and 2.

Enfield Local Studies & Archive



Picture 5
The early to mid 18th century red brick 329 Baker Street is listed Grade II. Since this photograph was taken the buildings to the right have been demolished.

Hilary Morris



Picture 6
A modern barber's shop front has replaced the original ground floor façade with its Georgian doorcase. The gambrel roof now has a flat top. The Venetian window on the first floor has been replaced with a replica. Buildings to the left are Victorian.

Hilary Morris



Picture 7
This view shows some of the 19th century cottages still to be seen on the west side of Baker Street to the north of the Hop Poles. The shop nearest to the Hop Poles was for many years a cobblers. It is now a hair and beauty salon.

Picture 8
Gothic Hall was a boarding school kept by Revd A. Weir in the 1820s and 1830s. In 1867 Revd J. H. Walker prepared boys for the public schools "at moderate terms". It was later known as Lee House. Houses were built on the site in the 1930s when Kenilworth Crescent was developed.

Enfield Local Studies & Archive



Picture 9
Woodfield House, further north on the east side of Baker Street, was once the home of Dr John Abernethy, a famous surgeon at St Bartholomews Hospital. There was a semi-circular drive leading up to the house. This view of the rear garden front shows its curved projecting central bay. The house was demolished in 1898.

Enfield Local Studies & Archive



Enfield Local Studies & Archive



Picture 10
The northern end of Baker Street has completely changed since this photograph was taken in the late 19th century. All three large houses have been demolished.
Holmwood House on the left had a fine wrought iron gateway. In the early 19th century it housed Revd Stephen Freeman's Academy — a boarding school for young gentlemen. Among its pupils were Charles Babbage (1792-1871) a mathematician and inventor of calculating machines and Frederick Marryat (1792-1848) a naval captain who later wrote novels including *Mr Midshipman Easy* and *Children of the New Forest.* The site is now marked with a plaque.
Next door was Pattensweir House. On the right can be seen Gough Park, home of the 18th century antiquarian Richard Gough. It was demolished in 1899. (see *Newsletter* 198 Summer 2015) The fine 18th century wrought iron gate and railings survived in situ until recently damaged by a vehicle (see *Newsletter* 237 Spring 2025).

Rural Paths in Enfield – New and Old

Stuart Mills

Firstly, the good news:

As this Newsletter was being prepared, and as part of Enfield Council's plan to enhance access to Enfield Chase [*see the article on the next page*], a combined use track was opened under the Rendlesham Viaduct, connecting Hillyfields with Rectory Farm Road. Where the new path crosses the internal roadway in Lavender Hill Cemetery there is a signed link to/from Gordon Hill Station. It is a very attractive and scenic rural route, that also provides a shorter and more level alternative to the previous section of the London Loop between those two points. In particular the new route avoids the existing steep climb up to Strayfield Road from the Turkey Brook valley floor, making the route more accessible and attractive to a wide range of walkers and cyclists. It also provides access to the 75-feet high viaduct, a locally-listed structure which was constructed in 1910 when the Great Northern Railway was extended north from Enfield. It has long been inaccessible to the public, being fenced off by Network Rail and largely hidden by trees. Incidentally, the suggestion for a path under the viaduct was originally made by the Society almost 60 years ago!

After reaching Rectory Farm Road, if you turn right (northwards) and then left after crossing Turkey Brook, you are at the start of two more combined use tracks. The track going uphill to the right has been open for a year and leads to Tingey Tops Pond and Crews Hill Golf Course. Alternatively, go straight ahead and in about one mile you will reach The Ridgeway at Botany Bay village. The pub and bus stops for the 313 route are on the right. Before this point there is a short link to an existing permissive path to East Lodge Lane.

On the opposite side of The Ridgeway there is another combined use track that goes downhill into Salmon's Brook Valley and the London Loop track. These new tracks increase the possibility for varied circular routes, as can be seen by viewing the Society's 2024 Footpath Map. The new tracks are highlighted in orange on the extract from the map [*below*].

Secondly, the ongoing not-so-good news for Enfield's rural paths:

Historically, there were few paths or actual rights-of-way (ROWs) in Enfield's countryside. Several, such as the Jubilee Way (ROW 276, created and built by the Society in 1977/78), the connection of



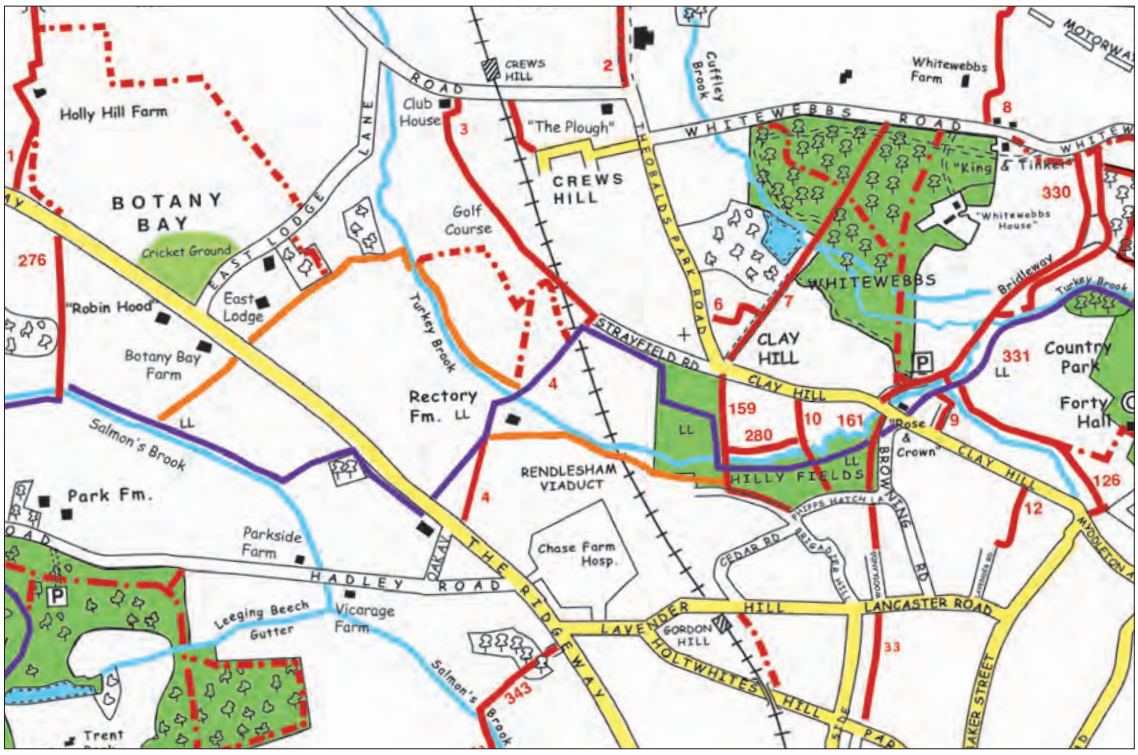
Andrew Lack

Rendlesham Viaduct revealed

Burnt Farm Ride (ROW 2) into Hertfordshire, and ROWs 278 and 279 that connect Waggon Road, Stagg Hill and The Ridgeway only exist and became ROWs because of action by the Society in the 1970s. At that time, the Society also promoted other possible routes with the then landowner (Greater London Council). Unfortunately, however, after the subsequent legal transfer of Enfield Chase land to the London Borough of Enfield, these paths mainly came into existence as "permissive paths" rather than ROWs. [Please refer to The Society's map for "permissive paths".]

Regrettably, and apart from occasional limited one-off clearances, during the past 25 years there has been a continual decline in any Enfield Council driven maintenance on all routes, whether ROW or permissive. The inevitable result is that fewer and fewer people use them and the paths deteriorate to a standard where they become unusable (eg for ROW 279 and ROW 8) except for the most intrepid individual.

With regard to ROWs, the Council do not seem to realise that, as the highway authority, they have the statutory duty to keep them open and in a usable condition for the average user, as with all adopted highways in Enfield. Failure to do so can result in a Council being taken to Court — perhaps this should happen more frequently!



Enfield Council completes its Woodland and Access Expansion at Enfield Chase

The project—focused on enhancing the "Eastern Gateway" of Enfield Chase—has improved connectivity to and from Crews Hill and Gordon Hill stations, Hilly Fields, and the wider Lee Valley, enabling residents across the borough to enjoy better access to nature. This expands upon the 80 hectares of woodland and 3.3 km of new footpaths established in earlier phases.

Key deliverables included:

- 50 hectares of new publicly accessible land containing both 20 hectares of recently planted saplings and the balance with plans for more natural regeneration. This year there are around 7,000 new trees to supplement existing planted areas.
- Delivery of new footpaths, cycleways, and wayfinding features to link key access points including train stations, Botany Bay, Rectory Farm, and Hilly Fields [*see article on the opposite page*].
- New amenity features such as seating areas and play areas outside Gordon Hill station and at Botany Bay.
- Some improvement of the safety of pedestrians and cyclists crossing busy roads such as The Ridgeway and at Botany Bay.
- Integration of natural flood management measures such as ponds and wetlands to reduce downstream flood risks.

John Cole



Fleecefield and Brettenham Primary Schools and volunteers at Botany Bay

The total cost of creating the new footpaths and associated features was around £1 million, funded through external grants, Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy monies.

John Cole

It will not escape readers that much of the rural area to which the new paths provide enhanced access appears to be in the middle of the area of the proposed "new town" [*see page 2*]. How the Council will square this circle remains to be seen.

Meeting with the Leader of the Council.

John West

In late September, Dave Cockle and John West met with Councillor Ergin Erbil (Leader of the Council) and Brett Leahy (Strategic Director of Planning, Growth and Infrastructure). We are grateful to the Leader for setting up these meetings. We will not always agree on every issue, but it is helpful for the Society to understand the Council's position. We also hope that it is helpful for the Council to understand where the Society has concerns.

The following topics were discussed –

Infrastructure Financial Statement The Council is consulting on projects that could benefit from funds such as Section 106 payments and the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Society has suggested the Lavender Hill Civilian War Memorial [*see page 11*]; further work to the New River Loop; improved access to train stations and repainting or replacement of the degraded 'Welcome to Enfield' signs at the borough boundary and outside stations.

Whitewebbs House and Park Several of our members have expressed concern that the historic carriageway to the house will become an access road. The planning conditions confirm that this is not the case, it will be a pathway and we were assured that the Council will ensure that Spurs carry out all the work as set out in the planning conditions.



Whitewebbs: the "historic carriageway" as it is now

Trent Park Lake Plans have been discussed to provide a bridge at the eastern end of the lake. We were assured that funding is earmarked for this work and that officers are working on the proposal.



The missing link in Trent Park - two walkers splash across the sluice where the proposed bridge would be

New Footpath from Botany Bay Farm to the London Loop The Society welcomes this development, but there is a need to provide a refuge on the Ridgeway. This should be similar to that provided near the former Royal Chace Hotel. The Society has been put in contact with the relevant officers to discuss this further.

Consultation on Crews Hill and Chase Park Master Plans Again, the Society has received many concerns that the consultation period is too short. The Council acknowledge this, but stress that this is simply a preliminary fact-finding exercise and not the formal consultation process, that will follow.

The Council's plans for Ponders End recreation ground The Council wants to improve the bandstand and prevent anti-social behaviour in the park. Ideas are invited and we agreed to consult members on ideas for improvement.

Albany Park café. We noted and welcomed improvements to the park café. Again, our members living locally were disappointed that the café had to close. Clearance of all the undergrowth around the café has improved the situation.

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.

Amongst the Roofs at Chase Farm Hospital

Frank Bayford

When I first joined the Pharmacy staff at Chase Farm Hospital in 1965, I held the rather impressive title of 'Senior Pharmacist'. To obtain a more accurate sense of its meaning, please replace the words 'Senior' with 'general' and 'Pharmacist' with 'dogsbody'. Although my main task was to prepare the large range of sterile products that the department supplied then, I was needed during the first half of the morning in the main area to assemble the ward requests for stock items and new prescriptions; later in the day I had to assist dispensing prescriptions from the outpatient clinics. Twice a week, on Monday and Thursday afternoons, I attended the (now demolished) Enfield War Memorial Hospital to issue stock and prescription items for the wards and departments there. It was all excellent practical experience for me, new as I was then to hospital work.

The pharmacy premises were situated in the main central block of the original Poor Law School's buildings: the date on the clock tower gives 1884 for its construction. The rooms that the pharmacy occupied were originally the bakery for the Schools (the institution was always referred to in the plural). The separate room that I used in which to make the sterile products was once that part of the bakery where its two large ovens were located. After the Schools closed in 1938, its buildings were for a short while used as an Old People's Home, but in 1939 the whole place was converted into an Emergency Hospital for the years of World War II, after which it became a General Hospital. I believe that the conversion of the bakery and its ovens to a pharmacy took place sometime soon after the transformation into an Emergency Hospital.

The sterile products that I prepared included a whole range of transfusion solutions (in glass bottles in those days), smaller bottles of multi-dose injections, single dose ampoules, and several different sorts of eye-drops. The 'sterile room' was painted glossy white and had to be kept scrupulously clean. It also had to be maintained at 'positive pressure' to eliminate any 'dirty air' from diffusing in from outside. That was achieved by a powerful fan situated high up in the outside wall, drawing air in through a fine filter which cleaned it.



The photograph [above] shows part of the 'roofscape' through which the author had to travel. The tallest roof was that of the dining room; the lower one to its left belonged to the adjacent kitchen—a section of the gully passed between them. The iron ladder was situated out of sight behind the white and brown wooden building. The photograph was taken in August 1980, by which time the 'bakery' pharmacy had been vacated, and the department was occupying the converted buildings of the old X-Ray block, part of which was the single storey structure in the centre of the picture.

The open area was the south courtyard; the outer door through which I used to access it had become the inside entrance to the pharmacy's new office area, the brown building with the yellow curtains, which had been built on a section of the courtyard. By the time this picture was taken, I had no need to go 'gully-walking', as the pharmacy had ceased carrying out the manufacturing of sterile products. My replacement pharmacy had not been provided with a sterile room, as our requirements were either being supplied by the appropriately-equipped pharmacy at North Middlesex Hospital or purchased from commercial companies. All of the buildings in the photograph have since been demolished.

Once a week, that filter had to be changed for a new one, and the old one thoroughly washed and dried for later use.

Unfortunately, the fan/filter mechanism could not be accessed from inside the room. To reach it, a lengthy trip had to be made outside the building. Opposite the Pharmacy's main entrance in the south corridor was an outer door leading to the south courtyard, which was where my trek started. In that area was an external iron ladder that had to scaled and it led to a flat gulley above what was then the original X-ray Department. The path along it made various twists and turns, taking the intrepid voyager past the impressive roofs of the old dining room and the kitchen. It led to another gulley over what used to be known as the central block's north corridor. In the days of the Schools, the kitchen's meat larder and dairy were situated in that area. Eventually the goal was reached and the fan/filter structure was found affixed to the outside wall of the 'sterile room'. The old filter was carefully removed, and just as carefully replaced by the fresh one; of course, it was imperative that one remembered to take the latter along at the start of one's errand. The return journey was then made, taking care not to miss the correct turnings—and also remembering to convey the old filter back to the pharmacy for its wash.

I hated heights—I still do—but at least that weekly trip gave me new and spectacular views of my place of work, none of which were known either to the general public or indeed to most of the other members of staff apart from a few maintenance workers. An afterthought—would I be allowed to take such a journey nowadays, without a hard hat and safety harness?

(*The author was employed at Chase Farm Hospital between 1965 and 1988. He became Chief Pharmacist there in 1973*).

Does your park need more trees?

The Society has a tree nursery at Trentwood Side. We have several Black Walnut trees ready for planting out during the winter. The trees are pot grown and are about 0.75 metres tall. If you are involved in any of the Friends of Parks Groups, please let us know if you are interested. We also have other species including oaks, yew and maple. Again, they are ready for new homes in parks or open spaces.



We also need some further volunteers to join our regular working groups looking after the nursery. The summer has been particularly busy due to the dry weather and the need for extra watering. We are grateful to members who have helped with regular watering.

Contact j.west@enfieldsociety.org.uk

The Lavender Hill Civilian War Memorial

Kaya Emin

At the heart of Lavender Hill Cemetery in Enfield stands a quiet stone wall that tells a powerful story. The Lavender Hill Civilian War Memorial was built after the Second World War, not for soldiers who fought abroad, but café during air raids at home. Between 1939 and 1945, the town was hit many times by bombs and flying rockets. Homes were destroyed, families torn apart, and 109 people were killed in the old borough of Enfield, including many children. Of those, twenty-five are buried together in two communal graves in Lavender Hill Cemetery.

The people of Enfield built the memorial to remember them. It carries a simple inscription:

"Erected by the citizens of Enfield to the memory of all those who lost their lives during the attacks from the air upon this town, and of whom twenty-five lie in the two communal graves in this cemetery."

The memorial's stone wall is calm and unadorned, with the Enfield coat of arms carved on the left-hand pillar. It doesn't list names; instead, it honours everyone who suffered. It's a place for reflection, where the silence seems to speak for the whole town.

Sadly it appears that the memorial was built on shallow foundations and it has suffered from serious subsidence over recent years. The Council has appointed consultant engineers to advise on options for restoring the memorial: they propose initially to carry out investigative work to firm up on costs.

Repair options could comprise fabric repairs to the above ground structures or possibly careful dismantling of the memorial and re-assembly on a new foundation system which will be less likely to move in the future. Repairing the memorial above ground without dealing with the foundations runs the risk that movement may continue in the future.



The sad state of the memorial today

All this will require funding. The Society indicated some years ago that it would be prepared to contribute to the cost of the restoration, and it is hoped that a grant may be available from the War Memorials Trust, a charity which works to protect and conserve war memorials in the UK.

"Met Engage" - Community Crime Fighting

Though policing and public safety are not part of the Society's objectives it is fair to say that conserving the heritage and environment of our borough is rather pointless if people feel insecure when they are in it. So we were pleased to be invited in October to a community meeting at which Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley and other senior officers gave a presentation on the work that they are undertaking to change the service and ensure that it delivers, targeting those areas of crime that most concern our community.

Sir Mark Rowley took questions, many relating to anti-social behaviour on the streets, shoplifting and 'low level' crime that can have a disproportion effect on residents. In response it was explained that the Met's strategy is to target crimes where they can make the greatest impact. For example, the drug trade often feeds other crimes such as street theft and shoplifting. By targeting activities that cause other crimes it can significantly reduce that number.

The closure of the public counter at Edmonton Police Station was raised. The police view was that very few crimes are now reported at the stations with most being reported by phone or the internet. However members will be aware that the decision to close the Edmonton counter has since been reversed as a result of public and political pressure.

A website, `metengage.co.uk`, has been set up for everyone to express their views.

John West

St Aldhelm's "Spirelet" renewed

A newly gilded weather vane has been restored to the spire of St Aldhelm's church. This was part of a programme of works to repair the roof of the church: the Society contributed to the cost.



Society Directory

President: Colin Pointer

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

Joint Chairs: John Cole, John West

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, Helen Osman, Alison Parker, Richard Stones, Alec Tyler, John West.

Office: Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ

Telephone: 020 8363 9495
Messages left on this number will be dealt with as promptly as possible.

enfieldsociety.org.uk

facebook.com/enfieldsociety

Instagram @enfieldsociety

bsky.app/profile/enfieldsociety.bsky.social

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)

The Enfield Society is a registered charity in England and Wales No. 276451 and limited company No. 312134.

Printed by Premier Print, London E4

ISSN 2042-1419 (print edition)
ISSN 2042-1427 (web edition)

Society Activities – Please join in!

Walks

The photo below shows TES members on an autumn walk led by walks leader Ian McGovern. This walk followed the route of the Great Fire of London in 1666, assessing its impact on the City.



Throughout the year the 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. 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

Cleaner Neighbourhoods

The last Litter Pick of 2025 will find the group revisiting a site we have cleaned previously. We have another three scheduled for the beginning of 2026

On **Saturday 6 December** we are in Palmers Green on the New River Path next to Palm Court, 56, Shapland Way N13 4DF (What3Words.com///parts.indeed.shout). The train station is nearby or alight at the Broomfield Lane stop of bus routes 121/329 and walk west, turning left at Shapland Way.

On **Saturday 10 January** we will clean the Boundary Ditch. Meet next to 600a, Hertford Road N9 8AH (What3Words.com///headed.scores.grand).

Alight at Nightingale Road bus stop, which is adjacent to the Boundary Ditch and is served by routes 191, 279, 349 and 491.

Saturday 7 February finds us at Whitewebbs Lane. We will meet in the King and Tinker Pub car park, EN2 9HJ (What3Words.com///print.reveal.lovely).

Buses 217 and 317 stop at Bullsmoor Lane/ Great Cambridge Road and then it is a walk of 1.2 miles turning left along Bullsmoor Lane past Capel Manor College and then right into Whitewebbs Lane past the Spurs training ground and on to the pub.



Volunteers at the Cemetery Walk

The Salmon's Brook Path, Plevna Road, Edmonton N9 9PL (What3Words.com///leaves.being.hooked) is our destination for **Saturday 7 March**.

Edmonton Green is on the Weaver Overground line and is served by buses: W6, W8, 102, 144, 149, 191, 192, 259, 279, 349 and 491. Walk south on the Hertford Road and take West Mall to its end on Plevna Road. The footpath is on the opposite side of the road.

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

Equipment will be available on request for those that need it but please bring your own gloves.

Alison Yates 07818 682073

A Steering Group for the Town Centre

The Society's Joint Chair John Cole has been selected as one of twelve Community Champions to join the new Enfield Town Steering Group, an independent organisation bringing together business, community, and public sector partners to deliver a shared vision for Enfield Town. The first meeting took place on 20 October at the Central Library, attended by representatives from local organisations, including One-to-One Enfield, Palace Gardens Shopping, the Enfield Town Business Association, Love Your Doorstep, and Enfield Council..