

Are Archives Important?



“Not to know what happened before we were born is to remain perpetually a child. For what is the worth of human life unless it is woven into the lives of our ancestors by the records of history.”

Cicero Roman Philosopher. 106 BC TO 43 BC

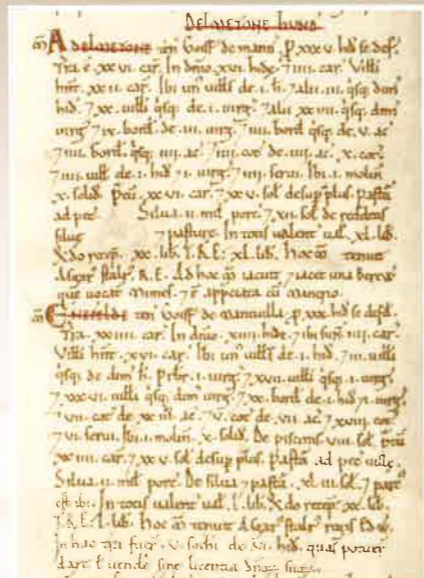
Our Mission

The mission of Enfield Local Studies Centre & Archive is to identify, acquire, and preserve archival materials that document the history of the London Borough of Enfield, and to make such records available to the benefit of all its residents and visitors.

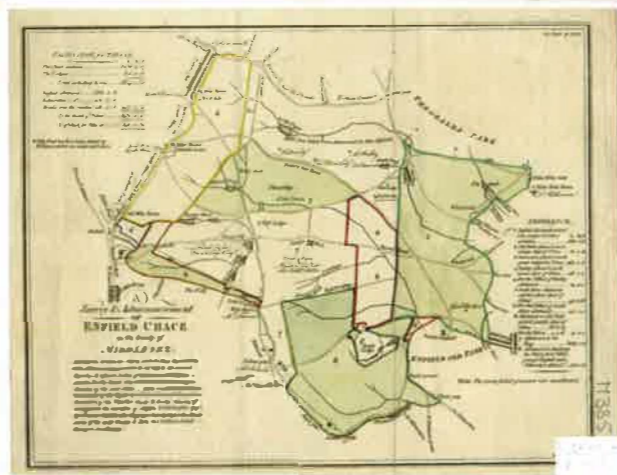
A Brief Glimpse of the History of Enfield

Enfield has had a long and interesting history. In Roman times there was Ermine Street, a road running from London to Lincoln which passed through both Enfield and Edmonton. In 790 King Offa gave away the lands of Edmonton to St Albans Abbey, and in the 790s strongholds and fortifications were built for King Alfred the Great to keep the Danes to the east of the River Lea.

The Normans in their Domesday Survey of 1086 mentioned both Enfield and Edmonton. In 1136 a large piece



Domesday Survey of Edmonton & Enfield



Enfield Chase 1776

of woodland to the west of Enfield was turned by the De Mandeville family into Enfield Chase, a semi-private hunting ground. Ownership of the Chase eventually passed to the De Bohun family and then onto Henry V in his capacity as The Duke of Lancaster. The Battle of Barnet was fought near Enfield Chase in 1471.

Who can use our Search Room?

Everyone is welcome to come and view our records.

Care of the Records

Some of our records are very delicate and old and require special care and handling. For example, you may be asked to wear gloves when handling some of the old photos or other materials and to put a book in a special “book cradle” to protect its fragile spine. Staff will always be on hand to assist you and ensure that items are handled correctly.

How can you help?

- Be careful when handling documents and not mark them
- Do not lick your fingers when turning any pages
- Leave items in their original order
- Only use pencil in the Search Room
- No eating or drinking
- Use the lockers for all bags and coats

We are also always interested to hear about and receive any old records, documents, photographs and maps, etc. that relate to the history of Enfield. Please contact a member of staff if you think you may have something of interest.

Copies of the Records

If you would like to have copies of old records and photos please ask the staff who will be happy to assist. Be aware that this is not possible with all items in the Collection as some can be damaged by this process.

How to find us



By train: Enfield Town Station or Enfield Chase Station
 By bus: Routes 307, 121, W8, 191, 231, 329, 313, 377, W9

Contact Details
Enfield Local Studies Library & Archive
1st Floor Thomas Hardy House
39 London Road
Enfield EN2 6DS

Tel: 020 8379 2724
Email: local.history@enfield.gov.uk

School Records

Log books and admissions registers are held for some schools.

Log books, written by the head teacher, record daily life in the school. Chesterfield Road School log book on 16th June 1944 records:

"Owing to 9 hours Alert which lasted till 9.30am School was not assembled till the all clear. A second alert & then a third kept children in the shelters. No Registers were marked as Parents were continually withdrawing children.

At lunchtime on 27th June the school was hit by a flying bomb. The children were safe in the air raid shelter, but one of the teachers was killed. The damaged log book was pulled out of the rubble."

Admissions registers are useful for family history researchers, giving a child's date of birth, address, parents' names and sometimes the name of the last school they attended.



Chesterfield School Log Book

Rate Books

Enfield Local Studies holds a small collection of rate books. Rate books from the late 18th century take the form of a list of names and provide confirmation of an individual's residence in the area.



1794 rate book listing Daniel Garnault

Local History Groups

There are a number of local societies offering talks, newsletters and outings.

- Edmonton Hundred Historical Society
- Enfield Archaeological Society
- Friern Barnet & District Historical Society
- London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society
- Southgate District Civic Trust
- The Enfield Society

Enfield Museum Service

There is a permanent local history display at the Dugdale Centre in Enfield, as well as a programme of changing exhibitions.



Crown & Horseshoes on New River



Boer War celebrations 1902



New River Whitewebbs c.1910

The New River, completed in 1613, came through Enfield as a water supply for London from Hertfordshire. In 1816 the Royal Small Arms Factory was built which manufactured muskets, bayonets and swords for the British Army.



Royal Small Arms Factory



Oakwood Station site 1931



The first ticket sold

In World War Two the area saw much damage from bombs dropped in the area and later V1 flying bombs and V2 rockets.



Two Brewers Ponders End
30th September 1940



High Street, Ponders End, 26th October 1940

The London Borough of Enfield was created in 1965 the joining up of the local authorities of Edmonton, Enfield and Southgate. Enfield is now a vibrant multicultural suburb of London with its history built up by the diverse communities that have settled here.

Enfield Council's Local Studies hold a wealth of archives, documenting some of the history of the borough with records dating from the 13th to 21st centuries.

What's in a Name?

Why is Enfield called Enfield today? Well nobody really knows. Among the many theories are, that it could refer to "Eana's open space", or possibly that it was of a lost *ean or "Lamb". Over the years it has been known as many different versions such as Enefelde, Enesfeud, Ainefeld, Einfeld, Enfeld, Endfelde and even Envill.

What is the Enfield Beast?

The Enfield Beast is a fictitious creature sometimes used in heraldry, it is made up of many animals and has the head of a fox, eagle's talons, the chest of a greyhound, the body of a lion, and the hindquarters and tail of a wolf.



The collection includes engravings from the late 18th century. Many feature the grand houses of landed gentry, but others show a more common side of 18th century life.



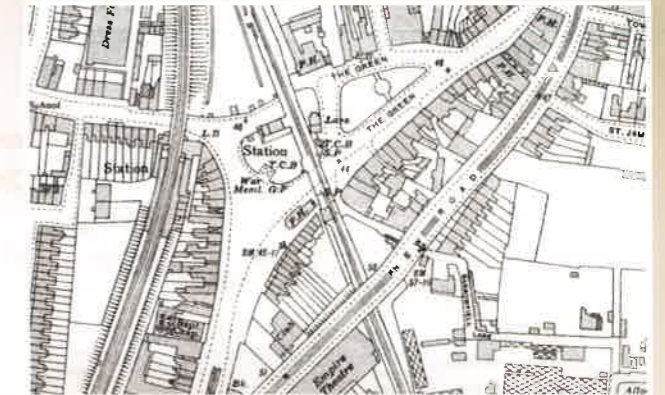
Green Street 1797 engraved by J.T. Smith

Copies of our images may be purchased. Please contact us for further information.

Maps

The first large scale Ordnance Survey maps of our area were published in 1867. Ordnance Survey maps are the first place to start for researchers studying the history of their house.

Comparisons with the following editions of 1896, 1913 and 1936 clearly illustrate the development of housing, industry and transport links.



Edmonton Green 1935 OS



Edmonton Enclosure map 1801 & 1802

Earlier maps give far less detail. The enclosure maps, drawn up when the open fields of medieval strip farming were enclosed, are the best of these. The Enfield map was made in 1803, and Edmonton, which includes Southgate, in 1801. There is also a good collection of 18th century Middlesex County maps.

Newspapers

Local newspapers are held on microfilm and in hard copy. Meyer's Enfield Observer was the first local title published in 1859, shortly followed by the Tottenham & Edmonton Herald in 1861. Copies of the *Southgate Recorder*, the *Palmers Green & Southgate Gazette*, and the *Enfield Herald* are also held. The newspapers themselves are not indexed, but there is an indexed collection of cuttings.

Local newspapers provide a first-hand account. They give colour and insight into attitudes of the day and reflect events of national history through local stories. They are an invaluable source for anyone carrying out research into the history of local organisations such as sports clubs, social clubs, schools, and churches. They include the obituaries of prominent local people and advertisements for shops and businesses.



The Recorder 19th December 1912



The Recorder May 1908

Photographs and Illustrations

The photographic collection includes images of streets and shops, transport and industry, pubs and sport. Photographers recorded significant events, civic ceremonies, opening celebrations, bomb damage and more.

The earliest image of Enfield Town dates from the late 1860s. It shows an empty street as passers-by moved too quickly to be captured by early cameras. Later images show barefoot children in the winter of 1908/9 and the poor housing conditions which were later swept away in post war redevelopment.



Enfield Town in the late 1860s



Edmonton Empire 1908/9

How do archives help us?

Well, for example, they could:

- uncover the history of your family, school, house, workplace, local park, pub, businesses, favourite building, sports club and favourite team, and local folklore.
- keep the history of the area safe for future generations
- help us understand just how our neighbourhoods and communities grew into what they are today
- enhance democracy by ensuring accountability
- help discover who we are today by teaching us about yesterday
- find out information for your school or college projects
- tell the stories of the people who wrote or made the archives

What kind of records are there at Enfield Local Studies?

There are many types of records at Local Studies and we have staff here with a lot of experience of dealing with local and family history questions. They are here on-hand to try to help you find just the sort or record you may need to answer your questions. Among our many records we have:

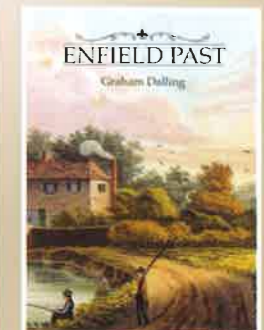
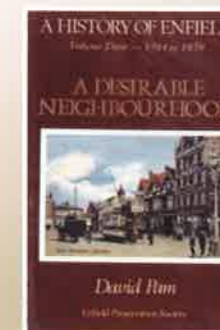
- Electoral Registers
- Census records
- Maps including Enclosure and Ordnance Survey & bomb damage
- Records relating to local authorities,

- schools, and workhouses
- Local history books & Journals
- Pamphlets & other ephemera
- Local newspapers
- Street directories
- Old local postcards & photographs
- Vestry minutes & other church records
- Rate books
- Archives of local businesses
- Archives of local sports clubs
- Records of societies, clubs and local organisations.
- Title deeds & wills
- Family papers and landed estates

Reading list:

There are a great many books written about Enfield's history. The earliest history in Local Studies is Robinson's *History of Edmonton* published in 1819. The most comprehensive history was written by David Pam, in three volumes to 1939. There are books about the different parts of the borough as well as its schools, industries, cinemas, crime, transport and many other aspects of life in the area.

A comprehensive book list can be obtained from the Local Studies Archive.



Family history resources:

At Local Studies you can access and search the on-line genealogy sites Find My Past, Ancestry and The Genealogist. We have free online access through Find My Past to the census returns for England and Wales from 1841 to 1911 (+ Scotland 1841-1881).

The census returns allow you to search by name or address. The census can provide information about an individual:

- name
- address
- age
- where they were born
- occupation
- other members of the household

The 1911 census gives the length of time a couple had been married and

| Household No. | Name | Age | Sex | Occupation |
|---------------|---------------|-----|-----|------------|
| 1 | General Booth | 54 | M | General |
| 2 | Miss Booth | 21 | F | Miss |
| 3 | Miss Booth | 19 | F | Miss |
| 4 | Miss Booth | 17 | F | Miss |
| 5 | Miss Booth | 15 | F | Miss |
| 6 | Miss Booth | 13 | F | Miss |
| 7 | Miss Booth | 11 | F | Miss |
| 8 | Miss Booth | 9 | F | Miss |
| 9 | Miss Booth | 7 | F | Miss |
| 10 | Miss Booth | 5 | F | Miss |

1881 Census entry for General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army

| Household No. | Name | Age | Sex | Occupation |
|---------------|---------------|-----|-----|------------|
| 1 | William Pratt | 25 | M | Actor |
| 2 | Miss Pratt | 22 | F | Miss |
| 3 | Miss Pratt | 19 | F | Miss |
| 4 | Miss Pratt | 17 | F | Miss |
| 5 | Miss Pratt | 15 | F | Miss |
| 6 | Miss Pratt | 13 | F | Miss |
| 7 | Miss Pratt | 11 | F | Miss |
| 8 | Miss Pratt | 9 | F | Miss |
| 9 | Miss Pratt | 7 | F | Miss |
| 10 | Miss Pratt | 5 | F | Miss |

1901 Census entry for William Pratt later Boris Karloff

how many children they had. Find My Past has the birth, marriage and death indexes for England and Wales, military records, wills and many other records.

Ancestry

Provides online access to a wide range of genealogical information including:

- London Parish records
- American Census records
- Immigration
- Australian and Canadian records
- Railway employee records

The website is heavily biased to American records but has a lot that is of value to UK researchers.

The Genealogist

Is very useful for non-conformist ancestors who are sometimes hard to locate. It also has parish records, births, death and marriages, wills, and some census material.

Street Directories

The archive has street directories from 1892 - 1969 covering Edmonton, Enfield and Southgate.

These list local businesses and private residents. Entries are listed alphabetically by surname and by street. The sequence is unfortunately incomplete, and there are a few years missing so we advise you to contact us before your visit to ensure that we have the year you need.



Electoral Registers from 1891

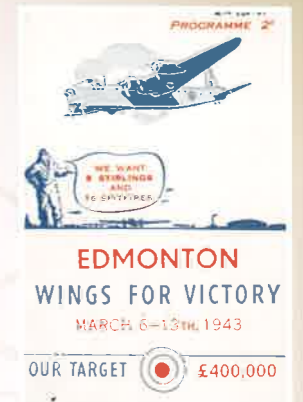
These are lists of registered voters arranged by electoral ward. Each ward is listed alphabetically by street. Some Electoral Registers are now online at www.ancestry.com and are searchable by name. There are some restrictions on the use of the modern registers. Please contact staff for further details.

Ephemera

This includes items such as theatre programmes, railway tickets, timetables, advertisements and business catalogues which can give valuable background information about how people lived.



Theatre Programme



WW2 Funds Drive Poster

Oral or Spoken Histories

Oral history is a vital part of local history. Just about everyone has a story to tell about their experiences and their lives. By interviewing local people and recording people's memories of their lives we can compile a unique picture of Enfield's history. Many history sources focus only on important people and big events, but oral histories can fill in the gaps by giving a voice to the common person. Local Studies has recordings and transcripts that you can listen to and read about. We are always interested in hearing from different people and communities in Enfield and welcome everyone to tell us highlights of their life stories.