

Enfield Island Village Trust – Phone Box Micro Library

Welcome to Your Community Book Exchange







About the Micro Library

This red telephone box has been repurposed as a free Micro Library for residents and visitors of Enfield Island Village. The idea is simple: **take a book, read a book, or leave a book**. There's no membership, no fees, and no deadlines—just a shared commitment to community, curiosity, and kindness. Whether you're on your morning walk, waiting for a friend, or taking a break from gardening, you're warmly invited to browse the collection inside. The Micro Library is entirely community-led and run by volunteers from the **Enfield Island Village Trust**.

We will soon be adding:

- A dedicated **children's book box** on the floor of the booth.
- A laminated **map of Enfield Island Village** and a brief historical overview—displayed on the outside panel for public reference.

How It Works

-  **Borrow** a book and return it when finished.
-  **Donate** books you've enjoyed and wish to share with others.
-  **Exchange** a book one-for-one if you'd like to keep what you've taken.
-  **Please only leave books** in good, clean condition.
-  No magazines, religious tracts, political material, or damaged books please.
-  If donating children's books, kindly place them in the designated lower section (available soon).

This initiative operates on **trust and goodwill**. Let's keep the collection tidy, inclusive, and suitable for all ages.

A Brief History of the Iconic Red Telephone Box

The red telephone box is a cherished symbol of British heritage. Designed by **Sir Giles Gilbert Scott**, the most iconic version—the **K6 model**—was introduced in 1936 to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of **King George V**. Its elegant domed roof, glazed windows, and bright red colour made it instantly recognisable and a beloved fixture of British streets.

Though now largely obsolete for telecommunications, these boxes have found new life as defibrillator stations, art galleries, and—like ours—a community book exchange. They represent a beautiful blend of nostalgia and civic repurposing.

A Short History of Enfield Island Village

Enfield Island Village sits on a historic piece of land once occupied by the **Royal Small Arms Factory (RSAF)**, established in **1816** to produce weapons for the British Army. At its peak, the factory played a pivotal role in national defence and technological innovation—producing the famous **Lee-Enfield rifle** among others.

Following its closure in the late 1980s, the area was transformed into a residential development in the late 1990s. The island is surrounded by waterways and boasts a unique blend of natural beauty, heritage architecture, and tight-knit community spirit. Today, Enfield Island Village is governed by a resident-led trust that looks after its upkeep, green spaces, and now, its own Micro Library.

A Note of Thanks - EIVT July 2025

This project has only been made possible through the **work of EIVT trustees (and the donation from RSA)**, who are all residents and volunteers. We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the construction, restoration, and continued care of the Micro Library. Let's continue to build a culture of reading, sharing, and neighbourly connection—one book at a time.

