

FINCHLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 18th. 1971

70, Glebe Road,  
Finchley, N3

Dear Member,

Following our successful first meeting, there are a number of matters that require your attention.

1. You are asked to prepare your own list of buildings and other features of Finchley that, in your opinion, are worthy of preservation. Please forward the list to one of the members of the steering committee.

The list should indicate accurately the location of the building etc., and should include, where possible, notes on historic associations, architectural features, amenity value, etc.

There is to be a Committee meeting on February 25th, and we would appreciate receipt of your list before then. If the postal strike is resolved in time, the list may of course be posted to the Secretary.

Members of the Steering Committee

Miss J. L. Scott	19 Arden Road N3,
Cllr. J. Fitzgibbon	80 Woodside Park Road N12
Cllr J Tiplady	23 Finchley Park N12
Capt. C Harcourt Kitchin	Hawthorndene; Strawberry Vale, N2
Mr J. Savage	5, Manor View, N3
Mr. H. Dixon	51 Arden Road N3
Mr. W. Tyler	76 Woodside Park Road N12
Miss J. Digby	30 Finchley Way N3
Mrs. A. N. Cracknell	Manor. Cottages Long Lane N2

2. At our meeting of February 12th, we tried to list our aims. Below is list of these for your consideration and amendment.

Aims of the Society

- i. to promote research into the history and buildings of Finchley,
- ii. to draw up a list of buildings worthy of preservation,
- iii. to publish its findings and recommendations,
- iv. to collect documents, photographs, etc.,
- v. to organise regular meetings,
- vi. to watch over the amenities offered by the parks, open spaces, trees, streams, etc.,
- vii. to draw attention to certain 'ugly spots' in the area, and suggest ways in which these might be improved.

3. Several names were suggested for the new society, as the word. 'historical' was felt to be too limiting in scope and not sufficiently attractive. Those suggested were:

The Finchley Society

The Finchley Heritage Association

Friends of Finchley

Finchley Environmental Society

The greatest amount of support seemed to be for either the first or the second title. Other suggestions are welcome decision on the name we adopt will be taken at our next meeting.

4. Details of the next meeting will be issued as soon as possible. The date will probably be Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> March.

5 Committee members are asked to note that there will be a meeting of the steering committee at the home of Mr. Dixon, 51 Arden Road, N3 on Thursday, February 25th at 8 p.m.

6. Miss Scott has very kindly made available her telephone number for those people in urgent need of further information. Queries not of an urgent nature should be addressed to the Secretary. The number to ring is: 3146 0525

Yours sincerely

D W SMITH  
Secretary

We reprint below the text of Sir John Betjeman's letter dated 5/2/71:

Dear Miss Scott,

I am so glad to hear that the Finchley Historical Society is out to save the Express Dairies Farm, It was in the Parish of Finchley at Mill Hill that Mark Akenside, the famous poet and precursor of Wordsworth lived. Finchley Common was once famous for the robberies committed on it. We cannot afford today to be robbed of what is more precious than the worldly goods of travellers, that is to say green space in a built-up area. I hope you will save the Express Dairies Farm which I can remember from my Highgate days. It is as important to Finchley as is that delightful part of the old village of Finchley, which still survives south and west and. maybe a bit north, of the old Parish Church of St. Mary.

I wish I could have been at your inaugural meeting, for the countryside of Middlesex which inspired Keats and Leigh Hunt, dwindles almost daily, and can never be replaced. Long live Finchley and its sudden steep hills, tree-shaded gardens and memories of a civilised prosperity.

Yours sincerely  
JOHN BETJEMAN