

THE FINCHLEY SOCIETY

70, Glebe Road,
Finchley, N.3. 2AX

September 11th. 1971

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

If this is the first circular letter from the Society that you have received, may we welcome you as 8 new member and thank you for the interest you have shown. Membership has now exceeded one hundred and continues to increase. Please help us to reach the many other people whom we know would join if they knew of our objectives. If you require any publicity materials, please contact the Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS The Steering Committee has decided on new subscription rates to apply as from January 1st. The annual subscription for full members will now be 50p per annum, that for a married couple will be 75p, and that for a junior member (under the age of 18) will be 25p. Members in receipt of a state retirement pension are entitled to free membership if they so wish. All interim subscriptions will be valid until January 1st. 1972. Any new member joining after October 1st. will pay at the new rates. Members who paid their subscription before August 16th and had not previously received their receipt should find it enclosed with this letter. Members paying after that date will be able to collect their receipt at the next meeting.

MEETINGS Our first meeting of the Autumn programme will be held in the Main Hall of Christ's College, Hendon Lane, N3 on Friday, September 24th at 8 p.m. A short business meeting will be followed by an illustrated talk on historic building Mr Ashley Barker, Chief Officer of the GLC Historic Buildings Division. At this meeting the Chairman will be asking members to agree to the adoption of a constitution (subject to any amendment which may be requested by the Civic Trust or the Inland Revenue). This is a necessary step as the Society cannot be recognised by the Civic Trust without a suitable Constitution. Copies of this document will be available at the meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Friday, October 29th. The venue is still to be decided. This will be a general meeting at which the Committee will be able to report back on its work of the last few months. Also at this meeting it is proposed to hold elections for the posts of Vice-President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and for four committee members. Nominations will be required before the start of the meeting and should either be sent to the Secretary by post or brought to the meeting. The new Committee will of course replace the present Steering Committee. The present holders of the various posts are:

Chairman: Mr. R. H. V. Dixon
Hon. Secretary Mr. D.W. Smith
Hon. Treasurer Mr. A. J. Tew
Committee: Miss J. L. Scott, Miss J. Digby, Mrs A. M. Cracknell,
Mrs. E. Pentecost, Mrs. P. Sharland, Mr. W. Tyler,
Capt. C. H. Kitchin, Mr. J. Tiplady, Mr. J. Fitzgibbon

The posts of Vice-President and Vice-Chairman have not yet been filled

The November meeting has been brought forward one day to Thursday, November 25th. This is to enable us to hear a very interesting talk on 'Historic Irish Homes' by the Hon Desmond Guinness. Further details will be announced later.

There will be no meeting in December. Our first meeting of 1972 will take place on Friday, January 28th.

VISIT Miss Jean Scott has arranged a visit for us to the Greater London Record Office (Middlesex Records) on the afternoon of Saturday, October 23rd. Further details will be given in the next letter to members.

AREA GROUPS Volunteers are required to do fieldwork for the Society. Initially this will involve the checking of buildings shown on the 186LI~ Ordnance Survey maps that may still exist. Once this is done, these volunteers will be able to keep watch in their area for any threat to particular buildings of historic or architectural interest or to the environment in general. We propose to set up small groups in the following seven areas:

Totteridge Ward, Finchley Ward (Church End), East Finchley Ward, Garden Suburb Ward, St Paul's Ward, Woodhouse Ward, Friern Barnet Ward. A suitably qualified member will be asked to co-ordinate the work of each group and to call on the Executive Committee for any action necessary. If you wish to volunteer 'to' help in this important work, please let the Secretary know, stating the area you will wish to work in.

The Committee has decided to include Friern Barnet in the area covered by the Society as to their knowledge no similar Society has an interest in this area).

COMMITTEE Will Committee members please note that the next Committee meeting will be held at Capt. Kitchin's home, Hawthorne Dene, Strawberry Vale, N,2. at 8 p.m. on Monday, October 18th

CARNIVAL Members will wish to thank those who prepared and manned the stall last July's Finchley Carnival. Although put together very quickly, and with much burning of midnight oil, the very professional appearance of our display screens elicited many favourable comments. Our membership was increased as a result and many people spent time viewing the interesting collection of old photographs and maps on show. In its turn, the Committee wishes to thank those members who provided material for the display. It is regretted that there has been

delay in returning these photographs and maps, but it was felt that we should try to put the display up in one of the local libraries as so much interest had been aroused. We were also anxious to record the sources of this material before its return.

The Society's thanks are also due to Mr, and Mrs. Pentecost and their friends in Lodge Lane for having given us a very interesting and, friendly evening visit there last July. Members enjoyed seeing three of the cottages of the original 'North End' and drinking some excellent coffee. Our thanks too to Mr. Malcolm Ricketts for having shown us round Terrace Rouse,

EXHIBITION The attention of members is directed towards the current exhibition at Church Farm House Museum, Hendon, entitled 'Roman Hendon'. The exhibition closes on October 10th.

RAILWAYS The Society has received a request from Mr. N. D. Grant of 12 Grove Road, N12 9DY who is engaged on the writing of a book on various closed railways in the Home Counties, and is particularly interested in the railway in Finchley and its associated branches as follows 1) The ex-Great Northern branch from Finsbury Park, Highgate, Alexandra Palace and Edgware (via Finchley) and 2) the ex-Great Eastern line from Seven Sisters-Palace Gates. Help of any kind in Mr Grant's researches will be most welcome. Would you, if you can help, please contact Mr. Grant at the above address.

Members will be interested to hear that the old building of Christ's College (erected in 1860) has now been accepted by the Department of the Environment as "building of architectural or historic interest" and will be listed as a grade II item in the next statutory list.

POSTMEN The Secretary would like to hear from any members who would volunteer to deliver up to a dozen circular letters (usually once a month), The need is greatest in the N20 area and in Church End. The Secretary would also like to hear from any of the present team of postmen who would like some modification to their rounds, or who feel unable to continue this job

VALE FARM is the name of the new housing estate being planned by the Council for the area of land near Simms Motor Units Factory. The Society WCS asked to view the plans by the Borough Planning Officer end has since submitted to him a letter listing various suggestions on the layout of the area, with particular reference to footpaths, access to the Almshouses, and play space for children of different ages.

Yours sincerely
DAVID SMITH
Hon. Secretary