

## The Finchley Society Newsletter

OCTOBER, 1986 No.8/86 (SUPPLEMENT)

### IN THIS EDITION

- \* A look-back at nine Society events this summer
- \* Some local "country-matters"
- \* Committee activities
- \* A rich variety of "occasional" notes.

### JUNE MEETING Mary Hodgkinson

The prospect of losing the G.L.C. brought many worries and uncertainties to members of the Fin.Soc. and similar amenity groups. We were asking ourselves which G.L.C. functions would be transferred to individual boroughs, groups of boroughs, quangos, government departments and other bodies and how would the new system work? We were still wondering, and to some extent worrying, when we met before the summer recess on 25th June.

Our guest speaker, Mr. Cyril Taylor, was well equipped for his task. He was formerly G.L.C. member for Ruislip, Northwood, Deputy Leader of the G.L.C. Conservative Group and Chairman of the G.L.C. Professional and General Services Committee. His tone was reassuring, in the main. He felt that despite some Press predictions to the contrary, "things seem to be functioning quite well". As for the transfer of functions to local authorities, he believed it would result in decision-making closer to the people affected by it, and that eventually, when redundancy payments to staff had been settled, Londoners were likely to save a great deal of money.

At question time, Mr. Taylor was under pressure about many topics of special interest to us. A member criticised his talk as "a party political broadcast" inappropriate to an a-political society, a view shared by some others, who were not mollified when Mr. Taylor, unruffled, riposted that Ken Livingstone would have been even more party political. The questions continued to flow. On "safer" ground, Chairman Paddy Musgrove expressed reservations about the present arrangement whereby Hampstead Heath was run jointly by Barnet, Camden and Haringey. He considered that this might result in administrative problems.

Paddy's tactful introduction disclosed the Committee's disappointment about the attitude of our Borough Council towards this important meeting. Knowing that certain Council staff were busy "trying to sort things out" (post-abolition affairs) we asked the Chief Executive and Town Clerk last autumn if he could arrange a speaker. However he felt he could not comply. We then made a similar request to the Councillors' side and Cllr. Pym, as Leader, confirmed that he would provide a speaker but - very correctly - asked us to renew our request after the local election in May. This we did, but because

of Councillors' other engagements, none was found to address us. Cllr. Pym, however, called upon Mr. Taylor, who responded at, for him, very short notice.

The net result was one of the liveliest question times for many months - and renewed determination to keep up the pressure about the Green Belt, the Heath, the destination of collective rubbish, historic buildings and all other matters which concern us in the aftermath of abolition.

COLLEGE FARM OPEN DAY- 6 JULY, 1986            Denys Pegg

An outstanding feature of the July Open Day was a display of the work of seven members ~, of the Model Horse Drawn Vehicles Club. Thirty-nine models were on view outside the farm shop, amongst them a College Farm horse drawn milk float

Other vehicles of local interest included the London to York and London to Birmingham Stage Coaches that 150 years ago were a common sight in Finchley High Road. It was easy to understand why the model of a ledge caravan had taken twelve months to build so far and would take another six months to complete, the detail was exceptional.

Children's entertainment was another aspect of this Open Day: Aunty Frances gave a party in the tea house; in the courtyard Fraser Hooper - mime artist and juggler - took children on a trip to the African jungle, and Pex Puppets attracted a large crowd. Balloon animals, the inflatable castle and donkey rides all contributed to the enjoyment of a sunny afternoon. For the parents, Norman Burgess gave details of the Wimbledon finals over the address system.

Over 1200 paid the volunteers on the gate for admission which made a substantial contribution towards maintaining the large and varied collection of farm animals and poultry which is, of course the attraction. As previously, refreshments, stalls and side shows were staffed by a small (too small?) group of 'Friends' with help from the 10th Finchley Scouts.

FINCHLEY CARNIVAL - JULY, 1986            Esther Johnson

The first obvious sign that Finchley Carnival was imminent was a pile of street litter on the floor of the otherwise empty sitting room of Andrea Cushing's new flat. A couple of days later, the stuff had been transformed into a way-out collage (Rubbish 1986) to decorate our Carnival exhibition, which showed scenes from local life, such as cars on pavements, heaps of junk, fly-posting, signs of dirty dogs, etc. "PRIDE OF PLACE: THE WAY WE LIVE" the pictures were called, and had been used in libraries for Civic

Trust Environment Week - Patrick Smith provided the coloured photographs and Meg Davis the artwork.

Peter Marsh and his heavy-mob were unable to obtain the service of our usual removal van to shift the stand from its winter quarters in College Farm, so Christopher Ower came to our rescue with a large conveyance normally used for horses. As always we are very grateful to all those who helped us in different ways.

Our stand was nicely placed for viewing the floral display by the Parks Dept, so we were able to watch the gardeners watering the gloxinias. Our own plants made an excellent show this year and we appear to have sold about £75 worth. One of our sales staff who shall be nameless (but who happens to be an editor of this newsletter) appeared in a fetching T-shirt emblazoned with the green finch logo of the Finchley Society. It had gained her instant free admission to the park, as the gate-keeper assumed she was "with the fair"! The best reaction to our anti-litter message came from a young boy; he clutched his friend's arm and pointing to the rubbish collage said: "That's your house!"

On Thursday we received a welcome visit from Mrs. Thatcher who praised the work of the Finchley Society for quite a time. Camera flashes were popping all around us. At 7.30 p.m. on Saturday a kind gentleman from the neighbouring stand looked round the corner at us and asked "Are you all right?? There is a bulge of rain water over your heads." (There are curious risks attached to working in tents). We had not noticed that it was raining and suddenly we were up to our ankles in a tidal wave which swept through our bit of the tent. Never has the exhibition staff reacted more quickly! Stock of books, papers, parcels and bags had to be hoisted to safety on tables. By the time the rest of the demolition team arrived at 8 p.m., most of the un-picking and packing had been done. So ended three eventful days, during which we sold more books and plants than ever before at a Carnival. By the way, the best-sellers this year were the 1894 Ordnance Survey Maps.

#### COLLEGE FARM OPEN DAY - SUNDAY, 3rd AUGUST

August's Open Day posters bore the legend "Summertime" - and "legend" it turned out to be for (surprise, surprise) it rained., and rained., and rained: vertically mostly, noisily often, and most of the afternoon! But the band played on - bless them, they did just that, under cover beside the Feed and Saddlery shop, cheering up the day for the 300 plus souls who visited the farm, undeterred by the elements. Our grateful thanks to the Borehamwood Brass Band.

Also undeterred of course were the animals (especially the ducks!): from the donkeys providing children's rides in the big covered barn, to the Berkshire

Sow delightfully caring for her nine white piglets, snug and dry in their indoor pen.

The Gallery was actually crowded at times and the stalls in the "organisations room" did a brisk trade - all of which goes to emphasise how worthwhile College Farm is, rain or shine, for either the many or the few. Meanwhile developments continue apace - it will soon be possible to report the transformation by Sue Russell of the old Teahouse to be opened sometime in the autumn, lovingly restored.

FRIERN BARNET SUMMER SHOW - AUGUST 8/9 Esther\_Johnson

Nine volunteers and one pressed man (to use a nautical phrase) were milling round setting up our stand in Friary Park on August 7th - surely a record number! After sterling work, the pressed man - an American called Alex - sneaked off to the fairground to win for us a pink fluffy animal (variety uncertain - a very Rare Breed perhaps?) by throwing darts. For transport our "scenery" and fittings had shared the College Farm horse-box with bits of the magnificent Farm stand, which by Friday afternoon was bursting with various animals, bags of hay and straw, animal foods of all shapes, pets' accessories - and, of course, Jane.

The Finchley Society stand was placed far from any tent opening, so, as the heat increased on Friday, I bought a Chinese paper fan from a pussies' welfare stall to help our staff to survive. When I was on my own at the stall, waving my little punkah, two small children made an uproar because their mother would not take the fan away from me and give it to them. When calm was restored, one child showed interest in the flower-picture on the fan, so I despatched the party next door to the Art Marquee run by College Farm Gallery.

The inhabitants of that tent were complaining of an invasion of ants. In ours, wildlife was represented mostly by the familiar Friary mini-spiders suspended from the rafters (or whatever tent roofs have) - I met only one ant. It was crossing "Finchley Common: A Notorious Place" on Saturday which was the day some children from the fair were fascinated by our exhibition of litter, I fear our efforts did not make much difference to the amount of rubbish left on the show-ground. A gentleman was very angry because a poster of his was the centrepiece of my artistic(?) arrangement on the "Fly-posting on Trees" board. With great presence of mind, Denys calmly sold him an Ordnance Map of his home area. These 1894 maps were again the best-sellers - especially the one showing Friary Park, of course. Kind people had given us plants and huge marrows to sell - all were gone by the end - even the flowers decorating the table. The Carnival Queen and Princess came and filled their bags with plants in the late afternoon. Our first customer was a young man of about 6 who wanted to add a cactus to his collection. He left with two, feeling important.

There were almost as many helpers swarming round to dismantle the stand as there were to erect it. Again we had a "pressed man" - Robert (14) - who leapt upon tables flourishing a screwdriver to great effect. After our paraphernalia had been loaded into the horse-box, the gang moved across the field to help Christopher demolish the Farm stand. At one stage, this operation was reminiscent of the Barn-raising scene in "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers", only in reverse, and with less athletic dancing. Then on to the wonderful fire-work display!

To all those who helped or contributed to the Summer Show exhibition in any way, THANK YOU.

#### COLLEGE FARM SEPTEMBER OPEN-DAY - SEPTEMBER 7th

What exactly was it that brought 3500 visitors to College Farm on the September 7th Open-Day? Well, first of all the weather was glorious and what better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than to stroll around the farm looking at the many animals and birds now in residence. Then, too, the children in their numbers enjoyed donkey and pony rides and bounced to their hearts delight on the inflatable castle.

The Gallery was of course open, and in addition to the regular artists there were paintings on display by guest exhibitors. Particularly delightful were the miniatures painted by Alistair MacDonald of Hatfield who had entered his work in an arts event in Chaville (one of the Borough's twin towns near Paris) and had been awarded the Prix de Jumelage: this award was presented to Mr. MacDonald during the afternoon by Cllr. Vic Usher, OBE, Chairman of the Town Twinning Committee and Citoyen d'honneur of the town of Chaville. Craft stalls in the courtyard were another popular attraction as were the crepes freshly cooked to order - and the aroma while they were cooking was almost irresistible.

The horse-drawn carriage procession was, perhaps, the highlight of the afternoon and the judging by our President Spike Milligan, proved to be as entertaining as one imagined it would! Spike declared ("... by the unanimous decision of me ...") that the first prize should be awarded to Mr. George Hawkins driving a Hackney carriage dating from 1866 and second prize to Claire Turner of Enfield driving a Red London Trolley. The Mayor of Barnet, Cllr. Dennis Dippel kindly presented the prizes.

As always, credit should be given to Jane and Chris Ower, to the Friends and to the Gallery for all their hard work in making the afternoon such a success.

SEPTEMBER MEETING     Mary Hodgkinson

The Green Belt was the dominant theme at a well attended meeting which opened our season on 24th September. It could not be otherwise, with the public enquiry about the Copthall indoor sports centre scheduled for 14th October and Mr. Ronald Smith, Chairman of the Green Belt Council, Chairman of the Potters Bar Society and a National Trust volunteer lecturer, as our guest speaker.

Vice-president Bill Tyler in a "Topic of the month" talk to start the evening clearly indicated the "Green" is not in this context synonymous with "peace". He left us in no doubt that the proposed Copthall centre would be a terrific intrusion into Green Belt land, and he strongly criticised Barnet Council for having failed in this instance to act according to Green Belt principles, despite its topic study on the subject, which recognised the value of Green Belt land.

Bill pointed out that the Sports Council had chosen Birmingham as a national sports centre. Copthall would be a grade 2 or 3 regional centre, and as such would attract very little funding. Yet it was a mammoth project with buildings covering 7 acres so the lack of adequate funding was very worrying. He estimated that Barnet Council could eventually face a bill of something like £14m. As a result of that, he suggested, the centre might have to stage fund-raising events other than sporting — indeed it is believed that a "social event" timed for New Year's Eve is already proposed, with a 1 a.m. extension. He confirmed that the Finchley Society has joined with other amenity groups to oppose the scheme, with representation at the public enquiry.

Mr. Smith, in his talk, strongly advised groups like ours to get together and act for themselves at these enquiries rather than brief legal representatives. His address, fully illustrated with excellent slides, included a mini-history of Green Belt principles and warnings about the need for vigilance and determination in our own time. He warned us that half-a-dozen projects for shopping precincts and other commercial purposes — at motorway exit points, for instance — were currently in existence. He also urged us to contest the claims of developers to landscapes which they claimed were "tatty and empty", for, according to Green Belt principles, it was sufficient that some of these sites in open country should simply be there.

Surprisingly perhaps, Mr. Smith advised us to "love the age of the London M25 Orbital" because it brought the farthest part of the Green Belt within two hours' reach by car. Asked at question time whether the law could be strengthened to stop encroachments on the Green Belt, Mr. Smith said it was a question of interpreting circulars from the Department of the Environment. The Green Belt Council has a "continual battle" over these directives to local authorities.

CAMBRIDGE COACH OUTING     Kurt Weinberg

On Saturday, 27th September, 92 members joined our annual coach outing to Wimpole Home Farm and Cambridge.

Wimpole home farm near Royston has a special place in the history of British agriculture. It was an active centre for farming experiments nearly two hundred years ago. Mrs. George Bambridge gave the estate to the National Trust in 1976 and what a wonderful job of restoration has been done since then. In the film loft we saw a video of this work and of the aims of the farm management. We then examined a fine display of Wimpole Farm history in the Great Barn, designed by Sir John Soane in 1796. The barn also housed an extensive collection of agricultural machinery.

There was time to visit the small dairy with its many implements used for processing milk during Victorian times. The farm buildings and paddocks, housing the many rare breeds, were in excellent condition. We left Wimpole hoping that it would not be too long before our College Farm is restored to the same standards.

Within a few minutes drive from Wimpole was Cambridge and New Hall. In the Vivien Stewart Room, Mr. Dowdy, a lecturer of Wolfson College and an architectural historian, awaited us to present a slide lecture on the history of Cambridge. His special interests are settlements and their developments. He brought Cambridge to life, from pre-Roman days to the present. (The Romans built a bridge across the river Cam to take the Via Devana from Colchester to Chester). We learned about the oldest college, Peterhouse, and that, in 1209 the first students came to Cambridge, fleeing from 'the other place'.

Slides of old maps, old houses, churches, the Senate House and other famous buildings which we were going to see in the afternoon reflected Mr. Dowdy's knowledge and love of Cambridge. Having had perfect weather for our outing, we were fortunate to be able to eat our lunch on the open balcony of New Hall, overlooking the fountain, fishponds and flowerbeds. Some of us explored the fine dining hall with its 'orange peel' roof

At two o'clock four guides from the City of Cambridge took us in small groups for 90-minute tours to the riverside colleges and famous sights in that neighbourhood. We saw the Saxon church of St. Bene't's with its tower dating back to 1050, strolled through the grounds of King's College and saw the wonderful masonry work in the Chapel. We paused in front of Rubens' painting, the Adoration of the Magi, a gift to the college by A. E. Allnatt in 1961. Moving on, there came St. John's College, founded by Henry VII's mother, Lady Margaret Beaufort, and built on the site of the 13th century Hospital of St. John. From the Old Bridge behind St. John's, we had a traditional view of the Backs and the students punting on the river Cam, lit up by the afternoon sun.

Many members finished their Cambridge exploration by attending Evensong in King's College Chapel and listening to the fine choir. Our coaches brought us safely back to Finchley by 8.30 p.m.

Ed's note: The principal "creator" of this year's outing, Kurt has very modestly made no direct reference to his role, nor to the very obvious great success of the day as a whole, reported by many who took part.

THIS IS THE END ... BUT NOW READ ON. Timothy Johnson

1986 may well prove to be the year that turned the tide of College Farm's fortunes. We have seen the buildings listed by the DoE as being of architectural and historic interest; the restoration of their many roofs and gables has commenced and the farm land is now, we believe, liberated from road building demands. More and more rare-breed animals and poultry have been seen to the best advantage in their new pens, and new areas around the buildings have been opened to the public

But the most obvious sign of recovery has been the undoubted success of the "first-Sunday-of-the-month" Open Days, which have continued from April to October. Each of these occasions had its own theme and was memorable in its-own right, so the public came back for more, and attendance figures doubled, re-doubled and went on rising.

All the stops were pulled out for the end of the season on Sunday, 5th October to make it the most enjoyable Sunday of all, with the widest range of entertainment yet. All the old favourites were there, Pex Puppets, donkey rides, "Bouncing Castle", horse-shoe pitch and all the rest. The Art Gallery celebrated its 5th "birthday" with a special open exhibition which attracted a host of new exhibitors and there was a Crafts Fair in the courtyard. There were new attractions too, in the Scouts adventure playground and a "Children's Fair" where a charming blue roundabout revolved to the music of the Watford Band, while childrens' sideshows, devised and run by Peter and Doreen Sutton with Betty Hiteshi, attracted and held the attention of happy crowds of young visitors. What a wonderland of delight the children must find here! Watch their faces - some are wide eyed and pensive while others clap their hands joyfully, jumping up and down. Even the tiny ones clearly notice that this is something different from the television, and one imagines they all go home "happy but tired at the end of the day" - to the great relief of their parents no doubt.

One does not know how much fan mail Norman Burgess receives for his broadcasts on the public address system, but he certainly deserves mention for the timely announcements which have done so much to make Sunday afternoons flow smoothly this year. October 5th may have been the last of the Summer On Days, but please note that the band did not play "Auld Lang Syne" at the end of it - because College Farm never closes. It remains open

to visitors 'every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and "First Sundays of the Month" continue for the Winter season as from Sunday, 2nd November. Outdoor activity will be restricted to what the weather permits, but there will be plenty to see and do inside - please come and see.

I'VE GOT A BEE IN MY ... FLOWER POT Rosalind Batchelor

As someone noted for- having bees in my bonnet, it is pleasant to record that this year I had real bees, living happily in a plant pot in the garden. Family and friends spent endless minutes observing the habits of the orange-bottomed bumble bee. Our resident bees began as squatters in the compost heap, and were almost evicted when the 'demolition gang' moved in to turn the heap in mid-May. In a year when the severe winter had killed over half the nation's bees, the centre of our heap must have seemed like a tropical paradise to the hibernating queen. Once identified the small cluster of cells which formed the colony was transferred with a garden fork to a large plant-pot. In a remarkably short time the buzz of protest died down, by the end of the day the queen found her way home and life returned to its industrious norm for the colony.

The bees have since been hard at work pollinating the local flowers and returning laden with nectar and pollen to the nest. We have been able to observe the separate storage cells, some brimful with nectar and others containing waxy paste of pollen: one day we could even see the oval lumps of pollen falling off the bees legs into the cells. Many new cells have been added to the colony at a remarkable speed, including, we think, a new queen cell. The size of the old queen has astonished us, quite four times as big as the workers, and now careworn and lacking one wing. We have seen new bees emerging as damp grey ghosts, only developing their orange tails later in the day. The first drone emerged in mid-July, identified by a brighter yellow strip on the shoulders.

By mutual agreement, only one accidental sting so far, we are allowed to gaze into the pot at close quarters, but any movement or vibration brings an angry response. Rain or the occasional sprinkle with the hosepipe is tolerated but we have devised a lid for use during torrential rain. At the moment what we do not know is whether the queen bee will choose to return to her winter quarters in the compost heap and favour us with a new colony to study next year - more news, we hope, next spring!

FINCHLEY'S COUNTRY DIARY - AN AUTUMN CARNIVAL Sandra Quiqley

Temporarily travelling to work in London during the first three weeks in September, the only pleasure in this daily ordeal was in seeing the glowing colours of late summer flowers and early autumn foliage and fruit. Near Finchley Central station stands an elegant, tall and slim rowan tree with

beautiful silver and black bark. Like a model in a Sunday Supplement it stands haughtily aloof from the others with its limbs held away from its trunk. The dark green, frondy, fern-like leaves provide a magnificent background to display the bold clusters of crimson berries shining like rich, blood-red rubies in a jeweller's show-case. Why doesn't everyone in the compartment do a double-take as we pass slowly by? Clumps of rose bay willow herb decked out in Queen Mum colours of pale to deep mauve, stand on the banks, nodding and waving to the passengers but they are completely oblivious to my flights of fancy, buried deep in page 3, delighting in other charms! Red Ivy is creeping down the steep embankment walls and I wonder how long it will be allowed to grace the concrete before railway workers come along to hack off years of slow, steady growth for its daring to defy man's progress.

Go anywhere in the Borough for a free feast of visual and culinary delight! No entrance fees required, you may drive, bicycle or walk. I wonder if any of us would dare to wear the combination of colours that nature wears so well? The hedgerows of hawthorn are resplendent in several different shades ranging from green to gold, burgundy to red, orange to yellow - and all on one tree! Tall, stately horse chestnut ~ trees hold out their broad, whorled leaves of orange, yellow, brown and gold to the warm sunshine as if basking in the heat of a mediterranean beach! Beside them sturdy, dependable oaks still retain their dark green leaves, beeches, hornbeams and field maples are turning yellow, gold, brown and claret coloured. Many of these beautiful trees are already shedding their leaves to spread glowing carpets which catch the sunlight and reflect it back into the trees.

To me Autumn is a glorious carnival in which the whole land joins - it's not just a local event. It's something to be enjoyed before Winter sets in. This is the climax of Nature's year, a riot of colours, an abundance of fruits, feasting and stocking up for Winter.

So do accept Nature's invitation and join in the festival -kick up your heels, bask in a sheltered spot in the warm sunshine, breathe in that tang of bonfire smoke, smell that cool, crisp air, savour all these delights, gather all these wonderful things to yourself, lay in your store. Then bring them out one by one when it's grey, cold and weary in winter, turn them over in your memory when you hold cold hands to the fire, remember that fire-red clump of pyracantha berries when that cold wind whips round your legs and creeps up your coat at the bus stop! Lay them out on the table in front of you like a deck of warm, glowing memory cards when the central heating packs up just when you need it most! And a happy Autumn, everyone!

#### INDOOR BOWLS IN FINCHLEY

As part of the continuing discussions on the Council's Glebeland Proposals (see April and May newsletters), the Society's Committee at their meeting on

17th July was addressed by the steering committee of the group seeking indoor bowling facilities. With the aid of artist impressions of their scheme they made a presentation of their favoured site, adjoining the present underused outdoor bowling green.

Although it is presently a "green" part of Glebeland they explained that the site slopes and is often waterlogged in winter. In their proposed development it would be drained and levelled before building-over and certain screening trees and walls would be retained. The building would have a low pitched aluminium insulated roof some 12 feet high.

In later discussion of the matter, the Society's committee expressed general sympathy for the concept, saving much reservation about the aluminium roof, but nevertheless agreed that it would still be preferable if the development were to be proposed not on green land, but, for example, on the existing hardstanding only a few yards away on the northern side of the site.

#### COLLEGE FARM GALLERY PRESS RECEPTION

On 31st July Chris and Jane Ower together with the Gallery Committee, welcomed members of the local press to an informal reception.

Five years on from "The Gallery's" inception, (following an exhibition for local artists staged by the Finchley Society as an attraction at a College Farm Open Day), the evening was dedicated to saying "thank you" to many people who have made very personal contributions to the growing popularity and success of College Farm as a vital part of the local community.

In addition to representatives of the local newspapers, the guest list included voluntary open-day helpers from The Friends of College Farm, and from local organisations that maintain stalls at open days. Barnet Mayors who in their period of office have given valuable time and support to the farm were joined by Finchley Society President Spike and Mrs. Milligan together with other Fin. Soc. officers and, not least, the dedicated College Farm staff.

Far from being self-congratulatory, your reporter feels that the mood of all those present was one of re-dedication to a cause that they all, along with the thousands who regularly enjoy the farm's scene, believe must and will be sustained for this and future generations.

#### LISTEN -THEY'RE PLAYING OUR TUNE

HRH The Prince of Wales, whose interest in architecture and the environment is well known, has consented to become Patron of the Civic Trust, with which of course The Finchley Society is registered. Reporting this event in its journal "Heritage Outlook", the Civic Trust comments that HRH's involvement reflects great credit on the environmental movement as a whole and goes onto

detail some of the hard work which goes into that movement's successes - "The ever watchful eye which must be kept on every planning application; the meetings on cold winter evenings when only a masochist could find a committee room more attractive than a home fire; the projects- which take up as many hours as' a full-time job and require the planning ability of a field marshal; the patience to deal with the hectoring tone of letters from the Civic Trust if Environment Week is not seized upon with sufficient entrepreneurial zeal; plus the talented ability to go into battle at 'public enquiries, -mounting a self-financed opposition to well funded professionals."

Quite immodestly, we say "hear! hear!".CHAIRMAN

LOCAL RESEARCH            Mary Hodgkinson

A tablet in the front wall of the old Wesleyan Chapel in Ballards Lane (now the hall in which we hold our meetings, adjoining a newer church) reads: "Laid on behalf of Mrs. Marshmans Ladie's [sic] College Alexandra House by Miss Grant of West Africa." Another inscription commemorates the laying of the foundation stone of the Chapel on May 5th, 1879 by architect Charles Bell and J. Woodward, builder. Can any reader enlarge on these items of local history.

The London Residuary Body (LRB) was set up by the DoE to control everything left over from the GLC but not transferred to the London Boroughs. Its instructions are to dispose of everything as quickly as possible. We are grateful to the LATA Review, journal of the London Amenity and Transport Association, for pointing out that amongst the LRB's responsibilities is the LCC Residuary Body, set up when the LCC was superseded by the GLC in 1964. Presumably they will have to get rid of that before they get rid of themselves!

THE GLASS MOUNTAIN?

Members who attended the 30th October monthly meeting last year, or readers of the report on it in January '86 newsletter supplement, will recall that speaker, Chris Church of Friends of the Earth was left in no doubt but that The Finchley Society greatly valued the local Summers Lane "recycling centre" and various bottle bank centres around the district.

That interest is clearly shared by the wider Borough of Barnet citizenry, for, in a local newspaper article on 25th May, it was reported that five bottle banks in the Borough yielded an incredible 21 metric tonnes of glass in the first six months of 1985!

Further facts for the statistically minded -

\* The whole of Britain yielded a record 210,000 tonnes of recycled glass last year.

\* It is estimated that 4.5 million people use bottle banks every week.

"A lot of bottle", indeed!

For The Finchley Society

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