

David Smith

The Finchley Society Newsletter  
October 1987  
No. 8/87 (supplement)

#### Re-shaped Committees Structure

Following the Chairman's announcement in topic-of-the-month at the September meeting, it is possible now to set out details of the reorganised structure which became effective in October. Please also refer to the "committees" sheet which accompanies this newsletter.

The Executive Committee consists of the President, Vice Presidents, Chairman, Vice Chairman and the other elected Finchley Society officers. It is responsible for the management and administration of the Society in accordance with its objectives as set out in the Constitution. It will continue to fulfil the following specific tasks

- a. The control of the Society's financial activities - the Executive will continue to receive the Treasurer's report and set subscriptions.
- b. The confirmation of the programme of activities for the Society following consideration of recommendations from sub-committees.
- c. The oversight of the production of the society's newsletter.
- d. The care of the Society's records and archives.
- e. The stimulation of research and publications, other than of environmental matters.

Under Section 8 of the Constitution, the Executive may set up any sub-committees it thinks necessary. It is the Executive Committee's responsibility to appoint the Chairman and Secretary of each sub-committee, to ask the sub-committees to take on particular tasks, to receive their minutes and reports, to confirm their activities and recommendations, and to veto their activities in the unlikely event of conflicts arising.

David Smith

Under the new arrangements the sub-committees of the Finchley Society will be

- Administration and Publicity
- Planning and Environment
- Friends of College Farm – as already existing and to continue its present arrangements

The work of the two new sub-committees is outlined in the following terms of reference:

#### Planning and Environment Sub-Committee

1. To discuss and review regularly the Society's policies on environmental issues, e.g. land use and planning; historic buildings: open spaces; trees: litter and waste disposal; traffic and transport; street furniture and signs.
2. To implement action in relation to the above matters.
3. To ensure the adequate functioning of the Society's - system for monitoring of planning applications.
4. To consider the need for training and information to help society members carry out environmental work.
5. To devise appropriate means of communicating the Society's views to the local authority, e.g. standard letters, postcards.
6. To initiate research and publications.
7. To liaise with the Administration and Publicity sub-committee in relation to material for exhibitions, possible speakers, increased involvement of members, etc.
8. To undertake such other activity as the Executive Committee may direct.
9. To refer activities requiring financial outlay of more than £50 to the Executive Committee.
10. To keep concise minutes of all meetings and to report regularly to the Executive Committee.

David Smith

Administration and Publicity Sub-committee

1. To discuss and review matters relating to membership. meetings, outings, publicity and exhibitions.
2. To receive regular reports from the Membership Secretary.
3. To take action in relation to lapsed members.
4. To encourage the increased involvement of members in the Society's affairs.
5. To implement action in relation to publicity and fund-raising for the Society.
6. To recommend and organise the annual programme of speakers, outings, special events and exhibitions.
7. To undertake such other activities as the Executive Committee may direct.
8. To refer matters requiring financial outlay of more than £50 to the Executive Committee.
9. To keep concise minutes of all meetings and report regularly to the Executive Committee.

Timetable:

Executive Committee to meet in June, August, October, December, February. April.

Planning & Environment / Administration and Publicity to meet July. September, November, January, March, May.  
(Actual dates will appear in newsletters)

Friends of College Farm to continue their present arrangements.

Summer Affairs - Despite Summer

What's been happening since the June Supplement?

JUNE MEETING Mary Hodgkinson

David Smith

The future of Friern Hospital is a subject of concern to many people for many reasons. The Finchley Society has naturally been taking an interest in the prospects for this fine Grade II listed building, and of course we are concerned also for individuals and neighbourhoods.

Speaking on 'Community Care for the Mentally Ill', Dr. Julian Leff, a psychiatrist working at Friern, gave a clear exposition of a difficult subject, with visual aids in the form of graphs and statistics. He included a mini-history of the care of mental patients, a brief 'survey of economic factors and an account of modern ideas and projects, which stimulated discussion at question time and gave us all material for reflection later.

Dr. Leff reminded us that in the past, dispersal of patients to places like Friern Barnet (at that time outside the urban area) appeared an enlightened policy. Gradually, urban sprawl overtook such hospitals, and fears developed for patients who were confined there for many years. Friern's change of name throughout the years echoes changes in public attitudes. It began life as the Middlesex County Paupers' Lunatic Asylum, becoming the Colney Hatch Lunatic Asylum, then Colney Hatch Mental Hospital and Friern Mental Hospital before the present "Friern Hospital" was adopted. Dr. Leff said that although some of the buildings were grand and beautiful. by the 1940's the climate of opinion had begun to change and in the next decade a critical survey cited as undesirable features, the 'total institution' effect, depersonalisation. hierarchical organisation, efficiency (at the cost of patients' wishes) and stigma.

Psychiatry favours dispersal rather than centralisation, generally the official point of view, but Dr. Leff warned us against the kind of unregulated autonomy which has led to mental patients in the United States ending up in substandard accommodation or living on the streets 'out of dustbins', conditions which disturb him every time he visits America. He believes that 'autonomy within a caring milieu' should be our objective here. Outlining some ideas for community care. Dr. Leff described how a group of schizophrenic patients had been placed, with skilled staff, in two houses in Hampstead. At first the neighbours were 'up in arms' fearing violence and loss of

David Smith

value on their properties, but the fuss died down when it was realised that the patients were not violent (in fact, they are underactive and with low motivation). We also heard about a foster home plan, involving the care of patients in ordinary homes which may be introduced in Barnet. The key to community care is undoubtedly, as Dr. Leff emphasised, the attitude of the public towards patients. Will they be accepted by neighbours? Dr. Leff refrained from hinting at an answer to his own question. However, it is reassuring to know that every -patient, on being moved into the community, will be followed up and feedback on public attitudes noted.

Inevitably he came under fire about the use of drug therapy for severely disordered long-term patients. In reply to a question from committee member Norman Bar, Dr. Leff pointed out that doctors were struggling to achieve a balanced dosage to help their patients, and, in addition, to find occupation for them. Derek Williams made a forthright contribution on behalf of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship, describing the proposed dispersal of severely ill patients as a down-grade step. Denys Pegg drew attention to the lack of Part III accommodation for non-patients in Barnet, which must lead to concern about plans to provide this kind of housing for psychiatric patients.

Dr. Leff considers that Friern will not close in 1993. He envisages a village community there, with a group of patients from Haringey occupying a quarter of the site and some social interchange with non-patients living in another part of the grounds in flats. As plans develop, we shall bear this stimulating talk in mind.

FINCHLEY CARNIVAL Esther Johnson

I was under the impression that I had resigned from official Finchley Society participation in such happenings as the Carnival in Victoria Park - but on July 9th, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11th there I was, hopping about as usual in the vicinity of our stand. This year, however, there was a notable difference. No fewer than twelve members had volunteered to act as sales staff - not all at once, of course, but in tidy batches of two, working 2 hours each.

David Smith

Thanks are due to them all for their enthusiasm in spite of great heat.

We did not have an elaborate exhibition this year, but flood-lit posters invited all comers to join the Society and described its aims and activities. They were arranged on display screens which had earlier caused Peter Marsh to wear a harassed expression as he puzzled over the apparently mismatched component parts. After several dashes out of the park and back again to fetch extra pieces, the panels were at last in place. Another "thank you" here, to those who came to help set up the stand,

Our tables for plants and books were situated between two open tent flaps. This was food for the workers, as a strong breeze blew across from time to time and helped to keep us cool. This welcome draught, though, had a peculiar effect on our sales goods. The primulas died; an umbrella plant took off and headed for the Ordnance maps; and the leaflets broke loose many times, so we had to sprint up the marquee after them.

On Thursday sales were good.

On Friday sales were bad, apart from a few plants. We filled in time scraping labels off little boxes which Kurt Weinberg suddenly produced from nowhere! (Eds. Occupational therapy?)

Saturday's trade was brisk - our supply of the new Grimaldi greetings cards dwindled satisfactorily, and it was good to see "Finchley As It Was" on sale again.

The money we gained from donated plants should cover the considerable sum needed for the rental of space in the marquee. We shall be back next year!

#### LONDON DOCKS

That two visits were made by the Finchley Society to "Docklands" within the space of seven weeks is indication alone that there must be something there to see - and how! Yet, strangely, despite all the hi-tech, the ambitious renovations and the 'telephone numbers' of statistics quoted right and left, it was what we could not see, i.e. the echoes of former industry, of maritime

David Smith

activity and the sheer chaos between the building sites that left an equally lasting impression in the minds of the visitors.

On Sunday, June 7th over 50 members embarked by coach for a whole day (not a 'Cooks' but a 'Docks' tour) in the splendid company and control of John Neal. London Tourist Board guide and London-facts-man extraordinaire. John, incidentally, lectures to day classes at the Barnet College location in Russell Lane and also arranges his own private tours throughout the home counties, so interested members can readily enjoy and learn more from his amazing fund of London knowledge.

Sunday's work really began on the Isle of Dogs where, after welcome refreshments in the 'Diner' specially opened to accommodate us, we began to take in the scope of the renaissance of business activity that is occurring along the former river wharves and in their immediate hinterland. In place of Blue Funnel, East India and Scruttons Stevedores, the names of today include Mercury, British Telecom, Daily Telegraph. Arup and Partners and A.N.D. Software. Indeed, journeying on with views of the new Palladian structures in West India Docks complete with a foreground of windsurfers (who else was reminded of pictures of modern Riyadh under construction?) and the vista of the STOL Airport runway down the length of the Royal Docks, the vestigial old dockside cranes formed an eerie link of memory with that former, also exciting, epoch.

Mid-point of the day, with time for lunch, saw us at the Thames Flood Barrier where, although not able to set foot on the system itself, we were readily able to grasp the working principles from the detailed exhibition and video films in the visitors centre - and to obtain excellent views across the Barrier from the river walk. Those spinnaker-like mechanism-housings and the aerofoil sections of the actual gates made an intriguing aeronautical combination, fully in keeping with all the other contrasts that the day presented.

Ancient and modern continued to be the theme as we set off westward and home, to pause en route at Greenwich. Half the population of London seemed to be gathered there that afternoon, for in addition to the regular

David Smith

attractions of Cutty Sark, Gypsy Moth IV, Royal Naval College. etc., there was a fascinating exhibition of small wooden boats in the grounds of the Maritime Museum and looming over everything on the river, the new aircraft carrier H.M.S. Ark Royal lay in Greenwich Reach bristling with every conceivable maritime mod-con. (By this time the photographers among us were running out of film).

Incidentally, John Neal was still pulling rabbits out of hats with, for example, an unscheduled guided visit to the R.N. College Dining Room where we gasped at the painted ceiling as he rattled off the names and histories of all those famous images, as though they were his sisters, cousins and aunts! Likewise on a quick peep into the College Chapel. But his piece-de-resistance occurred as the coach had approached Greenwich when, just as John was pointing out the path of the Greenwich Meridian which we were about to cross, a celebrated trio, Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster flew over our heads south to north along the very meridian. How on earth did he fix that one!?!?!?

Six weeks later on the evening of July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30 or more of us (including some very welcome non-members who had picked up the item from local press coverage) gathered at Tower Hill to walk through to Wapping. Once more we were privileged to be guided by an expert and enthusiast - Colin Oaks, Official "City Sights" guide and member of the City of London Archaeological Trust.

Proceeding via St. Catherines Dock, still 'wet' and pulling in the tourists, and London Dock, now dry and sprouting houses, we learned much detail about the concept of "enclosed" docks, for the security of cargo and about the specialities that often developed as a result of particular warehousing requirements (ivory and turtles. would you believe, at St. Catherines? - and wine at the London Dock, the 26 foot depth of which, when backfilled, needed six years of settlement before today's new building work could commence).

The evening was one of soaking up the atmosphere, old and new, peeping over walls - even sniffing the very 'air' of Wapping's history (in the latter case quite literally, at a former spice warehouse about to be transformed into

David Smith

modern housing). Wapping, hitherto an inward facing community - hard ground ringed by river and marsh and then exclusively involved with river and stevedoring activity - is now becoming host to a new community from without, whose business (mostly the City) is removed, even if only by a few miles.

So far, there still is mystery, history and charm, with strong reminders of such personalities as Judge Jeffries, Edgar Wallace, Marc Brunel (his tunnel from Wapping to New Cross was the first in 1820 to use his modern tunnelling shield) and all those wretches hung at Wapping Old Stairs, whose bodies each were washed by three successive tides. But for the future? - will the area rise above becoming a Sevenoaks-on-Thames?

FRIERN.BARNET SUMMER SHOW          Esther Johnson

The show in Friary Park must have been one of the most successful ever held there. The weather was outstandingly fine - and the temperature inside the tents tremendous! The Finchley Society stand was situated in a swamp in the Charities Marquee. (This remark is not intended as criticism of the Show's Organising Panel - merely a - comment on the recent quantity of rain in the area).

We achieved record sales results - on the Friday there was pandemonium while we busily sorted a huge bucketful of Joan Sturdy's beautiful flowers into bunches, which sold like hot cakes (which they did not resemble in the least), and Denys Pegg's arrival with an enormous bundle of lavender added to the mêlée, as the scent attracted everyone who was not there already! Meanwhile, out in the sunshine, party of Tyrolean gentlemen in green ethnic hats was singing merrily. An hour earlier the arena had been absolutely full of hundreds of children and teddy bears sitting having a picnic. My own teddy bear (64) would have loved it, but he was not invited!

The busy day ended at 8 p.m. which was earlier than usual, but by then we were quite confused - Andrea Cushing was sporting a Sheriff's badge; I had been bitten by a mosquito, and Paddy Musgrove was disappointed that our gin bottle contained only tap water for the plants!

David Smith

Saturday was busy all the time. However, we had a magnificent staff who coped nobly, and I was able to wander off into the world outside where the Tyroleans were at it again, not to mention a squad of hefty lumberjacks sawing up tree trunks — and the little donkeys of College Farm patiently were walking to and fro with their tiny riders, under the trees behind the marquees. Yes — without a doubt — a most successful show.

#### CLOUDS OVER COLLEGE FARM AGAIN?

Here's something we can all agree about the Summer of '87 — like the curate's egg — was 'good in parts' but wasn't it hard to know where and when to find those good parts?

College Farm must have been comparatively lucky. All the public events were able to take place as advertised and some of the 'First Sundays' were favoured with excellent weather, but misty rain-sodden mornings do not tempt afternoon visitors and the dreadful uncertainty of the weather forecasts has undoubtedly affected overall attendance figures very badly indeed. They are sadly down on last year's splendid totals.

On Sunday, 19th July, came a special event outside the regular monthly pattern. It was one of the darkest days I of the year, a day of incessant rain, yet quite a few weatherproof people managed to swim or paddle to the farm to see, and to enjoy, an exhibition presented by the Model Horse Drawn Vehicles Club of Gt. Britain. Like all creative artists, the craftsmen whose hobby it is to build these fascinating vehicles thrive on public appreciation of their work — and they got it! Visitors chatted so enthusiastically with them that the sound of animated conversation obliterated the boring noise of the rain of the roof. Also during July, the shire horse 'Craftsman' made his first local appearance to a large audience when he drew his horse bus in the Finchley Carnival procession. Happily, on this occasion, there was not an umbrella in sight.

The holiday exodus thins out the local population to such an extent that it has always been difficult to organise farm events in August — and even more difficult to attract the crowds. But life is full of surprises. On Sunday, 2nd August, the event billed as 'A Family Play

David Smith

Fair' turned out to be a dazzling entertainment in every possible way. The promised sunshine actually materialised and brought queues to the ticket kiosks. The afternoon became one of those happy times that seem to penetrate a little spark of magic. Children enjoyed it immensely and grownups forgot to consult their watches. For the first time that anyone can remember it was just not possible for everything to close by 6 p.m.

The sun also shone on this year's Friern Barnet Summer Show, attracting the biggest crowds in all the Summer Show's long history. College Farm plays an increasingly large part in this splendid annual event and College Farm Gallery Association is well represented on the show's organising committee. Over 12,000 people were able to see the farm's exhibition stand with its sheep, goats, poultry and College Farm Donkey Rides. They could also see an extended version of College Farm Gallery and its Crafts Fairs in the Arts Marquee.

One of the year's highlights is the picturesque horse-drawn carriage procession through the streets on its way to the September Fair, carrying with it the banner 'Follow us to College Farm'. So many people responded to this in the September of '86 that almost four thousand people came through the gates in one afternoon. This year's procession was no less grand and also included the famous Whitbread's shire horse team, but an intermittent drizzle varied in intensity throughout the afternoon. In view of this it was remarkable to see the Fair so comparatively well patronised. indoor attractions were busy, stalls reported good business and an incredible number of children had donkey rides.

It is indeed remarkable that so many people always do turn out, even in the most adverse weather conditions. We have seen queues at the gates in rain, hail, gales and even snow ....why? Yes - why? There is a great fund of good will and people are drawn to College Farm for all kinds of reasons, but none of them would come to the fair if they did not know there was a fair to come to, so publicity plays an important part. Now that we have the familiar pattern of regular 'First Sundays' we are able to print and circulate details of an entire year's programme on one sheet of paper. Also, every month, visitors take home leaflets or posters, and even if only

David Smith

ten percent of all this paper survives the journey we know it is helping to extend the catchment area and add to the pool of potential visitors.

We know there are small pockets of College Farm addicts in places like Harrow, Potters Bar and Uxbridge, but there are still many people in Finchley who seem to know little or nothing about it. Those who have children can scarcely avoid knowing, but not everyone has school age children. There is good coverage in the local press - but not everyone reads the papers. You may well find opportunities to help fill this gap - just by tossing the subject into casual conversation. If word-of-mouth publicity can bring visitors from Hertford and Hatfield, perhaps it could ferret out a few more in Finchley.

The next regular events are on Sundays 1st November and 6th December from 2 - 6 p.m. We hope the sunbeams of an extended 'Indian Summer' will shine on both days.

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September speaker was Mr. R. Samways. Principal Assistant Archivist of the Greater London Record Office and History Library, who outlined the origin of county record offices (of which the GLRO was one) and its complicated history with both the former London County Council and Greater London Council (his responsibilities also covered Middlesex).

Official or inherited records from the Commissioners of Sewers (set up in 1557) through to the Metropolitan Board of Works, bridge companies, parish overseers, hospitals, schools and justices of the peace form the basis of the collection which also includes items on licensing, from inns to workhouses. Other material was deposited or donated but rarely purchased. Here, too, it ranges widely, with records from Anglican parishes, hospitals, (e.g. Guy's and St. Thomas's) and the courts of magistrates and coroners.

Most of these were received following legislation; others were deposited voluntarily for safekeeping; some examples being the archives of the Earls of Jersey from Osterley. and those of London businesses, notably brewers, plus

David Smith

charities such as the Foundling Hospital. Mr. Samways considered that "the whole of life" was there and archivists were finding themselves unexpectedly experts in many fields, but sadly the present day monetary value of old records at auction is threatening the traditional sources of material.

He drew a picture of collections ranging from a single item to thousands of linear feet of shelving - the current total length being thirteen miles. The Record Office not only keeps and conserves these documents (cataloguing and repairing them - whether paper, parchment, tape or computer printouts) but makes them available to enquirers, such as the American professor who was stunned to find the earliest documents he was researching were in Latin, and the representative of the London Residuary Board seeking to establish whether valuable malachite vases presented to the LCC could legally be sold. Some two hundred enquiries are made every week, not all of which can be satisfied since certain sensitive records, e.g. criminal cases, are kept confidential for specified periods.

Mr. Samways concluded his very lucid talk by referring to the History Library which in books, photographs and maps covers the development of London. In reply to one of many questions, he admitted that his choice if he had to select just one collection to take to a desert island, would be the fascinating letters of Lady Jersey. He declined to place a value on the Record Office's archives which could only be described as 'priceless and irreplaceable'.

After a well supported vote of thanks by Paddy Musgrove, Mr. Samways ended his evening by taking a busman's holiday ..... He inspected the archives of The Finchley Society!

1987 VISIT TO KENT Kurt Weinberg

82 members and friends set off from Finchley on the Society's annual outing. Unlike pilgrims in years gone by we travelled in comfortable coaches to Canterbury Cathedral, where four guides, knowledgeable and enthusiastic, showed us this treasure, the Mother Church of the Anglican communion.

David Smith

We saw the large crypt, the oldest part of the cathedral and dating back to 1100, also the tombs of Archbishops and that of the only monarch buried there, namely Henry IV, as well as the tombs of the Black Prince. son of Edward III.

We visited the shrine of St. Thomas a Becket, which has attracted so many to Canterbury since the 12th century marvelled at the fan-vaulted ceiling, 130 ft above floor level, the old and modern stained glass windows and the water tower of 1160 which used to house a wash place for the monks: was it all too much in too short a time?

After lunch we moved on to Rochester upon Medway, where four guides (members of the City of Rochester Society) welcomed us and gave us tours of their city.

Once more there was a rich offering from the past - the walled Roman City with the Norman castle looked at its best in the clear sunlit weather. Other highlights of our visit were the cathedral's West Door and its fine sculptures, the Elizabethan Restoration House where Charles II stayed in 1660, the 18th century Manor Canon Row (a charming street) and the Charles Dickens centre with its so well-presented displays.

There really was insufficient time to absorb it all, but it certainly gave us a good incentive personally to return to Canterbury and Rochester.

Footnote from Bill Williams: The priests who lead the prayers for visitors to Canterbury Cathedral serve on a voluntary basis and officiate about once a month in rotation. By a happy chance, when the Finchley Society group visited the Cathedral in September the prayers were led by Prebendary Raymond Miller who was for more than thirty years the vicar of St. Barnabas Church in Holden Road. He retired some five years ago and now lives in Sandwich.

Footnote from the Editors: Mrs Holmes has written to say how much she enjoyed the visit to Kent and wishes to thank Kurt Weinberg, Shirley Avery and others involved in the organisation for a memorable day. She wonders if there are other like-minded retired members who would

David Smith

care to take advantage of bus passes to make the odd trip to London during the week to visit exhibitions, or perhaps visit Kew or Richmond. If you are interested in such outings, she would be pleased to have your company. Call her on 346-4236.

PLANNING MATTERS? Bill Tyler

Yes, planning really does matter when it shapes the appearance and wellbeing of our locality. For many years Government has recognised its importance on a national scale and the need for sensible controls, by means of Planning Acts, statutory instruments and circulars. All uses of land and/or buildings require planning permission and, to simplify procedure, certain uses have been grouped into 'classes' within which changes are allowed as 'permitted development'. For instance, a wool shop can become a stationers, a printing works become a spinning shed, and all without the need to clog up the local authority planning department with myriad applications. Within classes, certain types of development or alteration are also allowed to take place under General Development Orders without specific consent.

Of special interest to us is a new Use Classes Order which came into effect in June, and in a complete recasting of the old system there are now four groups:

- A uses generally found in shopping areas
- B uses associated with work/industry
- C residential uses
- D non-residential institutions, assembly/leisure uses

In A we find all the main shopping type of uses from retail shop, post office, wine bar, hairdressing salon to public houses, travel agent, funeral direction and cafe. However, sub-division within the class, e.g. A1 and A3 means that although a restaurant or wine bar can automatically be used as a retail shop, the reverse does not apply. An entirely new class A2 covers 'the provision of professional services to visiting members of the public' and includes estate agents, betting shops and (although not specifically mentioned) banks/building societies. These cannot interchange with either A1 or A3

David Smith

but there is now recognition that the hitherto anomalous position of these 'service' shops had to be codified.

Within group B, office, high tech, and light industrial uses can now be swapped and this is intended to reflect the changing patterns of employment across the country and the need for flexibility in ensuring the fullest use of working' buildings.

Group C under Class C3 now allows for a residential dwelling house to be used 'by up to six residents living together as a single household (whether or not care is provided for residents)', but C1 groups hostels, hotels and guest houses together so that there is quite clear distinction in the type and degree of sharing that qualifies for normal dwelling house use.

Group D will not normally concern us but it is interesting to note that it covers bingo halls but NOT amusement arcades which, along with petrol stations, scrap yards and certain social uses, always need specific consent.

One vital aspect now of the ability to change within class groups is that the initial consent must have been implemented, i.e. planning permission can only be obtained for a specific use, rather than a plethora, of which any one might be taken up. This should effectively stop developers/landlords being able to 'cash in' on speculative applications.

Also, in March, the Department of the Environment published Circular 8/B7 which sets out official thinking on conservation areas and historic and listed buildings. It brings together previous strands in conservation strategy and makes quite clear Whitehall's commitment to effective safeguarding of our built heritage. The need for sympathetic regeneration of our historic areas is stressed and that this requires cooperation between the local planning authority, landowners, occupiers, individuals and amenity groups.

PUBLICITY

David Smith

Thanks to the efforts of members. a further 600 membership leaflets have been distributed in Finchley. More offers of assistance will be welcome. Could you leaflet your road or immediate area? Delivery doesn't have to be completed at once which means that you can choose dry and light conditions. Please let me (David Smith) know if you would like to take responsibility for a hundred or so of our leaflets (883-4154). Help us reach that 1000th member before our 17th birthday in February.

#### FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF HAMPSTEAD HEATH

Bill Tyler and Kurt Weinberg respectively attended two recent meetings on this subject. The meetings were convened in turn by the Highgate Conservation Area Advisory committee and by Colin Bex of S.T.A.M.P. for the purpose of exchanging views from among various local groups interested in the future of the Heath with Sir Godfrey Taylor, for the London Residuary Body. ~still "caretaking" the Heath.

It would seem that, to date, the only option presented to LRB that also makes financial sense, has come from the Corporation of the City of London. However, with experience of their stewardship of Highgate Woods and other green spaces, the body of opinion at, and the message that Sir Godfrey was given from, both meetings was - please go away and find other, positive suggestions.

A third consultation document has now been delayed pending investigation by LRB of other alternatives.

#### A RARE PLAQUE Paddy Musorove

1987 marks the 150th anniversary of Queen Victoria's coming to the throne. The 50th and 60th anniversaries in 1887 and 1897 - commonly known as her Golden and Diamond Jubilees - saw the production of a limited number of commemorative house plaques, in terracotta and in glazed ware by Stanley Brothers of Nuneaton. These carried the Queen's portrait and a list of the lands of the Empire and seemed to have been identical except for the change in dates. Moulded in relief, each weighed a substantial hundredweight.

David Smith

Of the 1887 issue, only five are known to be extant today – three of them in Great Yarmouth. The locations of 44 of the Diamond Jubilee plaques have been recorded by Arthur Sadler in an article in 'Out of Town' – to which we are indebted for the foregoing information. The strange thing is that only one plaque is known in the entire London Area – and that is on a modest building at 2 Bedford Road, East Finchley! It has been painted white, but seems to be in excellent condition.

Finchley Society members are asked to keep their eyes open. Do you know of any others? If so, please let me know (346-0128) and I will pass on the information to Mr. Sadler and to Mr. Philip Wilson of the Borough's Urban Studies group, to whom we are grateful for drawing our attention to Mr. Sadler's researches.

It is perhaps ironical that London's only known Jubilee plaque should be found in East Finchley. A hundred years ago, at a public meeting of 200 'working men' in East Finchley Board Schools, Inky Stephens could not obtain a single supporter for the idea of establishing a recreation ground to commemorate the first Jubilee. One of the 'working men' commented "The sort of recreation ground we want is a place for our wives to cut greens". This lack of loyal enthusiasm resulted in the proposal being dropped. It was, however, revived by Stephens and his friend Francis Hamilton of Brent Lodge for the Diamond Jubilee, although that happy event too had passed and, indeed, the poor Queen herself was dead, before Finchley got its commemorative recreation ground – now Victoria Park in Ballards Lane.

The story of Finchley's reactions to the Jubilees is told at some length by the writer in 'Victorian Jubilees', published by HADAS and normally available at the Finchley Society's bookstall. Perhaps our parish's somewhat shameful role can be compensated for by the presence of London's only recorded Jubilee plaque on that little house in Bedford Road.

#### THE NORTHERN LINE – A SHORT HISTORY

A booklet bearing this title has been sent to us by

David Smith

Nebulous Books, the distributors for the publisher Douglas Rose of Summers Lane, North Finchley. The author is M.A.C. Horne.

We certainly found it interesting, and a significant proportion of the contents is devoted to those parts of the line in this district. Of particular interest are details of early (and very charming) rolling stock and explanations of the Edgware/Bushey Heath and Alexandra Palace extensions that were never executed.

Copies of the booklet may be purchased by post from Nebulous Books, 12 Raven Square, Alton, Hampshire GU34 2LL, at £2.95 each plus 45p post and packing.

#### DID YOU FIND ANY BOUNDARY MARKERS?

Members will recall that our March '87 newsletter supplement contained an item about Parish Boundary posts and that in the April newsletter we carried an appeal from Rosalind Batchelor for any interested member to come forward and become the Society's 'repository' of boundary post knowledge. That appeal still stands - please come forward!

Interestingly, the Barnet Borough News, July edition, featured milestones and parish markers in a full-page article, including mention of the two posts now reinstated near the Black Bull, Whetstone, with which Cyril Pentecost helped the council and which led to our own first piece in the March supplement.

"GIVE US BACK OUR PAVEMENTS!" was the title of an essay read recently in L.B.C. 's "Night Extra" programme, This was one of Mary Hodgkinson's contributions to L.B.C. Writing as a Fin.Soc. member, she protested about the hazards to pedestrians with which we in Finchley are so familiar, and ended with this plea: "Walkers of the World, unite! You have nothing to lose but your sprains."

For The Finchley Society:

John and Carol Halls Finchley Park. N12 9JT