

50p FREE TO MEMBERS JUNE 1994 NO. 6/94

JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

Members are cordially invited to the June monthly meeting at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3 at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday, 30th June, 1994 when Dr. Peter Brandham will speak on Kew Gardens. These are formally known as The Royal Botanic (not Botanical) Gardens, cover some 300 acres and may date back to before the 18th century, although officially there since the 1750s. The Gardens are a public park as well as an important scientific institution with a staff of over 100. They have of course royal connections and a collection of millions of dried and pressed plants. There are a number of interesting buildings in the grounds and architects involved include Sir William Chambers and Decimus Burton. In the 1870s Edward Walford described the Gardens as being "famous throughout the whole civilised world."

Dr. Brandham is a Principal Scientific Officer at the Gardens which, he tells us, are the major centre in the world for plant classification and where he has worked for 26 years. He is Head of the Cytogenic Section of the Jodrell Laboratory and has in that time developed a broad knowledge of the Gardens. He is fascinated by photography and has a collection of many thousands of his own photographs. He asked us to re-assure members that his talk will be a celebration of the Gardens, illustrated with his own photographs, not a specialised scientific lecture for expert scientists.

The meeting should whet members' appetites for the visit to the Gardens and Kew Steam Museum on the 2nd July (see below details under FinSoc diary dates).

Please give the meeting your usual wholehearted support.

Norman and Betty Burgess welcome offers of help in preparing for, and generally putting away after, the monthly meetings. Please telephone 346 6337 with offers.

There will be a raffle this month. Please telephone Eileen (445 8422) with offers.

REMINDER

There will be no monthly meetings in July and August. Details of the September meeting can be found at the end of the Newsletter under "Newsletter".

MAY MEETING : A REPORT

The meeting combined the AGM with a talk, so first the AGM:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT AND ALL THE RESULTS

The meeting took place in the Hall at Avenue House. It was packed. Bill Tyler presided (after all, what is a President for?) and thanked the members for the honour done him in electing him President. He spoke of the loss of several members during the past year and acknowledged their contribution to and affection for the Society; he gave us a quotation he had come across. "The past should be a springboard not a hammock" and said that revitalising and managing must be the way forward. He expressed the Society's good wishes for Helga Hatchett's husband who has been unwell. He spoke of the work of the Society and thanked those who had contributed over the past year. The reports of the Chairman, Treasurer, Chairman of the Stephens' Collection and Chairman of The Friends of College Farm were presented and approved. Norman Bar took the opportunity of reminding those present that the Society is a-political and members try to formulate their views, which may involve agreement or disagreement with council views, on a non-party, non-political basis at all times. Following the local elections the Society would wait with interest to see what, if any, changes there would be on the Council in those areas of particular concern to the Society.

David Smith mentioned that the memorial to Jean would be the provision of a rose bed in her name, [this will be near to the rear of Avenue House.Ed] and asked for recommendations from members as to the most suitable kind of rose.

The following were elected unopposed:

Chair	Norman Burgess
Vice-Chair	Norman Bar
Hon. Secretary	Eileen Cox
Hon. Treasurer	P.J. Kelly

Executive Committee members in alphabetical order : Lynn Bresler: Barbara Warren: Bill Williams: Heather Winton. These ladies and gentleman were on the E.C. last year. The Hon. Auditor Eric R. Jenkins was re-appointed.

Bill closed the formal part of the AGM with grateful thanks to all committee members for their help during the year.

We were then treated to a fact-filled and detailed lecture on "Famous Residents of Hendon Avenue" written by Peggy Wells and spoken by her and Nan Beasley, illustrated with slides prepared by Paddy Baker. We were led house by house down one side of the Avenue and up the other and supplied with interesting data about the inhabitants and the houses, with some social history, including dates of death and the value of deceased owners' estates for probate; and hearing that someone was worth, say, a couple of hundred thou in the twenties or thirties reminded one [if the size of the houses and short biographical details hadn't brought the point home already] that the residents must have been amongst the wealthier in the neighbourhood. We heard 1992 prices of over half a million pounds for a house. Decidedly not a two up, two down area.

There was too much information for us to be able to summarize but we noted a few points. The road was built in 3 phases (1) pre World War One, early 1900s, (2) between the wars and (3) 1960 to 1993. There were memories of the period between the two World Wars from Nan - a horse-drawn water cart, a fire alarm on the pavement intact and with its glass unbroken, a council worker sweeping the road, large gardens, the sound of ball on bat and racket, the sound of a woodpecker, hooves on the road, the whistling of delivery boys; at night, owls and the last post at the Mill Hill barracks.

Many houses had grand names: for example, The Grange, Freston Tower, Careno, Hamilton House, Ivinghoe, Rookwood, Holdenhurst, Pentargen, Rozel, Valkyrie, Claremont Lodge, Lewana, Byford, Highlands, St. Fillans, Merhavia, Kincora, Nutbourne, Wychelm, Klosters, even The White House; nary a Chez Nous, Casa Mia, Honeysuckle Haven, Will Ye No Have a Dram Afore Ye Go or even a Dunroamin'.

Some buildings had been used by government or local services at some time, one as the centre for the local Conservative Association. Owners had been active in, for example, freemasonry, millinery, shipping, jewellery, civil engineering; a number of properties had originally had large gardens which had in part been sold off and houses, even streets of houses, built on them. One house had been used as a Quaker Meeting Place before the Meeting Hall in North Finchley was built, another had housed 18 children from Dr. Barnardo's (never visited by parents) until it was mysteriously closed in 24 hours and fumigated; another had housed evacuees. One owner had died after a "City Lunch", another after heart strain parking his car (leaving a 15 page will with many codicils). Vera Lynn, the singer, had lived in one house (since demolished), leaving in about 1971.

Members will recall the fuss caused by the closure of Kingswood nursery recently. Two applications to demolish Kingswood and develop the land were refused and an appeal is now pending.

It was a fascinating talk and it was apparent that a great deal of work and research had gone into it and the slides [we understood from Peggy that the presentation had taken about a year to prepare] and Peggy, Nan and Paddy were warmly thanked. We are happy to repeat those thanks here.

COFFEE MORNINGS AND COFFEE/WINE EVENINGS

Members are cordially invited to the following coffee/wine evening. They will be warmly welcomed and each contribution of 50p bolsters funds.

EVENING: THURSDAY, 16TH JUNE 1994 (6 - 8 p.m.) [Please note weekday and evening kick off!] By kind invitation of Esther and Timothy Johnson at 54 Fallow Court Avenue, Finchley, N12.

Further offers are welcome and should be made to Eileen Cox on 445 8422.

FUND-RAISING : A REMINDER

We hope to be running a stall at Finchley Market one Saturday. We need to collect items for sale on the stall NOW because we will have very little advance warning of when a stall will be available. Could members please offer good quality bric-a-brac. If you have saleable items - not clothing or furniture - please telephone any of the following members who will collect them from you by arrangement –

Peter Marsh 346 7967

P.J. Kelly 445 9054

David Smith 883 4154

Kurt Weinberg 349 2066.

FINANCIAL COVENANTS FOR FINSOC - REQUEST

Our Treasurer P.J. Kelly (445 9054) is still waiting to hear from a volunteer to act as covenant secretary. PLEASE give the matter your consideration. The Society needs funds and your help would be appreciated.

BARNET IN BLOOM

The closing date for entries to be received by Adrienne Davis at the Town Hall in Hendon is the 21st June, 1994. There will be an additional category this year, namely the most attractive front garden. Entry forms should be appearing in local freebies and further information can be obtained from Adrienne Davis on 081 202 8282.

THE IRONBRIDGE EXPERIENCE

Lynn Bresler writes: Twelve intrepid members of the Finchley Bird Society [sic! more later] set off from Tally Ho Corner on the 7th May, 1994 to travel back in time. First, though, our two excellent drivers, David Smith and Norman Bar, had to negotiate the modern road system (the M1 and the M6) and the "new" town of Telford (established 1963) to descend the ancient, secluded Ironbridge Gorge, birthplace of the Industrial Revolution and some 150 miles from Finchley.

A little bit of history. It was happenstance that in the Gorge so many natural materials were available - clay (for bricks), bitumen, iron, coal, limestone. But until 1709, when the Quaker Abraham Darby I first developed a blast furnace (which still exists - we visited it) using coke rather than charcoal to smelt iron, the full potential of this astonishing area was not appreciated. Charcoal was a relatively scarce fuel; coal was plentiful (it had been mined locally since the 13th century) and the iron was therefore much cheaper to produce. Industry could expand: Coalbrookdale, Coalport, Ironbridge - the names speak for themselves. The celebrated bridge itself was built in 1770 by Abraham Darby III and survived severe flooding in 1795 when other bridges were swept away.

Our first stop in the Gorge was at the Visitors' Centre to collect our "passport" for admission to all the official local attractions; and here we ate our packed

lunches beside the River Severn. Our first visit was to the Museum of the River, where a superb panoramic model 40 feet long (no metric please - we are back in time!) detailed the whole length of the 4-mile-long Gorge, including tiny model boats, buildings, trees, people, sheep and cattle. Other displays graphically illustrated the dangers of 18th century pollution and the ravages of cholera.

A little more history. A video showed us how it was the Severn itself which dictated the pace of development. Raw materials and finished goods, such as iron rails and wheels, were transported by water. At one time as many as 390 ships plied the Severn and the canal connected to it by the Hay Inclined Plane. However, if the river was too low it was unnavigable, too high and it was too dangerous. By 1800 heavy industry had left the Gorge, which became a centre for art and design: Coalport fine porcelain, decorative tiles from Jackfield and decorative ironwork from Coalbrookdale.

In 1986 the supreme importance of the Gorge was recognised with its designation as a World Heritage Site. Today the Ironbridge Gorge Museum is an independent educational charity.

Our next stop, the Museum of Iron, was closed for refurbishment, but some of the exhibits had been moved into an old warehouse - Beam engines, boilers, governors, an enormous anchor - and a replica of the world's first steam engine railway locomotive, built in 1802/3 by the Coalbrookdale Company to a design by Richard Tevethick. It pre-dated Stephenson's "Rocket" by some 26 years.

Next, a short walk up to Rosehill House. Built in the 1720s it is filled with possessions of the Darby family, who lived here until 1908. Tea was taken in the delightful tea room - treacle tarts and eccles cakes adding to the ambience [at 20th century prices alas. Ed]

Some of us then toiled up to the Quaker Burial Ground, sited on what seemed to be a 45° slope! Others visited the Elton Gallery to see examples of decorative ironwork, including the statuary and architectural fittings, a huge chair made for a mountainous local man known as John Bull and a fine marble-topped table with an iron greyhound at each corner, as well as examples of ironwork and designs shown at the Great Hyde Park Exhibition of 1851.

The modern world then intruded again as we wove our way through the rolling green countryside to our various bed and breakfasts (4 of them). And what B & Bs they were! One was a farmhouse built in 1702; another was stuffed full of antiques. And it was at all of these that we discovered, to our bemusement, that we had been elevated or demoted to being birdspotters - The Finchley Bird Society! Our charming logo, with its exhortation to conserve, etc., allied to our name, seduced everyone into thinking we were a bird preservation society. How appropriate then that a delicious dinner was had at the Falcon Inn.

Next morning (and it was a beautifully sunny day) the highlight of our visit - Blists Hill, a "living" museum - the recreation on a 50 acre site of a village at the turn of the century. The exhibits are the buildings - some brought from elsewhere and reconstructed, some original, some copied - and their contents; but their stories are not told by labels, but by shopkeepers, craftspeople and workers in late Victorian costume, all going about their daily business. We met the butcher, the baker, the candlemaker (the finished candles were dipped in wax 20 or 30 times; we saw her at work); we tried to fathom how a family of 9 had squashed into the 2 room Squatter Cottage, complete with outside privy and pigsty (occupied by 2 russet-coloured pigs); the pharmacist in our party was more than intrigued by the chemist's shop (and was able to assist the "Victorian" assistant) and the doctor's surgery; the ink used in the School was Swan's, but we found some Stephens' ink on display in the Printing Shop and the old bank. There was a colossal beam engine, old steam rollers and machines, as well as a steam-driven dray/lorry and an automatic orchestra on the back of a lorry (drums, tambourines, accordion, whistles, castanets, brass, clackers, cymbals, and more) and a huge working single cylinder steam driven piston engine, all oiled and glistening metal-work and with an enormous fly wheel, the spokes and hub of which appeared to have been cast from one single piece of metal.

Then on to that famous bridge - where an obliging young man took our group photo!

An artist's impression of the 'Finch' Society at Ironbridge by Mari l'Anson

The sun shone; lunch outside the pub opposite beckoned. The last stop was at Coalport to see how porcelain crockery and figures had been made, how they were loaded into the kiln - 3,500 saggars** at a time - and how each firing took a total of 10 days. Time for a look around the exhibition, which included an elaborately decorated giant teapot, and the gift shop, where a hand-painted plate can cost £500 - then homeward bound.

We packed a lot into our two days, but never felt rushed. Inevitably we couldn't see everything, but that gives us a good excuse to return one day. Harmony prevailed at all times: new friendships were made and reminiscences exchanged. I can recommend membership of the Finchley (Bird) Society Travellers Club!

[** We also learnt what a saggar-makers bottom knocker is. Aaaaaaahh, that takes one back! We shan't tell you what an s.m.b.k. is but we will say that a saggar is "a protecting case of baked fire-proof clay in which the finer ceramic wares are enclosed while baking in the kiln" as well as "the clay of which saggars are made" (Shorter Oxford). Ed]

We would echo Lynn's enthusiasm. It was very enjoyable and, as with all good trips, it went by in a flash and yet we seemed to have been away for a week, not 2 days. Thanks to Robert Winton for the idea and to him and Norman Burgess for organizing it.

LOCAL FACTS AND CURIOSITIES

THE NOT SO GOOD OLD DAYS by Andrew Forsyth

The following is an extract from the Annual Report to the Local Board of Health of the Urban Sanitary District of Finchley for 1879 by James Turle, M.D., The Medical Officer of Health of the District :-

"A very favourite mode of sewage disposal, when drains were first used for that purpose in Finchley, was to convey it by a brick drain into the nearest pond, although that pond might be regularly used as a water supply for cattle, for ablution purposes and occasionally for human consumption also. Last July I drew the attention of the Board to three ponds at East End having altogether a superficial area of several thousand square feet, and into all of which large quantities of sewage were daily being poured, the foul gases rising from so large a surface being highly offensive (to unaccustomed nostrils) several hundred feet off. The outbreak of Diarrhoea in the neighbouring convent, causing the death of one woman in the prime of life, could not be traced to any more probable cause than the emanations from those ponds. The subsequent disconnection of all the sewage from them, by order of the Board, must have added greatly to the healthfulness of the immediate neighbourhood.

Another very large piece of water has been similarly relieved of sewage, and drained, at Whetstone.

Also connected with the subject of drainage, I think it right to make a special record of the discovery that some cottages at Dollis, the property of the Great Northern Railway Company, actually had as their only water supply, a very small stream which received the liquid excreta of the latrines at Finchley Station.

Although there has fortunately been no death from Typhoid during the year, there were to my knowledge several severe cases of illness from that disease."

Such were the environmental conditions in parts of Finchley 115 years ago.

INDUSTRIAL CORNER - De DION BOUTON FACTORY by Bill Firth

Another historic factory in the L.B. of Barnet has disappeared recently. On the corner of High Road N12 and Woodside Grove there was a factory with an armamented facade which was occupied by the McCurd Lorry Manufacturing Company in 1913. The McCurd Multiplane, an early unsuccessful aeroplane, may have been assembled here. However, the facade clearly bore the date 1916. The French de Dion Bouton motor car company is believed to have assembled cars here for a time after the 1914-18 war. The factory, unoccupied for some time, was badly fire-damaged a few years ago and

recently it was demolished. (Reprinted with permission and thanks from the April 1994 HADAS newsletter)

Mr. Firth goes on to ask if any of HADAS' members have more details of "de Dion Bouton" in the Borough. We would ask the same question of FinSoc members; there simply must be a dozen or so vintage or veteran car lovers in FinSoc, who have been waiting for just such an opportunity. Well here it is. We would welcome items on this piece of local history. Does anyone have access to the book "de Dion Bouton" by Anthony Bird published in 1971 by Ballantine in the U.S. which we understand has a photograph of the Finchley factory?

There is no mention of the factory in the 1936 Kelly's of Finchley although we happen to recall an acquaintance some 20 plus years ago who we believe stored a Dion Bouton, not in working order, in a friend's garage in North Finchley. In that Kelly's we do find among the entries on Woodside Grove at the junction with the High Road; on the north side, Burtonwood Motor Engineering Co. Ltd. cylinder grinders: Utting Herbert., printer: Ace Carburettor Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

At the next junction of the High Road going north is Woodside Lane (which becomes Holden Road) where we find more manufacturing sites connected with motoring or aeroplanes, viz. south side :-Aviation & General Products Ltd., aero engnrs. (Broomhill).....Botten W.T. & Co. Ltd. motor engnrs Opperman S.E. Ltd. motor accessories.

We welcome short Finchley-oriented historical pieces from our own local historians. Please.

A REQUEST FOR REPORTS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

May we remind readers that we welcome brief reports [not more than say 200 words] of meetings notified in the Newsletter which they have attended, for consideration for publication in the Newsletter. The Editor will be more than happy to assist shy contributors. Please contact Eileen Cox (herself a contributor) on 445 8422.

SUMMERTIME PUZZLE CORNER AND BRAIN TWISTER

Last year we added a puzzle to the Newsletter. We had some favourable responses. Here is another, quite well known.

A Mr. Trimble from Finchley is reading his paper and chances upon a piece headlined as follows: "Holiday accident tragedy - woman dies." He reads on "While on holiday with her husband Grimsley in Paris, Mrs. Hermione Trubshaw-Smythe-Ffanshaw fell to her death from the 9th floor balcony of her room in the Hotel."

"Good grief!" says Mr. Trimble, aghast, "That's awful. But that was no accident. It must have been murder." Mr. Trimble had never met either of the Trubshaw-Smythe-Ffanshaws. How therefore could he be so sure?

We shall be happy to assist anyone who can't wait until September.

FINSOC DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

REMINDERS AND NEW DATES

1. 18th June, 1994. Visit to Old Highgate Station. The visit will take place at 11 a.m. At the time of writing there are 2 spare places on the trip and anyone interested in joining is asked to contact David Smith on 883 4154. It is emphasized that although the visit will be under the guidance of senior railway staff members taking part should be aware of the potential hazards involved in walking down a tunnel by torchlight.
2. Saturday 25th June, 1994. Theatre Outing. Merchant of Venice. Fuller information in the March Newsletter or please phone Norman or Betty Burgess on 346 6337.
3. Saturday, 2nd July, 1994. As you will see from your programme card, there is to be a visit to Kew Steam and Kew Gardens. Several members' cars will be available, so will those interested in going please telephone Eileen Cox (445 8422) to book a seat in a car. Leave Finchley around 9.30 a.m., straight down the North Circular road to Kew Steam Museum - visit there 1 - 1½ hours. Either bring picnic lunch or have lunch at Kew Gardens. You pay your own admission charges which are at the time of writing: Kew Steam £2.50, OAP £1.40: Kew Gardens £4.00, OAP £2.00. Cars will return late afternoon according to members' wishes. It should be a wonderful day at Kew!
4. Finchley Carnival. BELIEVE IT OR NOT : FACTS YOU CAN HARDLY CREDIT.
We telephoned the Town Hall to check the dates of the Carnival. We were told that the Carnival had already taken place. It transpired that they meant Barnet Carnival. We said no, Finchley Carnival. The person we spoke to had never heard of it. A colleague was consulted, muttered discussion took place. Then we were told, "It's entirely private, nothing to do with the Council, which is why we have no information about it."

That is absolutely appalling and an insult to the residents of Finchley. Decades of Local Authority involvement down the tubes. Thank you to the previous administration. It makes our hopeful comments about the future of the Carnival in our Report as Chairman this year seem pie in the sky, naive in the extreme. The withdrawal of a grant should not necessitate the Council's abandoning its interest in this long-standing and important local event. We hope that the new administration will consider the matter and perhaps show a greater interest in the event than its immediate predecessors.

In fact the Carnival (known as the Pentland Carnival) will take place on 13th-16th July, '94 at its usual venue of Victoria Park, off Ballards Lane, Finchley, N.3.

You will be pleased to read that FinSoc will be running a stall on Saturday, 16th July from 12 - 5.30 p.m. and we would welcome volunteers to assist as well as offers of plants for sale. Please contact Lynn Bresler on 446 6249.

5. 19th & 20th August, 1994. Friern Barnet Summer Show. FinSoc will as usual be running a stall at the show from noon onwards. Again, we need volunteers and contributions of plants for sale. This is invariably an enjoyable event and we hope to see many members there. Offers of help and of houseplants, herbs or perennials to Joan Butcher please on 445 0854.

6. Saturday 24th September 1994 - BATH TRIP. Booking form enclosed. This year we are visiting Bath - the only World Heritage City in Britain - where there is so much to see, from the elegant Georgian exteriors to the Roman remains of Aquae Sulis.

We start with a guided tour of Bath Abbey and then on to the Roman Bath Museum. Everyone has been booked on the City Tour open buses for a 3/4 hour guided tour of the city. You can get on and off the bus at any of the stops to see an attraction, e.g. Assembly Rooms and Museum of Costume, the tickets are valid all day and also give reduced entrances to various other museums.

Tea may be taken to music at the Pump Room and the Assembly Rooms (these close early) and at Sally Lunn's until 6 p.m. (recommended). If you have any queries please ring Shirley Avery on 346 8484.

REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MEMBERS' EVENING

24th November, 1994. Our annual pot-pourri of members' mini talks is always a popular event; last year's topics were as diverse as puppets, swordsmanship and the rebuilding of Avenue House. Two members have already volunteered ten minute contributions and David Smith would be pleased to hear from any others who would like to contribute. There is no need to provide slides as well, though of course they are welcome, nor does the subject have to be linked to Finchley in any way; if it is, that is a welcome bonus. Please do let David have your ideas before the end of July on 883 4154. Arrangements can always be made to discuss the topic and run through it with speakers who may be a little nervous, and members have always been appreciative and welcoming.

COLLEGE FARM OPEN DAYS - REMINDER

These are on the first Sunday of each month (except January); next one on Sunday 3rd July. College Farm welcomes your support.

CHURCH END FESTIVAL; Norman and Betty Burgess who organized the Society's Bric-a-brac stall would like to thank the 10 members who gave items that raised a total of £108.00, also the team of 5 helpers who sold items - a great day out in glorious sunshine.

COMMITTEES

We should like to mention again that we are always seeking and happy to welcome members to serve on the various committees which do so much important work for the Society. If any members have not got an up-to-date list of the Society's officers and Committee members could they contact Eileen Cox on 445 8422. This request is particularly appropriate at this time of the year, following our AGM when we hope for a rush of fresh, new, enthusiastic blood. Age is no barrier.

The current secretaries of committees with phone numbers (all 081) are :-

FinSoc and the Executive Committee	Eileen Cox 445 8422
Administration Committee	Lynn Bresler 446 6249
Environment Committee	Pat Marsh 346 7967
Planning Committee	Heather Winton 883 2633
College Farm Committee	Nigel Doe 368 5046
College Farm Events Committee	Timothy Johnson 445 5558
The Stephens Collection Committee	Charlotte Hume 346 2722

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT ON ENVIRONMENT WEEK 20TH - 30TH MAY, 1994 by Barbara C. Warren

Pat Marsh and I started off the week at two Finchley schools, Coppetts Wood and Moss Hall. As always we were welcomed with great hospitality to conduct the school assembly with a talk on the Environment and The Finchley Society, and afterwards to tea with the Staff. At Moss Hall School our visit coincided with a visit from Frank Godwin, the composer of Environment Music, and we were privileged to hear the children sing one of his songs. Baskets of flowers and a number of publications were given to the schools as an Environmental gift from The Finchley Society.

The Highlight of the week, however, was the visit of a number of the Environment Committee to Summerside School to view the Environmental garden in the school grounds, worked on by all the children. Last year the plan had been a fairly modest one, but we were astonished, not only by the progress made since last year but by the more elaborate design. A small pond, surrounded by a few bushes and flowers has become a major operation, with a small double depth lake for development as a water garden, the dug-out earth becoming a mound for trees and special flowers, surrounded by carefully selected areas of buddleia, a wild flower meadow, a rotting tree habitat, and newly planted trees. All this enclosed by a hedge containing a number of species such as hawthorn, clematis, ash and beech,

and taking up a little-used corner of the very large playing field. Such is the enthusiasm for the project that parents have become fully involved and hand crafted park seats have been made for the children to use as study benches. This is all under the leadership of a young teacher, Rebecca Mottershead. We were so impressed by her quiet efficiency that a small donation from The Finchley Society was pressed into her hand. World War Two enthusiasts might like to know that the original shelters for each class during the war years are still in place and used as store rooms.

The walk around the Church End Conservation Area with a number of Finchley Society enthusiasts was enlivened by the historical knowledge of one of them. The committee and walkers were most concerned at the poor state of the area around the shop 'Spectacular' and the decay at Grove Lodge, both of which require considerable work to improve them. We all felt that the area has otherwise improved and it could be left for a while so that another area could be dealt with. Any ideas?

Peggy Wells and Nan Beasley with their talk on residents of Hendon Avenue illustrated by Paddy Baker's slides, and Derek Warren with his wildflower walk at Darlands Lake, made sure that there was something for everybody during Environment Week. For those of you who missed the various experiences we hope you were busy turning your front gardens into places of beauty. Don't forget the tree outside your house when planting - a few spare plants will turn the road into something special if you all do it. Remembers - IT IS YOUR ENVIRONMENT.

Task for this month...please ring this number and inform the Barnet Council Services of accumulations of litter...446 8511.

Barbara also writes: Earlier this year I was privileged to catch the last quarter of an hour with a class of 8 year-olds at St. Mary's School, Dollis Park, who were listening enthralled to Joan Sturdy talking about "the old days". She had prepared well with numerous old photographs and artifacts. During her talk she mentioned the work that the Finchley Society do many times. She even explained the logo to them.

I have had occasion to argue against attracting membership to the Society for youngsters. I do not think that this Society is for youngsters, and we certainly do not have the personnel to cope with another branch. But I do feel most strongly that they should know, and feel safe in the knowledge, that we are there doing all we can for the next generation. We should therefore be prepared, as Joan and members of the Environment Committee are, to go into schools and share our knowledge and our aims with them. I would very much like to compile a list of speakers to send to schools. Part of the National Curriculum takes in the knowledge of the local area.

ANY knowledge is enormously acceptable...I have used speakers from The Finchley Society and others on railway history: names of streets: grandmothers' tales: history of plastic: drawing old buildings: drains: trees: so

the field is wide open. Most of us could be considered old and wise, certainly older and wiser than the children, and also of the young teachers who come from other parts of the kingdom these days. They no longer grow up in the area they are teaching about and are immensely grateful for a speaker to enlarge their own knowledge. You will find that the children will be absorbed. A talk of 15 - 20 minutes is desirable. Questions from a fascinated audience will take 5 - 10 minutes and, hey presto, the time has flashed by. Don't forget to mention The Finchley Society.

SOME INVITATIONS AND EVENTS

Saturday, 18th June, 1994, East Finchley Community Festival: Cherry Tree Woods.

"....lively start with a parade through the High Road at around 11.30 a.m....officially opens at 12 noon in Cherry Tree Woods...truly community festival...fun for all the family. As well as a parade, stalls and food, there will be an impressive array of entertainers this year...7-piece female Latin band...rock'n blues band...steel band...Morris dancers...youth dance display...and much more...over 70 stalls" Offers of help at the Festival to Peter Hale 444 5837; further information from Virginia Segal 071 413 5589. Sorry about short notice but details were received after the May Newsletter had been printed.

Please help at the FinSoc stall: The trailer will be there. We had a most enjoyable time last year. Offers of help to David Smith 883 4154.

Saturday, 18th June at 7.30 p.m. At Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London, N.3 in the Victorian Drawing Room. The Carlos Opera Group present Operative Favourites in aid of F.A.C.T. who aim to provide an Arts Centre in Finchley. Music includes Puccini, Verdi, Donizetti, Offenbach and Mozart. Tickets including refreshment £7.50. Information from F.A.C.T. 445 4175.

Barnet Borough Arts Council

30th June, 1994 at 8 p.m. All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, London, N209EZ. Individual members and societies are invited - usually 2 representatives from each society, of which one will have a vote. Speaker Anne Clark Amor author of biographies of Lewis Carroll and Alice Liddell [the real Alice]. This comes about as there will be a Lewis Carroll Exhibition at Church Farmhouse late in July after roof repairs and renovations have been completed. There is also a competition to write the best new chapter that could be added to either Alice in Wonderland or Through the Looking Glass; up to 1,000 words entries to be received by 24th June at the A.S.A.C. Prize £50. Enquiries to 446 7989/202 6242.

Also poetry competition: Entry forms in libraries, BBAC Exhibitions or send SAE to All Saints.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members - Melita Bambaji, N12; Mrs Joan L. Salmon, N3; Mrs Eileen Smith, N12.

DONATIONS

The Society thanks for their donations to general funds - John and Rosalind Batchelor; Mr. R. J. Cecil; Mr. A. Forsyth; Miss J. D. McPherson; Mr & Mrs O'Brien; Mrs Joan L. Salmon; Mrs Eileen Smith; Miss A. F. Whittaker.

SPONSORED RUN REPORT by Norman Burgess

Our intrepid runner Jim Burke successfully ran the 10 miles specially Sponsored Run in aid of Finchley Society funds. Started off by our Treasurer P.J. Kelly at Avenue House at 2 p.m. on the dot he was escorted along the way by David Smith, Eileen Cox, Lynn Bresler and Mari l'Anson in David's minibus.

It was a lovely sunny afternoon at College Farm after a very, very wet Saturday and Jim was met by the President, Bill Tyler, and presented with a suitably engraved plaque. The time was 3.25 p.m. and we all cheered our 57 year old runner for a magnificent run. We now await your sponsor money to roll in - just 10p a mile would be £1.00 for every member; dare we hope? All cheques payable to The Finchley Society, of course, and sent to our treasurer whose details appear at the end of the newsletter.

LIFTS

Offers of and requests for lifts to Eileen Cox please on 445 8422. Requests and offers can also be made to the Chair at the monthly meeting.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS AND FEEDBACK

Once again thanks to this month's contributors.

May we renew our request for concise contributions relevant to Finchley and the surrounding area covered by FinSoc. Please see the March Newsletter for an amplified request.

The editor of this month's Newsletter was Norman Bar. We are pleased to thank Carol Halls for retyping it.

This is the last Newsletter till September. There are no monthly meetings in July and August, the next meeting will be on the 29th September at 7.45 p.m. at Avenue House when Marie Smith will tell the story of The Goossens Family with musical interludes.

THE FINCHLEY SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT	Bill Tyler
VICE-PRESIDENT	David Smith
CHAIR	Norman Burgess, 28 Vines Avenue, Finchley, London, N3 2QD (346 6337)
VICE-CHAIR	Norman Bar, 48 Granville Road, Finchley, London, N12 0HJ (346 7321)
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Registered Charity No. 266403