

50p FREE TO MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 1994 NO. 7/94

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

We would like to welcome members back after the long hot summer break.

In the world of music the name of Goossens is legendary. "Three generations of the Goossens Family" is the title for our next monthly meeting on the 29th September at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3 at 7.45 p.m. Members please note the starting time. This will be presented by Marie Smith who has long connections with Finchley and was for 40 years with the BBC as the Concert Arranger for the London Studio Players and the Concert Orchestra. Marie Goossens, the world-famous harpist, lived both in East Finchley and High Road North Finchley. Musical excerpts will be given from CDs, LP records and rare tapes. This should prove to be a most entertaining evening and you are urged to 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 of items.

DATES TO REMEMBER

10th and 11th September are Heritage Days at Avenue House. This is an event which has been arranged in conjunction with the Civic Trust. Avenue House will be open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be tours of the house and, of course, the Stephens Collection will be open for visitors.

Also at Avenue House on Sunday 11th September, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - FOLK ON THE LAWN - organised by the Finchley Arts Centre Trust. Tickets £2.00 for entry to roped-off area (with chair) available from F.A.C.T., 17 Finchley Lodge, Gainsborough Road, N12 8AL (phone 445 4175 or 455 4640, 346 6337). Music will be provided by Bob Dicker, Keyboards, Brian Stone, Electric Violins, and Pete Mason, Drums. There will be dancing on the lawn in front of the pond and refreshments can be obtained at the Pond Tea Kiosk.

THE BOTHY

While on the subject of Avenue House and its grounds, it was recently reported that Finchley Arts Centre Trust had prepared an interesting proposal for the use of The Bothy, suggesting the creation of two sizeable studios and rooms and other accommodation for the use of the community in the terms of the Stephens bequest. This proposal has been put forward to the appropriate committee for consideration and we await their decision with great interest.

TRIP TO BATH

May we remind members that there are still a few places unsold for the coach trip to Bath on Saturday 24th September 1994. Details of this fascinating trip were given in the June Newsletter.

If you have any queries or would like to book a place, please ring Shirley Avery on 346 8484.

PLANNING

For personal reasons, Dorothy Fox feels that she can no longer continue as the Planning Monitor for St. Paul's Ward in North Finchley and we would renew our request for somebody to take her place in this very important position which entails considering the weekly list of planning applications in St. Paul's Ward submitted to the Council and following up those which the Society considers to be of interest. We repeat you DO NOT have to be an expert in planning matters, several members of the Planning Committee ARE and will be very happy to give you guidance.

We would like to take this opportunity of warmly thanking Dorothy for the work she has done over many years on the Planning Committee and are pleased that she will remain a member of it.

CIVIC TRUST

May we remind members that individual membership of the Civic Trust benefits the Finchley Society as well as the Trust; the Trust donates £4 to the Society for each new member. The annual subscription is £15, and members receive the quarterly "Urban Focus"; visits and tours are arranged occasionally.

Finchley Society members who join should remind the Trust that the £4 should be paid to our Treasurer, P.J. Kelly, 57 Summers Lane, Finchley, N12 0PB.

INVITATIONS FROM THE MIDDLESEX SOCIETY

Saturday, 17th September at 2 p.m. sharp. By special request a chance to walk through the historic woods at Ruislip (Rislepe in the Domesday Book) whence timber was obtained - oak and hornbeam - for use in the building of the Tower of London, Windsor Castle and the Palace of Westminster. This Ruislip Walk, which was first led by Mr. Craig a few years ago, is not too arduous and covers fairly level ground. Tea can be obtained at the interesting "The Cow Byre" after which there should be time to visit St. Martin's Church with its famous Bread Cupboard - in use from 1697 until 1955 - and note the nearby 16th century cottages, now restored. Meet Denis Craig at Ruislip Station (Metropolitan Line, Uxbridge branch) in the ticket hall at 2 p.m. These buses also serve the station - E7, U1, 114 and 398, also H13 which, after we meet, will take us on the short drive to Ruislip Woods.

Saturday, 24th September at 2 p.m. A visit to the unique Museum dedicated to Florence Nightingale on the site of St. Thomas' Hospital. Meet Maureen Hamilton at the front of Westminster Underground station (Circle and District lines) opposite the House of Commons. A video will be shown at the start of the Tour narrated by Anna Massey and Richard Pascoe. Tea is available afterwards at the Hospital.

Wednesday, 28th September at 11 a.m., Stanmore Country Walk. Meet Mr. Roy Abbott of the Stanmore & Harrow Historical Society at Stanmore Underground station (Jubilee line). Also bus 142 comes from stop F at Edgware Bus station and H12 from Rayners Lane and Pinner. Bring a picnic lunch or get a snack at "The Vine". This will be a country walk through Stanmore Country Park to Little Common. There we shall stop for about an hour for members to visit "The Vine" and/or picnic by the Spring Ponds. The walk will return to Stanmore station via an alternative route through the Country Park but members may prefer to end their walk at "The Vine" and catch the 142 back to Edgware or Stanmore stations. Do wear suitable footwear if the weather looks stormy. For members arriving by car, it is suggested you use Stanmore station car park as the area to visit has restricted parking. Alternatively there is a small car park to the Country Park but it is 10 minutes walk from our meeting point.

COFFEE MORNING

Members are cordially invited to a coffee morning at The Burgesses (Norman and Betty) 28 Vines Avenue, N3 on Saturday, 1st October, 1994 from 10 a.m. to noon. As always, there will be a warm welcome and each contribution of 50p bolsters the Society's funds. Other attractions include a raffle and bring-and-buy, but most of all, a splendid opportunity to meet friends and have a good old chat!

"BY WORD AND DEED" - A Chronicle of Woodhouse 1922-49
Written and compiled by Percy Reboul

Using his, by now well-known, skill in getting people to record their memories for historical material, Percy Reboul and his friend, John Heathfield, have compiled a document of intense interest to Old Pupils and the present generation of educationalists alike. His book entitled "By Word and Deed" puts together the results of his appeal for memories of their schooldays from pupils attending Woodhouse Grammar School during its first 25 years. In its progress, from the beginnings in East Finchley to the grand house set in the vast Woodhouse Estate in 1922, 12 acres of which were kept, the school lived through the movement from old Victorian educational practices to "the more radical approach of our own time".

The first part of the book is divided into three very readable sections dealing with the history of the old building, first written about in 1885; the early formative years acquiring utterly dedicated staff, a school motto "Cheerfulness with Industry" (not in Latin!) and the school song; and the effect of the World War on the calling up of male teachers. The second part, "Chippings", takes

its name from a column in the school magazine. It contains the memories that flooded in from former scholars, combined with excerpts from the school log. Teachers, sporting achievements, the Second World War, uniform, schoolwork, educational excursions and creative endeavours all received loving attention in this exercise in nostalgia, the whole being stiffened by a learned treatise on the "professional assessment of the quality of teaching during World War II" by Professor Marten Shipman.

The book is lavishly printed on good quality paper, is well set out and liberally sprinkled with enchanting photographs. Mentioned in its pages are the usual crop of distinguished former scholars and well-loved and respected staff. Priced at a reasonable £12.50 you will be able to get a copy signed by the author.

During the compiling of this book many of the old scholars asked for a Reunion...the first. The school is now a successful Sixth Form College, scornful of the past perhaps, but the enthusiasm of nearly 1000 adults who attended this summer of 1994, in the singing of the school song - certainly outdated in its principles - in spirited deep mature voices, astounded the present principal, Dr. Wharton, into recognising the enormous influence this excellent school had on its former pupils and the deep affection felt for its dedicated and sometimes eccentric staff.

DO YOU REMEMBER - MILK BOTTLES? by Andrew Forsyth

My earliest memory is of the milkman measuring out milk from a churn into mother's jug, but after that until the mid-1930s milk came in tall wide-necked bottles closed with a cardboard disc. Usually a small circle in the centre of the disc could be pushed out so that a finger could be inserted to remove it. The Express Dairy made things easier by stapling a small tab to the cardboard disc so that it could simply be pulled off. Then I used to enjoy licking the cream off the underside of the disc!

What was known as tuberculin tested milk (from cows certified free from tuberculosis) was bottled at College Farm. It went into special bottles sealed with waxed paper caps secured with metal rings crimped on by a machine. Visitors to College Farm could watch the bottles being filled and sealed and, of course, see the cows being milked.

In the late 1930s the wide-necked bottles were superseded by tall narrow-necked bottles with metal foil caps. Unlike today, as well as one pint bottles there were quart bottles and half pint bottles, and even one third pint bottles supplied to schools so that pupils could have milk during mid-morning break for which they paid one ha'penny (about one fifth of a present day penny). These tall bottles in the one pint size were used for many years until the introduction of the present-day "dumpy" bottles.

Like most families before 1939 we did not have a refrigerator and in hot weather if we had milk left over at the end of the day mother would boil it so

that it did not go bad overnight. In those days the milkman called twice a day, an early delivery with milk for breakfast and then another call mid-morning when we could buy further milk and other provisions. The milkman had to push a heavy three-wheeled enclosed delivery cart with double doors front and back. On his second call he came to the door carrying a galvanised metal crate divided into compartments for quart, one pint and half pint bottles and a space in the middle for butter, canned fruit, etc.

At that time our milkman was a Mr. Major, with a pointed waxed moustache. He wore a peaked cap with a black top, but 1st May each year was "White Hat Day" when he started wearing a white top to his cap during the summer months.

FUND-RAISING : A REMINDER

We are still collecting items for sale on the stall which we hope to run at Finchley Market one Saturday and because we will have very little advance warning of when a stall will be available we need to gather together items for sale now. 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
David Smith 883 4154

P.J. Kelly 445 9054
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.

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 ANSWER

Mr. Trimble from Finchley is a Travel Agent and because of Mr. Trubshaw-Smythe-Ffanshaw's extremely unusual name, he remembered selling him two tickets to Paris. However, one was a return and the other was one-way only. Boom! boom!!

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.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members - Ms Penne Britton, N11; Miss R. Cattle, N12; Mr R and Mrs J Cecil, N3; Robert J. Double, N3; Dr Andrew & Dr Christine Herxheimer, N3; Patrick & Susan Moriarty, N3; Mr Ross and Mrs Patricia Cleland, N11.

DONATIONS

The Society thanks for their donations to general funds - E.H. & S. Avery; Mrs L. C. Berry; James and Margaret Evans; Mr. T. P. Frewin; Michael Gerson Ltd; M. C. Hodgkinson; Mr & Mrs Joe Ingall; Mr. Frank and Mrs Diane Kelsall; M. Keogh; Miss D. Stokes.

THE FINCHLEY SOCIETY

PATRON	Spike Milligan
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)
HON. SECRETARY	Eileen Cox, 56 Grove Road, London, N12 9DY (445 8422)
HON. TREASURER	P. J. Kelly, 57 Summers Lane, London, N12 0P8 (445 9054)
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	June Saffer, 32 Ventnor Drive, London, N20 8BP (445 1480)
PRESS OFFICER	Robert Winton, 224 Creighton Avenue, East Finchley, N2 9BD (883 2633)
EDITOR	Norman Bar (346 7321)
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