

50p FREE TO MEMBERS NOVEMBER 1994 NO. 9/94

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

The November meeting with contributions by three Finchley Society members promises to be an interesting one. As usual the evening will start at 7.45 p.m. in the Drawing Room at Avenue House East End Road, on Thursday, 24th November, 1994. The startlingly different subjects will be :

'Thailand seen through an artist's eyes' - Mari l'Anson

'The North Circular Road changes Finchley for ever' - A time-lapse sequence of slides on this major road development by Robert Winton

'The Beatrix Potter Society' - Marian Werner, Finchley Society member and Hon. Secretary of the Beatrix Potter Society will present a talk on the legendary children's writer.

With such a varied programme, you are advised to come early! As the seating capacity in the Drawing Room is limited to 77, members will be asked to 'sign in' on a register that will be in the corridor. If the number attending exceeds 77, members will be requested to stand at the back.

There will be a raffle: offers of prizes to Eileen Cox 445 8422.

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Apologies to Jim Martin who should have been given a by-line for his very interesting article last month on Highgate Station.

OCTOBER MEETING REPORT Norman Bar

Our speaker was Mr. District Judge Karet (hereinafter called Mr. Karet) who called his talk "You can't take it with you." Mr. Karet has lived locally man and boy and was educated locally too. He qualified and practised as a Solicitor for many years, acted as a Deputy Registrar (now called Deputy District Judge) and for some years sat and continues to sit as a full time District Judge.

His talk was about wills, a subject, you might think, to turn off all but the driest, legalistic, pernickety, pedantic, quill-scraping, parchment crinkling fogeyish of minds. You would think quite wrong.

Mr. Karet started off quietly enough, easing us carefully into another, more precise world. As he warmed to his subject we heard about different types of wills and the necessary formalities; at no point did he ever actually say give, devise or bequeath, nor the party of the first part and the party of the second part, nor yet hereinbeforementioned; not even a whereas; he spoke of the advisability of making a will, gave us a cautionary tale or two, spoke of signing and witnessing wills, disputes about wills, the role of the courts in settling disputes and in giving directions in the case of executors' uncertainty, benefitting under wills (he warned against beneficiaries witnessing wills as they would thereby lose their right to benefit even though the will might otherwise be valid), special rules for the making of wills by serving personnel

on actual military service, appointing executors, even solicitors' costs. When Mr. Karet opined (our word not his, he avoided heavy jargon) that on the whole solicitors' costs for simple wills were generally not high (though he could not be quoted on figures and in the city you could pay much more) a sort of knowing chuckle rippled through the audience. THEY knew! Lawyers? Fees not high?? Drafting wills as loss leaders?? PULL THE OTHER ONE. He spoke of the potential risks of drawing up one's own will and strongly advised employing a solicitor, not least (though not most) because if something went wrong and it was the solicitor's fault there might be a claim for negligence. We heard that wills only "speak from death" and that the average testator/testatrix survived 4½ years after making his/her last will; so renew your will every 4 years and you should live for ever.....

There were many questions and interesting answers. There was general disbelief not to say outrage and even mutinous mutterings when the audience heard that the testator/testatrix does not own his/her body and that, despite the most detailed instructions in the will as to the type of burial, the executors did not have to abide by the deceased's wishes, save in the case (broadly speaking) of bequeathing one's remains for medical research. Mr. Karet was asked what he thought of this position and said he was inclined to agree with it. He declined to outline Inheritance Tax in 3 minutes, spoke succinctly about circumstances in which some wives (and even ex-wives) and some children might be able to challenge what they thought were unfair provisions in wills, advised about querying solicitors' fees and even cracked a few good jokes. He did not peer over half-moon horn-rimmed spectacles and ask in a quavery voice "...and pray who are the Beatles?"

It was an entertaining and relaxed way of learning some basics about an important and, for a speaker, potentially unrewarding topic and Mr. Karet was warmly and sincerely thanked. He drew the tickets for the raffle. There were some delightful prizes, including a book we'd have liked to win ourselves! But alas.....better luck next time.

Norman Bar proposed our new Vice-President, Carol Halls, and new Life Members Norman Burgess, Pat Dunnill, Dorothy Fox, Chris and Jane Ower, Harry Sharpe and Bill Williams. The names were approved by acclamation.

SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT

The September meeting was addressed by Marie Smith who spoke on "Three generations of the Goossens family". There were musical interludes and the talk was illustrated with a number of recordings by members of this extremely well-known musical family, some historic, some more modern, on record, C.D. and tape, including, perhaps unexpectedly, a tape of jazz music.

Eugene I was born as long ago as 1845 in Bruges and died in Liverpool in 1906 at the age of 61. Among other accomplishments he organised the Goossens Male Voice Choir.

Eugene II, his son, was born in 1867 in Bordeaux and, like his father, worked with the Carl Rosa Opera Company. He had a number of musically gifted children --- Eugene III, born in London in 1893, who made his name as a violinist and conductor and worked with many British musical enterprises including the National Opera Company as well as composing; Leon, the famous oboist (first oboist of the Queen's Hall Orchestra at 17), whose artistry stimulated a number of composers to write works for him; Sidonie and Marie, both gifted harpists; and Adolphe, a talented horn player who was killed in the First World War.

There was of course a Finchley connection, a number of Goossens having lived in Finchley; our trusty Kelly's shows Eugene at "Durban" in the High Road, N12 in 1936. Marie lived in both East and North Finchley. Ms Smith was warmly thanked.

MEMORIAL TO JEAN SCOTT

The formal unveiling of the Rose Bed in memory of Jean Scott, our Founder, will take place on the terrace of Avenue House at 10.45 a.m. on Saturday, 10th December, 1994. All members are invited to attend.

PLANNING

1. A welcome is extended to Peter Pickering who has kindly agreed to take over from Dorothy Fox the monitoring of St. Paul's Ward. Also welcomed to the Planning Committee is Beryl Ashworth.
2. In the October Newsletter we referred to the suggestion that Estate Agents should be required to seek approval to display boards. This should of course have had the words "in Conservation areas" after. We are sorry if this omission has been misleading.
3. Friern Hospital site. An application has been made for planning permission to develop a commercial site of up to between 26,930 and 27,860 square metres. The Society has objected to the proposed development. The previous administration recommended approval shortly before the local elections. Because of its size the application has been called in and will be considered and adjudicated on at a public hearing before an Inspector in January 1995. There will be a pre-hearing meeting before then, presumably for the issues to be clarified. The new administration has stated that it is not happy with the application but feels that it can not oppose it without risking having to pay heavy costs to the developer (some £100,000 has been mentioned) while risking the loss of various benefits (including the payment of money) it says it has negotiated with the developer. The new administration says its hands were tied by the approval recommended by the previous administration.

There is in existence an outline consent for retail development of some 17,500 sq.m. (i.e. some 10,000 less). The current application is therefore for an area

which is between nearly 54% and over 59% larger, depending on whether the new figure is 26,930 or 27,860 sq.m.

The officers of the Council wrote a report that was most positive about the current application. That report was before the Council at the time it gave its approval in April of this year. We were not happy about that report. There is not sufficient space at this juncture to go into full detail; suffice to say that we think that it may well have underestimated negative aspects, e.g. the adverse effect of the proposed development on current retail areas such as North Finchley, as well as adopting an unduly optimistic view of the type of retail development that was to be built. It assumed that a particular percentage of the increase in floor space would definitely be given over to leisure, garden centre and food and drink uses, leaving a gross increase in retail floor space of 5,410 sq.m. We do not consider that those figures were justifiable; they involved taking a "best scenario" approach, whereas it did not appear from the report that the developer itself was actually under an obligation to adopt this "best scenario" approach. So the increase in retail development could in fact be far more than the report stated.

The current administration called a public meeting a few weeks ago, a welcome development for local participation, at which we understand some 150 people crammed into a small hall behind the old Friern Barnet Town Hall. All speakers were unhappy about the development. A representative from the developers attended but said nothing except basically that he had heard and noted what was said and it would be considered.

Surprisingly not a single member of the previous administration or representative of the current "opposition" attended the meeting although we understand that they were aware that the meeting was taking place. We believe that one apology was received. It would have been helpful, not to say courteous, for such a representative to have been available to provide an explanation of the earlier decision, to set out the benefits as he/she saw them and answer questions. This is an application of major proportions which, if approved, will have far-reaching consequences. The matter has generated much strong feeling. So why not explain the decisions in person? Or, if for good reason, not one single member was available, why not at the very least send a written explanation. Second best, but better than absolute silence, complete non-participation. It was very disappointing. It also seemed to engender bad feeling against the decision makers.

The Society has a small sub-committee, the nucleus of which is naturally drawn from the Planning Committee, which is continuing to consider the proposals. The Society intends to oppose the current application and be represented at the hearing. If any members feel that they wish to contribute ideas or views, could they please write, as briefly as practicable, to Ms Eleni Makri at 80 Finchley Park, London, N12.

4. Kingswood Nursery Site: 6 Hendon Lane, Finchley, N3. Members may recall an application by Berkeley Homes (North London)Ltd. for planning permission (1) to demolish the existing nursery school and construct 17 3-

bedroom flats in one 4/3 storey block including associated parking and amenity space, and (2) for a development of the same description but amended to 14 flats. The Council refused planning permission for both and the developer appealed against both refusals. We have just received a copy of the Inspector's report (dated 25.10.94). The Inspector, R.O. Evans, a solicitor, has dismissed both appeals. Although it is not possible within the space available to set out all reasons extensively, among other things the Inspector said in the course of his report that:-

'he attached considerable weight to various policies in the Council's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) including G1, T1.1 and H1.2 which broadly aim at maintaining and improving the character and quality of the environment, ensure compatibility with the surrounding area, and reflect and respect the particular character, scale and proportion of the street and houses, including gardenscape.'

'both proposals envisaged 3 and 4 storey buildings extending over a considerable larger proportion of the site than at present. The visual aspect of "such large buildings" could be exacerbated by the lopping or felling of trees around the site.'

'for a number of reasons which he specified, he considered that both schemes would involve serious risks to a substantial number of protected and unprotected trees on the site.'

'the overall impact would, for reasons he gives, cause serious harm to the area's character and appearance, as well as serving to undermine the objectives of the policies mentioned above.'

'the amount of traffic, and its concentration in what has hitherto been a rear garden, even if to an institutional building, would in his opinion result in excessive noise and disturbance for adjacent residents.'

5. Unitary Development Plan (UDP). We would again mention that a copy of the UDP should be available from Barnet House 081 446 8511. The price can be ascertained (ask for planning and explain what you are phoning about) and should be less for residents of the Borough.

NORTH FINCHLEY FORUM

The Forum meets on 9th November, 1994 when it is hoped, among other things, the Friern Hospital Site and its impact on North Finchley will be discussed. We will keep you posted!

MISS CAMILLA SHOULER

It is with great regret that we record the death of Miss Camilla Shouler, one of our Hon. Life members. Miss Shouler lived in Cavendish Avenue for 30 years and was President of the local branch of Y.W.C.A. She had been a Finchley Society member since 1975 and had been a "postman" for many years. David Smith recalls that she was one of those 'behind the scenes' reliable workers

without whom no Society can function. In addition, she ran the Evergreen Club, an offshoot of the Red Cross, that met regularly in the former Red Cross premises in Regents Park Road and latterly in Hendon Lane. Miss Shouler lived a very active life until her death at 87 years of age. We express our deepest sympathy to her life-long friend Miss Betty Webb.

THE LONDON AMENITY & TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (LATA)

At its AGM on 14 November, LATA's Committee will propose an amalgamation with the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies (The London Forum as it is known). A special General Meeting of LATA on 23 November will consider the proposed merger. The Committee has taken into account overlapping membership, common interest in transport issues, benefits of membership of over a 100 local societies and proposed arrangements for a continuing input of LATA policies and expertise and the additional impact that these will have coming from a single combined amenity organisation.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, 20th November. at 3 p.m in the Victorian Drawing Room, Avenue House. A reminder of the Beethoven Piano Recital by Peter Frankl in aid of the Finchley Arts Centre Trust (FACT). Tickets priced £7.50 (which includes refreshments) can be obtained from Finchley Arts Centre Trust, 17 Finchley Lodge, Gainsborough Road, N12 8AL (Tel. 445 4175).

Sunday, 27th November at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. At Kenwood House. Admission FREE. The Globe Theatre Friend's Musick will be performing. There will be a costumed choir and Elizabethan instruments. You may remember that two years ago the Society was given a talk by Lynn Williams on the Globe Theatre. As a result several FinSoc members became Friends of the Globe Theatre.

3rd December, 1994. Don't forget the coffee morning at the home of Mari l'Anson, 5 The Grove, N3 (nr. Tesco's) from 10.30 to 12.30 p.m. Entrance 50p. Coffee and biscuits. There will be a Bring and Buy, a raffle, and, as usual, a good opportunity for a chat with friends.

A little earlier on the 3rd, at 10 a.m., there will be the official 'handing over' to London Transport of The Society's publicity panel at Finchley Station. Meet a few minutes earlier in the main booking hall. Mari's home is only a short walk away. Why not combine the two events?

FINSOC PUBLICITY PANEL AT FINCHLEY CENTRAL STATION

The Chairman would like to thank Peter Marsh for all his advice and time given to dealing with the local firm that produced the excellent, permanent advertising panel now in its prominent position on Finchley Central Station providing information on The Finchley Society, The Stephens Collection and College Farm. The initial contact with London Transport was made by Kurt

Weinberg, and there is no rental charge for the five years' use of the panel. A great piece of publicity!

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

3rd December at 7.30 p.m. at Avenue House. F.A.C.T. is presenting A CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY of sparkling words and music. Mulled wine and mincepies - admission £5.00. This evening is in aid of promoting an Arts Centre for Finchley, so your support is needed.

8th December at 7.30 p.m. at Avenue House. THE party of the year - The Finchley Society get together. Do make a note of the date, it is NOT as printed on the events card for the reasons explained in last month's newsletter. Shirley Avery (346 8484) would like to hear from anyone will to provide mince pies. She would also like to hear from anyone who, on the day, would be able to arrive at 6.30 p.m. to give practical help. (The restrictions regarding the Drawing Room seating do NOT apply to the Christmas Party as we shall be using the Salon and the Drawing Room). A great programme has been arranged with wine and Christmas fare. Come and see.

INVITATIONS

HENDON AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (HADAS) Friday, 2nd December. The Museum of London at 1.10 p.m. Lecture on "Development of Thorney Island and the Roman Settlement beneath Southwark" by Mike Hutchinson who is the Archaeology Projects Manager at the Museum, concerned with London's 'New' Archaeology.

NORTH LONDON HOSPICE. 19th November. Gift Fair at Union Church, Mill Hill, NW7. Further details from Joan Ellis 081 959 1276.

FINANCIAL COVENANTS FOR FINSOC

As reported last month, Charlotte Hume has become the Society's Covenant Secretary. If you wish to covenant your membership subscription which, as you know, if you are a tax payer, will mean your subscription is worth more to the Society, or if you know you already have a covenant linked with your subscription paid by standing order with your bank, please contact her so that she can deal with the paper work to reclaim tax. Her address and telephone number are shown in the list of officers at the end of the newsletter. Alternatively, please speak to her at the monthly meeting.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS

June Saffer, Membership Secretary, will be moving house at the end of the month. To avoid the possibility of subscription payments going astray, would members please send their payments to Joe Ingall (past Treasurer and Membership Secretary) at 61 Friern Watch Avenue, N12 9NY (445 4928). As soon as June is safely ensconced in her new home, we will list her new address.

DO YOU REMEMBER -- BREAD?

Andrew Forsyth

During my childhood in the mid-1930s there were at least two bakeries that regularly delivered bread in Queen's Avenue, Church End, Finchley. We patronised R. Hockey & Sons who came with a horse-drawn cart from 39 Friern Barnet Road. There was also the Devonia Bakery run by John and Bertha Clunes at 221 Long Lane, N3. Their roundsman pulled a traditional baker's hand cart.

I remember various brands of brown bread that could be bought in bakers' shops. Hovis and VitBe are still around but Bermaline, Daren, Turog and Veda seem to have long since disappeared. I vaguely remember Veda as a small tasty malt loaf bought sometimes as a treat.

In those pre-war days loaves of VitBe bread had a linen coupon stuck on the underside. If you collected enough of these and sent them to an address in Crayford, Kent, you could claim free gifts. I remember my mother got some dusters from this source. Hovis was baked in a tin which impressed the name "Hovis" into the side of the loaf. A common sight outside cafes and tea rooms was a brown sign "Teas with Hovis".

Apart from Nevill's bread which the milkman used to sell, bread was normally unwrapped and was put into a paper bag at the time of purchase, as still happens in traditional bakers' shops today. Why does anybody buy the tasteless wrapped sliced plastic bread sold in supermarkets nowadays when at little cost they could buy a far superior product from a baker's shop and enjoy a tasty crusty loaf fresh from the oven, often still warm? Do support our remaining traditional bakers to enable them to survive and prosper.

A REQUEST FOR REPORTS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

As mentioned on many occasions, 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.

Maybe we could suggest some topics which might inspire you to write for the newsletter. Childhood memories are always of interest, e.g. transport, old shops, school, radio (or should we say wireless?), early T.V., sport, reading matter, facial hair and haircuts, dress, holidays before package tours, bank holidays, religious education. Reminders about implements and household articles no longer seen, though commonplace years ago, such as thatchers' tools, would be fascinating to younger people who may not have seen or often heard of them. The Editor will be more than happy to assist shy contributors. Please contact Eileen Cox on 445 8422 or Norman Bar on 346 7321.

THE BOTHY

On 10th November, the Land & Buildings Executive Committee are recommending that the proposal by the Finchley Arts Centre Trust to convert 'The Bothy' into an Arts Centre be accepted. This Finchley Society saved 'The Bothy'. The use of the building in this way is in accordance with the Stephens Bequest in his Will of 1918.

STEPHENS COLLECTION

We still need more stewards for the Stephens Collection. Just two and a half hours per month. If you can help, please contact Charlotte Hume on 346 2722.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Enclosed with the newsletter is a sheet listing the members of the various committees. Keep this handy so that you know who to call if you think there is something that the Society should know or do something about.

LIFTS

Please let Eileen Cox (445 8422) know if you require a lift to the monthly meeting or would be prepared to offer a seat in a car occasionally. She will then make the necessary arrangements.

AUTUMN BRAIN TWISTER

Did you solve last month's twister? No? O.K. then, it was a coffin!!

DONATIONS

Thank you Mr. & Mrs R. J. Butcher, Ms M. A. Canning, Ms M. C. Harrison, Mr & Mrs Peter Marsh, Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Parsons, Mr & Mrs Denys Pegg, Ms Margaret Pond, Mr S. Ross, Mary Seabrook, Mr & Mrs M. & L.O. Stevens, Derek & Barbara Warren, Mr & Mrs R. Willson, Miss N. L. Wilson for your additional donations to Society's funds.

THE FINCHLEY SOCIETY

PATRON	Spike Milligan
PRESIDENT	Bill Tyler
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Carol Halls: 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)
COVENANT SECRETARY	Charlotte Hume, 62 Church Crescent, N3 1BT (346 2722)
PRESS OFFICER	Robert Winton, 224 Creighton Avenue, East Finchley, N2 9BD (883 2633)
EDITOR	Norman Bar (346 7321)
NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION	Carol Halls, 1 Finchley Villas, Finchley Park, London, N12 9JT (445 6172)

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