

50p FREE TO MEMBERS JUNE 1995 NO. 6/95

## JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

Members are cordially invited to the 29th June monthly meeting (also the National Trust Centenary Meeting) at CHRIST CHURCH C.E. SCHOOL, HILTON AVENUE/WARNHAM ROAD, FINCHLEY, LONDON, N12., a larger hall than usual. Please note change of venue. Peter Clayton, Chairman of the Octavia Hill Society, will speak on Octavia Hill's childhood in Finchley, with readers to enhance the story. We need hardly mention that Octavia Hill was a co-founder of the National Trust [a matter not mentioned in the N.T. Handbook, apparently for reasons of space - Ah well...]. As regulars will know, Peter is an enthusiastic and erudite speaker and always well worth listening to. So we hope to see you there in force at 7.30 for a prompt 7.45 start.

Norman and Betty Burgess welcome offers of help in preparing for, and generally putting away after, the meeting.

We would like to run a raffle this month. Offers of prizes to Mari l'Anson please at 0181 346 7011.

## MAY MEETING: A REPORT

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

Just over 50 attended the meeting which took place at Avenue House in an upstairs room, the Council having got the date wrong and let out the main hall which we thought we had booked in 1994. Our president, Bill Tyler, chairing the meeting, welcomed us and wished good health and a speedy recovery to a number of members who had not been well.

The minutes of the 1994 AGM were approved by the meeting (and are enclosed with the Newsletter).

Norman Burgess presented his written Chairman's Report which had been circulated with the Newsletter. We were sitting, he told us, in a room which combined in its back part Henry Stephens bedroom with in its front part the laboratory destroyed in the Avenue House fire.

He expressed concern that only 15 members had gone on the Cholderton outing on the 20th May and hoped that there would be more enthusiastic support for the proposed visit to Wimbledon Museum and the Lawn Tennis Museum on the 15th July. Norman asked for suggestions for the 1996 programme to the Administration Committee who are meeting in June. 1996 will be the Society's 25th Anniversary year.

Norman expressed the Society's gratitude to Eileen Cox who will be moving to Chard in Somerset. We would miss her, she was unflappable and had dealt with all the demands made upon her. We were sorry to lose her and wished her well. His sentiments were echoed by Bill Tyler and the Editor who recalled

the tremendous help Eileen had been during his year as Chair and, in relation to the Newsletter, her proof-reading, contributions and, above all, her encouragement.

He announced that the first Jean Scott Memorial Lecture would be given by our President, Bill Tyler on the 30th November, 1995.

He also spoke, with some astonishment, of those whom he met who had still not heard of The Finchley Society, despite all our efforts and the new panel at Finchley Central Underground Station. [We must publicise even more. Tell your friends. Ed.]

In conclusion the Chair thanked his wife Betty for all her help.

Mr. P. J. Kelly presented his written Treasurer's report which remained to be audited by the recently appointed new Auditor. The Chairman presented an oral Stephens Collection report and requested additional volunteer stewards one afternoon per month. Offers to Charlotte Hume on 346 2722. Rooms 20 or 21 were available for children whose interest would be increased as they could use ink and blotting paper, a sort of Stephens practical.

Timothy Johnson did not elaborate on his report on behalf of The Friends of College Farm circulated with the May Newsletter apart from reminding us that that committee had been set up as long ago as 1980. Bill Williams presented the Friends' accounts which remained to be audited.

The Chair's report was adopted by the meeting as was that of The Friends of College Farm except for the unaudited accounts.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The following were elected unopposed: Chairman	Norman Burgess
Vice Chairman	Norman Bar
Hon. Treasurer	P. J. Kelly
Hon. Secretary	Robert Winton
Elected committee members	Lynn Bresler
	Nigel Doe
	Barbara Warren
	Heather Winton

Denis Chandler was appointed Hon. Auditor by the meeting which also approved an Executive Committee recommendation of a £1 increase in the standard single membership subscription.

Barbara Warren spoke about the Avenue House proposals for a new letting and licensing Scheme submitted to the Charity Commissioners by the Council and said members of the public had 1½ weeks to write to the Commissioners

with their views. She summarised the position. We addressed the meeting and put a number of the points we had incorporated in the May Newsletter. We and Barbara urged members to write with their opposing views as soon as possible. The Charity Commissioners have stated that the date for receipt is 15th June but that it is worthwhile writing after that date as the deadline will not be rigidly enforced, though clearly the date is not open-ended. The address is: Charity Commissioners, St. Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference BMS210345CD(Ldn3).

## FINCHLEY SOCIETY COMMITTEES

Following the AGM may we remind members that applications to committee secretaries for information about or to join various committees are welcomed. We do need assistance and it makes sense to spread the load. Members are welcome to attend meetings as observers. The secretaries of the committees appear on the committee sheet all members should have received. If they've been mislaid please contact Carol Halls (0181 445 6172) and she will be happy to send a copy.

## ILLUSTRATED TALK BY KURT WEINBERG

Kurt described a number of locations and sights, Sydney, The Great Barrier Reef, Fraser Island with its sandy beach stretching over 120 kilometres, humpbacked whales who travelled some 5,000 miles to calve in the Arctic, 10,000 trees taken for the construction of the Suez Canal, mangrove trees growing on the seashore, taking in salt sea water which they desalinate. Kurt and Charlotte met a number of ex-Nansen village residents in distant places.

They visited New Zealand and the high Southern Alps mountain range on the South Island with "hundreds of mountains over 2,000 metres high" and rainfalls of between 1,500 and 5,000 millimetres. We were reminded of Abel Tasman who saw but did not land in New Zealand in 1642, some 130 years pre-Cook. We had a glimpse of the enormous size of sheep stations (126,000 acres, 56,000 sheep, 2,500 cattle, incalculable soft-drink cans and fried chicken boxes we dare say), and then there was bungee [bunjee, bungay?] jumping from some bridge somewhere. (What is a bungee anyone? Anything to do with a bungie-bird, a contemptuous name for a friar. That conjures up an outrageous image.)

There were some evocative slides, some beautiful, some courtesy of various antipodean Tourist Boards - Fraser Island, a koala, waterfalls, Townsville, Canberra, Mount Cook under a full moon. [Perhaps Shirley could arrange a FinSoc weekend coach trip - just a thought]

Kurt was warmly thanked and the meeting broke up to the sound of southern hemisphere drawls and images of slouch hats with corks hanging from the brim, some with bottles still attached. It was good fun for an A.G.M.

## INVITATIONS FROM OTHER GROUPS & SOCIETIES

1. 3rd May to 3rd September. Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4 (Tel: 0181 203 0130). The Home Front. Daily Life 1939-45. Topics include: Home defence, Domestic life, Entertainment, Schools, Women at work. The exhibition is a "tribute to the ...local residents who took part in 'the people's war'". Admission free. Mon. to Thurs. 10 - 5pm. Friday closed. Sat. 10 - 1 & 2 - 5.30. Sun 2 - 5.30.

2. Saturday, 24th June, 1995: East Finchley Community Festival at Cherry Tree Woods. We quote from the organisers' flier: "This annual festival will be the highlight of the summer in the area ... Throughout the day there will be music, song and dance. The high spot will be Candela - the only 7-piece female Latin band this side of the Atlantic ... huge success last year ... jazz bands, Morris dancers, barn dancing, Indian dancing, ... rock'n'blues band and much more. Special events for children including a five-a-side football competition ... World Tree children's theatre with music and puppets ... and ... Strawberry the Clown. Approximately 70 stalls (expected) ... Entrance free ... Helpers always needed ... please contact Peter Hale 0181 444 5837. Further information Virginia Segal (Press Officer 0171 413 5688 or 0181 349 4257 (answerphone)).

3. "BARNET ARTS" is the magazine of The Barnet Borough Arts Council "An Association of Professional & Amateur Individuals & Groups that seeks to provide a Forum for the Arts in the London Borough of Barnet." You can join the Council and receive the magazine for £5 individual and £20 Arts Group. For information contact BBAC, c/o All Saints' Art Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, London N20 9EZ. The summer edition of Barnet Arts has 4 pages of events with headings including Theatre, Music, Events, Poetry, Exhibitions, Dance, Talks and Courses. FinSoc Newsletter has a copy for loan for members who'd like to have a look.

4. 24th & 25th June, 1995. Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association in liaison with the National Trust has organised two days of fun and pleasure. There is a full programme starting with the formal opening ceremony at 10.30 a.m. on the 24th in the forecourt of the HGS Institute and followed by many activities and events at different times during the day and into the evening at lots of local venues including Henrietta Barnett School and the Institute, synagogues, churches and tennis clubs. The programme continues on Sunday. There is a detailed printed programme - in trendy environmental green - which includes a helpful map - contact the HGS Trust Office at 862 Finchley Road, NW11 (0181 455 1066).

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MUSIC IS FACT (FINCHLEY ARTS CENTRE TRUST): Saturday, 24th June, 1995 at 7.30 p.m. at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3 in the Victorian Drawing room. "Tell me Pretty Maiden..." An interesting look at operetta. Andrea Whittaker - soprano, Viola da Cunha - mezzo, Mick Wilson - tenor, Laurence Jacobs - baritone, Murial Ray - piano and Don Ray - narrator. Tickets £7.50 including refreshments. Ticket orders from 17 Finchley Lodge, Gainsborough Road, N12 8AL (0181 445 4175).

Saturday, 15th July, 1995: Outing to Wimbledon. Please see the enclosed booking form for details. Applications should be made to Norman and Betty Burgess, 28 Vines Avenue, N3 2QD before 1 July, 1995.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. It was noted that one of our members had actually seen the conveniences at Finchley Central open recently. In the excitement that this news engendered a proposed discussion about the first cuckoo and whether planning permission or building regulation consent were required to oust prior nest-occupants was completely overlooked.
2. Studio Cole, Whetstone. We noted that there were considerable improvements.
3. 34/36 Torrington Park. This concerned demolition of a connecting wall between two listed buildings. English Heritage had specified in agreement with LAMAS that the connecting wall should be replaced by an exact replica within 6 months.
4. We noted that the Civic Trust was seeking information on Councils who did not take up planning appeals because of the costs.

## CIVIC TRUST

The Civic Trust is asking Societies what is the most important planning issue that has concerned them in the last two years. The Trust has set up a new Planning Group which needs "something to bite on!". Any ideas? The quicker the better please. Possibilities include the development of the Lido swimming pool site, the Gaumont site, the proposed development of Friern and Halliwick Hospital sites and the public inquiry, the setting up of the North Finchley Forum and possible alterations to the shopping area, the empty former bus garage in North Finchley, the proposal for an amusement arcade in North Finchley (although the way time flies when you reach 21 it'll probably turn out to have been 5 years ago!). Suggestions please to Heather Winton, Secretary of the Planning Committee, at 224 Creighton Avenue, East Finchley, London, N2 9BD (0181 883 2633).

## SECOND-RATE SHOPS?

Members may have seen the report in (at least our edition of) the June 8th edition of the Hendon Finchley Times under the heading "'Second-rate shops' remark angers trader - Councillor's comment branded a disgrace." Councillor Leslie Sussman (Finchley Ward) is reported to have objected to proposals for town centre signs at a council committee meeting and to have labelled the Borough's town centres "a quarter of a mile with a few second-rate shops" and to have said, "They're not really recognised town centres."

FinSoc's Carol Halls was quoted with lyrical restraint as saying that she thought the remarks a bit unkind, she personally liked North Finchley which had some good shops. Carol is too well-mannered.

In the course of a conversation with us for the Newsletter Councillor Sussman confirmed that the report of his remarks was fairly accurate but it was a snapshot, not the whole picture. He had been talking about signposting and was against clutter. There were some 20 town centres listed in the borough, some were ribbon development which could have a sign at either end, others like Mill Hill would require 7 or 8. Some of the town centres were second rate but he did not wish to be specific since, he said, his and our view as to which were and which weren't would differ. [We don't follow this. Ed.] No one could argue that the Borough had a first-rate shopping centre such as Wood Green. No one would go to a centre just because signs were put up, people either knew where the centre was or they didn't. The signs would not bring any sales.

We applaud Finchley Councillor Sussman's honesty (according to his lights) and are all in favour of this brand of openness in councillors and officers. We want to know what they think of us and the area. Do the other Finchley Councillors agree with him? Finchley Ward voters may be particularly interested. If only all councillors were as frank, especially perhaps when in power or shortly before local elections. Do other non-Finchley councillors in the previous administration agree with him, do they accept any responsibility for the state of the town centres? The opposition were after all in power for decades, they were the Planning Authority during this period.

Openness by councillors and officers allied with a willingness to take responsibility for their actions, even when things go wrong. Is it an impossible dream? We would welcome members' comments on the episode.

DO YOU REMEMBER -- SMOKING?

Andrew Forsyth

My mother was by no means a nicotine addict but she used to enjoy just one cigarette a day during a rest after lunch (though we called it dinner as it was the main meal of the day). She would smoke cigarettes of various long vanished brands such as Churchman's No.1, Du Maurier, Craven A ("For your throat's sake smoke Craven A") or De Reszke Minors ("Ten minutes to wait so mine's a Minor").

But I think her favourites were Russian cigarettes called Kazan purchased from Eltham's tobacconists at 7 Market Parade (674 High Road, now Bezaz Fashion Clothes) opposite the Gaumont Cinema. These cigarettes were sold by weight and were of oval cross-section with cream coloured papers. They produced quite a pleasant aroma in the air, very different from the nauseating smell of most present-day cigarette smoke.

My father was a more serious smoker of Player's Navy Cut cigarettes. These were sold in packets of twenty for 11½d., ten for 6d. (2½p) or five for 3d. (1.1/4p). He often purchased them from the Gollywog Cafe in Eton Parade

(599 High Road, now Bond & White, D.I.Y. & decorating supplies). I would try to persuade him to buy four packets of five, rather than one of twenty, so that I got four cigarette cards instead of just one. He also smoked a pipe and, once in a while, a cigar on a very special occasion.

In the late 1930s on my way to school at Christ's College I used to pass the Finchley Cigar Stores at 6 The Broadway (later 360 Regents Park Road, now Sham Video & Newsagent). They had an exclusive line of Dollis Hand-Made Cigarettes, though my parents never patronised them.

#### OBITUARY - BEN BERRY

Timothy Johnson

Ben Berry, who died recently, was not a member of The Finchley Society, but as Chairman of the College Farm Gallery Association he was certainly one of our best allies. Out of the bitter battles to save College Farm came the close and happy collaboration of our two organizations there. Ben was a member of our Joint Events Committee which plans and runs the monthly Country Fairs. He was witty and he was wise. He tended to listen to debates rather than taking part, not speaking until he had something to say, and then he was apt to toss in an idea which opened up a new angle and solved the problem. He will be much missed by us and also by the Finchley Art Society of which he was also a member. We extend our sympathy to the members of his family.

#### A WALK IN ENVIRONMENT WEEK

Esther Johnson

On a blustery, showery Sunday afternoon a "baker's dozen" of Finchley Society persons followed the area Tree Officer, Mr. Clive Mayhew, on a tour of Avenue House grounds.

They tip-toed through family picnic parties on the grass to examine many interesting specimens in the Stephens collection (trees this time, not pens).

They made the acquaintance of many different varieties of Quercus (English, Turkish, Hungarian, etc.) and wrongly identified as Acer something that wasn't.

There were cedars, a gingko, cypress, walnut, elm (yes, ELM!), splendid beeches, a very tall monkey puzzle and a baby laburnum which had been smashed up by unfriendly hands - yellow blossoms were strewn on the ground. The task of a tree officer must often be an unhappy one.

Grateful thanks to Mr. Mayhew for a fascinating lecture. His tiny son was wandering about, holding a leafy twig in his hand; so tree-knowledge is evidently safe for the future!

#### FURTHER REMINISCENCES FROM 1922

A Peep into the Past (continued)

FINCHLEY AS A RURAL DISTRICT

## REMINISCENCES OF MR. EDWIN FOX

We continue extracts from the cutting from the Finchley Press of the 25th August, 1922. Last month had us reaching Tally Ho corner in the mid-1860s. The reminiscences then continue -

"Woodhouse-road was formerly a narrow highway known as Colney Hatch-lane. There were a row of villas near Stanhope-road, since turned into shops, and a few shops near the "Torrington Arms." Among the old well-known residents were Mr. Fox, Senr., of Rosemont, Miss Cousins, who kept a ladies' school at Holly House, Mr. Newman, of Orchard Lodge, Mr. Robinson, of Vincent Villa, Mrs Washington Wilks, who kept a select school for boys and girls, Mr. Brown, of Belgrave Villa, and Mr. Wimbush, of Fallow Corner. It will be noticed that a number of place names have originated from the above. With the introduction of the railway to Finchley, the district underwent a steady development. The Edgware-Highgate line was built in 1867. There were numbers of men employed in the work of construction, and these found accommodation in the vicinity. For the spiritual needs of these men, the Bishop of London's Fund sent the Rev. Henry Stephens, an assistant curate of St. Simon Zelotes, Bethnal Green, to Finchley. With the growth of the district a new Church was needed at North Finchley, Christ Church was built, and Mr. Stephens was placed in charge of this. Mr. Samuel Wimbush, Mr. Frederick Rew, Mr. Henry Bush and Mr. Edwin Fox had much to do with the formulation of the scheme. The result was that the Rector gave a site for a new Church and vicarage on the glebe lands, and in 1869 the nave of the present Church was consecrated by the Bishop of London, Dr. Jackson. The foundation stone had been laid on July 26th, 1867, by his predecessor, Dr. Archibald Tait, who subsequently became Archbishop of Canterbury. When the foundation stone was laid, cemented beneath it in an ewer were placed coins of the realm and newspapers of the period, but sad to relate the same evening someone prised up the stone and stole the coins. More coins and papers were placed beneath the stone a few mornings later. Whether rightly or wrongly, "The people of Whetstone" were blamed for this deed."

### EILEEN COX

Eileen Cox writes -- I have received many kind words from different people on my retirement as Honorary Secretary to The Finchley Society. In response I can only say that during that time I have come to know well how dedicated the Committee Members are to the Society and how generously they give of their spare, and not so spare, time. Therefore in return I would ask members that when an appeal goes out for help please consider giving an hour or two even if only once or twice in the year or offering Bric-a-brac for our stall, or supporting other activities. I have enjoyed the company of all who have joined in on those occasions or events and I am sure you would also. Finchley Society members are such nice people; they are caring people willing to come together and concern themselves in the general well-being of the area. I hope the membership will continue to grow in number and influence.

### LIFTS

If you need a lift to get to the monthly meeting - this month at Christ Church C.E. School, Hilton Avenue/Warnham Road - please contact Robert Winton (883 2633) and he will do his best to arrange one for you. Equally, if you are willing to provide a lift, please contact him.

#### NORTH FINCHLEY CONSULTATIVE FORUM

An "Action Sheet" had been received relating to the meeting on the 6th April, 1995. Among other things it was noted that a consultant would begin 24th April to conduct a survey of local residents and businesses to identify their thoughts on what North Finchley Town Centre needed. It was stated that press releases would be issued to keep the public informed. [Although a notice was printed that a consultant had been appointed, we are not aware of anything else appearing]

The planting scheme in the concrete tubs around the Tally Ho P.H. was to be started during April so that the plants would be in for the summer. [As the tubs were still 'plantless' on 2nd June, 1995, Carol Halls telephoned the Council to find out what was happening and was informed that planting would start 12th June - we shall see!!]

A revised scheme amending the waiting restrictions near Balfour House was reported. The scheme had been approved by the Public Works Committee and the draft Order was soon to be published. [To date we have seen nothing prominent in the local press, nor has there been any further news on the proposed pedestrianisation around Tally Ho]

It was reported that the recommendation for funding of replacement street furniture would be submitted to the Economic Development and Land Executive Committee which would meet after the Annual Council Meeting in May. [We have no information on the outcome as yet]

Meetings in future would be open to the public 2 or 3 times a year but 'closed' meetings would be held to enable members of the Forum to discuss ideas prior to public consultation.

The date of the next meeting had not yet been fixed as it had to fit in with the Economic Development and Land Executive Committee. [We consider that the Forum should be, it is supposed to be independent, and the timing of meetings should not depend on the dates of Council meetings].

#### TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE

URGENT..... URGENT.....Membership Secretary, June Saffer, (445 1480) still needs help from one person to deal with the additional administration of contacting all members after the A.G.M.

#### REGENTS CANAL TRIP

Karl Ruge

Hundreds of members of The Finchley Society will read this with regret, but .... after the crammed meeting at Avenue House on the 27th April, when a full capacity of members applauded the fascinating talk by Dr. Essex-Lopresti on the Regents Canal, my daughter and I feared we would be unable to get places on the canal-trip which the speaker offered to arrange. In the event, Robert Winton, who organized this outing and the visit to the London Canal Museum had just 17 of us to cope with and the rest of the membership missed a golden opportunity.

Although the weather could have been kinder, the experience of drifting in almost absolute peace through parts of London we all think we know well, but which were as remote from the bustle of streets and traffic as an exotic island escape, was a rare treat for each one of us.

Our trip took us from the Camden Lock in a shallow semi-circle to the canal-basin on the fringe of the City and back; we admired secluded gardens, numerous water-fowl, strange outbursts of architecture and of the graffiti-art on the route. The narrow-boat "Tarporley" sat us in comfort and allowed us to follow the route through rain-spattered windows, but braving the elements on the rear platform was particularly rewarding for the sweeping views and the chance to follow the intricate business of passing through, and operating, the string of locks on our route.

Central point of the excursion was well over an hour spent at the Museum which Dr. Essex-Lopresti had described and which proved highly entertaining as well as informative; we watched an old black-and-white film on the planning and construction of the waterway, on its extensive use by horse-drawn barges and on such dramatic events in its history as the blowing-up of the Macclesfield Bridge by the explosion of a cargo as the barge carrying it passed under the arches. We inspected the huge ice-wells under ground floor level in which the ice was stored after it arrived from Norway and before it was distributed to London households, well before the invention of the fridge. The horses used on the tow-paths and delivery-carts were stabled on the upper floor which they reached over a still-existing ramp. And the enterprising owner of the building was also the originator of the icecream trade and the "stop-me-and-buy-one" tricycles.

Thus, we covered almost two centuries of North London history and found an oasis of calm and serenity, before we were decanted, once more, into the incredible din of Camden High Street, its throng of traders and shoppers, strung together by an all-enveloping blare of pop music from a chain of noisy radios. What wonderful and unpredictable experience: Thank you, Dr. Essex-Lopresti, thank you, Robert Winton.

A small display of photographs taken on this trip will probably be on show at one of our next monthly meetings.

REQUESTS FOR REPORTS

Items for the Newsletter from members are always welcome. If you have some item of news or interest you would like to share with the membership, commit it to paper (up to 200 words and it need not be typed, we're quite good at deciphering scripts!) and send it to the Editor, Norman Bar, 48 Granville Road, N12 0HJ (Tel. 0181 376 7321).

## NEOLOGISMS

Members may recall a number of words we found in an Anglo-American Dictionary which seemed to have derived from the DIY school of lexicography, for example, 'bridgitis, a mania for playing bridge', and they got worse -- well, in the course of typing the Newsletter Carol has come across a number of what we call "inadvertent neologisms." One is such a delight that we wish to share it with you and ask for suggestions as to what it might mean - be as erudite or fanciful as you wish. Derivations are welcome if available. Members are requested not to concentrate (if they can possibly help it) on definitions of an overtly indelicate or controversial nature. The winner [and the editor's decision is absolutely, categorically, conclusively, undoubtedly and indisputably final, decisive, definitive and irrevocable as to whether there is a winner (we have to maintain standards) and if so who] will receive a nominal prize of 10 tickets for the next raffle at a monthly meeting.

The word is "enuthisaistic" which started life as "enthusiastic" but got waylaid and assaulted en route to the word processor.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Society is delighted to welcome new members Mr & Mrs T. L. Halpern, N3; Martin Junior School, N3: Mrs R. M. Rees, NW11.

## DONATIONS

Thank you A. Forsyth, P. J. Kelly, Mr & Mrs Winton for your extra donations to the Society's funds.

## REMINDER

This is the last Newsletter until September. There will be no monthly meetings in July and August. The next monthly meeting will be on 28th September when Mr. John Heathfield, Curator of the Barnet Museum, former H.M. Inspector of Schools for Brent and local well-known author of books on the area, will be speaking to us on "The History of Whetstone". Mr. Heathfield is knowledgeable and well-informed, the talk should be fascinating. So with best wishes for a happy and healthy summer break we look forward to your usual support and a good turnout after a lazy and relaxed summer soured only by the taint of sleaze and corruption during the hot summer days.

And as the summer Newsletter break is all too quickly upon us, we should like to thank all those who have helped with its preparation, Carol Halls for her typing and suggestions and for arranging distribution of the Newsletter, to the

faithful and unsung band of postpersons, to Norman and Betty Burgess for printing, and of course to the contributors

SUMMER PUZZLE - CATEGORY - QUITE WELL KNOWN & NOT TOO HARD

Two sisters decided that it was high time that they cleaned out the attic room in their house, which had been locked up for years. They chatted merrily and gasped and reminisced about this or that long-forgotten treasure as it came to light -- the rocking horse with the long tail, three good legs and a half-torn betting slip in its mouth - the overweight stuffed teddy bear with the imitation honey-pot in one paw and a royal flush, carefully shielded, in another -- the shabby doll's house with its outside privy and the three gnomes seated round it, fishing - the triple-sized empty whisky bottle - the ferret-fur-lined mini-skirt - the hula hoop with the luminous orange rim - the memories flooded back.

By the time the sisters had finished cleaning and talking the face of one was quite exceptionally dirty, that of the other almost miraculously clean. Without another word being spoken she of the clean face went immediately downstairs to wash. However, "dirty face" stayed happily upstairs, reading an old Daily Sketch and then browsing through "Punch and Ju-dy's Child-ren's guide to Ein-stein's Re-la-tiv-it-y", 1st (and last) published 1922 as number 471 in the "Little Folks' Peeps into the 'Growd-up' world of..." series (which (as older readers will recall with a jolt) included "Peeps into inflatable bicycle tyres", "Peeps into rowlocks throughout the Empire", and "Peeps into the Sloth and his lazy ways: a bad example to us all" as well as "Fun with used car batteries" by A Barrister.

Neither sister had materially different standards of cleanliness. So why didn't "dirty face" wash hers?

Answer [if we remember it] in the next Newsletter - or earlier, if you can't wait, by writing to the editor marked "FinSoc summer puzzle" enclosing an s.a.e.

\*\*\*\*\*

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	Robert Winton, 224 Creighton Avenue, East Finchley, N12 9BD (883 2633)

HON. TREASURER	P. J. Kelly, 57 Summers Lane, London, N12 0P8 (445 9054)
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	June Saffer, 2 Greenleaf Court, 17 Oakleigh Park North, N20 9AQ (445 1480)
COVENANT SECRETARY	Charlotte Hume, 62 Church Crescent, N3 1BT (346 2722)
PRESS OFFICER	Robert Winton (883 2633)
EDITOR	Norman Bar (346 7321)
NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION	Carol Halls, 1 Finchley Villas, Finchley Park, London, N12 9JT (445 6172)

Registered Charity No. 266403