

Patron: Spike Milligan  
President: Bill Tyler ARIBA

50p

FREE TO MEMBERS

JUNE 1997

No. 6/97

#### **MONTHLY MEETING - JUNE**

Members are cordially invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Society at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3 at 7.30 on Thursday, 26 June. Stephen Cooper, from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, will speak on "Rural England".

#### **VISIT TO UPPARK - Thursday 11th September**

High on the West Sussex Downs near the village of South Harting stands the late 17th century house known as UPPARK. In August 1989 a disastrous fire nearly destroyed the building and its precious contents. The owners of the house, the National Trust, decided to rebuild and restore what had been saved. This work has become an outstanding example of the skill and dedication of craftsmen of the 20th century.

The house is only open from Sundays to Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and due to the great demand entry is by timed entrance ticket. We have booked a party of 25 for a visit at 3 p.m. In addition to the magnificent house you will be able to see a special exhibition on how the restoration was carried out. We will make a long coffee stop in the old town of Farnham.

If you wish to apply for a seat on this outing fill in the booking form. The first 25 out of the hat will have a memorable day. The cost, including coach fare and coffee in Farnham is £15 per person, or £10 if you are a National Trust member.

#### **REPORT of the APRIL MEETING - Industrial Archaeology**

John Boyes, a former editor of a publication concerned with the study of the history of engineering and technology, explained that the term "industrial archaeology" means the study and interpretation of man's technical and economic development, as revealed in old remains.

Using many slides he gave examples of the significance and historical implications of industrial buildings, churches, windmills, breweries, village pumps, canals and gas works.

He showed how what we see today reflects past history. How a brown patch on the ground near Hadley Castle, for example, is the site of a former water mill which ground corn for the Castle; how an aqueduct had to be preserved when locks were built on the River Lee to preserve a mill's one thousand-year-old rights; how bends were built into the Royal Military Canal in Kent for use as a defence against a Napoleonic invasion.

There were many historical eye openers. How tidal power has been used for 2,000 years, with the world's largest scheme at Bromley-by-Bow. Trevithick ran the first railway near Euston; from 1820-1840

Hertfordshire's first railway, a horse drawn monorail, brought bricks to Cheshunt for transfer to barges.

Most poignant was his slide of a windmill which had collapsed while its restoration was still under consideration. A lesson here for The Finchley Society, as there was in much else he said about conservation. Those who stayed away missed not just a revealing talk but much which is relevant to our Society's work and objects.

*Robert Winton*

#### **REPORT OF THE MARCH MEETING - Greenwich**

John Neal returned to the Finchley Society on 27 March to give us a most interesting slide show on Greenwich. Not only had he taken that week some excellent photos of many of the main sights as they are now, but he had also carried out research on the old drawings and paintings of views of Greenwich, and on portraits of people who made Greenwich famous. The views demonstrated that Greenwich is one of the few places in London which has changed little. The portraits of Christopher Wren, Inigo Jones, John Harrison, James Thornhill, Charles I, and Henrietta Maria made us aware how important a place Greenwich has been for many years.

We saw the beautiful ceiling in the Royal Naval College, painted by Thornhill and built by Hawksmoor. We marvelled at the extraordinary slides of the 'Tulip' staircase in the Great Hall of the Queens building of Inigo Jones. We saw the Cutty Sark, the Gipsy Moth, the Royal Observatory, the Meridian and many more sights to wet our appetites for the April excursion to Greenwich.

*Kurt Weinberg*

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

In his annual report Norman Burgess listed volunteers who have done so much to help the Society. I should like to add Joan Butcher to the list. We owe Joan and all her helpers a great deal for once again organising all the catering for the Christmas Party, without which it would not be a party at all. And this is by no means all Joan does for us. She organises our stand at the Friern Barnet Summer Show with the help of numerous others. Without them we should not have the annual presence which does so much to promote the Society and to keep our name before the public.

*Robert Winton*

#### **FRIERN BARNET SUMMER SHOW**

There will again be a FinSoc stall at the Friern Barnet Summer Show, on Saturday and Sunday, 16 and 17 August. For many years faithful volunteers have rallied to this occasion, and once more we need their help. If you can join these unsung heroes and heroines, or contribute plants for sale - in particular house plants, herbs and perennials - Joan Butcher would be pleased to hear from you. Please telephone her at 445 0854.

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

CANCELLATION: 30s NIGHT - This party, planned since last year for 10 JULY, has to date only FOUR requests for tickets.

STOP PRESS: CHURCH END FESTIVAL (postponed from 11 May) will take place on SUNDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER from 2.00 to 6.00 p.m. There will be a FINCHLEY SOCIETY TRAILER DISPLAY and a STEPHENS COLLECTION STALL.

1-30 JUNE	BARNET ARTS FESTIVAL Watch out for the free brochures.
15 JUNE at 12.00	(National Cinema Day) Admission £1 at THE PHOENIX CINEMA, HIGH ROAD, EAST FINCHLEY. A special showing of Historic Films of Finchley. Live commentary by Norman Burgess, who was present in October 1933 at the Charter Celebrations (as a small boy!)
21 JUNE	Don't forget the EAST FINCHLEY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL in Cherry Tree Woods
22 JUNE from 2.00 to 6.00	The garden of RUTH REES, 5 HILLCREST AVENUE, NW11, 455-0419 will be open in aid of the National Garden Scheme and Barnet Branch of the Alzheimer's Disease Society. Adults £1, Children 50p. Teas and Plants for sale. By bus to Temple Fortune and walk down Bridge Lane. Just turn up on the day.
22 JUNE from 2.30	Our own MARI I'ANSON will be leading ART IN THE PARK in AVENUE HOUSE GROUNDS. All ages and abilities, bring your own art materials.
22 JUNE	HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB FESTIVAL in Central Square, N.W. 11.
28 JUNE from 10.00 to 12.00	FINSOC COFFEE morning at PAT DUNNILL'S, 14 CORNWALL AVENUE, N.3 Bring and Buy, Plants, Drop in with your friends.
5 JULY from 3.00 to 5.00	WENTWORTH GARDEN PARTY in aid of FinSoc funds at the home of Derek & Barbara Warren, 83 WENTWORTH AVENUE, FINCHLEY, N.3 Bring and Buy, Raffle, Plants, Books.
6 SEPTEMBER at 10.30	PYMMES BROOK WALK Meet at Arnos Grove Station at 10.30 for a gentle stroll through Arnos Park Waterfall Walk viewing the magnificent Piccadilly line viaduct. Lunch at Pub in Hampden Square walk to OAKHILL PARK. New nature trails for those to can add about one more mile to the 3 mile walk. Led by NORMAN & BETTY BURGESS Please telephone 348-6337 by 1 SEPTEMBER if you are joining and want a pub lunch.
20 and 21 SEPTEMBER from 10.00 to 5.00	HERITAGE DAYS AT AVENUE HOUSE. The house is open, with tours of the Stephens Collection.
21 September 11.00	Tree walk led by Derek Warren at AVENUE HOUSE
27 September 10.00 to 12.30	Coffee morning at the BURGESS', 28 VINES AVENUE, N.3 in aid of THE STEPHENS COLLECTION. Bric-a-brac (Have you any?) All the usual stalls.

**BARNET ENVIRONMENT WEEK**

Barnet's first Environment Week will take place from 6 to 12 July. The Borough is planning a full programme of events and exhibitions, including an environment display at Finchley Carnival, a Clean Up Day, a

Schools' Conference to consider environmental issues, a launch of the draft LA21 Strategy and a declaration of the Council's First Energy Action Area in Barnet. We are still working on additional activities and would like local groups to suggest ways in which environmental awareness can be promoted. Please contact Martin Tidy (359 4657) with your suggestions.

*Anne Lippitt*  
*Deputy Director, Environmental Services*

and also ... Derek Warren will be leading a Finchley Society Tree Walk around Avenue House Grounds on Tuesday, 8 July, meeting at the Tea Kiosk at 7 p.m.

**NEW MEMBERS (Membership Secretary: June Saffer, 2 Greenleaf Court, Oakleigh Park North, Finchley, N20 (445 1480))**

We are happy to welcome the following new members. Please introduce yourself to someone at our monthly meetings.

Mr A Fellingham, N12	Peter Stonham & Bernadine Walsh, N2
Ms E. Margaret Ferguson, N3	Ms Gillian Webb, N3
Noel Lynch, N2	Ms D. Xinos, N3
Maire Gronia Morley, N3	

**DONATIONS (Treasurer: P J Kelly (445 9054))**

Many thanks to the following members who have given a donation to the Society:

Ms E. M. Ferguson	Ms D. Heard
Andrew Forsyth	Mr & Mrs Winton
Ms A. Gallon	

**AND DID YOU KNOW...**

... that on SATURDAY, 24 May Queen Victoria and her escort Albert, Prince of Wales, came to Finchley, to VICTORIA HOUSE, Gruneisen Road to mark the 90th Anniversary of the well known Music Publishers, STAINER & BELL LTD (incorporating AUGENER, BELTON, GALLIARD, WEEKES, WILLIAMS). The directors, Keith and Carol Wakefield, had cleverly organised this for exactly one hundred years ago - 1897. This brilliant event with cinema organist NIGEL OGDEN playing, was vividly brought into 1997 by the professional look-a-likes Alice Victoria and George Edward de Mellet de Bonas. About 10 Finchley Society members were invited. Queen Victoria unveiled a plaque commemorating this unique event.

**THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER IN JULY OR AUGUST. REPORTS FOR THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER TO BARBARA WARREN BY 23 August.**

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