

Founded 1971

Patron: Spike Milligan
President: Bill Tyler ARIBA

50p

FREE TO MEMBERS

APRIL 1999

No. 4/99

MONTHLY MEETING - APRIL

Our talk on 29 April, "Countryside and Conservation in Barnet", will take place at 8 pm in Avenue House. The speaker is Lisa Stringer, Countryside Liaison Officer for the London Borough of Barnet. She is responsible for conservation management, the interpretation of Barnet's countryside and access to the countryside for all.

Lisa will describe the different habitats present in Barnet and the conservation management being undertaken to preserve and enhance the habitats for the wildlife and for the future.

MAY 8 COACH TRIP TO SURREY

The morning features a visit to the Brooklands Museum, with its purpose built motor racing circuit and collection of historic racing cars and aircraft

This will be followed in the afternoon by a visit to Polesden Lacey, a Regency villa on the North Downs.

Shirley Avery (0181 346 8484)

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monitor for Woodhouse Road: The Planning Committee are appealing for a volunteer to monitor planning applications in Woodhouse Ward. Please contact me on 0181 883 2633

Estate Agents' Boards: Harry Sharpe has been fighting a long battle to try to ensure that estate agents comply with the regulations on boards outside properties for sale, sold or to let. These boards remain in place long after the permitted time, and the council do not seem to have the manpower to be able to check this. Harry has approached the council on many occasions but the problem is complicated and difficult to resolve. Agents' boards often, for example, indicate that a property has been "Sold" (in which case the board should be removed), but this is often qualified with a small and barely visible reminder that the sale is still "subject to contract" (which makes it very hard to determine when the board should be removed). Sidney Chapman MP has provided much helpful support on this issue and has written to the council calling for further action. For more information, contact Harry Sharpe on 0181 445 7648.

Heather Winton (0181 883 2633)

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

We have at last found an Events Secretary - Josie Robinson, a new member. She will make arrangements for our programme of talks and for the Christmas Party, and will coordinate other activities such as visits, coffee mornings and our appearances at local festivals.

At local festivals we sometimes bring our trailer, but we need someone to tow it there. Please can anyone with a towing ball help just once or twice a year.

We are going to be at the East Finchley Festival on June 19 in Cherry Tree Wood, opposite East Finchley Tube Station, provided we can find volunteers to be on the stand. Please offer to help.

And we still need help to set up and take down equipment at the monthly talks. Ideally it should be someone willing to do it for all the nine talks we have each year but if not, volunteers who would help occasionally.

Too few volunteers continue to do too much work. Help us to spread the load!

David Smith (0181 883 4154)

COFFEE, TEA or ?

The Administration Committee would like to hold more coffee mornings but wonder whether Saturday mornings are a difficult time for members and their friends.

It has been suggested that we have in addition coffee evenings, afternoon teas or even a coffee morning during the week. Do let us have some feedback on this idea! Please speak to a Committee member at an evening meeting or give me a ring

Derek Warren (0181 346 5258)

DO YOUR BIT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Barnet council is committed to a clean and safe environment but they do need your help. If you see a problem such as graffiti, pot holes or damaged road signs, ring the Customer Care Unit on 0181 359 4600

CONTROLLED PARKING ZONES - CORRIGENDUM

The article in the March newsletter on controlled parking zones should have read "Residents will **NOT** be able to park across their own driveway during that [the restricted] hour." Apologies.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

We hope to take photographs of every street in Finchley and Friern Barnet during one or two weeks in the millennium. Would you please let me know if you are interested in helping. No skills are required and we will pay for the film and printing.

I am organizing a table for the Finchley Society at the Church End Festival in Avenue House Grounds on Sunday, May 9 between 2 and 6 pm. I would appreciate some help, especially as I want to organize a Tree Walk around the Grounds during the afternoon.

The Church End Local Agenda 21 Partnership (which covers the N3 postal area) are carrying out a Pond Survey. If you would like a survey form to record the wildlife in your garden, then please ring me or call 0181 346 5011.

Do you know of any streets that are without trees, or where trees are missing? We are restarting our Street Tree Survey now, so that we can get the council to plant new trees in the millennium. Don't forget that the area covered by the Finchley Society includes Friern Barnet.

Derek Warren (0181 346 5258)

NEW MEMBERS (Membership Secretary: Lynn Bresler, 30 Birkbeck Road, North Finchley N12 8DZ, (0181 446 6249))

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

Mrs J C Arden, N12

Denis and Sybil Bloom, N12

David M King, N3

Josephine Robinson, N14

Mr M L Spector, N3

DONATIONS (Treasurer: P J Kelly (0181 445 9054))

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

Mr and Mrs L Beltran, Haslemere

Miss D. Collins, N3

Mrs P Dunnill, N3

Mrs D Fox, N3

Miss M Pacey, N2

Mr F J S Williams, N12

EDUCATION (Secretary: Mollie Harris ACIS 17, Finchley Lodge, Gainsborough Road, Finchley, London N12 8AL (0181 445 4175))

FOR YOUR DIARY

4 April	Country Fair Day , College Farm
29 April 8 pm	Monthly Meeting , Avenue House Lisa Stringer (Countryside Liaison Officer, London Borough of Barnet) on "Countryside and Conservation in Barnet"
2 May	Country Fair Day , College Farm
8 May	Coach Trip , Brooklands Museum and Polesden Lacey in Surrey. Contact Shirley Avery (0181 346 8484) for information
9 May	Church End Festival , Avenue House Grounds. Volunteers needed for the Finchley Society table. Tree Walk in the Grounds during the afternoon
15-23 May	Museum Week , The Stephens Collection
16 May	Walk along uncompleted Northern Line Extensions , led by Jim Blake of the Northern Line Transport Society
27 May	Monthly Meeting , Avenue House Ted Casey (Education Studies Manager for Three Valleys Water) on "Meeting the Environmental and Educational Concerns as we Approach the Millennium"
19 June	East Finchley Festival , Cherry Tree Wood. Volunteers needed for a Finchley Society table
24 June	Monthly Meeting , Avenue House Annual General Meeting, followed by "The Finchley Society Archives and Local History", by Norman Burgess, Society Archivist
4 July	Walk along uncompleted Northern Line Extensions , led by Jim Blake of the Northern Line Transport Society
30 September	Monthly Meeting , Avenue House Speaker: Jim Blake of the Northern Line Transport Society
3 October	Walk along uncompleted Northern Line Extensions , led by Jim Blake of the Northern Line Transport Society

**REPORTS FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER TO BARBARA WARREN
BY 23 APRIL**