

Founded 1971

Patron: Spike Milligan  
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50p

FREE TO MEMBERS

JANUARY 2000

No. 1/00

#### **MONTHLY MEETING - JANUARY**

Our first talk of the new millennium, on "My Lord Mayor: An Illustrated Talk on Some Aspects of the City of London", will take place at 7.45 for 8 pm on 27 January, in Avenue House. The speaker is Cyril Dombey, who studied as a City of London Guide on his retirement.

Cyril will provide a brief history of the City of London and its governing body, followed by an illustrated tour of past times as well as the contemporary life of the City.

#### **THE PHOENIX CINEMA: LISTING**

Please tell English Heritage why you think that the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley High Road, built in 1910, should be included among the 30 outstanding cinemas to be listed, to prevent its demolition.

English Heritage want hear from residents, and have asked for views to be sent to them not later than March 1, addressed to Cinema Listings, English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London, W1X 1AB.

*Robert Winton (0181 883 2633)*

#### **FUTURE COACH TRIPS, AND THE FUTURE OF COACH TRIPS**

Members will note that two coach trips have been included in the 2000 Diary of Events. There is nothing unusual in this fact: we have been offering two (and sometimes more) trips every year for longer than most members can recall. This year, however, the Administration Committee were divided as to whether coach trips should be advertised, because there has been such poor support for them. As a compromise we have included two such trips, both of them to places of considerable interest to members, on the clear understanding that if too few members take part (a) THE TRIPS WILL BE CANCELLED, and (b) NO FURTHER COACH OUTINGS WILL BE ORGANIZED BY THE SOCIETY IN 2001 AND BEYOND. The decision rests with the membership.

*David Smith (0181 883 4154)*

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Planning Committee is still appealing for a volunteer to monitor planning applications in Woodhouse Ward. Please contact me.

*Heather Winton (0181 883 2633)*

## **CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE (CPZ) IN FINCHLEY: THE REVISED PROPOSALS**

Following the Exhibition in the Golf Dome in July 1998 and consultations with the Local Agenda 21 group a new scheme has been devised.

The area to be covered by the proposed zone has been enlarged and now includes Hendon Avenue, Mountfield Road, Manor View, Squires Lane, Woodlands Avenue, Chislehurst Avenue, Courthouse Road, part of Westbury Road and Gordon Road. The original scheme for an inner and outer zone has been modified so that only the main shopping streets and short stretches of side roads off them would have all-day restrictions. These would be in force from 8:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Parking in marked bays would be allowed for a maximum of two hours (at a cost of £1.50, 20p for 20 minutes). A very few long stay bays are provided for in Regents Park Road.

In the rest of the zone a one-hour restriction would be in force. During this hour cars should be parked in a bay and must display an appropriate permit. Residents could not park across their own driveways as these would have yellow lines. Two main types of bay are proposed for the one-hour zone; Residents' Bays and General Permit Bays. A few Free Bays are also proposed.

Local businessmen and traders could buy a General Permit for £125 per annum, which would allow parking in a General Permit Bay during the restricted hour. A maximum of three permits per business would be allowed.

Residents would be able to buy a permit that would be specific to a car (apparently the Council can check whether the car is registered at an address. A maximum of three permits per household would be allowed. A Resident's Permit would allow parking in both Residents and General Permit bays. Residents could buy a book of vouchers (a scratch card system) to allow their visitors to park (cost £3.50 for 10).

For most of the zone the hour for which the restrictions would be in force would be between 2 and 3 in the afternoon. However, for part of Etchingham Park road and round Victoria Park the proposed hour is 10 to 11 in the morning. This follows representations from the Bowling Club, which has no off-street parking and could not continue to function if members could not park in the road in the afternoons.

There will quite a variety of yellow lines in the zone when this materialises. Drivers will have to take care when parking that restrictions do not apply for the period during which they wish to stay.

It is not clear how much consultation there will be over this new scheme. The Council is unlikely to stage another exhibition attended by traffic officers. They may place a plan in the Library for those concerned to view. Interested members should watch the back pages of the local Press for an announcement. I shall be pleased to show any concerned member the plan.

*Pat Dunnill (0181 349 9825)*

### **FINCHLEY ENCAPSULATED?**

The Society's work to preserve the past and look to the future of Finchley leads me to suggest that we should bury a time capsule (at Avenue House - where else!) which would reveal to those living in 2100 the kind of Society we were at the turn of the new century.

The intriguing problem is - what should it contain? This is where all our members could play a part with suggestions and, dare I say it, a prize for the best idea. Clearly, photographs and printed items such as the Newsletter and a Programme of Events are the easiest and most effective way of communicating. What 'solid' items might we include? A recording on an audio cassette and a bottle of Stephens Ink are two possibilities!

*Percy Reboul (0181 203 3664)*

### **KNOW YOUR SOCIETY**

Because the environment is a factor in so much of what happens in Finchley, our Environment Committee, chaired by Derek Warren, has a wide range of concerns. Its interests include the green belt, parks and open spaces, trees, pollution, streets and street furniture, local listed buildings, helping to educate primary school pupils about the environment and, in particular, pushing the Council to carry out its responsibilities for the environment.

Along with the Society's Friends of the Avenue House Estate the Committee has a special interest in the Estate, and Derek uses his tree expertise to conduct walks around the fine collection on the Estate and elsewhere. The Committee also has a special interest in the future of Hertford Lodge.

In the past the Committee has given talks to schools, organized an environment competition and award in primary schools, monitored individual green spaces, carried out surveys on superloos and trees, kept an eye on graffiti and checked that pavement cable-laying has not damaged tree roots.

*Robert Winton (0181 883 2633)*

### **MY MEMORIES OF FINCHLEY.**

Our family's connection with Finchley predates the First World War. Our grandparents were the licensees of the Belgrave Tavern, on the corner of Stanhope Road, where O'Neils is now located. Granddad was also a bare fist fighter, at one time the eleven stone champion of England. Tony Gee's book on boxing described his career.

In my grandparents' day there were stables behind the Tavern, with access through Belgrave Terrace and the rear entrances to the shops. There were also ten small houses, each with stairs going up through a cupboard door in the middle room. On the corner of this Terrace were four small shops: Reggie Groome's Sweets and General Grocers, Mr. Carter the barber, Mr. Spearing the greengrocer, and a cobbler. Further down was a warehouse where Freeman Hardy and Willis stored their shoes, and Specialoids made pistons for the war effort.

When my grandparents left the Belgrave (which was bought by Mr. King), we moved into a house behind what is now Woolworths.

The island at Tally Ho corner divided the High Road and Ballards Lane just as it does today, but the Tally Ho is not the original building, and the island has been extended, housing underground public toilets with attendances. Mr. Darkie Richardson had a newspaper stand there for many years. There was also a Police Box and (during the war) an air raid siren.

There were many shops along the High Road, grocers, butchers, bakers, chemists, and an art shop called Wainwrights (now called Harris). On the corner of Castle Road was a ladies' hat shop, full of weird creations. On the other corner was St. Stephens Memorial Hall, with a statue outside. Then there was Geary's timber yard, the Grand Hall cinema, and a few more shops ending at Woodhouse Road.

On one corner of the Kingsway stood the house of two doctors, Michael and Marjory Rook, who used to drive an open top Morris Minor - though any car was a rarity in those days. Where the market is now held stood Orchard Lodge. Then the Cricketers on the corner adjoined a row of cottages, then a few more shops, and then, through a gateway, was Jelks and Sons furnishing and furniture storage warehouse. Jelks also had a shop on the other side of the road, where the Abbey National Building Society is now located.

Along Ballards Lane from Nether Street, was Sandbergs the chemist, and then the post office counter service. The post office was in fact also a sorting office before the move to Lodge Lane. There were also a variety of shops. A solicitors' office was located next to Lanes the butcher, who had a slaughterhouse round the back in Hall Street. One day some cows escaped, crossed the High Road, and ended up in our back garden.

On the next corner was Becketts the undertaker. In Hall Street was the blacksmith's forge, where we spent many a smelly hour watching the horses being shod. In the middle of the road was a horse trough, then shops to Percy Road, with Mac Fisheries on one corner and Hepworth the tailors on the other. The road led up to Northside School, once known as Albert Street. The houses on Albert and William Street were pulled down to make way for the car parks. On Lodge Lane was the Torrington public house (not the same building as today), which also had a horse trough in front. Further down Lodge Lane was Beckers bakery, full of lovely smells. In the High Road was Advance Laundries, always busy - until the advent of washing machines! What is now the Police transport site was once Carrimores, a big motor works. Past the Swan and Pyramids were mainly large residences.

Furniture Land was then the Odeon, and before Sainsbury's a big house belonging to Dr. Wingfield, then several shops, including Jones the bakers, who baked on the premises. On Saturday Finchley's political parties would stand at the corner of Stanhope Road, hoping to gain new supporters, but receiving instead heckling from the patrons who had just rolled out of the bars, as well by those buying groceries from Booth's barrow.

Finchley's entertainments have all gone: the Odeon, Gaumont, Bohemia, and Grand Hall cinemas have disappeared. The Arcadia in Church End is gone too - but not forgotten.

Finchley has had many famous residents in its past. They could not help but notice the many changes that have taken place. Would they approve? I wonder.

*Daisy Durrant*

#### **CROMWELL HALL AND THE HONRI FAMILY**

Following David Smith's November talk about Cromwell Hall, members might be interested to know that a booklet on this subject has just been published by the Cromwell Hall Residents' Association. The area covered includes the whole of Abbots Gardens and parts of adjoining roads in East Finchley. Copies may be obtained from Ralph Eschwege, 117 Abbots Gardens, London N2 0JJ at a cost of £5.00 including postage

*David Smith (0181 883 4154)*

#### **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The coffee morning in November was well supported and added £80 to our funds. Thanks to all who came. Other members will be hosting coffee mornings in the Spring.

It's not too late to help take photos around Finchley and Friern Barnet. The survey will take place next March, and there will be a meeting in early February to allot the areas for which each photographer will be responsible.

I was surprised at the number of postcards that were sent as birthday cards earlier this century. The following was written on one card in February 1905:

*Some houses face south with their roses  
And some face the north with their shrubs  
And life sometimes decks us with posies  
And sometimes it brings us hard rubs  
  
But may this your Birthday bring sunshine  
Inviting life's sweetness and blooms  
And may you live most on the sunline  
And least in the shadow and gloom.*

*Derek Warren (0181 346 5258)*

#### **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Charlotte Hulme has achieved a rebate from the Inland Revenue of £166.94 for the Society. Thanks and appreciation from the Committee.

*David Smith (0181 883 4154)*

#### **BURGLARS! BURGLARS!**

Burglars often ring a doorbell to find out if anyone is in the house. If the door is answered they ask for a fictitious person and leave when they get a negative response. This behaviour should be, but seldom is, reported to the police. If you experience such a situation please telephone the police using 999 and try to provide a description of the suspect's height, the colour of their clothing, the colour of their hair, approximate age, etc. The police will respond by searching the area to try and find the person.

*Derek Coggrave,  
Neighbourhood Watch*

## FOR YOUR DIARY

17 January 8 for 8.15 pm	David Baker on "The Social Significance of the Words of Old Music Hall Songs" Church End Finchley Library
27 January 7.45 for 8 p.m.	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> , Avenue House Cyril Dombey on "My Lord Mayor: An Illustrated Talk on Some Aspects of the City of London"
21 February 8 for 8.15 pm	Dr. Sadeem Abutrab on "Stress and Spinal Care" Church End Finchley Library
13 May	<b>Coach Trip, Prinknash and the Gloucester Docks</b> Contact Shirley Avery (0181 346 8484) for information
16 September	<b>Coach Trip, Bletchley Park</b> Contact Shirley Avery (0181 346 8484) for information

**REPORTS FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER TO BARBARA WARREN  
BY 21 JANUARY**