

# THE FINCHLEY SOCIETY

Registered with the Civic Trust  
Charity Registration No. 266403

## NEWSLETTER

Founded 1971

Patron: Spike Milligan KBE. President:  
Bill Tyler AADipl.ARIBA, IHBC

50p FREE TO MEMBERS

JUNE no.6/01

### MONTHLY MEETING - JUNE 28th

Members are cordially invited to the June meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 on Thursday, June 28th at 7.45pm. for 8.00pm. This will be our Annual General Meeting, which will be followed by Noel Lynch talking on "Auctions, Antiques and Oddities." Noel is an active member of the Society and an entertaining speaker.

### REPORT of COACH OUTING on MAY 19th. - Derek Warren

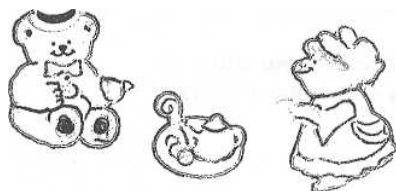
Although cloudy at times, the weather was pleasant for our day out to Wells and Shipham. After a coffee stop at a lovely country pub, we arrived at Wells to explore the cathedral and have lunch, and visit the market place just a few steps away. Wells is the smallest cathedral city in England. Some of the interesting features were the unique "scissor" arches holding up the tower, the worn steps to the chapter house and the jackdaws swooping down at the crows trying to get to their nests in the Camery garden. Unfortunately the clock chime was stopped because of a wedding service.

A short journey took us on to Shipham where we were met by Finchley Society member Hilda Clark who has retired to this lovely village. After a cup of tea we were given a guided tour and heard of the fascinating history going back to Roman and Saxon times when the Romans came to this area specifically for the lead. Some of this ended up in Rome and was used in the construction of the Colosseum. During the 17<sup>th</sup> Century the demand for lead increased and over 100 lead mines were being worked. A hole was dug and a claim was made for an area of 2.5 pick lengths around and down. If still in occupation a year and a day later freehold was claimed and a shack could be built on the land. There is no sign left today in this lovely village of the desecration of the land and the lawlessness that abounded !!

We then walked back to the village hall and awaiting us there was a magnificent cream tea, with sandwiches, scones cream and jam and cakes, with spring flowers on the table. Hilda had also provided an iced cake with FINCHLEY SOCIETY on it and our little finch logo.

There was plenty to see from the coach windows during the journey; the lush green fields of the countryside filled with sheep, cows and pigs, with swathes of colourful spring flowers and the many greens of the trees in abundance.

We must thank Hilda for the invitation and her team for the tea and the guides, and for Shirley for the organising of a great day out.



30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENT - JUNE 30th

Shirley Avery (8346 8484) says that there is still time to book for our birthday bash. Come and hear the Compton organ which was originally in the Gaumont Cinema at Finchley.

**THE SUFFOLK COACH TRIP on SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER to OTLEY HALL and WOODBRIDGE.**

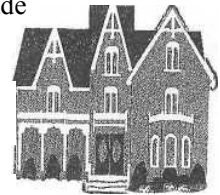
In the morning we will drive directly to Otley Hall where we will have tea/coffee and biscuits, before a guided tour of the house.

Otley Hall is Grade I listed, and privately owned by Nicholas and Ann Hagger. As well as having a wealth of medieval architectural features it has varying room levels and undulating floors. Otley Hall is rich in history and in particular is linked with the founding of America, and to Shakespeare, [www.otleyhall.co.uk](http://www.otleyhall.co.uk).

After the tour we go to Woodbridge for lunch and free time to explore this historic town on the River Deben. Thomas Telford had a great influence on the town, and places of interest include the almshouses, Shire Hall, Abbey, St. Mary's Church and Tide Mill etc.

Maps and details on Woodbridge will be sent out with the receipt from the booking form, so send a large enough stamped addressed envelope.

Shirley Avery 8346 8484



**ENVIRONMENT and TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - D. Warren, Chairman, 8346 5258**  
e-mail: [barwar@waitrose.com](mailto:barwar@waitrose.com)

*Church End Conservation Area.*

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July we will be walking around the Church End Conservation Area, mainly the triangle of Hendon Lane, Gravel Hill and Regents Park Road, to carry out an Environmental Audit. Please come and join us to spot uneven pavements, damaged trees, the condition of public clocks and numerous other details to observe. Meet at the Station Approach to Finchley Central on Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm. It helps to have many pairs of eyes to look out for problems and also to praise well-kept roads, buildings etc. Please make a note of the date now as there is no newsletter in July.

*Wildlife*

During May the cuckoo was calling across the fields alongside Lullington Garth, within the N12 postal district. Also along the hedgerows the blackcap, willow warbler, chiffchaff and common whitethroats were singing. Blackcap and whitethroats could also be seen on the Long Lane Pasture.

Numerous wild flowers were recorded by the Friends of Windsor Open Space on a recent walk, and by the Dollis Brook there was a fine specimen of alexanders. This is a member of the umbelliferae family that I have not seen before.

**PUBLICATIONS.**

We get numerous publications from other organisations, and also many papers from the LBB. If you are interested in looking at any of these, please let me know.

One document gives details of the Highway Maintenance in Finchley which includes footway repairs 2001-2, and also such things as Carriageway Patching Programme. This states - "In order to arrest deterioration and to ensure that as many pavements as possible are made safe, this year it is proposed to carry out selective patching only to pavements and kerbs in the roads identified."

Also - "The decision of the Environment Policy Development Committee of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2001 was to use heavy duty modular paving flags in crossing areas presently constructed in 50mm paving flags ,and asphalt construction in asphalt footways."

Other committee reports include "Waiting Restriction Reviews 2001-2", "Accident Priority Listings" and "Local Safety Scheme Programme 2001-2".

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE - David Smith, 8883 4154, Chairman

#### *Questionnaire*

A reminder to fill in the brief questionnaire about our monthly meetings, to be returned as soon as possible so that our Programme Committee can incorporate new ideas into the 2002 schedule which will soon be drawn up.

David Smith, 17 Abbots Gardens , East Finchley, London N2 OJG

#### *Publicity*

We would like to set up a Publicity Working Party to try and get our name better known to the residents of Finchley and Friern Barnet. If you are interested please contact Derek Warren 8346 5258 or e-mail: barwar@waitrose.com.

#### *Coffee mornings.*

Carol Halls held a very successful coffee morning and we were able to enjoy her wonderful garden in the sun. Would anyone else like to hold a coffee morning or evening ? It is a pleasant social occasion where we meet other members , and help is always available.

#### *Volunteers*

We are always looking out for further volunteers to cover all aspects of our work. There is so much to discover about Finchley and Friern Barnet, and we must keep an eye on what is going on, to keep the area a desirable place to live. At the moment we are in particular need of a Chairman for the Environmental and Transport Committee.

INTERVIEWS FOR JAPANESE TELEVISION - Robert Winton, Hon. Secretary 8883 2633

Our President Bill Tyler being interviewed by a Japanese professor is not exactly an event we could have anticipated, but that is what happened in Avenue House on May 20<sup>th</sup>.


It was part of the recordings for a NHK (Japanese Broadcasting Corporation) University of the Air programme "Community Theory", examining different community groups in various countries, and how they operate.

In the morning, Bill Tyler was interviewed by Professor Susumu Kurasawa on our history, aims and work. This was followed by a recorded meeting of the Planning Committee, which discussed the proposed replacement of a house in East End Road by a block of flats, and the planned development at Cricklewood Station and its surroundings.

In the afternoon, Vice Chairman Barbara Warren led members of the Environment Committee on a recorded environmental audit of Gravel Hill, pointing out litter, uneven pavements, graffiti, tarmacadam and other bad environmental aspects, which on a real audit would be reported to Barnet Council. This demonstrated the scope of regular audits which the committee makes in Finchley and Friern Barnet.

How did the NHK find the Society? Well, Professor Kurasawa was a member of the Society when he lived in Long Lane in 1977, and he found us from Japan through our web-site [www.finchleysociety.org.uk](http://www.finchleysociety.org.uk).

A quite unrehearsed series of Society presentations went off remarkably well, thanks members who were good enough to take part, and especially to Bill Tyler who took a major



role in the preliminary arrangements and gave the keynote interview. Their reward was a donation to the Society and an individual gift.

TOWARDS the LONDON PLAN.- Peter Pickering 8445 2807 or [pe.pickering@virgin.net](mailto:pe.pickering@virgin.net)  
Ken Livingstone is required to produce a Spatial Development Strategy, to set out an integrated social, economic and environmental framework for the future development of London in the context of the wider SE Region and Europe. It is to be the Londonwide context for the UDPs of individual London boroughs, and will set the framework for the Mayor's involvement in major planning decisions in London.

Public consultation on this strategy has been awaited for some time. The first document "Towards the London Plan" though perhaps inevitably imprecise, has clear vision. "London," says Ken Livingstone, "has only two strategic choices. The first is to attempt to rein back its economic growth and projected increase in population by policies of dispersal. The second, recommended in this document, is to accept these processes of economic growth centralisation, and population increase and create adequate conditions for the city to achieve sustainable development. This growth will help pay for the many improvements in services and transport that London needs." This means accepting a significant increase in London's economy and population during the next 15-20 years and that facilities and services needed to support this growth are available - ensuring a steady supply of business and office space and increasing the overall supply of housing by at least 23,000 extra homes per year. This means "promoting development at increased densities, including high buildings where appropriate, that are attractive and well-designed." The amenity movement will have to face up to this, and decide whether to accept or resist its broad thrust. Resistance would be contrary to the principles of sustainability, since it would mean development on greenfield sites outside London, increasing journey lengths, and will damage national prosperity.

There is, of course, much else in the document which can be welcomed unreservedly. For instance, a presumption against out-of-centre retail and leisure developments; favouring improving the public realm and creating high quality, safe and accessible urban spaces; promoting sustainable design and building construction methods; protecting, creating and managing open areas and protecting important wildlife habitats; planning for climate change, encouraging more efficient use of natural resources and energy; promoting new sites for strategic recycling and composting facilities, protecting waste management facilities and supporting a presumption against new incinerator capacity.

Consultation on this document closes on 31<sup>st</sup> July. It will be followed by a draft "London Plan", which will be subject to statutory consultation and an "examination-in-public" like a Borough's Unitary Development Plan, and finally by a final Plan. I hope that members of the Society, as well as its committees, will engage actively in a process which will be of great importance to us all.

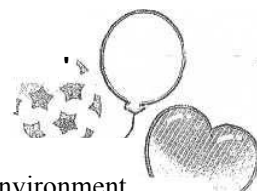
"Towards the London Plan" can be obtained free from the GLA (020 7983 4100) or downloaded from their website ([www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk))

#### W.AR MEMORIALS.

I am helping the Imperial War Museum with their national inventory of war memorials. Please contact me if you know of one, perhaps in your church, and if you can also give me any details it would be greatly appreciated. It is estimated that there are 54,000 memorials throughout the British Isles but I am just looking out for those in the London Borough of Barnet.  
Derek Warren 020 8346 5258 or [barwar@waitrose.com](mailto:barwar@waitrose.com).

NEWSLETTERS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES *Mill Hill Preservation Society*

-Planning application for the demolition of Belmont Riding Stables in order to



NEWS of the FAMILY

We congratulate and send best wishes to Peggy Wells, an active member of the Environment Committee, on her 90th birthday on 10<sup>th</sup> June

build 5 houses was refused,  
objection to illuminated lettering on The Three Hammers in Hammers Lane and to the use of tarmacadam by L.B.B. to replace paving stones.

*Whetstone Society*

-The corner site at Totteridge Lane has been levelled to make way for Boots with flats above. The opportunity for an archaeological dig has been taken by the Thames Valley University.

*Muswell Hill and Fortis Green.*

-Giving some thought to the overview of how the Greater London Authority is developing the future of London as a world city. (See Peter's article above)

*HADAS*

-A series on "Meet the members" where there is a pen picture of several members with their view on archaeology and the Society.

WEB SITES

*HADAS* - [www.hadas.org.uk](http://www.hadas.org.uk) and a discussion group - [hendon-subscribe@listbot.com](mailto:hendon-subscribe@listbot.com) *COLLEGE FARM* - [www.college-farm.co.](http://www.college-farm.co.uk)



*FINCHLEY SOCIETY* - [www.finchlevsociety.org.uk](http://www.finchlevsociety.org.uk).

DON'T CHUCK OUT YOUR RUBBISH JUST YET!

If you are planning a spring clean within the next few weeks  
any unwanted

domestic objects from the early part of the 20\* century, please do not throw them away.

and come across

These items can be used by the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, based at Cat Hill, for use in educational activities with local schools and community groups.

Please contact the Education and Outreach Officer, Richard Lumb at the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture at 020 8411 5441. Richard can arrange collection of any item.

WHATS ON?

*Friern Barnet and District Local History Society*

Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, conducted walk around Friary Park, 2.00pm

In their last newsletter they published some fascinating snippets from the Finchley Press of 1927, a years supply rescued from a skip.

"Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>. A sum of £8,714 was spent on wood-paving of Ballards Lane between Granville Road and Nether Street.

March 18<sup>th</sup>. A meeting in connection with Friern Barnet Fete and Fair was held on Tuesday , when it was stated that in a reply to an invitation, the Prince of Wales would be unable to open the function, as his summer engagements were too numerous. He is to be asked to do so next year."

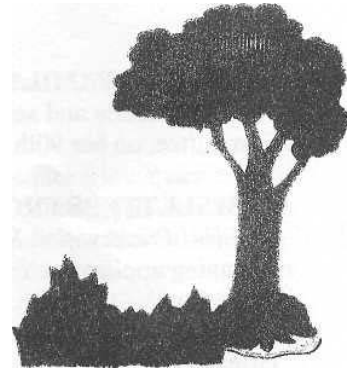
*Church Farmhouse Museum*

Monday-Thursday, and Saturday 10.00-12.30, closed Friday, Sunday 2.00-5.00

*East Finchley Festival*  
June 24<sup>th</sup> in Cherry Tree Wood N2

*Finchley Carnival*  
July 18-21, Victoria Park.

*Friern Barnet Summer Show.* August 18th and 19<sup>th</sup>. Friary Park



#### MEMBERS

Membership Secretary...Lynn Bresler, 30, Birkbeck Road , N. Finchley, London N12 8DZ...8446 6249, e-mail: LynnBressler@aol.com

#### DONATIONS

Treasurer...Nigel Doe, 020 8445 1278 e-mail: Nigel@Trakka.co.uk

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

Mr and Mrs J Kay, N20

The Society accepts donations made by Charities Aid Foundation Charity Card.

#### EDUCATION

Secretary...Mollie Harris ACIS, 17, Finchley Lodge, Gainsborough Road, Finchley, London N12 8AL...8445 4175

Please note that we have a long list of speakers who know Finchley past and present, and lots of archive material.

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Events Secretary...Josie Robinson, 46 Burleigh Gardens, Southgate, N14 SAG...  
020 8368 4387...020 7917 0474 (w)

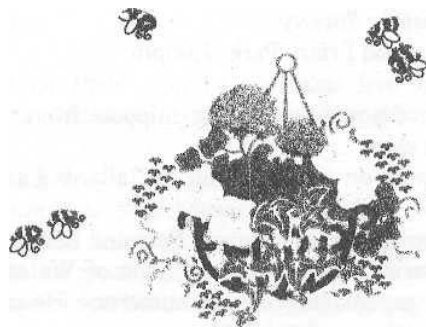
#### EDITOR- Barbara C Warren

83 Wentworth Avenue Finchley London N3 1YN 020 8346 5258

e-mail barwar@waitrose.com

Please send in your "I remember" articles . They will add so much to the interest of the newsletter. And what about a "Letter to the Editor"?

Please note that there will be no newsletter in July or August. Copy for the September newsletter to reach me by August 25<sup>th</sup> . Have a happy and restful summer everybody.



*We care for Finchley and Friern Barnet*