

Founded 1971
www.finchleysociety.org.uk

Patron: Spike Milligan
President: Bill Tyler ARIBA, IHBC

50p

FREE TO MEMBERS

November 2001

No. 11/01

Monthly Meeting – 29 November

Members are cordially invited to the Society's monthly meeting at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley N3, on 29 November at 8 p.m.

Martyn Gerrard will talk about "Trading in the High Street". He will discuss how the face of the High Street has changed since the introduction of the covered shopping mall and out of town shopping centre, and why high streets should be preserved and encouraged. Martyn Gerrard is Chairman of the Ballards Lane Traders' Association, as well as Chief Executive of the estate agency that bears his name (<http://www.mm01.co.uk/mg/>). The firm, founded by him thirty seven years ago from a small office in High Road Whetstone, is one of the largest independent estate agents with the founder still at the helm.

Christmas Party

Make a date in your diary. Our annual Christmas Party is on Thursday, December 13, in the Drawing Room at Avenue House, East End Road, starting at 7.30 p.m. Thanks to Joan Butcher refreshments will be available in the Salon from 8 p.m. There will be a raffle and prizes for winners of the two quizzes, and for those identifying the most unusual objects on display.

Joan Butcher will contact those who have helped to provide refreshments in past years. New offers would, however, be very welcome: if you can help please telephone her on 020 8364 9314. It is essential for her to plan in advance so that she can balance items and quantities.

*For the latest information on Finchley Society meetings go to
www.finchleysociety.org.uk/programme_2001.htm*

Traffic, Parking, and Environmental Improvements in North Finchley: The Council's Proposals

The Council's Cabinet decided on 15th October to approve a whole package of changes to the road system in North Finchley, including a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ). This decision was reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee on 22nd October, but despite searching questions and a well-argued

presentation by North Finchley Local Agenda 21, the Committee decided not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet for reconsideration (the only thing it has power to do). The proposals will now be worked up in detail by Council officers, and will then be the subject of public consultation.

Finchley Society members will want to keep a watch out for this public consultation, study the detailed proposals carefully, and comment on them. They could have far-reaching effects. The Council's aims – to help regenerate North Finchley through improving environmental conditions, improve safety and accessibility to and within the Town Centre and help improve the viability of the shopping area – are ones we would fully support. But the Council have not necessarily got the means right. We must all of us learn the lesson of the 'improvements' in the Friary area, which were installed at considerable expense and have already in part been removed.

Local Agenda 21 has argued that major changes should await the completion of the 'Arts Centre' development at Tally Ho Corner, and that making parking more difficult in North Finchley will simply drive (pun intended) business to the likes of Brent Cross. Measures that improve the environment of local people, who live within walking distance of the North Finchley town centre, may at the same time discourage those who live further afield from using the town centre, and hence threaten its viability. It will therefore be particularly important for Finchley Society members who travel by car to North Finchley to make their comments on these proposals.

Peter Pickering

Bothy

Questions concerning the origin of the word 'bothy' arose at the Art Centre garden party. It is apparently an 18th Century Scottish word of uncertain origin, possibly corrupted from Booth, a temporary structure with some sort of roof. During the 19th century the name was used to describe living accommodation provided for unmarried, male agricultural workers. More recently the name was given to unlocked, cabins or shelters located in wild or mountainous areas for use in emergency. Nowadays the name bothy is often used to give a touch of glamour to a commercial enterprise in these places.

Tony McTeare

Finchley Manor

When Mike Brown, the Borough's Conservation and Design Team Leader, spoke on Listed Buildings at our monthly meeting in September he mentioned that there were proposals to carry out alterations to The Manor House in East End Road. One of our members, Denys Pegg, mentioned that he thought there had been a moat at the side of the Manor as well as elsewhere on the site.

On looking through the old plans that we have in our archives I found one dated 1870 showing this moat at the side of the house. Mr Brown has therefore been able to forward copies to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and also to English Heritage in connection with the listing of this property.

It was interesting to see on this plan that the area bounded by East End Road, Manor View and The Avenue footpath was called the Village Pound.

Derek Warren

Did You Know?

... That in 1842 Charles Dickens lived in Finchley, while writing his novel *Martin Chuzzlewit*.

Recently returned from a trip to America and seeking a quiet refuge from the family at Devonshire Terrace, Regents Park, he rented a cottage on the site of what is now number 70 Queens Avenue, N.3. A memorial plaque (Yes, it's still there) on the front of the house describes it as a farmhouse but Dickens friend and biographer, John Forster refers to it as a cottage – and he should know, because he visited Dickens there. Apparently C.D. found inspiration 'walking in the green lanes'.

Tony McTeare

Green Spaces

Long Lane Pasture: The fight to save this area from development continues and we produced a plan to show how this could be landscaped for both recreation and wildlife. The new houses nearby need somewhere for the children to play and Norman Burgess has suggested this could be the Octavia Hill Memorial Garden.

Victoria Park: Unfortunately the crushed glass path to the new Sensory Garden has been damaged by vandals, but it is worth a visit to smell the scent and hear the tumbling water from the fountain. Is there a chance of 'The Friends' starting up again?

Windsor Open Space: At the moment the area is being plagued by motor scooters. On a recent Tree Walk there were many fruits and seeds to be seen. Also feeding along the brook was a Grey Wagtail.

Brook Farm Open Space: Local historian John Heathfield will be talking at their AGM about Brook Farm in times past.

Cherry Tree Wood: There is a great worry about a likely supermarket development by the entrance to the wood.

Avenue House Grounds: As the 'Paddy Musgrove' tree has never survived at its present site, a new tree will be planted by the path along the north side.

The Environment Committee is always eager to receive information about the green spaces in Finchley and Friern Barnet.

Derek Warren

New Members

Our membership secretary is Lynn Bresler, 30 Birkbeck Road, North Finchley, London N12 8DZ (8446 6249). We are happy to welcome as new members:

- Sandra Turner, N12
- Terence P. Gurry, N3

- Martin J.J. Bolton, N2

Donations

Our Treasurer is Nigel Doe (8445 1278). This month, we received donations from:

- Denys Pegg, N3
- Peter Marsh, N3
- Misses J. & M. Canning, N3
- J.N. Thompson, N3
- Simon & Christa Dimont, N3
- Mr & Mrs I. Lyall, N3
- Mrs S. Jackson, N12
- Mr Gilbert Frank Hill, N3
- Sandra Turner, N12

Membership Drive

With this Newsletter you will find a membership form, which we hope you will be able to pass on to a friend or neighbour. If not please keep it handy for that occasion when someone talks to you about the litter along the road, or the proposed development around the corner, or that damaged tree, when you can say 'Why not join the Finchley Society, who care about Finchley and Friern Barnet?' The more members that we have the stronger is our voice. Please remember that it is your society so let us have your points of view.

Stop Press!

Esther and Timothy celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in September. We send them our very best wishes and hearty congratulations.

**THERE IS NO NEWSLETTER IN DECEMBER
REPORTS FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER
BY 25 DECEMBER
TO BARBARA WARREN
(8346 5258 or barwar@waitrose.com)**

visit our website!
www.finchleysociety.org.uk
We care for Finchley and Friern Barnet