

Founded 1971

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

50p **FREE TO MEMBERS**

FEBRUARY 2001

no.2/01

MONTHLY MEETING – FEBRUARY 2001

Members are cordially invited to the February meeting at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 on Thursday, February 22nd at 7.45pm. for 8.00pm. Graeme Cannon, Property Manager of the Ashridge Estate will talk on “The Management of a Landscape.”

He will give an illustrated talk about the National Trust’s 4,500 acre Ashridge Estates , outlining the variety of wildlife habitats and land uses, and the work involved in managing a landscape consisting of woodland, downland, farmland and commons. The estate is often described as a ‘microcosm of the Chilterns’.

ENVIRONMENT and TRANSPORT COMMITTEE – D. Warren, Chairman, 8346 5258

Clean-up

Barnet’s Environmental Services are going to provide a weekday skip service three times a year at approximately 50 sites across the Borough, and, in July they hope to re-open the Summers Lane Recycling Centre and Civic Amenity Site. (Ed. Do you remember the redundant toilet bowls planted by the former custodian with an array of flowering plants thrown away by the public?)

Later in the year they will be introducing a weekend recycling service which will be a multi-material kerbside scheme.

Do not forget , if you see rubbish and any other problem then ring the Customer Care Line on number 8359 4600.

Council Initiatives

The Recreation and Parks Department will be implementing their Green Spaces Strategy to improve and enhance parks, open spaces and countryside sites.

Did you know-

that there are over 630km of roads to maintain by the Barnet Highways Department, 15km of watercourses and 70 bridges.

Monkey Puzzle Trees

Thanks to those of you who have told me where to find this tree. So far I have recorded 62, 54 of them in Finchley and Friern Barnet. There must be others to find, so, check with me to see if I have found the one you know about. The tallest one I have located is 22m high(72ft) and about 160 years old. Details of the height, girth, sex etc is being sent to The Royal Botanical Gardens , Edinburgh.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – David Smith, 8883 4154, Chairman
Do not forget our birthday walk and cake at Nansen Village on February 11th.

AUBERON WAUGH REMEMBERED

Way back in 1991 Auberon Waugh published this article –

“A true sign of greatness is that you are never too proud to take advice. When I advised Lady Thatcher against grabbing an earl’s coronet too soon, I rather assumed my advice, if it had any effect at all, would work in the opposite direction.

In point of fact, I am rather keen on the creation of more hereditary peers and not at all discountenanced by the thought of young Mark Thatcher eventually assuming his mother’s honours.

I have never met the fellow, and can make no comment on his amiability or otherwise, but it has never been a qualification for earldom that one should be agreeable. Can’t we all think of one or two deeply unpleasant earls? I am sure we can.

The great Countess of Finchley debate marked a welcome return to the old way of doing things. First, we were told what was in her mind by unattributable briefings from her henchmen. Then, having put her toe in the water, she was able to issue an authoritative denial. The new position is that Lady Thatcher has never sought and does not seek a hereditary title, but she does not rule out becoming the Countess of Finchley at some future date if such an honour is offered to her.

Perhaps Mr Major’s best way out of this delicate corner is to make me the Earl of Finchley .I do not know much about the area, but would do the best I could for all the wretched people who have to live there. I find it hard to believe that Lady Thatcher has any ambition to become my countess at this late stage.”

David Smith, as befits a Vice President of The Finchley Society wrote to Mr Waugh defending our leafy suburb. Mr Waugh replied to his letter from Combe Florey in Somerset-

“Dear Mr Smith,

Thank you for your letter . As soon as the Earldom is in the bag I promise you I will come and pose naked with your most famous statue, La Delivrance, and listen to everything you have to tell me about the beauties of Finchley. Until then, alas , I must bide my time.

Yours sincerely, Auberon Waugh.

KNOW YOUR SOCIETY – Robert Winton, 020 8883 2633.

You are reading this in our newsletter. How did it get put together, and how did it reach you?

The editor is Barbara Warren, responsible for putting material, into a suitable format, on not more than two sheets to limit the costs. When she is away or ill, we are helped out by the assistant editor, Stephen Yeo. The completed draft goes to Tony Gossett at the Ballards Lane Methodist Church resource centre on a Thursday near the beginning of the month. He runs off the copies and Carol Halls collects them. Carol is responsible for the distribution.

Barbara writes some material herself from information sent to her, and also receives material about the Society from our committees and from those organising our activities. She has to arrange all this into the available space.

Lynn Bressler receives applications for membership and notifies Carol Halls, who keeps our membership list up to date. She arranges distribution to members through a group of volunteers, whom she co-ordinates; they push newsletters through members’ letter-boxes in all weathers, which saves us a lot of postage. In addition some copies are posted to organisations, such as other societies (who send us their newsletters and who get a mention quite often in ours) and the local press.

Our newsletter is vital as the only means we have to communicate with all our members. It can also enable members to express their views to other members – contributions are always welcome, and, indeed, necessary. Barbara’s ambition is to see the newsletter published in colour, but unfortunately the costs are too high, unless we can attract a sponsor!

NEWS of THE FAMILY

Congratulations to Cyril Pentecost on his 90th birthday on April 12th. We will have the opportunity to wish him a Happy Birthday on the Finchley Society Birthday walk on February 11th when we will stop outside his house. Cyril was a founder of the Society, when he and his wife, Eileen, met up with Jean Scott when the demolition of the Lodge Lane Cottages was proposed

Members of the Society were at the funeral, on Friday, January 26th, of Finchley Councillor Barbara Langstone, who lost her brave fight against cancer. It was standing room only in the chapel, in recognition of her popularity as an honest, diligent and warm-hearted councillor.

OTHER SOCIETIES

Mill Hill Preservation Society -

is still fighting the... 'over-large and over-ambitious plan to develop the stadium at Copthall'...though agreeing that 'something should be done about the outdated and shabby grandstand, to provide modern facilities for amateur clubs, schools, and the community as a whole'. BUT they will fight on again to preserve the principle of the Green Belt.

Hornsey Lane Association-

had a very successful celebration last year of the centenary of the Archway Bridge. Member Richard Tayler, retired Finchley librarian, played his part both in suggesting it and in the preparations. The festivities lasted for over three months and were attended by local celebrities. Now, after resting from their labours they are back dealing with such local issues as the Highgate Hill traffic lights and a Safe Routes to School policy.

INVITATIONS

Friends of Barnet Libraries

Monday, March 19th, "Over my Shoulder", memories of Jessie Matthews in song and story by Edna Jury.

RSPB – Derek Warren, 020 346 5258, e-mail:barwar@waitrose.com

The NW London RSPB Group has an indoor meeting at Mill Hill on the last Tuesday in the winter months, and outdoor meetings throughout the year. My favourite trip is on the last Sunday in April to watch the summer migrants arriving in the Lee Valley, including trying to locate the nightingale. We usually hear it but we do not always see it! Contact me if you would like the programme details.

The London Museum

Until April 29th The Finchley Society members can visit the Museum of London free of charge. Just say that you are a Society member or, better still, show your programme card or a copy of our newsletter, although this is not essential – Robert Winton, 020 8883 2633.

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society

The meetings are at 8.00pm, held in the Old Fire Station, next to the Town Hall in Friern Barnet Lane.

Tuesday, March 13th, "Memories of Friern Barnet"(come and talk)

Tuesday, April 10th, "The Three Barnets" by Gillian Gear.

Sunday, May 20th, conducted walk in Coppetts Wood Nature Reserve.

MEMBERS

Membership Secretary...Lyn Bresler, 30, Birkbeck Road, N. Finchley, London N12 8DZ...8446 6249

We are happy to welcome the following new members-

Rosanna Taylor,N3 Anthony Abbey,NW4

Please make yourself known at one of our monthly meetings.

DONATIONS

Treasurer...Nigel Doe, 020 8445 1278

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

Rosanna Taylor,N3	Mr and Mrs Ian Lyall,N3	Mrs S Jackson,N12
Mr and Mrs R Willson,N3		Mr and Mrs D Warren
Mr G F Hill,N3	Mr J N Thompson,N3	Mr S F Fassett,N20
Miss Eileen Cox, Chard		Mrs C D'Eon,N3
Mr A J Gorrett,N2	Pat Dunnill,N3	Mrs C L White,N3

The Society is now able to accept donations made by Charities Aid Foundation Charity Card. These can be made either by telephone or in writing or through the CAF website at www.allaboutgiving.org

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 5AG...
020 8368 4387...020 7917 0474 (w)

ARCHIVIST - Norman Burgess, 020 8346 6337

At the last monthly meeting Catherine Schmidt brought up a display of information on the Finchley Horticultural Society which is now 60 years old, and she gave us a booklet on the history of it for the archives. One of the aims of the horticultural society is to promote the interest of gardeners ,and to take joint action for the benefit of them. For further information please contact her on 8346 4359.

EDITOR – Barbara C Warren

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Copy for the **MARCH** newsletter to reach me by **FEBRUARY 25TH**

One of the interesting features of this newsletter in the past has been some refreshing items relating to members` past and their interests. Please send me something!!

Happy 30th Birthday to The Finchley Society

We care for Finchley and Friern Barnet

