

Founded 1971

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

50p **FREE TO MEMBERS**

MARCH

no.3/01

MONTHLY MEETING – MARCH 2001

Members are cordially invited to the March meeting at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 on Thursday, March 29th at 7.45pm for 8.00pm. The speaker will be Mr Ray Ashfield of Waitrose, where he has worked for 21 years. He is now Branch Manager of the Waitrose at Ballards Lane. He is also a magistrate, and is involved with a number of local charities. Mr. Ashfield will talk about the origins of Waitrose, its role in the community, and its future with particular reference to new ideas.

THE SOMERSET COACH TRIP, SATURDAY, MAY 19TH 2001

The Spring trip this year is a special treat, as we have been invited by a FinSoc member, HILDA CLARK, to visit her in the village of SHIPHAM. After a couple of hours in WELLS – a beautiful city and Cathedral – we will spend the afternoon in Shipham, starting with a cup of tea, then a walk round the village to see the sights and views, followed by tea in the village hall (cream or sandwich)

If there is enough time we will leave via the Cheddar Gorge en route for home.

A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter – Shirley Avery 020 8346 8484.

30TH ANNIVERSARY WALK (I) – Derek Warren, 020 8346 5258

30 members, including out M.P. Dr. Rudi Vis, enjoyed a walk along the High Road at North Finchley and then down Lodge Lane where we met one of our founder members, Cyril Pentecost at his home.

En route Bill Tyler, our President, showed us many architectural details on buildings, which tend to go un-noticed unless you look up. Although no matter at what height one usually notices graffiti!

One building that stands out, being much higher than those adjoining, was built for a family who owned the shop called Buckle and Hughes. (Ed. Would someone be prepared to write in about their memories of the Tally Ho shopping area?) They lived on the first and second floors and other staff above them, the girls on the third floor and the boys in the attic. Bill had with him photos and plans of details of the cottages in Lodge Lane that he and other founder members were able to save from demolition 30 years ago and which triggered off the forming of The Finchley Society. Unfortunately some of the modernisation since then leave a lot to be desired.

We then ended up at Nansen Village in Woodside Avenue where Kurt and Charlotte Weinberg gave us a lovely cup of tea, and the delicious birthday cake, with green borders and ribbon, and the Society logo in icing, was cut with due ceremony.

Kurt then told us about Nansen Village that he and Charlotte started up 33 years ago as a Housing Association project with 65 flats and homes for overseas students to study here and have their family with them. An incredible story of optimism over uncertainty resulting in over 1,000 students having enjoyed the village community in such calm and ordered surroundings that going home was the challenge.

30th ANNIVERSARY WALK (II) – David Smith, 020 8883 4154

As February 11th was the actual anniversary of the foundation of The Finchley Society, it was appropriate the just over 30 stalwarts gathered at North Finchley to mark the occasion by taking part in a walk which was part architectural and part nostalgic. Bill Tyler showed us a selection of buildings in the High Road that had withstood the ravages of time and development – and a few that had not – before entering Lodge Lane where it had all begun with the successful attempt to conserve the cottages, built in 1829, which were destined to be demolished. Jean Scott, the founder of the society, and, at that time the GLC member for Finchley, had enlisted the support of Spike Milligan, then living in Holden Road, and of Bill Tyler, a local architect.

Their first on-site meeting took place at the home of Cyril and Eileen Pentecost, Torrington Cottage in Lodge Lane. It was fitting that our next port of call was Cyril's front door where we saluted this society's doyen by singing "For he's a jolly good fellow" and wishing him continuing good health after his recent illness. Thence to what used to be Gainsborough Court where our inaugural meeting had been held. Finally we gathered at Nansen Village, by kind permission of Kurt and Charlotte Weinberg, where a birthday cake (organised by Peter Marsh) was cut and shared with a cup of tea.

Our thanks are owing to Derek Warren for organising such an agreeable event.

ENVIRONMENT and TRANSPORT COMMITTEE – D. Warren, Chairman, 8346 5258
e-mail: barwar@waitrose.com

Sale of land

A member has informed us of his concern that Barnet hope to sell such areas as Finchley Golf Course and Burtonhole Lane Farm. Although the latter is within the Mill Hill Preservation Society area we do liaise with each other and keep a close watch on the list of planning applications. It does help when such areas are within the Green Belt. Burtonhole Lane Farm has a large dairy herd, so we hope they continue farming for many years to come.

Did you know?

Barnet Parks and Countryside department spend 70% of their budget on repairs to vandalised structures and graffiti removal.

Traffic Strategy

We have a copy of Highlights of the Mayor's Draft Transport Strategy for London, and an application form for anyone wishing to attend a discussion meeting on the subject at the London Transport Museum on Tuesday, March 13th 3-5pm.

Barnet Services Delivery Plans.

We have copies of Barnet's Service Delivery Plans 2001 – 2002 covering –

Neighbourhood Management	Environmental Services
Recreation and Parks	Cultural Services
Highways	Design and Build

If anyone would like to look at any of these, please let me know

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – David Smith, 8883 4154, Chairman

David has given me a handful of correspondence relating to the setting up of The Finchley Society in 1971. The congratulations come in from _
John Betjeman...” I wish I could have been at your inaugural meeting , for the countryside of Middlesex which inspired Keats and Leigh Hunt, dwindles almost daily, and can never be replaced. Long live Finchley and its sudden steep hills, tree-shaded gardens and memories of civilised prosperity.”

Countess of Dartmouth(Raine) – “I am so happy to know that tonight is the first meeting of The Finchley Society. I believe it is only when people get together to show that they care about the houses, the views, the trees and the landmarks of their own area that preservation is really possible”

Spike Milligan – It has always been the quiet back street citizen who has moulded this Island, not the politician, nor soldier, nor scientist. Knowing this I have every faith in our future (of The Finchley Society)

NEWSLETTER DELIVERIES

Following on from Robert Winton’s article last month about newsletter production, Carol Halls would like to make a plea for members who would be willing to undertake deliveries, to make themselves known to her.

Newsletters are distributed nine times a year , and she tries to make sure that no round is over-large and is confined to addresses within reasonable distance of the postman, so they can be delivered during a comfortable walk.

As you know, having our own delivery network saves the society some £700 a year, and we aim to maintain this level wherever possible, BUT, some postmen have been doing the job for a considerable time and might be glad of the opportunity to hand over to someone else, so some new blood would be very welcome.

If you can help, please call Carol on 020 8445 6172

YOUR 1930’S HOME

Are you interested in the every day architecture and interior decoration of the 1930s interwar suburban home? A Study day will take place at Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet, on Saturday March 31st. 10.30am – 4.45pm. Our President, Bill Tyler, will be talking about “Saving features of the 30s style” at one of the morning sessions. Tickets at full rate £15 and for concessions £12. Contact Bill for further details 020 8883 2006.

At this Middlesex University building the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture have exhibitions , workshops and study days. The programme will be available at our monthly meetings. In the holiday period there are workshops for the 5 – 12 year olds.

WEB SITES

HADAS - www.hadas.org.uk and a discussion group - hendon-subscribe@listbot.com

COLLEGE FARM – www.college-farm.co.uk

THE FINCHLEY SOCIETY – www.finchleysociety.org.uk

INVITATIONS

The London Museum

Reminder - 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, May 8th, Famous People in Friern Barnet” by Andrew Mussell, Borough Archivist.

Tuesday, June 12th, Shopping Around (shopping as it used to be.)

Sunday, May 20th, conducted walk in Coppetts Wood Nature Reserve, 2.00pm £1 per person.

MEMBERS

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

We are happy to welcome the following new members-

Sarah Wald, N2

Norma Harris N3

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:

Dr and Mrs O Natelson, N12

Sarah Wald, N2

Norma Harris, N3

Miss D Collins, N3

The Morris family, N12

Mr A Philby, N12

Mr and Mrs J Bumpus, N3

Reminder - 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

We are most grateful to local historian, Percy Reboul, for giving us a number of photographs for our archives. They are mostly of Whetstone but there is an interesting one of the pond that used to be in Victoria Park, and another of the crowded Open Air Swimming Pool. Percy helped us with our Millennium Street Photo Survey and he has written several books on local history, some of them are still available for purchase in the local libraries. – Derek Warren

EDITOR – Barbara C Warren

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Copy for the **APRIL** newsletter to reach Stephen Yeo by **MARCH 25TH**

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We care for Finchley and Friern Barnet

