

Founded 1971
www.finchleysociety.org.uk

Patron: Spike Milligan
President: Bill Tyler ARIBA, IHBC

50p

FREE TO MEMBERS

April 2001

No. 4/01

MONTHLY MEETING – 26 APRIL

Members are cordially invited to the Society's monthly meeting at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley N3, on 26 April at 8 p.m.

Derek Hall will talk about "The Highgate Society: its Works and its Problems", including the original reasons for the Society's formation, its evolution, constitution, organisation, finances and key objectives. He will conclude with an assessment of the challenges it faces today – those unique to the Highgate Society, and those more generally faced by similar societies – and will welcome discussion. Derek is Chairman of the Society.

*For the latest information on Finchley Society meetings go to
www.finchleysociety.org.uk/programme_2001.htm
For more information about Avenue House, go to
www.finchleysociety.org.uk/avenue_house_estate.htm*

A VISIT TO LODGE LANE

When members of the Society recently visited Lodge Lane, members noticed that one house was completely different from the others. I do chat to the owner (we exchange gardening news) and he gave me the following information:

When the Council first intimated to residents that the houses were to be demolished, the owner was not disposed to leave, being the third generation of his family to live in the house.

The Council agreed he could continue to live there, provided restoration was carried out to their specification. The front window was removed, the 'bay' fitted, and the front door moved to the other side of the building.

The present owner's father and grandfather were both chimney sweeps and the passage (where the door now is) was used to lead the horses through into the back garden. In consequence, the passage way from the front door is much wider than the door itself.

Mollie Harris, Education Secretary

A REMARKABLE LIFE – HERBERT LA FRENCH NORMAN

Herbert Norman was born in Norwich and learned to draw at his father's knee, copying the drawing board as he saw it, upside down. On leaving school, he continued in day and evening art classes under a talented local architect.

During a summer holiday job, however, while helping his father in the family art and craft of organ building, he was hooked and never returned to architectural school. During World War I the firm amalgamated with Hill & Son, a firm that had been established in organ building since the 18th century.

As a student apprentice, he experienced the rigours of every technical department and by 1923 was established as leader of the drawing office in the family firm, by then known as Hill, Norman & Beard, one of the premier firms in this country for organ building.

He changed the traditional practice, that of drawing everything on a chalked pine panel, and introduced plans drawn on paper and blueprint copies. Pen and ink drawings, featured in school homework books, became the adopted medium and style for presentation drawings and publicity illustrations.

He was a tracer for the famous Dr. Hill, whose book *Organ Cases from the Middle Ages and Renaissance* is, even today, a standard reference volume.

Herbert took an active interest in the craft's learned societies; was a founder Fellow and subsequently President of the Incorporated Society of Organ Builders; President of the International Society of Organ Builders and was elected an Honorary Member of the Royal College of Organists in 1980.

This superb designer was responsible for the case work on the theatre organ in the Regal, Marble Arch (1926), the largest organ in Europe. He designed the pinnacles in Beverley Minster, and the Peterborough Cathedral and Chichester Cathedral organ cases. The firm were based in Hornsey High Street in 1946 and Herbert Norman came to live in East Finchley in 1960. He retired in 1970 but continued case designing up to 1973.

Under wartime procedures Herbert Norman was adopted for a seat on Hornsey Borough Council, and continued to serve through subsequent elections for 20 years, becoming Alderman and Mayor in 1955-6.

While in local government he became a governor and chairman of Hornsey College of Art.

He was also the designer of the carved screen in the world's most famous crematorium – Golders Green – where his funeral took place.

The Finchley Society offers deep condolences to his son Mr. John Norman, of Whetstone, and his three grandchildren.

I am indebted to John Norman for supplying details of his father's memorable life.

Norman A. J. Burgess

HERBERT LA FRENCH NORMAN

BORN 22.10.1903 DIED 11.3.2001

ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMAN

PEN & INK DRAWINGS AS USED IN FINCHLEY SOCIETY NOTELETS ETC.

ORGAN CASE DESIGNER

COLLEGE FARM

By the middle of March 4 lambs had been born, but because of the Foot and Mouth epidemic no one could go and see them. With the farm having to remain closed, the Open Days are also cancelled, until we can move around the countryside. However the shop remains open so you can still buy your pet food there.

It takes a few hundred pounds a week to look after the livestock and the income from the Open Days went a long way in paying for this. So I would like to ask you, if you are able, to make a donation towards the animal food bill at College Farm. Cheques should be made out to College Farm Ltd. and sent to College Farm, Fitzalan Road, Finchley N3 3PG

Derek Warren (8346 5258)

*for more information on College Farm go to
www.finchleysociety.org.uk/college_farm.htm*

or

*the Farm's own site
www.college-farm.co.uk*

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Barnet Council say that every home in Barnet will have a recycling box emptied every week. They will also aim to make Barnet Parks, open spaces, sports and play areas cleaner, safer and more attractive, and to attract even more people to visit them.

Derek Warren (8346 5258)

COFFEE MORNING – 12TH MAY, 2001

*1 Finchley Villas is THE place to be
the 12th day of May your friends to see,
to relax and drink coffee, discuss this and that
or maybe just sit and talk to the cat.*

*You'll find Finchley Villas in Finchley Park
an easy location, I'm bound to remark.
So do come along, after 10 would be great.
The 12th May... .. remember the date!
Carol Halls*

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Mike Walsh, N3
- Greensquare Residents Association, N3
- Eri Gideon, N2

DONATIONS

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

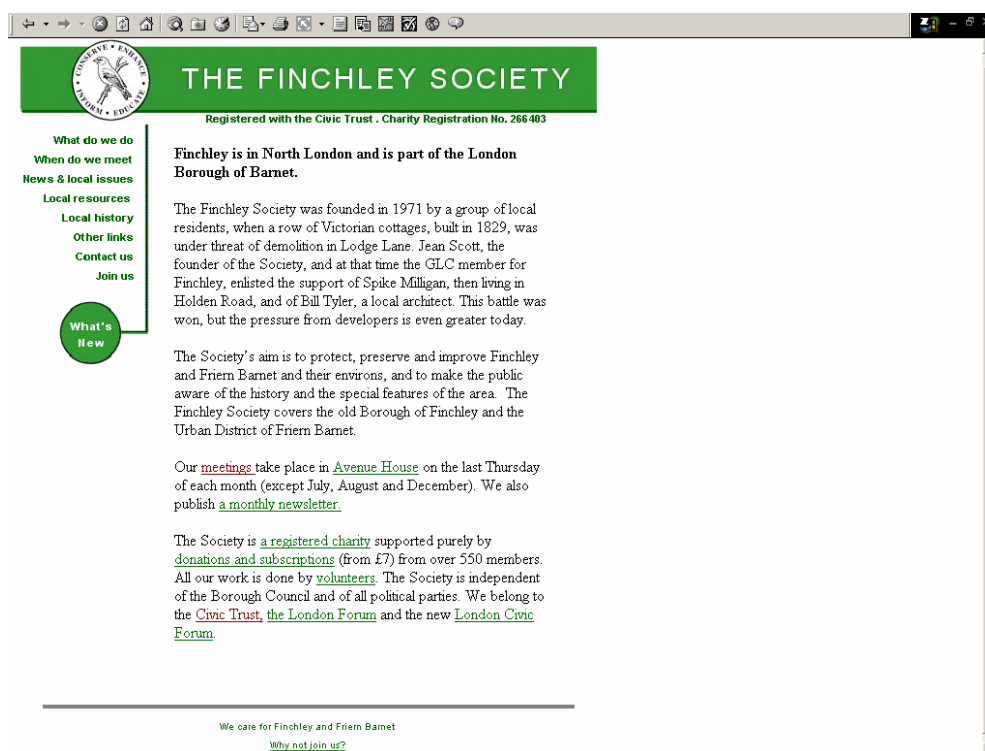
- Mike Walsh, N3
- Dorothy Fox, N3
- Bill Williams, Eastbourne
- Mr & Mrs Beltran, Haslemere
- Margaret Pacey, N2
- John Corcoran, N12
- Mrs J H Hodges, N12
- Roy Thomas, N3
- Tony Roberts and Stuart Baines, N2

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

You can now find the Finchley Society on the world wide web, at www.finchleysociety.org.uk.

The new site went live in February, after many discussions and much work by Nigel Doe, Carol Halls, Peter Pickering, and Barbara Warren.

Our Home Page (www.finchleysociety.org.uk)



At present the site has nine sections

- **What do we do:** our aims and objectives, the work of the Environment, Administration and Planning Committees
- **When do we meet:** the Programme and details of the monthly meetings
- **News & local issues:** Tally Ho Arts Centre, Brent Cross ...
- **Local resources:** Avenue House Estate, the Stephens Collection, and College Farm ...
- **Local history:** information on the archives at Avenue House, the Battle of Barnet in 1471 and 'The March To Finchley' by William Hogarth.
- **Other links:** 'local links' – to other societies (such as the Mill Hill Preservation Society), to Barnet Council, College Farm, the Stephens Collection, Moss Hall Junior School and even 'Virtually Finchley' ...
- **Contact us:** how to contact the Society

- **Join us:** information on membership and a (downloadable) application form
- **What's new:** this month's news

The site is still small – only 20 or 30 pages, but it will grow over time, as we add new pages, photographs and other graphics.

Send your suggestions and ideas for new features to me or to Barbara Warren (8346 5258 or barwar@waitrose.com). You can also give feedback while you are visiting the website: go to www.finchleysociety.org.uk/contact.html

Stephen Yeo (jsyeo@compuserve.com)

FOR YOUR DIARY

26 April 7.45 for 8 p.m.	Monthly Meeting , Avenue House Derek Hall will talk about "The Highgate Society: its Works and its Problems"
12 May 10.00 to 12.00	Coffee Morning hosted by Carol Halls, 1 Finchley Villas, Finchley Park N12
19 May	Coach Trip to Wells and Shipham
31 May 7.45 for 8 p.m.	Monthly Meeting , Avenue House Anne Lalaguna, Chairman of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, will speak
28 June 7.45 for 8 p.m.	AGM and Monthly Meeting , Avenue House AGM followed by Noel Lynch, who will speak on "Auctions, Antiques and Oddities"
30 June evening	30th Anniversary Event (details in the enclosed booking form)

*for up to date information on Finchley Society meetings go to
www.finchleysociety.org.uk/programme_2001.htm*

STOP PRESS!

Note June 30 in your diary! It's another of our 30th anniversary events and an opportunity to hear the mighty prewar Compton Organ and enjoy evening dinner! Details in the enclosed booking form.

Robert Winton (8883 2633)

**REPORTS FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER
BY 25 APRIL
TO BARBARA WARREN
(8346 5258 or barwar@waitrose.com)**

***visit our website!
www.finchleysociety.org.uk***