

Founded 1971

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

50p **FREE TO MEMBERS**

SEPTEMBER no.9/01

MONTHLY MEETING – SEPTEMBER 27TH.

Members are cordially invited to the September meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 on Thursday, September 27th at 7.45pm. for 8.00pm. The speaker will be Mr Mike Brown, Principal Planner LBB, who will talk on “Listed Buildings in Finchley and Friern Barnet .” A one-time resident of Finchley, Mr Brown is a chartered building surveyor and an accredited conservationist with nearly 20 years experience of local government. He has been Head of LBB’s Conservation and Design Team for the last two



years.

www.finchleysociety.org.uk

REPORT of COACH OUTING on JUNE 30TH – Derek Warren

On a lovely summer evening members visited “The Plough” public house at Great Munden, near Ware, Herts., for a dinner to celebrate our 30th birthday , and to listen to the Compton organ which used to reside at the Gaumont Cinema at North Finchley (Ed. What a loss!!) The beautiful countryside gave us much to look at including two deer, wild flowers alongside the road and red poppies being particularly spectacular in the fields of yellow oil seed rape. Photographs of the occasion which included our President dancing with Dorothy Fox, have been lodged in our archives.

Congratulations to The Finchley Society on its 30th Anniversary and best wishes from the Mill Hill Preservation Society for its next 30 years

We are grateful to Waitrose for the gift of a sturdy bench made from recycled plastic bags. This will be sited in the Avenue House Grounds in the near future.

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

Church End Conservation Area.

After the Environmental Audit in July we have reported to Barnet on a number of items requiring attention, especially to pavements and trees.

Our main worry is the state of Grove Lodge, a fine Victorian house in Regents Park Road that is wasting away. We have asked Barnet if they can put pressure on the owners to save this building, especially as it is on the Local list of buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest.

It was good to note that Barnet is spending money on St Mary's churchyard.

* Please note that the photo accompanying the report in the press was not of Derek Warren, but of our Secretary, Robert Winton.

Long Lane Pasture

A planning application has been resubmitted to erect 97 flats on this site that is felt should be retained as an open space. If you agree, please write to the Barnet Planning Dept. at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, London N20 OEJ quoting ref. no. C14420/01. There will be a public meeting at the Sea Cadet HQ, Long Lane, on Tuesday, September 11th at 8.00m

School contact

At the end of June we organised a morning of exploration in Avenue House Grounds for 54 children from Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School. In 5 groups they investigated The Stephens Collection, the pond, the trees. The Bothy and birds. Thanks to all the members who helped on this lovely sunny day.

Environmental problems.

Although a number of members get together to discuss the situation with regard to the local environment and transport facilities, it is up to every member of the Society to keep an eye open in their locality and to let the committee know of any major problem. However, if there are problems requiring immediate attention such as litter, uneven pavements, potholes, damaged trees, abandoned cars etc ring the Customer Care Unit on 8359 4600, receiving a reference number in order to ring back if nothing has been done. The matter is usually attended to within a few days. In some cases, such as dangerous pavements, you can claim £10 if nothing is done within two working days. (Ed. We had an immediate and very gratifying response to a very loud and late party by ringing 8359 2000 at 2 a.m.)

New Chairman

Amanda Dunn is taking over as chairman of the Environment and Transport Committee.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – David Smith, 8883 4154, Chairman

Questionnaire

Firstly, the Administration Committee would like to thank all 53 respondents for their co-operation in completing the questionnaire and for their helpful comments and suggestions.

Secondly, the committee felt greatly supported in their efforts to provide a suitable programme of talks. Society members endorsed particularly our coverage of local history, environmental concerns and aspects of architecture. There was much less enthusiasm for Members Evenings (although if these are focused on local history and reminiscence they might be just as popular.)

Thirdly, we received many suggestions for talks and these are being considered for 2002 and 2003.

Fourthly, members' reasons for not coming to meetings were difficulties with evening conditions, lack of transport, and a feeling of not being known or welcome. The committee is very keen to address this last point. Although we do have members as official welcomers, it is so easy for them to be drawn into conversation with a friend and so miss the new member who is attending their first meeting with some diffidence, and who needs to make contact and feel at ease.

There were, of course, many other reasons for not attending meetings. These included family commitments, work, evening classes, and, as one member put it "residual inertia." Seven replies said that the current range of topics was not of interest.

Fifthly, we floated the idea of an occasional afternoon meeting (in addition to the established evening series). 31 replies thought this worth trying out, and the two most popular days were Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sixthly, we quote two very welcome comments: 1. "Thankyou for all the hard work done by everyone in the committees" and 2."Your questionnaire gives me the long overdue opportunity to congratulate and thank all concerned for the excellent programme of talks at your monthly meetings. I have attended almost all for the past four years or so, and only regret I did not attend before this. I have never been disappointed."

In conclusion, we trust that members will continue to support our monthly meetings so that we can continue to offer speakers of high calibre. A continued decline in attendance will result in a poorer quality of speaker. Some of these people are known nationally and cannot be expected to devote an evening (which included travel) to just a handful of people.

However attendance at meetings is not the only reason for belonging to The Finchley Society as we made clear last year when we suggested other ways of working for our objectives, eg. Committee work, research, planning, public enquiries and so on.

We all have a part to play in the life and work of the Society.



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.

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.ring 020 8346 5258.

WHAT'S ON?

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society

Tuesday, October 9th, "Wartime" by Percy Reboul and John Heathfield.

Old Fire Station, Friern Barnet Lane, 8.00pm

Sunday, October 21st, Conducted Walk around Friern Hospital , 2.00pm

Friends of Windsor Open Space

October 20th, Autumn Tree Walk, 2.30pm meeting at end of Windsor Road.

Friends of the Library

Monday, October 15th, “Hearing Dogs for Deaf People”, 8.00pm

MEMBERS

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

New members

Miss Ruth Lea, N3

David Hollinworth and Judith Hall, N12

Welcome to the Society and please make yourself known at the monthly meeting.

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 A Forsyth, East Barnet

Mr and Mrs R Winton, N2

Andrew Whittaker, N3

Mrs Marjorie Bridges, NW11

Mrs B Coffey, N20

Miss Brenda Johns, N3

Mr E Morgan, NW2

Mr T P Frewin, N3

Mr K Weinberg, N3

Mr and Mrs P Pickering, N12

Mr Noel Lynch, N2

Margaret Evans, N12

Mr F and Mrs D Kelsall, N3

Mr James Mottram, N3

Mrs Grace Cowie, NW11

Mr and Mrs D Tofield, N12

Mrs S Avery, N3

Miss Ruth Lea, N3

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

We are indebted to Charlotte Hulme who has claimed back from the tax inspector £344 due to members signing the Gift Aid Declaration. This could be £200 more. If you have not signed up yet the form will be found with this newsletter

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)

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”?

Copy for the October newsletter to reach me by **September 25th** .

We care for Finchley and Friern Barnet

