

Founded 1971

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

**JANUARY 2002**

no.1/02

**MONTHLY MEETING – JANUARY 31<sup>st</sup> 2002**      [www.finchleysociety.org](http://www.finchleysociety.org)

Members are cordially invited to the January meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 on Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7.45pm. for 8.00pm. The speaker will be Andrew Mussell, the Borough Archivist. He will talk to us about some of the many places of burial in the London Borough of Barnet and some of the people laid to rest.

**THE LONDON MAYOUR'S QUESTION TIME** – Derek Warren, [barwar@waitrose.com](mailto:barwar@waitrose.com)  
Barbara and I spent an entertaining 2 hours listening to Ken Livingstone answer questions from the GLA members. Brian Coleman's question was about the problem of getting from High Barnet Station up to street level. It is hoped that a lift will be installed...sometime.

Anyone can call in to Romney House in Marsham Street SW1 to listen to question time. It is held on the third Wednesday in the month at 10.00am . However the numbers are limited.

**NEWS of the FAMILY**

Sadly we have to record the death of 'PJ' Kelly our former Treasurer. Members of The Finchley Society attended his funeral at St Albans Church in Nether Street. It was an impressive service with Knights of Colombia following the coffin, but his wife was unable to attend through illness.

We send our condolences to PJs family and friends, and we wish Mrs. Kelly well.

**LETTER to the EDITOR**

*"This is from 'The Peoples England' by Alan Ereira, published 1981 by Routledge and Keegan Paul:-*

*Holy Trinity National and Industrial Schools, Finchley. Opened in 1848*

*The object was to turn out really useful members of society, that is , boys and girls already used to and handy at, some definite work. The girls were taught their duties by catichism :*

*Eg. How to answer the door*

*Cleaning and blacking stoves*

*Washing (Ed.clothes?)*

*Some of the duties of female servants in*

*tradesmens' and other respectable middle-class families.*

*-the girls were maids- of- all- work, in fact unregarded drudges."*

This came to me from Hilda Clark, who is a FinSoc member now living in Shipham. Those of you who went on the Somerset coach outing in March will remember the lovely welcome we

received from the villagers of Shipham and the very special tea. She reminds us of the peace of the village, though disturbed recently by fireworks parties. In fact an explosion occurred in the telephone box and the windows were blown out and the door blown off!! Philosophically she remarked that the government were proposing doing away with telephone boxes anyway.

**ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE** – David Smith, 8883 4154, Chairman

The Christmas party was its usual success with David Smith's quizz and the strange objects provided by Noel Lynch which we tried to put a name to. Our thanks to the catering team under the leadership of Joan Butcher who provided delicious food, to Heather who presided over the tea-pot and Kurt, the drinks, and to Mari, with her imaginative raffle prizes. It was good to see our 'postman' guests and to pay tribute to them.

**VOLUNTEERS**

Our most urgent needs are :

- ◆ Monitors for our Planning Committee.
- ◆ Help with a small publicity working party.
- ◆ Support for our Environment and Transport Committee, which meets 6 times a year.
- ◆ Help with putting up equipment at monthly meetings.

Please get in touch with Robert Winton, on 020 8883 2633: a phone call will not commit you to anything.

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT.**- Miranda Dunn, 8371 9744, Chairman

Next meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 83, Wentworth Avenue at 8.00pm. Please let Derek know if you will be attending as an observer....8346 5258

*Waste*

Although the new collection of waste from the door step does not include plastic bottles, you can dispose of these at the Summers Lane Recycling Centre. The Committee will be preparing a waste information booklet, and we would like information from our members of waste disposal of such things as computers, mobile phones, cartridges, spectacles etc.

*Barnet's Development Strategy for Green Spaces.*

We shall be sending in our answers to the consultation papers, and also to the GLA on the Mayor of London's Draft Biodiversity Strategy.

*Tree Replacement*

A letter has been sent to the Borough Arboriculturist about missing and damaged street trees. He hopes to be able to replace some of them around February time.

**REVISED PROPOSALS** for a CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE (CPZ) in FINCHLEY

Following the Exhibition in the Golf Dome, July 1998, and consultations with the LA21 group, a new scheme has been devised. The Council will be consulting residents on this in the next few months.

The area to be covered by the proposed zone has been enlarged and now includes -

Hendon Avenue	Mountfield Road	Manor View	Squires Lane
Woodlands Avenue	Chislehurst Avenue	Court House Road	
Westbury Road (part)	Gordon Road	Brent Way	Lyndhurst Gardens

The original scheme for an inner and outer zone has been modified so that only the main shopping streets and side roads off them would have all day restrictions. These would be in force from 8.00am – 6.30pm Mon-Sat. Parking would be allowed for 2 hours (max) at a cost of £1.50 or 20p for 20 mins. in marked bays. A few longstay bays are provided in Regents Park Road.

In the rest of the zone a one-hour restriction would be in force. During this hour cars should be parked in a bay and must display an appropriate permit. Residents cannot park across their own driveways. Two types of bay are proposed for the one-hour zone –

Residents – would be able to buy a permit which would be specific to a car- 3 permits per household, which would allow parking in both Resident and General bays - a book of vouchers for visitors to park would cost £3.50 for 10.

General – for local traders and business men £125 a year – 3 permits per business.

For most of the zone the hour for which restrictions would be in force would be 2-3 pm. However the Bowling Club at Etchingham Park Road has the proposed hour 10 –11am as they have no off street parking for members bowling in the afternnon.

Drivers will have to take care when parking that restrictions do not apply for the period during which they wish to stay. I have a plan showing proposals and would be pleased to let any member have details of plans for their own road. There will be a meeting at 83 Wentworth Avenue on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January to look at the plans.

*Pat Dunnill (8349 9825)*

### **THE GOOD OLD DAYS**

A group of middle-aged people living in the past , convinced that everything was so much better in a golden age ,is a description of The Finchley Society I once heard.

Having lived and worked in Finchley for most of my life, my first thought was, yes, things have certainly altered. When, as a seven year old, I came to live in Church End in the summer of 1946 there were about a dozen grocers, other assorted food shops and a wide variety of services and suppliers that provided for most family needs. We had a roller skating rink, the New Bohemia Cinema, and, in Albert Place, even a traditional blacksmith who was fully employed. The trolley buses to North Finchley and Barnet were fairly regular and the efficiency of the Tube was never doubted. All day Sunday and on Thursday afternoons, when all the shops were shut, Ballards Lane was a ghost town. The only exception being the newsagent at 401 Nether Street. If memory serves correctly , the only retail outlets from those far off days still in situ, are the Post Office and Boots the chemist.

BUT .....was it really a better place to live? St Margaret's Church, which used to stand on the site now taken by Barclays Bank may have had a more pleasing appearance but this can be offset by the convenience of 24 hour shopping across the road at Tesco's. Popes Garage has gone but "The Joiners Arms" remains, albeit altered. Get away from the main road and most of the side streets are largely unchanged apart from improvements to the exterior of properties and the effects brought about by our demand for the motor car. In Victoria Park and Avenue House Grounds we have two open spaces that would be the envy of many London boroughs, and College Farm remains intact. In 1946 there was a , civic restaurant' in Essex Park but you would have been hard put to find any kind of eatery open for business in the evening. St Mary's Church awaited repairs to bomb damage, and large , ugly air raid shelters adorned Redbourne Avenue and Hervey Close.

In 1988 I was involved in an accident that left me confined to a wheelchair. It's not much fun getting around these days, but I dread to imagine how it must have been, years ago. These days most pavements are ramped at junctions, there are light controlled crossing points and access gets easier all the time. I can, for instance, gain entry to the library without assistance. Buses are beyond me, but I can, and do, use mini cabs. In 1946 even a Black Cab was a rare sight in Church End.

The good old days? I'm still not sure but don't forget that for our young people, the present time will be their old days. Let us try to make them good ones.

*Tony McTeare – Glenhill Close*

## **OFFER**

John Heathfield has kindly agreed to offer his latest book "Finchley and Whetstone Past" to Finchley Society members for £10.95 instead of the £15.95 shown in the bookstores. Please contact the editor by phone or e-mail.

## **WHAT'S ON?**

*Friern Barnet and District Local History Society*

All meetings at The Old Fire Station, next to the Town Hall

Tuesday, January 29th - "Architectural Glimpses of Friern Barnet"

*The Stephens Collection*

Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March at Guys Hospital – Unveiling of the Stephens/Keats plaque, noon, by Andrew Morton, the Poet Laureate. There will be a play/presentation by children from Southwark School and will tell the tale of the friendship of Henry Stephens and John Keats, who were medical students together. Anyone interested in this important occasion to contact Norman Burgess, Chairman of The Stephens Collection, on 020 8346 6337. This will be the premier event during National Science Week in London.

## **ARCHIVES**

In the archives there is now a copy of the video made by the Hornsey Historical Society in November entitled "The Town or Hamlet of Highgate" the story of a London village over 800 years. It can be hired out for £1.50 from The Finchley Society via Norman Burgess

## **MEMBERS**

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

New members

Mrs Jo Wilkinson, NW11

Manorside Primary School, N3

Mr and Mrs S.H.Cooper, N12.

Mrs Jeanne Swain, Hassocks

Mr David Janner-Klausner, N2

Welcome, and please make yourself known at the monthly meeting.

## **DONATIONS**

Treasurer...Nigel Doe, 020 8445 1278 e-mail: [Nigel@Trakka.co.uk](mailto:Nigel@Trakka.co.uk)

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

Mr A J Gorrett, N20

Mr and Mrs R Wilson, N3

Mr and Mrs D Warren, N3

Mr and Mrs A.E.J.Toms, N3

Mrs C D'Eon, N3

Mr and Mrs S H Cooper, N12

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Events Secretary...Josie Robinson, 46 Burleigh Gardens, Southgate, N14 5AG  
020 8368 4387

**EDITOR** – Barbara C Warren

83 Wentworth Avenue Finchley London N3 1YN 020 8346 5258

e-mail [barwar@waitrose.com](mailto:barwar@waitrose.com)

Copy for the February newsletter to reach me by **January 25th** .

*We care for Finchley and Friern Barnet*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**