

Founded 1971
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President: Bill Tyler AADipl.ARIBA, IHBC

JUNE 2002

no.6/02

MONTHLY MEETING – JUNE 27th 2002

Members are cordially invited to the June meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 on Thursday, **June 27th** at 7.45pm. for 8.00pm. This will be the AGM and various documents are included with the newsletter. The meeting will be followed by an “Any Questions” answered by our own experts!

THE SEPTEMBER COACH TRIP TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

On **September 14th** we are visiting two places near Cambridge.

In the morning , something different- **CHILFORD HALL VINEYARD** and **WINERY**. You do not have to go abroad for vineyards – we have several “home grows.” At Chilford there is a guided tour, wine tasting etc. Simon Alpen, TV and Radio broadcaster is resident there.
Bottoms Up!!

In the afternoon – Angelsey Abbey, gardens and mill.

The house, dating from 1600 is built on the site of an Augustinian priory, and is the home of Lord Fairhaven, containing his collection of paintings and furniture. It is surrounded by 99 acres of landscaped gardens and an arboretum. The watermill is in full working order – milling flour.

Shirley Avery 8346 8484

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – David Smith, 8883 4154, Chairman

Next meeting on **July 4th** at 17 Abbots Gardens, N2 .Please ring David if you are coming to observe.

Finchley Remembered.

The long-awaited collection of the memories of Finchley residents is finally on its way. The Society is proud to announce that publication of these remembrances – fully illustrated with archive photographs and line drawings by FinSoc members- will take place this autumn. An order form for members to acquire copies – initially at a discount – will reach you with the September newsletter. For now- and to whet your appetite – here are a couple of snippets:-

1. Towards 11 o'clock people could be seen hurrying to the various churches in the district. On Sundays we went for long walks in the fields and lanes. Red Lion Hill was almost open countryside before the North Circular was built with just the old almshouses standing alone amid allotments. We were never bored – there were wild flowers in abundance to be picked –

campions, cowslips, wild roses, and convolvulus in the hedges, in the Spring primroses and in the Autumn hazelnuts. A favourite walk was in the cemetery with conkers to be found.

2. The first memory I can recall, in 1917 or 18, is of the air-raid alarm sounding by a warden blowing a whistle and calling "take cover", cycling through the streets. One night a Zeppelin fell in flames from the sky, and was shot down by Leif Robinson and crashed at Cuffley, where a memorial is still there to this day. Another time I watched a German "Gotha" crash in flames, landing on the embankment in Stanley Road, N2, after a raid on London. Also the wounded soldiers sitting around the Bald-Faced Stag, which was then the central point in this area. I believe they were convalescing at the Wright Kingsford Home on the corner of Bishops Avenue, N2.

Lynn Bresler 020 8446 6249

SELLING the BOOK

We need to form a team of people who will take charge of all aspects of marketing the book. It will be active up to Christmas. We seek expertise in selling books, both to individuals and via local bookshops, and other local shops and outlets, so anyone with an inside knowledge of the trade will be most welcome. If you can think you can help with any aspect of this work – publicity, promotion, processing, orders, delivery, postage, accountancy – then please let me have your name and address by the end of June.

ALL MEMBERS are asked to start noting down the names and addresses of people who are not members of the Society and who would be interested to receive details of the book in the Autumn. An appeal for this information will be made in the September newsletter.

David Smith 17, Abbots Gardens Finchley London N2 OJG 020 8883 4154

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT.- Miranda Dunn, 8371 9744, Chairman
Next meeting on **July 1st** at 83, Wentworth Avenue at 8.00pm. Please ring Derek if you will be attending as an observer....8346 5258

House Sparrows.

Several organisations want to know where all the house sparrows have gone. So please let me know where you have seen them. So far I have reports from Brook Farm, N20, Friern Park and Grove Road, N12 and Sylvan Avenue N3. *Derek Warren*

At the last meeting members were upset at the state of Grove Lodge in Regents Park Road, and letters are to be written to both Pardes School and the Council. They were also concerned at the vandalism in Friary park and Avenue House Grounds, and had taken action in the latter case by warning parents on one occasion that there was broken glass in the childrens playground and to hold back until the Council arrived to clear it up. They were impressed by the way that the Friends of Windsor Open Space and the Friends of Brook Farm are looking after their areas. Members are attending meetings concerning transport and air quality. *DSW*

MARI'S ART on show.

I hope you saw some of Mari's Art on show at the Garden Suburb Gallery in May, but if you missed it there is another opportunity at the Picture Gallery. They are using their refurbished gallery in Birkbeck Road to exhibit original works and Mari will be on during **15th – 28th June**. She promises some paintings of Avenue House as well as far-away places. (9-6 Mon. – Sat.) Mari has travelled widely painting and sketching. She teaches both adults and children on Saturdays and Wednesdays. She will be back at Burgh House in **August 21st – 31st** 12-5.

Mari I'Anson 8346 7011

PLANNING COMMITTEE – Chairman, Bill Tyler, 020 8883 2006

The committee deal with planning applications and to give you some idea of the diversity of their work I enclose some items from their minutes:-

Beech Lodge.

The council has sold this property to Freemantle Trust to continue as an Old Peoples' Home. However there is a rumour that the home will be demolished, and a modern one will be built. It was felt that this would be regrettable and the committee hoped that at least the interior woodwork would be salvaged.

East End Road – Convent of the Good Shepherd.

Details were not available for the proposal to erect 4 2-bedroom maisonettes and 4 1-bedroom flats in a 2-storey block.

Friern Barnet Town Hall.

At a well-attended meeting in the Town Hall regarding the threat to the building, Councillor Rawlings replied to the many forceful points in a statesmanlike manner. A formal request for listing has been made to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport supported by the Twentieth Century Society. The chairman of the committee would also be writing in support.

Mayfield Avenue.

The application was for a loft conversion and rear extension. The council were asked to insist on a hipped roof to comply with the design guidance note no. 5 on extensions to houses. The application was amended and has since been granted.

WILLOW LODGE?

Willow Lodge stood on Ballards Lane, more or less where The Ridgeway now is. The name is commemorated in Willow Way, and the more general Willow Estate. It was built in 1722, could have been rebuilt in 1794 and was demolished in 1927.

The reason for the question, apart from the fact that it stood about 400 yards from where I live, is my interest in the man who built the house, Robert Burford, a London carpenter. I first came across him many years ago as the builder –1716-1720- of most of the East side of Bedford Row, in Holborn, where the houses back on to Grays Inn. No.11 was built for Dame Rebecca Moyer for £2500, with a splendid painted staircase by Sir John Vanderbank. He also designed and built the Ironmonger's Almshouses, now better known as the Geffrye Museum. If I can find a view of Willow Lodge and it proves to be the house of 1727 rather than that of 1794, there may be some interesting architectural comparisons. There is a description of Willow Lodge –“It was a large red brick building, centre door, up three steps, a large entrance hall.” which sounds more 1727 than 1794.

Burford's connection with Finchley is shown in his will. He had bought a property in Ballards Lane and began to build a house which was near completion at his death in 1727. For a man who built some very large London houses, the Geffrye Museum, who worked on the gardens at Hampton Court in the 1690s when Wren was rebuilding much of the Tudor Palace surprisingly little is known about him. He came from Bristol and though a carpenter by trade was a Freeman of the Goldsmith's Company in London.

His will also leaves a mystery. Most of his estate was left to a 14 year old girl, Elizabeth Anderson, and only in the event of her death before the age of 21 were members of Burford's own family to derive any substantial benefit. On reaching the age of 21 in 1734 she promptly sold off her Finchley property.

If anyone can help me find out more about Willow Lodge and especially its connection with Robert Burford I would be very grateful. When did the house take its name?

Frank Kelsall, 020 8346 5139 or e-mail : fkelsall@waitrose.com

WHAT'S ON?

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society

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

June 25th "Coronation memories"

September 24th "Alexandra Palace"

The Whetstone Society

There will be a 12 week trial period, starting Friday, May 17th, for a Farmers Market between Athenaeum Road and Chandos Avenue, at 11-5 – fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, handmade cheeses, honey, meat, breads and plants all locally grown, with some organic.

Finchley Art Centre Trust – at the Bothy, Avenue House.

June 23rd "The Reluctant Dragon" – a play for children , produced by the Illyria Theatre Co.

July 7th "The Territory Jazz Trio".

July 14th Summers Wind Ensemble- Handel, Mozart, Fauvé ,Max Bauer and selection from "South Pacific".

July 28th "As You Like It", Shakespeare.

Box Office 8455 4640

Stephens Collection

Saturday June 22nd, Coffee morning at 62, Church Crescent, N3 from 10.30am.

MEMBERS

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

We welcome the following to our Society and ask them to make themselves known at the monthly meeting.

Mrs Judith Usiskin, N3

Keith, Carol and John Wakefield ,N10

Mr Michael C Chauveau , Willow Grove, USA

DONATIONS

Treasurer...Nigel Doe, 020 8445 1278 e-mail: Nigel@Trakka.co.uk

We thank the following for their generous donations –

Mr Michael C Chauveau, USA

Andrew Forsyth, E Barnet

Maggie Ferguson, N3

Kurt Weinberg, N3

Mr E A Green, Waltham Cross.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

EDITOR – Barbara C Warren

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.Copy for the September newsletter to reach me by **August 15th**. Please note that there is no newsletter in July or August.

We care for Finchley and Friern Barnet

