

Founded 1971
www.finchleysociety.org.uk

President: Bill Tyler AADipl.ARIBA, IHBC

NOVEMBER 2002

no.9/02

MONTHLY MEETINGS - NOVEMBER , 2002

Members are cordially invited to the **November** meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 at 7.45 for 8.00pm. The speaker will be Mrs C Townley, who has been the Consumer Protection Officer, Environmental Services, LBB for a number of years. Here is a chance to air your concerns so, please come along with your questions at the ready

“FINCHLEY REMEMBERED”

At last, we can announce that *Finchley Remembered* has been printed, and is **ready for sale**. This is a first for the Society, and is a book of which we can all be proud. For anyone who lives, or has lived, in Finchley it is an excellent collection of memories that paints a tableau of what life in Finchley was like up to about 90 years ago.

An **order form** is enclosed: as a further enticement to buy the book, postage charges will be waived until 1st December. Or, if you are able, come to the November meeting or the Christmas party, or to the point of sale (17, Abbots Gardens, East Finchley, N2) and buy your copies direct. Local bookshops will also soon have copies available.

There will be an **official launch** on Thursday, November 21st , 6.00-7.00pm at Waterstone's Bookshop, 782, High Road, North Finchley, N12 . All members are welcome when Bill Tyler, President, will be officially launching the book.

Do let David or Joanna Smith e-mail: joda@cromwellhall.freemove.co.uk know of any individual or organisations that might be interested in hearing about this book. If you do not use the order form please pass it to someone else. We ask you to do all you can to promote **our book**. It will make an excellent seasonal gift.

David Smith - 88834154

OUT of the JAWS of DEATH CAME the 5,000 – Robert Winton, Hon Secretary

It is 1938. In Prague there are many in fear of persecution, and worse. A friend of Nicky Winton (my brother) invites him to Prague to help endangered children. Nicky sets about getting details, and, on returning to London, he gathers together volunteers and an organisation to get the children out.

He persuaded the Home Office to let the children in, found foster homes and raised money for the trains when the parents could not cover the costs. Meanwhile in Prague parents had to take a desperate decision to part with their children; at the station tearful parents contrasted with some of the children starting on what they thought was a great adventure. Both sides were buoyed up by thoughts of meeting again. Hardly any ever did.

At Liverpool Street Station the children were met by their foster families and were dispersed around the country. Thus were 664 children rescued. A train with 250 children was due to depart on the day war broke out. It never left. Not a single child was heard of again. Nicky still feels the pain.

Nicky joined the Red Cross and then the RAF, leaving his mother and volunteers to deal with any problems. Some years after the war he wondered what to do with the records of the children, still in his loft. Through a mutual acquaintance these were shown to Betty Maxwell whose husband Robert was a Czech. Through him the story broke in the "Sunday Mirror" in 1988, followed by a highly emotional episode of "That's Life" in which Nicky met some of his "children" for the first time - in full view of the cameras.

In September this year the Barbican showed the premier of the film "Power of Good" which told the whole story and Peter Hain, Minister for Europe presented Nicky with a letter from Mr Tony Blair. This led to renewed interest by the media (Ed. and from me.) Counting the children and their descendants an estimated 5,000 people would not be alive today without what Nicky still regards as just a job to be done. He has been exhilarated to meet many of those he saved, and they have found it a comfort to learn their personal stories and how they came to be where they are.

NEWS of the FAMILY

Our prayers are with Peter and Pat Marsh, and their daughter Helen, who is now blind. Pat is recovering from her own ill health.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – David Smith, 8883 4154, Chairman

Next meeting **on January 2nd** .

David received a letter early this year asking for FinSoc support for a poetry competition entitled "Express your Love and Joy". Here is the winning entry _

The Oak Tree – Victoria Park

In the winter bareness	Yet it is not alone,
The old oak tree stands stark,	this oak tree, for it has
Naked in the March wind.	other friends standing by.
I shivered, as it can't.	I gave thanks for the park
It must have stood for years,	where this majestic tree
Growing and watching as	can flourish unhindered
London embraced Finchley.	until its days are numbered
I feel its stubborn strength.	By its great Creator.

Keith Bootle

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

Next meeting on **January 13th** at 83, Wentworth Avenue at 8.00pm. Please ring Derek if you will be attending as an observer...8346 5258 or e-mail:barwar@waitrose.com

Barnet Customer Care

Don't forget to give the Customer Care a ring about rubbish, potholes, damaged pavements, abandoned cars and any other problems in your road and the high street. Action is usually taken within a couple of days, so ring **020 8359 4600** and help to keep Finchley and Friern Barnet a pleasant place to live.

Trees and Wildlife

Tree missing in your road? Contact the Environment Committee Tree Officer Ann Gallon 8346 8533 .

At the beginning of September the owl was calling at College Farm and four bats were seen there at the end of the month.

Summers Lane Civic Amenity site

The site will recycle much of the material taken there. Materials accepted include –batteries, books, cans, cardboard, clothes, engine oil, fridges, furniture, gas bottles, garden waste, general waste, glass, paint, paper, plastic bottles, scrap metal, shoes, textiles, tyres, wood and Yellow Pages.

PLANNING COMMITTEE – *Stephen Cooper*, 020 8445 2685

A meeting has been held with members of the Environment and Transport Committee in an attempt to determine the Society's attitude to car-park v. residential development adjacent to railway stations. There are significant traffic and public transport implications. It was agreed that each case will have to be considered on its merit.

AVENUE HOUSE

This newsletter is recording some wonderful historic news. We have been waiting for this, and working towards this, for over 10 years. The Avenue House Estate Trust has at last been granted charitable status by the Charity Commissioners and the management can begin managing from November 1st. with a small grant from LBB and an enormous amount of help from the people of Finchley to whom Inky Stephens left the Estate.

“Thankyou” seems an inadequate word to say to the group who have worked tirelessly towards this end. It is impossible to name most of them as over the years groups have formed and reformed, with members of FinSoc making their presence felt throughout, while Bill Tyler ended up as chairman during the last difficult year. But one name will stand out as the champion of this cause throughout and that is of Janett Durrant, who in spite of her relentless drive, gritty determination and a couple of nervous breakdowns, will insist that this is a peoples' victory and we have all done it together.

It is now up to us. The Avenue House Estate needs money, sponsors and volunteers. 8346 5011 or 8346 7316. Please tell all your friends to book up the House for their meetings and parties. Ring 8346 7812. The Management feel confident that they can turn the Estate round in 2 years.

Barbara Warren

REPORT on LOCAL AGENDA 21 – *Pat Dunnill*, 8349 9825

The new CPZ scheme has to be approved by councillors at a meeting on Nov. 12th before implementation. Residents of any roads left out of the initial zone which suffer knock-on effects (eg. all-day parking by commuters) will be able to petition to be included in the zone after it has been seen in operation.

Traffic officers are examining traffic flows in Ballards Lane at its junction with Nether Street, N3 and Gravel Hill and whether adjustments can be made to traffic lights. The new system at the Nether Street junction has not worked well as we had hoped, though it is now safer for pedestrians to cross. If traffic flows in the main road can be improved then, hopefully, there will be less rat-running in the side roads.

WHAT'S ON?

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society

All meetings on Tuesdays at The Old Fire Station, next to the Town Hall. 8.00pm
November 26th “Caring for Friern Barnet”. Karl Ruge.

Friends of Barnet Libraries – Church End

November 18th “John Betjeman” – an illustrated talk by Roy Mills.(Ed. John Betjeman was The Finchley Society Patron before Spike.)

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.

Pam Brown, Broxbourne

Finbar & Patricia O'Connell,N12

DONATIONS

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

We thank the following for their generous donations –

Patrick & Susan Moriarty, N3

Cll. Leslie Sussman, N3

Mari I'Anson, N3

Rosanna Taylor, N3

Miss E F Pearce, N12

Mr G F Hill, N3

We urge members who have not yet completed a Gift Aid form to do so. Forms are available from Charlotte at 62, Church Crescent, Finchley, N3 IBJ. This way, we can increase our funds and it does not cost you anything!

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

If you know of, or have heard a good speaker, please let Josie know

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This will be on December 12th with the usual format. Joan Butcher has very kindly agreed to organise the catering and would be grateful to hear from you with offers of help. – 8364 9314.

EDITOR – Barbara C Warren

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Copy for the **January** newsletter to reach me by **December 15th**

Happy Christmas

We care for Finchley and Friern Barnet

