

Founded 1971

www.finchleysociety.org.uk

President: Bill Tyler AADipl.ARIBA.IHBC

DECEMBER 2003

MONTHLY MEETING

Members are cordially invited to the **January 29th** meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 at **2.30pm for 3.00pm**. The speaker will be Major P. J. O'Brien, who will give us "A Brief Look at the Lieutenancy".

Major O'Brien, known to many as "Paddy", is Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London and Representative Deputy Lieutenant of Barnet. He is, under HM the Lord Lieutenant of London, the Queen's Representative in the Borough of Barnet, a position he has held since he took over from Lawrence Bains in 1965. Paddy is also County Patron of the Royal British Legion and a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and a Knight of St John. He lives in Woodside Park, North Finchley with his wife Una (a life long resident of Finchley). He has a wide background in areas such as electronics, health care management and the world of business schools in London.

Please note that the **January** and February meetings will be in the **afternoon**.

LIFTS TO MONTHLY MEETINGS

Past appeals for giving lifts to members wishing to get to monthly meetings have not been very successful, but I'd still like to hear from anyone who can help. Those unable to find a lift from a member may, however, like to know of the following organisations which may be able to help:

- Black cabs are available through the Association of London Governments [020 7484 2929]
- Dial-a-Ride 1200 has vehicles which are wheelchair accessible [020 8829 1200]
- Friends in Need, East Barnet, which has vehicles which are wheelchair accessible [020 8449 8225]
- The Puddenecks Club for the Elderly [020 8363 1537]

Robert Winton [020 8883 2633]

PROGRAMME FOR 2004

The programme for 2004 is enclosed with this newsletter. Topics for the monthly meetings include

- Recycling progress in Barnet
- The Colney Hatch Lunatic Asylum
- The artsdepot and its role in the Community
- The Buried Cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum

263 BUS TIMEKEEPING

From February to October 2002 14% of Metroline 263 buses travelled in a pair or within one minute of the previous bus – that is, two out of fourteen buses travelled in a pair. From mid-January to August 2003 there was an apparent improvement, as the percentage fell to 9-10%. From 25 August 2003, however, the number of pairs suddenly jumped to 26%, that is, two in every eight buses travelled as a pair. This persisted until the end of October. From mid-December 2002 to 5 January 2003, however, only 5% of the 263s ran in pairs, so improvements are possible. The figure of 26% is higher than on other routes, such as the 134 (24%), the 43 (13%) and the 143 (13%).

Metroline claim that traffic congestion is the main cause of poor timekeeping, but it seems surprising that the some of best timekeeping for the 263 (9-10%) was achieved during early August, when there were hold-ups on Barnet Hill due to the replacement of the water main, while the worst timekeeping took place after this congestion was removed.

These conclusions are not based on a small sample, but instead on 3000 records for the 263 route alone, plus some 600 records for the other Metroline routes. These data show the enormous range of intervals between 263s, with the longest waits still 18 to 25 minutes.

P J W Crockford

PLANT A TREE IN '73

In November I went to the launch of Tree Week at the Guildhall organised by the Tree Council. It was the 30th anniversary of "Plant a tree in '73", and also the 125th anniversary of the City of London's control of Epping Forest. The Lord Mayor planted a Hornbeam in a small plot of land at the rear of the Guildhall.

At the reception afterwards we were reminded that Sir Sidney Chapman, the MP for Chipping Barnet, was instrumental in the organisation of "Plant a tree in '73". Since then 20 million trees have been planted under the Tree Week scheme, helping to offset the 25 million trees lost to Dutch Elm disease.

Derek Warren [020 8346 5258]

CHAMPION TREES OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND

The Tree Register of the British Isles has just published a book with the above title, in which they include parks and gardens that will most interest people who are hoping to see a variety of large and rare trees. They mention Avenue House Grounds.

DOLLIS BROOK - 2004

The Environment Committee are organising a survey of the Dollis Brook throughout 2004. We would like a report on anything you see when strolling alongside the brook, anywhere from the north end of Brook Farm Open Space to south of Windsor Open Space, where the Mutton Brook joins in to form the River Brent. At various times special events will take place

such as a Dawn Chorus in May, and on certain weekends we will ask you to look out for specific species. The first is 17/18 January when we would like to know of any plants coming in to flower, or any signs of winter birds such as the redwing or siskin. If you can't recognise these birds just report on those you can identify. The results will be displayed at various events such as the Church End Festival. Please send any information to Derek Warren [020 8346 5258].

PLANT STALL

Please start organising your seeds and plants so that you can contribute to our plant stall at the Church End Festival on 9th May.

BIRD AND BAT BOXES

The Watch Group at St.Mary's School will be making bird nesting boxes in the new year and then erecting them around Avenue House Grounds. Would anyone like to sponsor these and other boxes that will be bought? They will be numbered so you can observe what takes up residence. Please contact Derek Warren [020 8346 5258]

ARCHIVES

The Archive Custodian is Maggie Ferguson [020 8349 4283]. Archive work takes place on most Mondays from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

ARE YOU REPLACING YOUR COMPUTER?

If you are replacing your computer you might be able to let the Society have your old model. The Archive Group are gradually putting our archive material in order, and a computer on which to store the archive records would be a tremendous help. If you can offer anything please send details to Robert Winton [224 Creighton Avenue, East Finchley, N2 9BD; 020 8883 2633]

PATRICIA'S GALLERY

Patricia's Gallery [4/5 East Lodge Antique Village in East Lodge Lane, Enfield] specialises in old watercolours from 1860 to 1940, children's prints and china from 1880 to 1960. The Gallery offers members of the Finchley Society a 10% reduction in the price of prints. For more information see their website – www.patricias.fsnet.co.uk

MEMBERS

The Membership Secretary is Lynn Bresler [30 Birkbeck Road, North Finchley, N12 8DZ; 020 8446 6249; e-mail :lynnbresler @aol.com]. We welcome the following members to our society and ask them to make themselves known at a monthly meeting.

Barbara and Peter Backman, N3

DONATIONS

The Treasurer is Nigel Doe [020 8440 3545 (new telephone number); e-mail: nigel@trakka.co.uk]. We thank the following for their generous donations:

Mrs B Coffey, N20

G F Hill, N3

E Morgan, NW2

Miss E F Pearce, N12

R Hunter and family, N12

S F Fassett, N20

Patrick and Susan Moriarty, N3

Mrs S Jackson, N12

Miss J and Miss M Canning, N3

R Willson, N3

D Pegg, N3

Mr and Mrs D Warren, N12

Peter Marsh, N3

We urge members who have not yet completed a Gift Aid form to do so. Forms are available from Charlotte Hume [62 Church Crescent, Finchley, N3 1BJ]. Gift Aid allows us to increase our funds and it does not cost you anything.

EDITOR

The Newsletter is edited by Barbara C Warren [83 Wentworth Avenue, Finchley, London N3 1YN; 020 8346 5258; e-mail: barwar@waitrose.com]

Copy for the **FEBRUARY** newsletter to be sent to Barbara by **January 15th**.

We care for Finchley and Friern Barnet