

Founded 1971
www.finchleysociety.org.uk

President: Bill Tyler AADipl.ARIBA, IHBC

MARCH 2003

no.3/03

MONTHLY MEETINGS - March 27th 2003

Members are cordially invited to the **March** meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 at **7.30 – 8.00pm**. The speaker will be Mr R W G Smith who will talk on “The National Trust and our Industrial Heritage.” The National Trust began as an organisation for protecting the countryside. About 50 years later it began caring for stately homes. Later it took on gardens as important features in their own right. It has never stood still but has expanded its interests as new important aspects of our heritage emerged. Industrial heritage is the most recent of these. The talk surveys its industrial possessions from basic wind and water power into the atomic age.

The afternoon meetings have been such a success that we shall be repeating them next year in the darker months. Perhaps we could have some comments ‘to the editor’.

2003 SPRING COACH TRIP on SATURDAY 10TH MAY

To the Isle of Wight,

OR THE FALLBACK trip to Norfolk.

Once again we are trying for a day trip to the Isle of Wight, Osbourne House and an Island Tour. Again, we need a minimum of 25 members.

However, unlike last year, we have a FALLBACK trip to Norfolk. This will be a visit to the Octavia Hill Museum in Wisbech, hosted by FinSoc member Peter Clayton, who is the greatest authority on Octavia Hill.. The museum has been much improved since the last FinSoc visits there.

Afterwards we will go to KINGS LYNN a most fascinating place with a 17th century Custom House, 2 Guild Halls, Museums and Churches.

Please note.....there are **two** booking forms enclosed with this newsletter.

Shirley Avery 8346 8484

NEWS of the FAMILY

* Congratulations to Karl Ruge an active member of the Planning Committee on reaching the age of 91 and managing to look 10 years younger.

* Congratulations to Kurt Weinberg who received a Barnet Civic Award on a framed vellum at a presentation on 21st January at the Town Hall. These awards recognise people within the Borough who make an important contribution to our local community. Kurt fled Nazi

Germany during the Second World War and in response to a great kindness set up Nansen Village in 1968 with the help of a group of people. It is named after Fridtjof Nansen a Norwegian Nobel Peace Prizewinner of 1922. The Village, set in Woodside Avenue, provides inexpensive, high quality accommodation for full-time post-graduate students to carry on their education and remain together as a family. At present there are 120 tenants from 32 countries living and studying together in rare harmony.

* At the same event Janett Durrant received a certificate for her work on Avenue House.

* Bill Tyler writes:-

I have had a fantastic response to sponsorship for my Inca Trek in support of The National Autistic Society. I achieved my target of over £5,000 a full four weeks ahead of my aim for the 1st March, and am now going on for £10,000 by the time I depart in mid-May. Members of The Finchley Society have been very generous and have so far contributed almost £1,700. I and the NAS are very grateful indeed and I hope members will not mind too much if I don't write to them individually to thank them. The stamp money will go towards the charity! Anyway, to everyone who has got me off to a flying start – a huge 'thank you.'

Actually I did go flying, but on ice on infamous gridlock Thursday. The aftermath somewhat put back my training, which really is hard work, but thankfully I am back on track now.

Tyler@bildit.ndo.co.uk

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

Next meeting March 17th at Avenue House, Balcony Room, 8.00pm

At this meeting we will be discussing, amongst other items, recycling and how we can help educate children on this subject, sponsoring of nest boxes in schools, frequency of buses and other transport problems, and volunteers to help in the grounds of Avenue House.

Wildlife

The birds will soon be nesting. Please let me know if you see House Sparrows going beneath the eaves of houses. 12 House Sparrows frequent the gardens in Walmington Fold, N12. Also keep an eye open for frog spawn in March.

Sternberg Centre

Ann Gallon and other members of the Society attended the public meeting at Avenue House along with a very large number of people, concerned as they were with the trees at risk in the grounds and the enormous amount of traffic the scheme will generate in the adjoining roads.

Tree Photographs

If you have a photo of your own favourite tree, perhaps you could let me take a copy.

Derek Warren 020 8346 5252 barwar@waitrose.com

Calling all gardeners

PLANT SALE in aid of Avenue House at the **Church End Festival** in **May 11th** to be held in the grounds of Avenue House. Plants and helpers for the stall, please call Pat Dunnill on 8349 9825.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The next meeting will be on March 12th at Avenue House.

At the last meeting the Sternberg Centre was raised with reports of the objections to proposals for fairly substantial changes to this complex, some of which will affect this listed building.

There was also concern about the Waitrose development at East Finchley, Friary House, and the Barnet UDP revision.

WHAT'S in a NAME?

Horace Pendrill Sharpe is a long-standing member of The Finchley Society and was, for many years, our champion against the Estate Agents boards.

FINCHLEY LIDO

Rosanna Taylor has produced a painting entitled "Finchley Lido 1983" showing a busy poolside scene, a copy of which she has given to the archives.

FRIARY HOUSE

It seems that Friary House in Friary Park will not be sold off as the Council had hoped. It is proving to be a more popular place than they had envisaged. Numbers of outraged residents are combining to try and save the house, and are looking to Avenue House for help. Barnet are now offering the local residents the chance to run the house by suggesting that they set up a Trust. Friary House has not the same opportunity that Avenue House has in raising income. However meetings are taking place and advice and encouragement is coming from FinSoc and the Avenue House Trustees.

AVENUE HOUSE

The next **Open Day** at the House will be on **March 29th 1-4pm**. There will be guided tours of the whole building. At the last such event great interest was expressed in the number of wells around and a secret tunnel! Room 13 has been completely redecorated and the kitchen entrance has been floored and painted. Meanwhile the grounds are now receiving some attention with over £1000 worth of plants to go in, and ten benches. The gates are now being closed every night. There is now a separation of tenants in the Finchley Society Archive Room and the Stephens Collection will be starting a new life in their own room. This will make it much easier to complete the detailed cataloguing that is necessary. Now that we have the space we would like to hear from anyone who has offered their services in the past, or any others who could spare time to help Maggie Ferguson. Please ring her on 8349 4283.

If you have been a Friend or would also like to become one, please send your £5 cheque to Charlotte Hume, 62 Church Crescent, Finchley, London, N3 1BJ made out to Friends of Avenue House Estate.

BARNET COUNCIL NEWS

As from Monday March 3rd the new address for the Environmental and Neighbourhood Service Department of Barnet Council will be –

Block 4

North London Business Park,

Oakleigh Road South,

New Southgate N11 1NP

WHAT'S ON

1. Saturday, March 15th – our friend, Peter Clayton, is leading a walk around Marylebone, starting at 9.30am at 35, Marylebone Road and finishing at Baker Street at around 12.30pm. To book a place please send a cheque for £5.00 made out to The Harry Simpson Memorial Library Trust to - The Librarian, Housing Resource Centre, Harry Simpson Memorial Library Trust, University of Westminster, 35, Marylebone Road, NW1 5LS. If you have not a car the 82 bus will take you straight there.

Norman and Betty Burgess 8346 6337

2. Sunday, March 23rd at the Phoenix Cinema, East Finchley – “The Power of Good” the story of Sir Nicholas Winton.

MEMBERS

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

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

Mrs J Mitchell,N3

C Roy Coombs, Bournemouth

Mr and Mrs F Waters,N3

Dennis Blairman,N11

DONATIONS

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

We thank the following for their generous donations –

Tony McTeare,N3

The Morris family,N12

Anthony Robert and Stuart Baines, N2

Michael Holton,N2

Peter Clayton,Wisbech

Dr and Mrs O Natelson,N12

Mrs Dorothy Fox,N3

Pat Dunnill, N3

Mr and Mrs F Waters,N3

C.Roy Coombs,Bournemouth

Mr and Mrs Bumpus,N3

Peter Nicholson,HADAS.

We urge members who have not yet completed a Gift Aid form to do so. Forms are available from Charlotte Humeat 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

EDITOR – Barbara C Warren

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Copy for the **April** newsletter to reach me by March 15th 2003

We care for Finchley and Friern Barnet

