

Founded 1971  
www.finchleysociety.org.uk

President: Bill Tyler AADipl.ARIBA, IHBC

**APRIL 2003**

no.4/03

**MONTHLY MEETINGS -**

Members are cordially invited to the **April 24<sup>th</sup>** meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 at **7.30** for **8.00pm**. Over 50 members turned up for the last afternoon meeting, including a member who made the journey from near Brighton. Our speaker for this month is Mr Stephen R Krause who will talk on "The History of the Post Boxes in the Finchley Area." This everyday piece of street furniture is often taken for granted. When you look at them and study them, they are very interesting. Mr Krause was given a challenge to do a talk on pillar boxes, and thus a strange hobby was started. It does not cost anything and is very interesting and he says you can wear an anorak if you wish!

**NEWS of the FAMILY**

Happy Birthday to Dorothy Fox, a chairman of the Planning Committee until she withdrew because of failing sight, will be 85 on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Her winning smile can still be seen at most FinSoc functions and Bill Tyler can testify to her dancing ability.

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT.-** Miranda Dunn, 8371 9744, Chairman  
Next meeting will be on **May 19<sup>th</sup>** at Avenue House, Balcony Room, 8.00pm.

*Tree Photographs*

If you have your own photograph of an interesting Finchley or Friern Barnet tree would you kindly let me have a copy.  
*Derek Warren* 020 8346 5252 [barwar@waitrose.com](mailto:barwar@waitrose.com)

**PLANT SALE** in aid of Avenue House at the **Church End Festival** on **May 11<sup>th</sup>** to be held in the grounds of Avenue House **1-00 – 5.00pm**. Plants and helpers for the stall, please call Pat Dunnill on 8349 9825.

**April 17<sup>th</sup>** Thursday.

There will be a walk around the Avenue House Grounds when we shall be looking at the trees, birds and perhaps looking down a well. Please meet at **2.30pm** on the terrace at the back of the house. Finish with a cup of tea at the re-opened kiosk?

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** Thursday.

There will be visit to the Lee Valley to hear the nightingale and the cuckoo sing, and we will be looking for other migrants. Meet at **10.00am** at Fishers Green car park at the end of Stubbins Hall Lane. It is a 3-4 hour visit, so bring some lunch and some binoculars. Further details from *Derek Warren*, 8346 5258.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>. Sunday.**

Meet at Brook Farm, Whetstone, at 4.00am to hear the Dawn Chorus. This is a walk organised by the Friends of Brook farm Open Space. Even if the weather is nice, the grass will probably be wet.

### *Wildlife*

The nice Spring weather in March brought out a bat or two. One was seen mid afternoon flying over the pond in Avenue House Grounds and another at College Farm .

The house sparrows are making their nests along with the blue-tits and blackbirds. The redwings were still about and a blackcap and chiffchaff were singing.

### **DAFFODILS in VICTORIA PARK**

By the hedgerows daffodils danced  
reflecting a joy heaven made.  
Their yellow mirrored the lightness  
like the sun's brightness in God's face.

A yellow primrose caught my eye  
and lifted me into today  
as if God through the smallest thing  
could draw me into his reality.

In the park some people passed by  
out of the church where they'd worshipped.  
The smell of incense drifted high  
and plagued me into memories.

The daffodils beamed joy at me  
from another pathside garden  
I remembered how the yellow  
gives me joy each springtime.

I marvelled – the power of smell,  
but got lost in my haunting dreams:  
tears remembered for a brother,  
and grief in my mother recalled

*by Keith Bootle*

This poem was submitted for a Poetry Competition which was supported by the Society last year.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE** – Chairman, Stephen Cooper, 8445 2685

The next meeting will be on **May 14<sup>th</sup>** at Avenue House, 8.00pm

### *Unitary Development Plan*

London Boroughs are required to have UDPs. Barnet's current plan was adopted in 1991, and in 1999 they started the process of producing another one. First they consulted on draft chapters; then they put the chapters together, and in 2000, produced a Deposit Draft, for comment.

The Finchley Society, and many others, made a large number of objections, and in 2001 the Council issued a Revised Deposit Draft, parts of which were radically different from the first version. There was another round of objections, and at the beginning of the year the Council responded to them, but did not produce a complete redraft .

The next stage was to be a Public Inquiry, scheduled for this summer, at which all objections that had not been satisfactorily resolved were to be heard by an independent inspector. To our consternation, the Council announced the postponement of the Inquiry a few days before the Inspector was due to hold a preliminary meeting. The reasons related to the Planning Bill now before Parliament, which will replace the regime of UDPs to the London Mayor's own Plan, with which Barnet will have to conform, and – probably not least – to the Council's desire not to impose the cost of an Inquiry on those who pay Council Tax.

But our latest information is that the process will be revived in the autumn. So, the Society's work will not be wasted.

The London Mayor's Plan itself is in the process of being finalised. A Draft appeared in June 2002, and is currently the subject of an Examination-in-Public before a small panel of inspectors. That is more of a round-table discussion of the most important aspects of the draft than a formal hearing of all objections.

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies, of which The Finchley Society is a member, is playing a very active part in this process, and we hope that the outcome will be an improved Plan (though, strangely, the Mayor is not bound to take any notice of the Inspector's report). One session on March 20<sup>th</sup> was largely taken up with Brent Cross/Cricklewood, at which people representing Brent Council were vehemently opposed to the Metropolitan Shopping Centre, which was supported by Barnet Council, the Mayor's representative and, naturally, Hammersons.

*Peter Pickering*

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

E-mail: [joda@cromwellhall.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:joda@cromwellhall.freeserve.co.uk)

Next meeting will on **May 1<sup>st</sup>** at 224 Creighton Avenue, N2. Please let Robert know if you would like to come along as an observer.

*Website enquiries*-Sarah Barnby congratulated us on an excellent website and asked if we knew anything about Sayers Hill Cottages in Finchley. Do we?

Does anyone have information on Rathgar House which used to be in Dollis Avenue, N3

Jeanne Swaine e-mailed to say that found the February afternoon meeting interesting. She had come from Hassocks, near Brighton, and would be prepared to come along to other afternoon meetings. Her mother worked in the Operations Room in Avenue House during the war, and as Jeanne has never set foot in the House before she is looking forward to an Open Day.

*New constitution*

Robert looked carefully at our constitution and realised that it needed some revision. He worked with his usual precision and a new document has been prepared and the approval by the Charity Commission will be recorded at the AGM. If anyone would like to view it please ring Robert Winton.

*Newsletter distribution.*

Carol Hall has indicated that she would like to retire from being newsletter distributor. In fact it seems that we will probably need at least four members to carry out her job. She collects from the printers, and divides the letter into bundles before delivering to the postmen. She also has the membership list on her computer which is regularly updated. If you are interested please let David know. This is a most important job.

### **FRIARY HOUSE**

Talks are progressing but forward plans will have to wait until Councillor Michael Freer has made enquiries about legal requirements and financial obligations if a Trust is to be formed. Until then people from the local community cannot be asked if they are willing to become Trustees, but personalities are emerging.

### **AVENUE HOUSE**

I have offered to do some odd jobs in Avenue House, so, if anyone with a saw and hammer would like to join me, please ring – *Derek Warren, 8346 5258*

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.

**ARCHIVES** – Maggie Ferguson- Archive Custodian, 8349 4283.

There will be a regular archive work morning on every **Monday 10.30 – 12.30am** . With just a few people there, including new member Jane Mitchell, work is progressing well. All the pharmaceutical donation has been removed from an upstairs cupboard, and most papers are now in categories carefully positioned on new shelves and in filing cabinets. Now all we have to do is sort out the categories!! There is a huge amount of work still to do. Ring Maggie if you feel like having a fun morning. I am afraid we break off for coffee in the kiosk and have lunch there afterwards.....so far, in the sunshine. The new people there, Simon and Lacey ,are friendly and helpful.

Is there someone who knows where New Road ,N3 was, around in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?

### **WHATS ON**

- Rosanna Taylor is appearing with “Poetic Licence” reading her new work for one night only on Monday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm. This will be at Upstairs at the Gatehouse during the Highgate Festival. Admission £5, cons. £3.
- The Finchley Arts Centre will be holding Open Days in The Bothy Garden in the grounds of the Avenue House Estate, East End Road, N3 on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> form 2,30 – 4.30pm . Refreshments will be available.

The new 48-page edition of Barnet Council’s Guide is out now, available form libraries and or call 8359 4000

### **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.

Dennis Evans,N2

Richard and Barbra Landes,N3

Margaret Harris,N3

Donald Sawyer, Bexhill

### **DONATIONS**

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

We thank the following for their generous donations –

Norma Harris,N3

Mr and Mrs Kay,N20

Donald Sawyer, Bexhill

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

83 Wentworth Avenue, Finchley, London, N3 1YN 020 8346 5258

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

Copy for the **May** newsletter to reach me by **April 15<sup>th</sup> 2003**

*We care for Finchley and Friern Barnet*

