

Founded 1971
www.finchleysociety.org.uk

President: Bill Tyler AADipl.ARIBA, IHBC

MAY 2003

no.5/03

MONTHLY MEETINGS -

Members are cordially invited to the **May 29th** meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 at **7.30** for **8.00pm**. Our speaker for this month is Hugh Petrie on “Beer Houses of East Finchley.”

RADIO MIKE

Those of you who were concerned at the lack of performance of the radio mike at the last meeting will be re-assured to know that we have put in a new battery!

REPORT of the MARCH MEETING - Roz Avery

We had an interesting talk from Mr R W G Smith on behalf of The National Trust about our industrial heritage.

Some of us may have been surprised to learn that the National Trust does not only care for stately homes and gardens. Windmills, watermills, harbours, bridges, parts of canals, mines, lighthouses and part of the only Cape in England (Cape Cornwall) are also owned by the National Trust.

Some of our industrial heritage has featured in the works of our best known artists - Flatford Mill in Suffolk (including Willy Lott's cottage) was painted by Constable in “The Haywain” and Turner painted “The Mill at Aberdulais” near Swansea.

Lord Armstrong of Craggside, Northumberland was described as having “water on the brain”. His was the first house to be lit by electricity generated from water-power and he used electricity to “revolve” fruit trees to face the sun! The National Trust continued in this vein at Craggside by providing a water and solar-powered toilet block. We think that Lord Armstrong would have approved.

JULY JAMBOREE - on Saturday evening July 5th 2003

This year we are going to the lovely little village of Finchampstead in Berkshire. It is on a Roman road near the Berkshire/Surrey border between the M3 and M4 motorways.

We are eating at a 16th /17th century inn which used to be called The White Horse until Queen Victoria changed it's name to The Queen's Oak, as it is still known. There will be a choice of main courses. Please see the booking form.

Last years Jubilee Jaunt was greatly enjoyed, so we look forward to seeing you.

Shirley Avery - 8346 8484

Unfortunately the Isle of Wight and the Norfolk visit had to be cancelled due to lack of interest from us and the backup from a gardening society.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE - *Robert Winton - Secretary*

Nomination forms for election to the Society Executive Committee 2003, as Officers or Committee Members, are available from me at 224, Creighton Avenue, East Finchley, N2 9BD (8883 2633) not later than **June 12th** for election at the AGM on June 26th.

Members attending the AGM will be asked to approve a revised Society Constitution as recommended by the Executive Committee. Copies of the Constitution, which has been approved by the Charity Commissioners, will be available at the AGM, but on request may be obtained from me in advance.

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

PLANT SALE in aid of Avenue House at the **Church End Festival** on **May 11th** to be held in the grounds of Avenue House **1-00 - 5.00pm**. Plants(more needed) and helpers for the stall for an hour or so, please call Pat Dunnill on 8349 9825.

Wildlife

The bluebell is named as the UK's national wild flower emblem, and now you can vote for the county flower before the end of October. For London it is between the rosebay willowherb and the London rocket. The London Wildlife Trust suggest that if you are interested you should contact www.plantlife.org.uk

PLANNING COMMITTEE - Chairman, Stephen Cooper, 8445 2685

The North Finchley "Arts Depot" - Concern has been expressed at the lack of pavement area around, and the music side of the arts are worried about the acoustic behaviour in performance.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE - David Smith, 8883 4154.

E-mail:joda@cromwellhall.freeserve.co.uk

Next meeting will on **July 3rd** at 17 Abbots Gardens, N2. Please let David know if you would like to come along as an observer.

Website enquiries

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

A reply came from Donald Sawyer who lives at Bexhill-on-Sea.

He says - “I have a little information: not very much, though. It was, in fact, just ‘Rathgar’, a large house which we could see from our back bedroom window in the flat above Kinghams’ the grocery shop in Hendon Lane. Our back yard backed on to the garden of Rathgar. We had only to step out of the shop, walk some 25 yards or so down Hendon Lane, turn right and continue for 100 yards down Dollis Avenue, and there we would be under the magnificent chestnut trees, overhanging from the front garden of Rathgar. A prolific source of conkers in the autumn.

Rathgar was occupied only intermittently. I have spoken to my brother this morning about this house. He remembers, as I do, that it belonged to the Steinway (pianos) family, or to someone connected to that family. He can remember going to the tradesmen's entrance to deliver small items of grocery, though the occupants were not regular customers of Kinghams.

John and I were early morning paper-round boys for Mr Fill, the newsagent in Hendon Lane and our rounds took us down Dollis Avenue, Hendon Avenue, and surrounding rounds. But we did not deliver newspapers to Rathgar.

There was one peculiarity of the structure of the house, which stood out from the view from our flat. Perched on the top of the house was a not-quite-a-cupola type room, square at the base, but with a rounded roof which was green in colour; possibly a copper clad roof.

I cannot remember the going of Rathgar. I think it must have been demolished just before the war, to give way to new houses and Rathgar Close. The horse-chestnut trees may still be there.

Newsletter distribution.

There has not been a mad rush for someone to take over the newsletter distribution from me, but we really do need a volunteer/s. By having postmen delivering 30 different rounds we save the Society many pounds in postage, which otherwise would mean that subs would have to rise.

I am not anticipating disappearing off the face of the earth, and would be more than happy to assist in the handover and perhaps initially the job could be done in tandem. Please call me on 8445 6172 to discuss how you can help.

Carol Halls

AVENUE HOUSE

Janett Durrant has been working hard to improve Avenue House and the Grounds. She has bought £170 worth of water margin plants for the pond. However, within a couple of weeks they were stolen and with them all the frog spawn. Then one of the ducks was shot. How sad that there are people living about us who can do such things!

May 11th - don't forget to come along to the Church End Festival 1 - 5 pm.

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.

Archive work morning on most **Mondays 10.30 - 12.30am**, when you will find 2-3 members sorting things out. We have now removed all the 25 portraits of Finchley Mayors from upstairs to the basement (57 steps says Derek) where they are lying against a wall looking slightly despondent, until we can find a more dignified resting area for them!

Please ring Maggie before you visit to ensure that there is someone there.

WHATS ON

- Talks at the library - Church End Library -
May 19th "Charles Dickens and London." by Pauline Drayson

June 16th "Stamps of Great Britain".by Brian Merryweather.

- The Finchley Arts Centre Trust will be holding Open Days in The Bothy Garden in the grounds of the Avenue House Estate, East End Road, N3 on **May 18th and 25th** from 2.30 - 4.30pm . Refreshments will be available.
- The Middlesex Society are having a coach trip to Audley End House on Saturday June 7th Members £10, non-members £11. If you would like to join them please ring Miss M Hamilton on 8868 6308 before the 12th May.
- **June 15th** - a walk through the Totteridge Valley with the RSPB, starting from Totteridge Church at 2.30pm.

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.

Pat Forder and Liz Perkins,N3

Mrs Patricia Perkin,N3

DONATIONS

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

We thank the following for their generous donations -

Bill Williams,Eastbourne

Arthur Philbey,N2

Mr L Beltran, Haslemere

Miss Margaret Pacey,N2

Stephen Corcoran,N12

Mrs J Hodges,N12

Norman and Betty Burgess,N3

Mr R Buchanan,N3

Noel Lynch.N2

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

EDITOR - Barbara C Warren

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e-mail: barwar@waitrose.com

My sincere thanks to Stephen Yeo for his technical help in the preparation of this month's newsletter.

Copy for the **June** newsletter to reach Stephen Yeo by **May 15th 2003** at 2, Torrington Grove, Finchley. London N12 9NA, 84459827, jsyeo@compuserve.com

We care for Finchley and Friern Barnet

