

Founded 1971

www.finchleysociety.org.uk

President: Bill Tyler AADipl. ARIBA. IHBC

OCTOBER 2003

MONTHLY MEETING

Members are cordially invited to the **October 30th** meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 at **7.30pm for 8.00pm**. This is our **Jean Scott** memorial lecture and we are expecting a large crowd. Our speaker this month is Miss Ros Ward, manager of the Unitary Development Plan for the last three years. She will talk of the role of the Council in planning the future of Barnet, the issues that need to be addressed and the importance of participatory planning.

As a society we take a great interest in the UDP and regularly send our comments on the plan being produced at the time.

- Please note that the November, January and February meetings will be in the afternoon.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

These are held regularly, usually at Avenue House, and we would warmly welcome any member who would like to turn up and contribute to discussions taking place. You might have a one-off problem that you feel would benefit from being brought up before one of our committees. There is no need to let us know, except when the meeting is being held at a private house, when a phone call would be courteous.

COACH OUTINGS

The outing to Maldon has been cancelled due to lack of interest. There will be no more outings organised for members in the future. We must give a huge thank you to Shirley Avery who has organised our trips over many years to some really outstanding places. This has meant a great deal of hard work and planning.

However Shirley is not one to retire easily and she is already helping Carol with the newsletter distribution.

NEWS of the FAMILY

Congratulations to Norman and Betty Burgess who celebrated their 50 years of marriage in style at Avenue House last month.

ENVIRONMENT and TRANSPORT – Chairman, Miranda Dunn, 8371 9744.

Next meeting at Avenue House 8.00pm is on November 17th

The Largest Tree?

Where is the largest tree in Finchley and Friern Barnet? It is very difficult to measure the height so I have been checking the girth. To do this, I measure around the circumference at about 1.5m above ground avoiding any lumps or bumps.

There is a large Hungarian Oak in Avenue House Grounds, on the boundary near the playground, with a girth of 4.47m (14ft 6ins), but the largest tree that I have discovered so far is a Common Oak at the NW corner of Friary Park near the dip in Friary Road. This tree has a girth of 5.95m (19ft 6ins) There are several large oaks in this park amongst many other fine trees. It would be interesting to know of the largest tree of each species. *Derek Warren*

Other Trees

Every Year Ann Gallon compiles a list of spaces in the street where trees have been cut down, vandalised or died (or even never been planted). This is sent to the Tree Officer LBB and replacement trees are planted. This is the time of the year when Ann needs information from you about the state of the trees in your road. This is especially important this year when many trees have suffered from the dry summer Please contact her on 020 8346 8533.

Graffiti, litter, fly-posting, abandoned cars.

The Committee has responded to the Chairman of the London Assembly's Environment Committee who are gathering information on the above. We are glad that at last the government, both local and capital, are taking notice of the distress caused by unsightliness and squalor. Rob Russell, Graffiti Co-ordinator LBB, 020 8359 7499, tells me that the best way to deal with graffiti is to remove it AT ONCE. He can offer free paint and a graffiti-busting bucket! We were glad to report that Barnet is also coping with the problem of abandoned cars, but need you to tell them where they are, 020 8359 4600. In the meantime, it is up to us. Remove all fly-posting you see and pick up litter and deposit in the nearest wheelie bin (washing your hands well afterwards) Remember it is YOUR environment.

263 BusTime-keeping

From the most recently recorded 300 or so intervals between successive 263s moving in the same direction, the average number of 263s travelling in pairs has improved slightly from the 14% in pairs for the first 9 months of Metroline operation. The number moving in pairs seems to have stabilized at around 9-10% of all 263s.

However, after sending off our data to Metroline in late August, we found that time-keeping suddenly deteriorated from 25th August, when the 9=10% running in pairs jumped up to 26%, which was maintained into September.

Peter Crockford

English Heritage

The population of London is 7.4millions(15% of England). English Heritage reports that in the London Region there are nearly 50,000 listed buildings or structures, 150 scheduled monuments and 881 conservation areas. There are over 600 Squares, of which 461 are protected from development; there are over 142 registered parks and gardens; and there is part of one registered historic battlefield (Barnet). In English Heritage's report on their plan for London over the next two years, they say that they will restore some of the most important and complex cases in their "Buildings at Risk" register. One of them is College Farm.

Empty Homes

If you know of a home that has been empty for a year or more please let Helen Turner LBB know on 020 8359 4560 or e-mail her on helen.turner@barnet.gov.uk.

PLANNING COMMITTEE – Chairman, Stephen Cooper, 8445 2685

Next meetings, November 10th at Avenue House 8.00pm. Why not visit and see what goes on. Let Stephen know so that the right number of coffee cups are available!

Planning Committee membership. The Finchley Society is nothing if it does not keep an eye on the local built environment. We are in need of more members, to help us consider the more contentious planning issues. Any Finchley Society member, with or without experience of the planning system, who can afford a little time to look at and give an opinion on local applications, is most welcome to join us on our committee.

Stephen Cooper - stephetherc@waitrose.com

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Chairman, David Smith, 8883 4154

Coffee morning

The Finchley Society Chairman invites you to her home for coffee 10.00 – 12.00am on Saturday morning October 18th, where there will also be a bookstall and paintings by local artists for sale 83 Wentworth Avenue, N3. 020 8346 5258

Finchley Remembered.

The book is still available, and indeed more copies have been ordered from the printers (in time for Christmas). Copies for sale at our monthly meetings, or ring David Smith 8883 4154.

ARCHIVES – Maggie Ferguson – Archive Custodian, 8349 4283

Archive work mornings on most **Mondays 10.30 – 12.30am.**

Newsletter Archive

We are seriously indebted to Stephen Yeo (assistant editor) who has doggedly transformed the past newsletters to electronic format, and Nigel Doe (treasurer) who has put them on to the web-site. Click on to “What’s New” and select the year. It is totally fascinating. In 1987 Rabbi Blue entertained us with a talk and during his observations on moving, with some misgivings, to suburban life was reassured that Finchley was a good place to live in with “*front gardens which give pleasure to the passer-by and are carefully tended*”. What a pity that this does not apply today. Still. I suppose a neat row of bricks with a beloved family car parked on its clean surface is better than the usual waist-high weeds and old mattresses that adorn so many of our front gardens.

All this has meant an enormous amount of hard work, and their talent and dedication is truly recognised as being “beyond the call of duty”.

We had a visit from Hugh Petrie, the Borough historian, to the Avenue House basement, one Monday and he gave us the benefit of his experience. His advice was invaluable and he will be helping us in every way he can.

WHATS ON

- *The Stephens Collection*

will be launching their museum Support Group at the inaugural meeting at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 **on Friday, October 10th 5.00 – 7.00pm.** All are welcome.

- *The New End Theatre, Hampstead Village.*

October 14th – November 8. “Problem Child” by George Walker of Toronto, Canada. £13
Established in 1974 this 84 seat theatre has just undergone a theatre refurbishment to include new and comfortable individual seats with improved leg space.

- *Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association*

Wednesday, November 26th...Historical postcards of Hornsey and Muswell Hill – Hugh Garnsworthy. Friends Meeting House, Church Crescent, 8.00pm

- *The Church Farmhouse Museum*

October – February...an exhibition about Spike Milligan- comedian, author, Goon, former Finchley resident and Patron of The Finchley Society.

Church End Agenda 21 Partnership

October 9th at Avenue House – meeting to discuss the content of a conference planned for next year on “The Quality of the Local Town Centre Environment” – to cover as many aspects as possible and how we can restore our pride in the hub of our local shopping area . All are welcome.

EVENTS SECRETARY

Unfortunately Josie Robertson has indicated her wish to retire as events organiser and this position is now vacant. Although she has completed the talks programme for next year (and this is always done with a small committee) we are in urgent need of someone to take this on.

MEMBERS

Membership Secretary...Lynn Bresler, 30, Birkbeck Road, N 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.

Dr Abby James,N11 Mrs D C Simmonds,Wc1 David S Cooper, Emsworth

DONATIONS

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

We thank the following for their generous donations –

Mrs Grace Cowie,Nw11 Kurt Weinberg,N3 Shirley Avery,N3
Peter Pickering,N12 John N Thompson,N3 Stephen Corcoran,N12

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.

EDITOR – Barbara C Warren, 83 Wentworth Avenue, Finchley, London N3 1YN...020 8346 5258...e-mail: barwar@waitrose.com

I have had sent to me two articles to be included in the newsletter which, though interesting and important, are rather too long for my target of 4 sides per month. One is from WOW – Warning on Waitrose and comprises a comprehensive argument for not having a Waitrose supermarket in the High Road at East Finchley. Please contact WOW at 22a, Aylmer Parade, N2 OPH

The other is from Ollie Natelson and is a fascinating history of Friern Barnet Town Hall and plans to put in a museum indicating the pressures put on ordinary people during war. In a later issue this could perhaps be condensed, but contact Ollie with your memories and further information on 8361 2496

Copy for **November** newsletter to reach me by **October 15th**

We care for Finchley and Friern Barnet

