

Avenue House, 17, East End Road, Finchley, N3 3QE.  
www.finchleysociety.org.uk

020 8343 3180

President: Bill Tyler AADipl.ARIBA.IHBC

Founded 1971

## OCTOBER 2004

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Members are warmly invited to the Thursday, **October 28th**, meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 at **8pm**. It will be the **Jean Scott Memorial Lecture** and Janett Durrant, the House Manager of the Avenue House Estate Trust, will talk about this unique property left to the people of Finchley by Henry Stephens of Stephens Ink fame. Janett is well known to us as she deals with the running of the Estate with flair and imagination, and sheer determination to make the estate pay its way. After nearly two decades of campaigning for the house to be returned to the people, on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2002 a dream came true.

### WANTED URGENTLY

- **A CHAIRMAN for the Environment and Transport Committee**

This committee deals with wildlife and open spaces, CPZs and street furniture, recycling, trees and vehicle surveys.

Please come forward and offer your services as soon as possible. *Barbara C Warren 020 8346 5258 or [barwar@waitrose.com](mailto:barwar@waitrose.com)*

### NEWS of the FAMILY

Sadly Peggy Wells has died aged 94. Right up to her death in Barnet Hospital after an operation on a hip damaged by a fall, she was an active member of the Environment and Transport Committee, where she kept us on track on anything to do with the Finchley Village. She had lived in the Village practically all her life and was a mine of information. She loved the place and was its 'matriarch', storing the archives in her delightful home, where we gathered after her funeral on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

We are happy to announce that the post of Secretary of the Planning Committee has been filled by Mrs L K Farmer. We are grateful for her offer and the committee are looking forward to her working with them.

### FINCHLEY LOCAL HISTORY.

It is proposed to bring together a new group within the Society for all enthusiastic researchers, whether professional or amateur, so that original research work can be started up. Our Society archives based at Avenue House have many unique features waiting to be explored.

Any members who are interested are asked to contact David Marcus at 31, Courthouse Gardens, Finchley, London N3 1PU...phone 020 8346 1734 or 020 8343 3180 or e-mail: [d.marcus1@ntlworld.com](mailto:d.marcus1@ntlworld.com)

### AVENUE HOUSE

Janett is asking that you come for a trip down memory lane and join in the songs of yesteryear. **The Good Old Days** will bring in the mood of the music hall with songs sung by one of the singers from the BBC show. All you have to do is show up on **Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup>** with a fancy hat of the era and several friends, and pay £25 each, which will include a hot/cold buffet and wine. Call in on Avenue House or call 8346 7812 to book your place. All profits go towards the children's play area.

(AHEM are still short of the money needed for the play area so you might like to donate something towards this. Ed.)

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

We are very happy to report that we now have a programme secretary, Mrs Sakina Jetha, of Templars Crescent, who is the wife of our new Treasurer. The monthly programme plans for next year are already underway and look excellent.

***The Spike Milligan Statue Fund***

Committee members are –

Barbara Warren	Chairman	Jane Milligan
David Smith	Secretary	Derek Warren
Silé Milligan	Treasurer	

Co-opted members when necessary.

John Somerville, the famous local sculptor is working on a model, with Spike seated on a bench, which seems to change at every meeting with suggestions from us and Spike's two daughters. The selection of the site, on the frontage of Avenue House, has been received with delight by the Avenue House Estate Management, but needs to meet the approval of the landowners (LBB), and the Charity Commissioners. We have 15 nationally renowned Patrons, and other entertainment figures are volunteering their help. The Finchley Society are proud to be instigating this national monument and work of art. A web site is being constructed.

We can accept donations now and these should be sent to Silé Milligan at 17 Abbots Gardens, N2 OJG. Cheques to be made out to The Spike Milligan Statue Fund.

The ***Christmas meeting*** will be on **Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**, and will run on familiar lines...food, wine and soft drinks, raffle, Christmas music and a quiz, in the evocative surroundings of Avenue House decorated for Christmas.

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

***Feed the birds***

You are invited to a "Feed the Birds Day" on October 30<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm – 4.00pm when the NWLondon Group of the RSPB welcome you to come and have a look at the feeders hanging in Avenue House Grounds. A telescope will be available for close-up views and information will be provided about the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

***Walks***

Is there anyone who would like to lead us around their favourite part of London?

***Committee Report***

At the last meeting discussions took place on -

- anti-social behaviour, particularly with regard to fireworks and disturbances from pubs...noise from loud music late at night and at closing time. Concern was raised at the proposed extension times of licensing hours for public houses, particularly at North Finchley, and how poorly these applications are advertised.
- the poor performance of the 263 buses and the Northern Line trains.

If you have any comments please let us know.

**BARNET CIVIC NETWORK**

On Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October (from 4.45 – 7.30pm followed by refreshments) there will be a meeting of the Barnet Civic Network at Building 5, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP, on the theme of 'community safety' – (crime and the like). The Society is an active member of the recently founded Network, which is designed to provide a mechanism for Barnet Council and other public bodies to come together with community representations to report on progress and hear suggestions for how they should perform in future.

Peter Pickering is our usual representative on the Network, but the Society is not limited to one representative (though of course there is not unlimited space) and Peter is unsure whether he will be able to attend this time. If any other member is interested, please get in touch with Peter at 020 8445 2807 or [pe.pickering@virgin.net](mailto:pe.pickering@virgin.net) by 10<sup>th</sup> October.

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

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

After the summer recess we are back again, sorting through papers and photographs, answering calls which come through the web-site and on the answer-phone, and recording on the computer. If you see some change taking place in your area, such as a building being demolished or a tree coming down, then do take a photograph of it as a record for our archives. For example....I have just taken a photo of the house and car showroom opposite Victoria Park in Ballards Lane. This section between the Police Station and Gruneison Road is to be rebuilt, and I believe that the car showroom building once housed the first cinema in Finchley. If you do not have a camera please contact me.

*Derek Warren 020 8346 5258 [barwar@waitrose.com](mailto:barwar@waitrose.com)*

#### ***From the web-site***

A Mr Anthony Byles is writing a book about the fraudulent 1844 Derby. He thought we might be interested in the following –

*An undesirable character by the name of Goodman bought a yearling horse, named Maccabeus, which had been entered for the 1843 Derby (a race for 3 year olds). He also purchased a colt foal, named Running Rein, which was entered for the 1844 Derby. The two horses were almost identical in appearance.*

*Goodman used Maccabeus (now a 4 year old) to impersonate the genuine Running Rein. As expected Maccabeus won easily. There were suspicions and the race was eventually awarded to the horse who came in second. There was a court case to prove the fraud.*

*During the period between the purchase of the horses and the Derby of 1844 the genuine Running Rein was kept in a paddock in Finchley, owned by a Mr Bean. His place was adjacent to Finchley Lodge owned by a Mr Musson. The case notes that I was fortunate to come by refers to Running Rein sometimes straying into Mr Musson's field.*

*You can read more detail on the story in Michael Seth's book "Lord Paramount of the Turf" which is about Lord George Bentinck.*

Nigel Doe.

Drop in and see us at work on a Monday morning. Coffee and chocolate biscuits at 11.00am if you are in the vicinity.

#### **DID YOU KNOW**

....that, when it opened in the 1860's Finchley Central Station was called Church End and only changed its name to the present title in 1940. East Finchley also underwent a name change but a little sooner. Originally this was East End but the station name was altered in 1873.

At the present time there are 8 ways for members of the public to cross the railway line between Finchley Central and East Finchley stations. It is a pretty safe bet that the majority of local people will be unaware of at least one of them. Starting at East Finchley, we come first to the bridge that carries East End Road across, at a sharp bend near Deans Way. Then, just a short way along to a pedestrian bridge, crossing between Prospect Place and Prospect Ring. Soon after this, another crossing for those on foot, at the end of Stanley Road. Next, another bridge, in Church Lane, followed a few hundred yards down the line by a surprise. On the northern side by Manor Park Road there is a narrow pedestrian subway, which twists down

under the line to emerge in Trinity Road. Number six is the North Circular Road which thunders overhead, night and day. Another well kept secret is the pedestrian section of the bridge that runs from the top of Rosemary Avenue, over the line and down alongside Long Lane Pasture into Long Lane, near the Fire Station. The last crossing is the busy road bridge , at the end of Squires Lane. **Now go off and explore.**

*Tony McTeare*

### **WHAT'S ON**

*Friends of Barnet Borough Libraries, 8.00 for 8.15pm*

Monday, 18 October "Reminiscences of a London Florist" by Audrey Baker. (Audrey does the wedding and Christmas decorations for Avenue House. Ed.)

Monday, 15 November "A Thousand Yesterdays are Gathered Here." By Yasmin Webb LBB Local Studies Manager.

### **MEMBERS**

Membership Secretary...Lynn Bresler, 30, Birkbeck Road, N Finchley, N12 8DZ...020 8446 6249, e-mail :lynnbresler@aol.com

We welcome the following new members –

Aziz and Sakina Jetha, N3                      Sheila Armstrong, N2                      Mrs Irene Peel, N3

If you are able to come to the monthly meeting, please introduce yourselves. The newsletter is always looking to promote new ideas so please write to the editor with yours.

### **TREASURER**

We have been very fortunate in finding the husband and wife team of Aziz and Sakina Jethra. Aziz has taken the post of Treasurer and all correspondence to go to 2, Templars Crescent, N3 3QS 020 8346 2286. We are happy to have both of them on board and hope that they will be very happy with us.

Donations

Mrs Grace Cowie, NW11	Colin Sprowson, N12	A Roberts and S Baines, N2
LH Beltran, Haslemere	C Roy Cooms, Bournemouth	Stephen Corcoran, N12
Mrs J Hodges, N12	Miss Margaret Pacey, N2	Arthur Philbey, N2
Helga Hatchett, N3	Andrea Whittaker, N3	R and H Winton, N2
Kurt Weinburg, N3	Roz Avery, N3	Norman Bar, N12
Mrs M Randall, N3	Councillor L Sussman, N3	Norman and Betty Burgess
Ian Murphy, N12	Miss Ruth Lea, N3	Mr and Mrs D Tofield
Mrs Margaret Evans, N12	Mr and Mrs J Kay, N20	Miss Shelley Sanders, N2
Mrs Marjorie Bridges, NW11	TP Frewin, N3	Mrs B Coffey, N20
E Morgan, NW2	R Hunter, N12	

Many thanks to all the members who not only changed their standing orders but made a donation at the same time. We are supported entirely by subscription and without our membership and their generosity the aims of the society could not be met.

**EDITOR** – Barbara C Warren

**Please note ....contributions for the November newsletter to Carol Halls, 1, Finchley Villas, Finchley Park, Finchley, N12 9JT 020 8445 6172 by October 15th**