

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

020 8343 3180

President: Bill Tyler AADipl. ARIBA. IHBC

Founded February 11th 1971

MAY 2004

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Members are warmly invited to the Thursday, **May 27th**, meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 at **8pm**. Our old friend Tony Rook will be entertaining us with his account of two famous Buried Cities, namely Pompeii and Herculaneum, illustrated with slides.

In our annual programme we always try to include one topic that takes us away from our immediate environment. This year we fly off to the sunny slopes of Mount Vesuvius for Tony's overview of the life and death of these two famous cities. He has spoken to us on four previous occasions so members will already know the quality of his talks and the gusto with which they are delivered. Avoid being disappointed by arriving early (only the first 75 will get a seat!) and enjoy the evening.

Is there anybody who would like to play the piano before the meetings ? It is our piano, generously donated by Michael Gerson, and it is such a shame not to use it, and it adds such ambience to the assembly.

UNVEILING of a PLAQUE in MEMORY of SPIKE MILLIGAN

You are invited to attend a ceremony at 11.00am on Saturday, May 22nd, when Silé and Jane Milligan will unveil a plaque to their father at the site of the former family home in Holden Road. The location is near the pillar-box just north of no. 115 Holden Road and opposite 'Barchester Lodge'. Please use public transport or walk to the ceremony if you can, or park in Brook Meadow, adjacent to the site. **DO NOT PARK IN HOLDEN ROAD; it is congested at normal times and we must keep the traffic flowing.**

We shall be honoured by the attendance of many members of the Milligan family and especially by the new Mayor of LBB, Cllr. Wendy Prentice, by Sir Sydney Chapman MP, by the Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Barnet, Major Paddy O'Brien and by local Councillors.

The Society is indebted to Mr Charles Normand, the owner of the property that now stands on the site of 127 Holden Road, who has given permission for the plaque to be placed on his house wall. We also record our thanks to Peter Marsh for having designed the plaque and submitting it for planning permission.

After the ceremony there will be light refreshments in the Clubhouse at the Old Finchleians' Memorial Ground in Southover from about 11.30am to 12.00noon. We are reliably informed that, in true O.F. tradition the bar will be open to FinSoc members. The club contains a wealth of photos and memorabilia about Christ's College and the club which is celebrating its centenary this year.

REPORT of the MARCH MEETING

We had an enlightening talk, which, hopefully left us all fired up to recycle more. On average each household produces a tonne of waste each year, which costs the Borough £3.2 million to get rid of. Currently Barnet recycles 8% of our waste and the target is for 18% this year. This is what can be recycled at the Summers Lane Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre.

Car batteries – the acid is removed and its component parts are recycled.

Furniture – redistributed to low income families.

Wood – chipped and used in animal bedding products.

Material – good quality clothing to Oxfam, remainder shredded and used for furniture filling.

Garden waste – compost

Fluorescent light bulb tubes – mercury safely removed and component parts recycled.

Car tyres – good quality made into retreads, others shredded and made into road surfaces.

Plastic bottles – fleece garments, amongst other things.

Paper – pulped and recycled.

Glass – made into more bottles, jars and tableware.

Books – to charities for sale.

Paint (not more than 2 years old) – into a project for schools/charities.

Also cardboard, gas bottles, scrap metal, electrical goods and engine oil.

The Summers Lane site is open Mondays to Saturdays 8.00am – 4.00pm. Sundays and bank holidays (except Christmas Day and Boxing Day) 9.00am – 4.00pm

Roz Avery

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Nomination forms for election to the Society Executive Committee 2004/5, as officers or committee members, at the Annual General Meeting on June 24th, are available from me at 224, Creighton Avenue, East Finchley, N2 9BD...8883 2633. Completed forms must reach me not later than JUNE 10th

Robert Winton – Hon Secretary

WANTED

We are very much in need of a **TREASURER** and for someone to deal with our insurance. Although Nigel will be with us until the AGM, already his other commitments are making him unavailable, and invoices are being dealt with by Robert Winton. Robert has nobly stepped in with this crisis and has also quietly dealt with the insurance over a number of years though it is not his forté. We cannot allow this state of affairs to continue, for Robert's sake, and a Society of this size should be able to field a Treasurer. Please come forward and offer your services as soon as possible.

Barbara C Warren 020 8346 5258 or barwar@waitrose.com

REVIEW of SOCIETY SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Executive Committee has decided on an increase in the subscriptions from £7 to £9 as from July 1st. The last increase was in May 1995. This increase has become necessary as our reserves are being eaten into and the 2004/5 budgeted deficit will eat into them even further. Society expenses have increased, and, although the annual income is about equal to annual overheads eg. room hire, insurance, newsletter printing, administration, inflation etc. this leaves us very little room to deal with possible relatively large expenditure on legal costs connected with planning applications. An increase now is in the best long term interests of the Society.

NEWS of the FAMILY

Hilda Clark from Shipham rang me to keep up with the local gossip. She is a Finchley Society member living in Somerset and is always pleased to receive the newsletter. They have celebrated the Cadmium scare of 50 years ago when Ron Penn (Janett Durrant's brother) was very much involved in the villagers' revolt against the government's plans to remove the villagers from their homes. They have re-issued the booklet containing the diaries and memories of that time, and this will go into the archives. She wishes us all well.

PLANNING COMMITTEE – Chairman, Stephen Cooper, 8445 2685

Next meetings, May 10th, July 12th, September 13th and November 8th at Avenue House 8.00pm.

FINCHLEY LOCAL HISTORY.

Finchley is one of the few London areas that does not have a local dedicated history group.

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. As last month's newsletter reminded us, we have a very rich local archive, now at Daws Lane, and of course our own Society archives 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

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Chairman, David Smith, 8883 4154

We shall be holding our first ever Annual Dinner on Thursday, July 8th. It will take place in the Drawing Room at Avenue House. Our Guest of Honour will be Dr Rudi Vis M.P. The silver service menu will be provided by Pierre, Resident Chef at Avenue House.

This event replaces the July coach outings to a dinner venue of the past three years and is no more expensive (£25 excluding drinks). An additional fact is that our event will show our continuing support for the Avenue House Trustees.

We do hope that members will support this venture and will book early so that we know the support is there. If you are hesitating about making a booking for one, please go ahead and make it: there will be others! There is a maximum of 60 guests for the room. After that there will be a waiting list.

The menu and order form are on a separate sheet accompanying this newsletter. If you have any queries please phone David Smith.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Dollis Brook – 2004

Our survey continues with reports of pheasant and muntjac deer at Brook Farm Open Space, several sightings of the kingfisher at Windsor Open Space and 4 species of butterfly all by the end of March.

By the middle of April there were wood anemone, jack-by-the-hedge, cow parsley, hogweed and ramson in flower.

Let me know if you would like to join us on a survey...just a pleasant 2 hour walk along a section of the brook.

Derek Warren, 020 8346 5258...barwar@waitrose.com.

Church End Festival – Sunday, May 9th

We are organising a plant stall and Pat Dunnill, the driving force behind this, wishes to remind all FinSoc gardeners to grow seedlings, plants and cuttings in preparation. As with many other of our members Pat wears another hat for Save-the-Children, so we will want help on the day from mid-day to 5.00pm. to operate the stalls for just an hour or two. Contact her at 020 8349 9825. She recommends that it would be good to use a peat-free multi-purpose compost which she buys from a Base near you.

Coppetts Wood Woodland Festival – May 16th 2-4pm. Oliver Natelson 8361 2496

ARCHIVES – Maggie Ferguson – Archive Custodian, 8349 4283

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

We could do with an old table roughly 6 foot in length and not too wide for working on. Thanks to Peter Marsh we now have a fully equipped computer desk which holds all our machines.

Our latest acquisition has been the foundation stone from the demolished old Finchley County school and a lead hopper head both bearing the date 1903. These items are 100 years old and

are sitting near our pride and joy...the computer and all the relevant communication systems that have brought us into the 21st century 100 years later.

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WHATS ON

The Muswell Hill Festival has been saved and will be on June 13th. Because this will clash with the date of our Highgate Wood walk the date of the walk has been changed to June 6th. Meet at the café at 3.00pm. This is a joint venture with Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association.

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society

Sunday, May 23rd..... Glebelands Circular Tour,N12, lasting about 1 hr. Meet 2pm at junction Summers Lane and Upway....£1.

Sunday June 6th.....Friary Park and St James Church and cemetery tour lasting about 2 hrs. Meet 2pm by the statue near the main entrance to Friary Park from Friern Barnet Lane ...£1.

Gordon Road Allotments, N3.

You are invited to the annual plant sale at the Gordon Road allotments on Sunday May 16th from 10.00am – 12 noon. There will be a combination of annuals and perennials as well as vegetables and herbs. The plants are always high quality: the flowers are ready to plant out.

Concert –Sunday, May16th – St Mary’s Church, Hendon Lane, N3 , 8.00pm

A celebration of Emanuel Hertz CBE 85th birthday and in aid of the Emanuel Hertz Chamber Music Charitable Fund to help musicians attend masterclasses and summerschools. Tickets £15 from Miriam Keogh 020 8346 4827 or e-mail:miriamkeogh@waitrose.com

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 and ask them to make themselves known at our monthly meet,ings-

Mrs L Salmon, N3

Mrs Sarah Rubin, NW11

Tony Sarchet,N3

We are grateful to the following who have made generous donations –

Mari I Anson, N3

Richard Buchanan, N3

Rosanna Taylor, N3

TREASURER

Nigel Doe will not be standing for re-election at the AGM. If anyone interested please contact Robert Winton 8883 2633. 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

Copy for the **JUNE** newsletter to be sent to me by **May 15**

