

Founded 1971
www.finchleysociety.org.uk

President: Bill Tyler ARIBA, IHBC

50p

FREE TO MEMBERS

January 2005

No. 1/05

Monthly Meeting – 27 January 2005 at 2.30 p.m.

Members are cordially invited to the Society's monthly meeting at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley N3, on 27 January at 2.30 p.m. Bill Tyler will show some slides and talk about "Dead Woman's Pass to Machu Picchu", a sponsored walk he recently completed, in aid of the Autistic Society.

*For the latest information on Finchley Society meetings go to
www.finchleysociety.org.uk/programme.htm
For more information about Avenue House, go to
www.finchleysociety.org.uk/avenue_house_estate.htm*

Finchley 1454, Rotherhithe 1352

Geoffrey Grant writes ...

The following extract from the Public Ledger (a newspaper) of August 9 1773 may be of interest to Society members:

"Thursday evening a remarkable match at trapball was finished, after two days play, at the Jamaica House, Rotherhithe, between the Gentlemen of Finchley and Paddington, and the Gentlemen of Rotherhithe, when the former beat the latter by 102 notches. The Rotherhithe players won the first innings. The five on the Finchley side were allowed the best batsmen in England, but the Rotherhithe players excelled them much in the field. The whole notches were:

*Finchley 1454
Rotherhithe 1352
 102"*

What is trapball? A quick internet search reveals:

- "an old game in which a ball placed on the hollowed end of a trap is thrown into the air by striking the other end of the trap with a bat and then driven to a distance with the bat."
- "the ball used in this game"

- "a wooden instrument shaped somewhat like a shoe, used in the game of trapball. It consists of a pivoted arm on one end of which is placed the ball to be thrown into the air by striking the other end. Also, a machine for throwing into the air glass balls, clay pigeons, etc., to be shot at."

Local History Group Meets in February

The Finchley Local History Group of the Finchley Society will meet at Avenue House on Thursday, 10 February at 8 pm. Speakers will include Maggie Ferguson, Hugh Petrie and Yasmin Webb.

David Marcus (d.marcus1@ntlworld.com)

Membership Secretary

We are happy to announce that the post of Membership Secretary has been filled by Tony Roberts. He can be contacted

- on 8883 5954 (before 6 p.m.)
- at info@tonylondon.fsnet.co.uk
- or via his website, www.tonylondon.fsnet.co.uk

Peggy Wells

Philip Wilson writes ...

I recently read in my local newspaper that Peggy Wells had died.

Until 1991 I was part of the Planning Department of the London Borough of Barnet dealing with – among other things – conservation areas and listed buildings.

I particularly remember Peggy and her understandable interest in all things connected with Finchley Garden Village, although I was unaware that she had lived in the same house for 93 years. She was such a sensible and pleasant person who, I'm sure, did much useful work. I often shared her frustration with the limitations of planning legislation and with the resources the Council felt able to devote to conservation and the built environment. I suspect you, Bill Tyler and other members of The Finchley Society continue to struggle with these problems ...

... I continue to follow the activities of the Finchley Society, at a distance, and hope one day to be able to take my two grandsons to College Farm, when issues surrounding that very worthwhile enterprise have finally been sorted out.

Air Pollution in Barnet

Gardi Vaswani writes ...

In 2001 the whole of the Borough of Barnet was declared an Air Quality Management Area (a declared area for urgent action to combat air pollution) by the Council.

One "hotspot" was Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley. The air pollution monitoring unit there (which revealed that 2003 failed to meet Government and EU targets) was quietly closed this year. But it is now going to be recommissioned after a public outcry.

Under the Environment Act 1995 an "Action Plan" must be put in place to improve the Borough's air quality. This Action Plan was adopted by Cabinet in January 2003 and should now, by the end of this year at last, be in all Libraries and on the website.

Let's hope we find in there how the Council will address the serious health problems and global warming, and how it will implement plans to improve Air Quality. Breathing clean air should be a right for everyone.

We as individuals can each contribute in our daily routine, but we also have to put pressure on Barnet Council to act.

Save our Teas and Coffees ... and Biscuits

The refreshments provided at our November meeting were a success. The 40 or so present consumed 30 coffees and 40 teas, as well as uncounted biscuits, and we should like to continue to provide these, at least at our January, February and November meetings which are in the afternoon.

Unfortunately in one sense we were too successful. We made a loss of nearly £30, and such a loss cannot continue. It's not that we are mean towards our members, but that as a registered charity we are not allowed to spend money for their benefit.

The Avenue House Estate Management charges 60p for tea or coffee and biscuits, and we must at least meet this charge. So if you are one of those who takes refreshment at our meetings please would you be more generous with your donation, otherwise we will reluctantly be obliged to stop an initiative which helps our members to meet each other and which we would very much like to continue.

Robert Winton (8883 2633)

Calling all gardeners – the Church End Festival

We hope you are already thinking about plants to grow for our stall at the Church End Festival on Sunday May 15th in the grounds of Avenue House from 1–5 pm. This is a chance for all members to participate in a fund-raising effort – all proceeds will be donated to help Avenue House. We shall need help on the day as well as items to sell. Please call Pat Dunnill if you can help.

Pat Dunnill (8349 9825)

New Members

Our membership secretary is Tony Roberts (info@tonylondon.fsnet.co.uk or 8883 5954 (before 6 p.m.)). We are happy to welcome as new members:

- Mrs Joan Pinhass, N12
- Ms Jennifer Emanuel, N3
- Mr Glyn Jones, Hants

Donations

This month, we received donations from

- Ms Jennifer Emanuel, N3
- Mr & Mrs H Sharpe, N20
- Mrs D Pick, N3
- Mr Philip Wilson, EN5
- Mr S Fassett, N20
- Mr Michael Hurwitz, N3
- Miss Marjorie Errington, EN4

Job Vacancy – Newsletter Distribution Manager

After 27 years (!) as the Society's newsletter distribution manager, Carol Halls has decided to relinquish her duties – so we are on the lookout for a new distribution manager.

There are nine issues of the Newsletter a year. Access to a car is required. The work takes only a few hours monthly, and includes collecting the newsletters in bulk from the local printer; maintaining the distribution lists; sorting into various rounds, including a postal round; and organising about 30 deliverers.

Anyone interested in taking on this vital role? Please contact Carol Halls on 020 8445 6172, carol.halls@care4free.net

**REPORTS FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
BY 24 JANUARY 2005
TO BARBARA WARREN
(8346 5258 or barwar@waitrose.com)**

***visit our website!
www.finchleysociety.org.uk***