

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

President: Bill Tyler AADipl, ARIBA, IHBC

Founded 1971

October 2005

Monthly Meeting – 27 October at 8.00 p.m.

Members are cordially invited to the Society's monthly meeting at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley N3, on Thursday, 27 October at 8.00 p.m. Bill Tyler will speak on "Spike Milligan: Conservation Behind the Comedy". Spike had a strong commitment to conservation, nationally and especially in the Finchley area. He was the Society's first President, and then its Patron until his death. Bill Tyler will recall the events, meetings and battles which lay behind the mask of comedy.

We had been looking forward to hearing Jane Milligan speaking about "Spike-My Dad", but regretfully she has had to withdraw from this engagement because of an accident which has affected her vocal cords. She has been advised not to take on any speaking engagements for the time being. We wish Jane well in her recovery.

*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*

Convert to Composting!

I have been searching for the 'ideal' composter for the garden for nearly a year. I finally decided that it was better to get started with something even if it wasn't exactly what I wanted. I purchased a bin at greatly reduced price from Barnet Council. They have 7 different types available ranging in price from as little as £5, with the most expensive being £24.30, which is the one I chose. They also vary in size from 23 litres to 420 litres.

Once delivered (it arrived 2 days after ordering) and assembled, I decided it was far too big for our needs so cut it in half. Being worried it wasn't getting enough sun to warm it up in it's chosen spot I also lined it with plant fleece for added insulation. Now I am awaiting the results!

In talking to my friends and trying to enlist more 'compost converts' people often say, "I only have a small garden" or "I'm not really in to gardening" or "I don't know what I'd do with the compost" and "I would but I can't bear creepy-crawlies". None of these reasons preclude you from composting, and if I can face the creepie-crawlies, anyone can!

I just can't bear to think of all this organic rubbish going in to landfill in plastic bags when it could be 'returned to the earth' without harm. As I do enjoy gardening I'm sure I will find a use for it but if not, there will be grateful neighbours or friends. At the very least it could just be spread on a bare patch of earth, surely better than your waste going in to landfill to give off toxic gases and use up valuable space.

You might be surprised at all the things that can be composted:

- Uncooked fruit and vegetable waste (not citrus fruits),
- Cardboard (eg toilet or kitchen rolls)
- Weeds, grass cuttings or non-woody prunings
- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- Egg shells

I must admit to being a bit obsessive at times about my new hobby. With the composter came a caddy; a little bin with tight fitting lid. Each weekend it accompanies me to my boyfriend's, collects all the compostable items and then returns home to be emptied into the compost bin! Perhaps if you don't want your own composter, you could share a friend's this way!

Useful Composting Contacts

- Barnet Council composting advice on: 0208 359 7475
- Barnet Council to obtain composter info leaflet and order form: 0208 359 4654
- Council website: www.barnet.gov.uk (note composters CANNOT be ordered online)

Roz Avery

Cromwell Hall – November Meeting of the Local History Group

The Finchley Local History Group of the Finchley Society will meet at Avenue House on Wednesday, 30 November at 8 pm. David Smith will speak on "The History of Cromwell Hall – So Far". Cromwell Hall, demolished in 1933, was situated on the south side of East End Road near the railway bridge.

Local Agenda 21 – Front Garden Survey

Many front gardens are now being replaced by hard surfaces. The fad for installing block paving is in full swing, gardens are being ripped out at an alarming rate with no regard for wildlife or other environmental implications

such as water drainage, the consequent local flooding, or indeed the loss of local character.

Front gardens are green spaces, vital to human beings, creating an oasis on our own front doorsteps: an antidote to the cars and concrete that now abound. They may be small, but together they form a patchwork linking to other green spaces, nature reserves and the wider countryside.

Agenda 21 in Barnet is concerned at the amount of hard surfacing appearing in our front gardens and is undertaking a survey. Volunteers will be asked to survey two roads (more if possible) in one of the borough's wards. Please telephone to let Gardi Vaswani on 020 8445 6312 or Mike Gee on 020 8346 5503 know which roads you will cover so that work is not duplicated.

Please carry out the survey from the pavement outside each house and fill in the details on the attached form.

Civic Pride

The Barnet Civic Network, on which I represent the Finchley Society, is to meet on 9th November with the subject 'Civic Pride'. This is a subject in which our Society has a real interest, and there would be room at the meeting for two more members. Would anyone interested please get in touch with me (3 Westbury Road, London N12 7NY, 020-8445 2807, pe.pickering@virgin.net). The Network is due to begin at 5pm in the North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, and will end with refreshments and a chance to meet other people at about 7.30. I will give more details to anyone interested.

Peter Pickering

Quiz Evening – Friday, 28 October

On Friday, 28 October, there will be another quiz evening in aid of the Spike Milligan Statue Fund (www.spikestatue.org.uk). It will again be at Avenue House, 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Tickets costing £10 per person will be available in advance from Avenue House (8346 7812) or from Barbara and Derek Warren, 83 Wentworth Avenue, N3 (8346 5258).

As before, there will be prizes for the winning team and there will be a raffle. Refreshments will be provided, but you can bring your own snacks and drinks. Do come and be part of what will be a very pleasant evening. You don't have to be part of a team beforehand, but if you do know who won the F.A. Cup in 1921, then you will be quickly signed up to one or other of the teams vying for supremacy.

Archives

Maggie Ferguson (36 Oakfield Road, Finchley N3 2HT, 020 8349 4283) is the Custodian of the Archives. The archive team meet on most Monday mornings between 10.30 am and 1.00 pm, with coffee at 11.30 am.

Events Secretary

Our Events Secretary is Mrs Sakina Jetha (2 Templars Crescent, Finchley, 020 8346 2286). Please let her have your ideas and suggestions for speakers for the monthly meetings.

Treasurer

Our Treasurer is Aziz Jetha, (2 Templars Crescent, Finchley, 020 8346 2286).

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:

- Jenny Lee N2
- Anthony Knowles N2

Donations

This month, we received donations from

- Mrs Marjorie Bridges NW11
- Simon and Christina Dimont N3

We regret to record the death of David Heale of East Finchley after a long illness. We send your sympathy to Shirley.

**REPORTS FOR THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER
BY 20 OCTOBER 2005
TO BARBARA WARREN
(8346 5258 or barwar@waitrose.com)**

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