

Avenue House, 17, East End Road, Finchley, N3 3QE.

www.finchleysociety.org.uk

President: Bill Tyler AADipl. ARIBA. IHBC

Founded 1971

November 2005

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Members are warmly invited to the Thursday, November 24th meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 at **2.30pm**. The speaker will be **Marion Randall**, a very well known resident and a Finchley Society member, who will talk on "The Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital", a subject that should interest us all. Marion will give us the history of the hospital which was opened in 1908 as Finchley Cottage Hospital. With the start of the NHS in 1948 it became a General Hospital and is now a Community Hospital, with a thriving "Friends" set-up, of which she is the Chairman.

Please note change of time.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

After Hugh Petrie's most interesting talk he gave us some useful internet contacts, such as www.historicaldirectories.org where there are the Finchley Directories for 1855, 1877, 1890 and 1914. There is also a site which encourages people to contribute their own information about the past, and it is possible for them to edit and criticise en.wikipedia.org. Please let me know if you require details of other contacts which Hugh provided.

Derek Warren 020 8346 5258

CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 15th at 7.30pm

Offers of help with food to **Joan Butcher, please, at 020 8364 9314**. Come and have a most enjoyable evening, with good company and excellent food in Avenue House Drawing Room and Salon, which will be all dressed up for Christmas. There will be a large jar for donations for the wine.

NEWS of the FAMILY

It is with sadness that we report the death of **Ronald Willson**, a member for 32 years, many of which involved behind the scenes work in receiving this very newsletter.

Ron was born in 1911 in Leighton, moving to Finchley with his wife Gladys, towards the end of the war. Both joined The Finchley Society in 1973 and for many years were an important part of the newsletter chain – collecting them from Carol and delivering them to the "postmen". They also prepared the newsletters that are posted, which Mrs Willson continues to do. In the early days before printed labels this involved addressing all the envelopes by hand.

Ron died on the 7th October, aged 94, after a two year illness. Members of the Society attended the funeral at Trinity Church, Nether St. Our thoughts are with Gladys and her daughter, Lesley, now living in America, and her son, David. We thank her most sincerely for the work that she wishes to continue for the Society.

Roz Avery

Lavender Wilson (no relation) is now very happily living at the Courtlands Residential Home in Northumberland Road, New Barnet.

Bill Tyler attended a reception for fundraisers given by the National Autistic Society on the spectacular 30th floor of Barclay's Canary Wharf Tower, and was more than surprised when

he was called up to receive the main award as 'Fundraiser of the Year'! Bill says, "Again , my thanks to all those who so generously supported my Peru trek – it is your award too, even if I did the hard work."

PLANNING COMMITTEE – Chairman, Stephen Cooper, 32, Cardrew Avenue, Finchley, London, N12 9LD 8445 2685 email : stephetherc@waitrose.com

- An old peoples home in Tarling Road is to be demolished and replaced by a block of flats.
- Plans to convert Hertford Lodge into luxury flats is considered a well designed scheme in keeping with the old house.
- Planning refused - 1068 – 1072, High Road, N2
811, High Road, N12
Foley Court, 65,Nether St.

The Committee considered that Barnet Council is failing to respond to complaints in a reasonable or timely manner. It was suggested that unresolved complaints could be referred to the Council of Ombudsmen and Standards Board.

News has just come in via a jubilant Ollie Natelson that the Tesco application for warehousing and an access road that would have run up the eastern side of Coppett's Wood Nature Reserve has been withdrawn, and the reserve is safe.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Chairman, David Smith, 17,Abbotts Gardens, N2 OJG 8883 4154 joda@cromwellhall@freeserve.co.uk

The Spike Milligan Statue Fund

Donations from members are beginning to come in. All donors will be invited to the unveiling ceremony and anyone donating £1000 or over will receive a bronze bust of Spike.

We would really appreciate some help at events, just for an hour or so.

Now that we are very busy raising money for the Statue we would like to call upon a band of willing helpers to assist us in putting the stalls together and bringing them down, or to steward displays for an hour or so. The more we have in the rota the less we will be calling upon you. Please call *Derek Warren 020 8346 5258 or David Smith 020 8883 4154*

We will be running a Bring and Buy bookstall at the monthly meetings, with the price at 50p only. Would anyone please let me know where we could hold such a bookstall on a regular basis. The Raffle will continue to fund the Spike Milligan Statue Fund, and offerings other than toiletries will be welcome.

Barbara Warren 020 8346 5258

Sir Sydney Chapman.

In the effort to fit in the Quiz advertisement in the September issue of the newsletter the paragraph referring to our guest speaker at this year's Dinner, Sir Sydney Chapman, somehow got pushed aside into the ether. So, he gets a paragraph to himself now. We were delighted that Sir Sydney Chapman was able to attend our dinner, and in fact made it one of the last events before retiring as MP for Chipping Barnet, which does cover part of the boundaries of The Finchley Society. He entertained us with some lively accounts of his time as an MP which included the ancient custom of being the hostage taken by the crown at the opening of Parliament, which is one of the duties of Chief Whip. We wish him well in his retirement.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - Chairman: Harry Branchdale
harry@branchdale.co.uk c/o 83, Wentworth Avenue, Finchley, London N3 1YN

We are extremely concerned that there is no longer an Environmental Officer in Barnet.

Customer Care

Do not forget to ring Barnet's Customer Care on **020 8359 4600** if you see any graffiti , litter, problems with trees or pavements, or anything else that Barnet Council should be dealing with. For problems with pollution of the Dollis or Mutton Brook ring the Environment Agency on 0800 807060

Tree Week 23rd November – 4th December.

Yes, it is one of those extended weeks!

Wednesday, 23rd November. The Committee will be planting a tree in the grounds of Martins School, High Road, East Finchley.

Saturday, 26th November. Long Lane Pasture Action Group will plant trees between 10.00 - 12-00am. Long Lane Pasture is along the footpath opposite the Fire Station. All are welcome.

Wednesday, 30th November. I will show you how to recognise trees without their leaves. We will walk along Dollis Brook from Fursby Avenue meeting at 10.00am.

Saturday, 30th December. We will finish the week by looking at the beautiful trees left to us by "Inky" Stephens in the Avenue House Grounds, meeting on the terrace behind the House at 11.00am.

There are so many London Plane Trees in the streets of Finchley that I would like to know if there are any in your area. This is the tree where the bark keeps flaking off giving an attractive patchwork look.

In about 1745 6,000 trees were felled , 5,000 of them oaks, which were then placed in store to season, so that they could start building the 'HMS Victory' in 1759.

Derek Warren, 020 8346 5258, or derwar@waitrose.com

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP. - Chairman, David Marcus. 31, Courthouse Gardens, N3 IPU. 020 8346 1734 or d.marcus@ntlworld.com

Wednesday 30th November – Avenue House drawing room at 8.00pm

David Smith will talk on "**The History of Cromwell Hall – so far.**" Cromwell Hall was situated on the south side of East End Road near the railway bridge and was demolished in 1933. Come and hear more about one of the lost houses of Finchley.

David is a very active member of The Finchley Society.

Thursday, 9th February, 2006 – Avenue House at 8.00pm

Dr Ollie Natelson will talk on "**How to Research your Favourite Spot in Finchley**".

All members are welcome, and there will be an invitation to non-members for a donation to defray costs.

Church Farmhouse Museum is currently showing "An Exhibition of Exhibitions", composed entirely of the remarkable collection of Barnet resident, Don Knight, never before shown publicly in its entirety before. It traces the history of major exhibitions in Britain, through such material as postcards, programmes, posters, photographs, stamps and souvenirs. The exhibition ends on November 29th.

Gerard Roots 020 8203 0130

ARCHIVES – Maggie Ferguson – Archive Custodian, 36, Oakfield Road, Finchley, N3 2HT 8349 4283 The archive team meet on most Monday mornings between 10.00am and 1.00pm. with coffee at 11.30am. You will see me rattling away on the computer, Robert Winton carefully enclosing press cuttings into special envelopes (every time he thinks that we must have come to an end, Maggie finds him more) Maggie Ferguson, Joy Troughton ,Margaret Cullen and Jane Mitchell are sorting out photographs (Can anyone recognise where this was taken?) Derek is poring over maps, and we have visits from Aziz Jetha who wants a signature

on a cheque or document, and now David Marcus of the History Group comes to see what we have down in the basement.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTER

Helene Davidian - Distribution Manager. 020 8444 3669

We apologise for last months delay in the delivery of the newsletter due to illnesses and holidays. The team have fully recovered.

EVENTS SECRETARY

Mrs Sakina Jetha, 2, Templars Crescent, Finchley, London , N3 3QS 020 8346 2286

e-mail: jetha@tesco.net

If you hear of good and interesting speakers please let her know.

TREASURER

Aziz Jetha, 2, Templars Crescent, N3 3QS 020 8346 2286.

MEMBERS

Membership Secretary, Tony Roberts, 32a, Sedgemere Avenue, East Finchley, London,

N2 0SX 020 8883 5954 e-mail: info@tonylondon.fsnet.co.uk

New members

Anthony Knowles, N3

Jenny Lee, N2

Donations

Mr and Mrs Reith, N12

Mrs Marjorie Bridges, NW11

Mr and Mrs P Marsh, N3

Mr and Mrs D Pegg, N3

The Misses M and J Canning, N3

Mrs J Winchester, N3

Mr and Mrs G Lunn, N3

Simon and Christa Dimont, N3

Miss L Farmer, N3

Mr Ian Murphy, N12

Miss E Pierce, N12

Cll. L Sussman, N 3

Mr and Mrs Sainsbury, W3

Mr and Mrs D Tofield, N12

Mr J Thompson, N3

Gift Aid

In an initiative to maximise income , the Society will be inviting members and donors that have not already done so to sign a Gift Aid Declaration . This enables the Society to claim from the government 28p for every £1 received. Thus a £9 subscription becomes worth £11.52 and a £16 one is worth £20.48, without the member having to contribute an extra penny.

We are supported entirely by subscription and without our membership and their generosity the aims of the society could not be met. Some donations are quite substantial and on a regular basis. We are very grateful to have a much loved and active member, Miss Peggy Wells, remember us in her will and to leave us £5000.

EDITOR – Barbara C Warren **Please notethere will be no newsletter in December.**

Contributions for the **January** newsletter to Barbara C Warren at 83, Wentworth Avenue, Finchley, London, N3 1YN or barwar@waitrose.com. by **December 15th**.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS