

Avenue House, 17, East End Road, Finchley, N3 3QE.  
Telephone and fax :020 8343 2633

[www.finchleysociety.org.uk](http://www.finchleysociety.org.uk)

President: Bill Tyler AADipl. ARIBA. IHBC

Founded 1971

**March 2005**

### **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Members are warmly invited to the Thursday, **March 31st**, meeting in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, N3 at **8.00pm**. The talk will be by **Dr. Oliver Natelson**, a founding member of the Friern Barnet Local History Group, and is called "Spirit Experiences in Finchley and Friern Barnet."

Ollie's collection of anecdotes are not only of past events of everyday life, but also of strange, inexplicable occurrences that have taken place in our district. Some are possibly the spirits of former residents that lived and died here.

Although Ollie has never met a spirit, he is optimistic that one will turn up one day. He knows that Avenue House is haunted by spirits – and will they be at the slide show? Do they have a story to tell?

Please note the evening time. There will not be coffee but there will be a raffle.

### **REPORT ON JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING**

Illustrated by some magnificent slides we were treated to a talk by our President Bill Tyler to his adventures on behalf of the Autistic Society on his charity climb to Machu Picchu, in the Andes. As promised we were treated to astonishing photos of magnificent peaks, lush valleys and beautiful flowers, along with historic and architectural details of a lost civilisation, and a picture of an exhausted but still game President on the stiff mountain climb. The descendants of these colourful Inca people were the 'indigenos' busily going about their lives in the mountains and valleys of Peru. Bill raised £13,879 for the Autistic Society casually mentioning that he only needed another £17 and he would have £1 for every foot walked. At the end of the meeting this had quietly appeared.

### **VISIT to KELVEDON HATCH SECRET NUCLEAR BUNKER**

A number of members were disappointed by our decision to cancel a trip to this fascinating place because of lack of support. They, and others interested, will be pleased to know that we propose a visit by car on **SATURDAY, APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>** starting from Finchley at 10.00am.

Despite its forbidding name, the bunker visit is no more daunting than paying a visit to a comfortable Government office. Because it is built into a hillside there are no deep shafts, merely a corridor with a gradient. The visit is done at one's own pace accompanied by an

audio guide, and takes about one and a half hours. At the end of the tour is a shop, refreshment area and toilets.

This is a must for anyone interested in WW2 or the Cold War. We will need car drivers, without whose help the visit cannot go ahead. The cost will be the entrance ticket of £5 plus a contribution towards petrol. Phone David Smith asap on 020 8883 4154

### **WANTED URGENTLY**

- A Secretary for the **Environment and Transport Committee**  
This committee deals with wildlife and open spaces, CPZs and street furniture, recycling, trees and vehicle surveys.
- Someone to deal with our **insurance**.
- **Newsletter Distribution Manager**- with 9 issues a year, to be sorted into rounds on a monthly basis, with about 30 deliverers. A car is essential. This is a vital service and keeps our costs down
- A secretary for the **Planning Committee**  
This committee deals with planning applications, the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and Barnet's Unitary Development Plan.

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)

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

Plans for the Tesco expansion at Colney Hatch Lane was defeated at the Chipping Barnet Planning Committee, meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the efforts of Bill Tyler, Dr Oliver Natelson and Andrew Brown who put up a splendid case for policy issues, town centre retail trade, the nearby Nature Reserve, bats, employment and traffic problems, the application was turned down. However we have been warned that Tesco will appeal.

Tesco themselves are threatened by the acquisition of land on an opposite site by Costco!

**LOCAL HISTORY GROUP** – Chairman, David Marcus, 31 Courthouse Gardens, N3 IPU  
020 8346 1734 [d.marcusl@nt1world.com](mailto:d.marcusl@nt1world.com)

The inauguration meeting at Avenue House was a 'sell out' with standing room only. Obviously there are many members and folks in Finchley who are keen to have a History Group, and we are only too happy to oblige. Future dates for meeting are June 15<sup>th</sup>, September 14<sup>th</sup>, and December 14<sup>th</sup> at Avenue House, 8.00pm. In the meantime we have a lot to sort out in reply to questions from the floor.

### **AVENUE HOUSE**

At The Special Exhibition Weekend for charities at Avenue House on **26-29 March**, we have been allocated part of the Drawing Room and will be exhibiting photos, papers and artifacts from our archives. We will need volunteers to steward the tables. Unfortunately this is the Easter weekend and we are going to be hard pressed to have enough members for this job. Please ring Maggie on 8349 4283 or Derek Warren on 8346 5258 if you can help, if only for an hour. Times are :-

Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> 1-5pm      Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> 10am – 5pm.

Monday March 28<sup>th</sup> 10am – 1.00pm

We cannot let this opportunity pass because of lack of help.

**ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE** – Chairman, David Smith, 17, Abbots Gardens, N2 OJG 8883 4154 [joda@cromwellhall@freeserve.co.uk](mailto:joda@cromwellhall@freeserve.co.uk)

### ***The Spike Milligan Statue Fund***

We were given a welcome chance for publicity in the programme of the new show in town at the New Ambassador's called "YingTong". Five members of the committee were asked to the First Night where we saw four of our patrons...Silé Milligan, Terry Gilliam, Michael

Gerson and Lynsey de Paul. The play is of the time Spike spent in Muswell Hill psychiatric hospital after a breakdown. His friends Peter Sellers and Harry Secombe are anxious for him to get well again in time for one last "Goon Show." It is harrowing to see someone we knew going through such despair. It is, however, very funny, and the actors perform brilliantly.

### **Theatre visit - May 5<sup>th</sup>**

Having read the good review in the Guardian, Pat Dunnill has offered to organise a group visit to "Ying Tong" of the first 10 people to apply. Front Stalls at £27.50 or Dress Circle ...£10 less than individual. It is very easy to get to...Leicester Square on the Northern Line, and a short walk. Please let her know as soon as possible, or before **March 21**, if you are interested.

### **ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Chairman: Harry Branchdale, 25, Ventnor Drive, N20 8BT  
020 8445 4281 harry@branchdale.co.uk

#### **Walks**

Saturday **March 12<sup>th</sup>** at 9.45am starting at the Fursby Avenue Bridge, I shall be walking along the Brook, hoping to see the kingfisher. *Derek Warren*.

#### ***Dollis Brook***

Along the Dollis Brook in 2004 we observed 60 species of bird, 16 butterflies, 57 moths, 107 plants, 38 trees, 6 mammals and many insects, bugs and beetles many of which we could not recognise.

Do let me know what you see. If you do not walk alongside the Brook you are missing a really lovely part of Finchley. Every section is different and there is a good path all the way, although I often wander away from the path and can get wet and muddy.

*Derek Warren 8346 5258*

#### ***Avenue House Church End festival***

Avenue House on **May 15<sup>th</sup>**. **1.00 –4.00pm** Our well-stocked plant stall is a big attraction every year, but this means that we have to get plants from you. Please start planning now. We shall need helpers on the day as well.

#### ***Compulsory Recycling Scheme***

From March 1<sup>st</sup> Barnet's Compulsory Recycling Scheme will be introduced. Residents must place glass bottles and jars, tins and cans, and paper and magazines in the Black Box provided by the Council, and NOT into the wheelie refuse bin.

Disposing of waste through landfill or incineration is expensive and causes environmental damage. Any recyclable material that is not placed in the Black Box will go to landfill and cost the Borough and residents more money. To meet the Borough's recycling target of 30% for 2005/6 it is essential that all residents take part.

The Council will be monitoring the scheme, with assistants visiting households who do not regularly recycle, in order to further explain the scheme and encourage people to participate. Those that persistently and deliberately refuse to participate could face fines of up to £1,000. If your household does not have a Black Box or requires an additional one phone 020 8371 3670.

*michael.lai@barnet.gov.uk*

### **ROZ'S RAFFLE**

You may have seen that the raffle is now in aid of the Spike Milligan Statue Fund. Every little helps us reach our target. Tickets are £1 a strip at our monthly meetings, so please support us in building this national monument to this great man.

I am over-run with UNWANTED TOILETRIES! Does anyone know of a good home for them? .....a homeless centre, a charity or something! Please let me know and call me on 020 8346 8484

*Roz Avery*

### **WHAT'S ON**

*FinchleyArts Centre Trust*

*March 13<sup>th</sup>* – Victorian evening at East Finchley Methodist Church, N2 8.00pm Donations.

*May 15<sup>th</sup>* – at the Church End Festival - Art Exhibition and sale by local artists at The Bothy.

– Contact L. Byrne 8349 9038

*May 22<sup>nd</sup>* – Open Day at The Bothy (in the Grounds of Avenue House) 2.00-5.00pm

*The Guild Players – Ballards Lane Methodist Church – Good Friday.*

“An Innkeepers Tale” 8.00pm free, no booking required. All are welcome.

**ARCHIVES** – Maggie Ferguson – Archive Custodian, 36, Oakfield Road, Finchley, N3 2HT  
8349 4283

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

Thanks to Mike Street we now have a 1936 Kelly's Directory of Finchley and Friern Barnet to go with our 1926 one, also Finchley Directories for 1949 – 50 which goes with the one 1951 – 52. These are often needed to help in our research. This has prompted us to appeal to you for any Kelly's or other Directories that you might have at home , or any home that you might be clearing out.

Noted in a letter from Australia from Spike – “Simply because the fight for conservation is global I do hope that our little society is fighting: while I know we are very small, I think we were the first ray of light in the conservation fight in Finchley, and in years to come our name will be spoken with some degree of reverence.” *Woy Woy - May 10<sup>th</sup> 1976*

### **EVENTS SECRETARY**

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

e-mail: jetha@tesco.net

### **TREASURER**

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

### **MEMBERS**

Membership Secretary, Tony Roberts, 32a, Sedgemere Avenue, East Finchley, London, N2  
OSX 020 8883 5954 e-mail:info@tonylondon.fsnet.co.uk

New Member

John Sparrow, Fortis Green, N2

Welcome John, and please make yourself known at the monthly meetings

Donations

Mr and Mrs J Bumpus,N3

Donal Sawyer, Bexhill-on-Sea

Mr and Mrs P Dunnill, N3

Mr and Mrs P Hutchens, N20

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 **April** newsletter to me at 83,Wentworth Avenue, Finchley, London, N3 1YN 020 8346 5258....barwar@waitrose.com by **March 15<sup>th</sup>**.**