

January 2006

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Members are warmly invited to the meeting on Thursday, January 26th in the Drawing Room of Avenue House at 2.30am. The speaker will be Dr Ollie Natelson who will give an illustrated talk on "The Development of the English High Road – with emphasis on Finchley." He will try to explain how it is that we do not like change, but as High Streets have evolved gradually they are better tolerated. He will explain the pattern of human activity taking in markets, itinerant tradesmen, and craftsmen to the present supermarkets.

Please note change of time.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

We must thank Joan Butcher for her organisational skills in the buffet department where we were treated to a sumptuous feast which miraculously did not run out. The food was tasty and plentiful and much enjoyed, as was Noel Lynch's unusual objects quiz and the green spaces quiz renewed from an archive find originated by Peter Marsh and set up this year by Derek Warren. The drinks were in the expert hands of Kurt Weinberg and the donations received covered the costs. Many thanks. The raffle was a success thanks to Roz Avery and Mari I'Anson.

Thanks to all those who came and we were especially pleased to have the company of the Mayor and his charming Mayoress who stayed longer than expected, the Archivists who came up from their dungeon, and several new members.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Finchley Society members attended a ceremony at the new Finchley County School War Memorial where the names of old scholars have been carved on stone and placed in a brick and stone wall at the boundary of the old Finchley County School, on November 11th. The simple service was continuing a ceremony conducted by Norman and Betty Burgess over many years, and was organised by Barretts, the builders, at Norman's request.

NEWS of the FAMILY

Our Chairman, Barbara Warren, will be in hospital, January 16th for a knee operation.

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

- 53 Alexander Grove and 137 – 39 Nether St application for demolition of these large family homes, to be replaced by 12 flats, has been opposed.
- Committees views were requested for applications for side extensions in garden at Tudor House, 5 Lovers walk; a side extension to 307 Ballards Lane (United Services Club) : replacement of windows in 274 Ballards Lane (an Edwardian house)

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Chairman, David Smith, 17, Abbots Gardens, N2 OJG 8883 4154 joda@cromwellhall@freeseerve.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. If you want your money to go into the Spike Milligan Statue Fund please mark your cheque accordingly. If you just put The Finchley Society it will not get to the fund.

- 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. There will also be a book stall at 83, Wentworth Avenue, Finchley, N3 1YN every Wednesday, except on January 18th, between 11.00am and 4.00pm
- We now have a Director of Fundraising and Marketing – Errol St. John R. de Zilva and one of his first acts was to book the North Finchley Arts Centre for two events.
- The ‘H and S Productions’ will perform a concert of Spike’s words and music “Simply Spike” at Avenue House on February 25th. 8.00pm. Performers will be Laurie Heatherington, Mike Sparks and Helen Tozer. Tickets from Barbara Warren or David Smith for £7 020 8346 5258/020 8883 4154.
- Book the date now for a big outdoor musical event at Avenue House on June 18th.

Donation

We are grateful to Dr Rudi Vis MP for his donation of £150 which he received from some work he did for MORI.

Unwanted Christmas Presents

Please donate your unwanted Christmas presents for recycling as Raffle prizes at meetings and Quizes. Bring along to the monthly meetings or give me a ring.

Barbara Warren 020 8346 5258

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

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

Church End Festival – May 14th

Now is the time to think about the plant stall. This is always a great success and relies on you to start preparing for it now.

Pat Dunnill

Trees

During Tree Week we had interesting walks along the brook and in Avenue House Grounds., and it is surprising to see the variety of trees that there are in Finchley.

Tree planting took place at Long Lane Pasture by members of The Action Group, and we planted a Horse Chestnut at Martin School Field, East Finchley. Mrs Driscoll, the Head Teacher and the children thoroughly enjoyed teasing the compacted roots before planting and taking turns to wield the shiny spade. Hopefully, their children will benefit from the shade and conkers. Unfortunately there is the possibility that the LBB will have built on every blade of grass surrounding a school.

Mistletoe has been seen growing high in the trees in Colney Hatch Lane and at Brook Farm Open Space.

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

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

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

Developers, Government – local and central, Town Planners and ordinary residents all feel the benefit of absorbing local history into their plans. Ollie will outline how you can find out more about your home, shops, parks and open spaces.

Stained glass windows

Helene Davidian is looking out for stained glass in windows and doors, so if you know where such glass can be seen please give her a ring on 8444 3669. There are still lovely panels in front doors and to landing windows, and of course, there are some great church windows. At Christchurch, North Finchley there is a window made by W Constable, brother of John Constable, the painter. Helene will show us the results of her survey on 27th April at our monthly meeting.

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

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. On December 12th we visited the Enlightenment Room at the British Museum where Jane Mitchell took us on an extremely interesting tour, followed by a cream tea in the Gallery Restaurant. Then last Monday we had our Christmas lunch sandwiches.

FRIENDS of BARNET BOROUGH LIBRARIES

Church End, Finchley, Library Talks all on a Monday evening at 8.00pm

January 16 “William Wilberforce – by Dr Michael Worms.

February 20 “The North London Hospice” by Pauleen Treen

March 20 “Ghosts of Old London” by David Baker

April 24 “Rhyme and Rhythm” words music and song presented by Maurice Peckman

CHURCH FARMHOUSE MUSEUM – Movable and Toy books through the ages.

The museum’s winter exhibition is based on a remarkable local private collection of children’s books, ranging from the 18th century to the present day. The first ‘movable’ books were produced by Robert Sayer in the 1770s: using characters from the contemporary pantomime, and thus given the name of ‘Harlequinades’ These included pages with flaps which were lifted up to change the pictures. ‘Peepshow’ books, where cutouts were placed behind one another to give an illusion of depth appeared at more or less at the same time. ‘Panorama’ books which folded out, sometimes to ten feet or more, to give the impression of a large scene, came a little later.

“Pop-ups”, in which the illustrations sprang from the page to create a 3-D effect were first published in the mid-C19, and they continue, with an ever increasing sophistication in the technique of ‘paper engineering’, to be produced today.

The exhibition includes some very scarce items indeed, and should appeal to children and adults alike, and will run until March 19th.

Gerard Roots

FROM the WEB-SITE

Does anyone know of my grandparents Lilian Beatrice Thomas, born 1920, and my grandfather, David Howell Thomas, a Welshman born in 1888? They owned or ran a café somewhere in Finchley, but had left the area by the late 1960s. They had two children, Sally and John. Sally was born in Barnet 1935 and John two years later.

Please reply to - jjames@tesco.net

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTER

Helene Davidian - Distribution Manager. 020 8444 3669

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

Toni Morgan,N2

Alison Shell and Arnold Hunt, N2

Clare Sleep,N3

Donations

Mr and Mrs G V Card, N12

Mrs Coral D'Eon, N3

Jennifer Emanuel,N3

Miss N C Fletcher,N3

Mrs Jose Gay, NW2

Mr E A Green, EN7

Mr and Mrs I Lyall, N3

Mr Gilbert Hill, ,N3

Mrs S Jackson, N12

Mr David Janner-Klausner, N2

M Phillips

Mr S Ross, N3

Mrs A Sharland, N12

Clare Sleep, N3

Mr and Mrs D Smith, N2

B J Thornhill, N2

Mr and Mrs A E J Toms, N3

Mrs R Willson, N3

Finchley Tangent Club, N3

Mr and Mrs D Warren, N3

Mr and Mrs R Wilson, N3

Gift Aid

In an initiative to maximise income , the Society will be inviting members and donors who have not already done so to sign a Gift Aid Declaration . We thank all those members who have since responded to our Gift Aid appeal, and apologise for not responding individually. The Gift Aid declaration 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.

CHRISTMAS CARD

We thank Don Cooper Chairman of HADAS for his cheerful card of Christmas greetings.

EDITOR –Please note.....contributions to the February newsletter to **Carol Halls** , 1, Finchley Villas, Finchley Park, Finchley, London N12 9JT 8445 6172 by **January 15th** please.

A Happy and Healthy New Year to you All