

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

www.finchleysociety.org.uk

President: Bill Tyler AADipl. ARIBA. IHBC

Founded February 11th 1971

March 2006

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Members are warmly invited to the meeting on **Thursday, March 30th** in the Drawing Room of Avenue House **at 8.00pm**. The speaker will be Mr Barry Smitherman, of Enfield, who will talk on "The Work of the Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service." His talk will be illustrated by slides explaining the type of work done with different types of animals and birds rescued, along with their habits and habitat. The "Trent Park Animal Centre" was opened in 1999 and in 2005 both Barry and June were awarded MBEs

Please note change of time.

NEWS the FAMILY

Barbara Warren is now fully recovered and thanks members for their concern. She thanks also Carol Halls and Lyn Bresler for the editing of the February newsletter and would like to draw attention to the announcement that Barbara would like to cease being the editor, certainly by the end of the year.

We were very sad to hear that David Ford, Chairman of the Friends of Brook Farm Open Space, has died. He was a tireless leader full of enthusiasm and will be greatly missed. Our sympathies to Sue, his wife, who worked alongside him.

Also, Mr Hart, owner of Faculty Bookshop in Ballards Lane for many years, has died. He will be remembered for his wisdom, knowledge and helpfulness.

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

- Barnet Council is still trying to finalise the Unitary **Development Plan**. They will then move on to the **Local Development Strategy** which will replace it. It will be necessary to examine this carefully; the Green Belt Council fear that the Green Belt would be at risk. Concern that adequate support services (schools, doctors surgeries, open play areas etc) are not being provided for/in new developments, even when the developments are large.
- There is an application to demolish part of the old boundary wall into the **Sternberg Centre** from East End Road, apparently for construction traffic. This is in addition to the opening that was proposed.
- The committee has asked that the lift shafts being built at **Finchley Central Station** be more sensitively clad to go with the architecture of the buildings.
- In the light of more applications for flats in **Holden Road**, that these be opposed in order to keep the character of this road for fine, large family homes.
- Objections have been raised to the building of flats at **Fernbank**, and at the former Turrets Pub.
- Of particular interest to the National Press was the refusal of an application by **Tesco** to build a convenience store in Ballards Lane, on the grounds of over provision of such facilities.

ENGLISH HERITAGE

There are some interesting facts in the English Heritage booklet outlining their plans for Greater London over the next three years.

- 40% of the population of 7.39 million are from ethnic groups.
- 300 languages are spoken.

- 14 different religions are practised.
- There are 74 MPs, and 33 local authorities have almost 2,000 Councillors and Aldermen.
- A third of London is classed as `green` with 7 million trees, and woodland covers 8% of the land area.
- From the thousands of listed buildings and structures, many ancient monuments, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens there is just one registered historic battlefield and that is at Barnet!

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – Chairman, David Smith, 17,Abbotts Gardens, N2 OJG 8883 4154 joda@fsmail.net

Annual Dinner

The date to put into your diary is **Thursday, July 6th** for the dinner which will be held at Avenue House as usual. Full booking details will be distributed with the April Newsletter.

The Spike Milligan Statue Fund

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 are very grateful to Mrs Patricia Perkins for her generous donation of £100.

During the year we plan to mount a number of fund-raising activities.

The first of these is the **Quiz Evening** on Saturday, **April 8th** at Utopia, a private hall , at 100 Grove Road, North Finchley, N12. The hall faces the end of Stanhope Road which runs alongside Woolworths. There will be refreshments and a raffle. Tickets £5 from David Smith 8883 4154 , Barbara Warren 8346 5258 or Grace Fensome 8445 1808.

The second of these will be a multimedia SPIKE MILLIGAN TRIBUTE SHOW . It will be presented, for one night only, in the Pentland Theatre at North Finchley's artsdepot on **Wednesday, May 17th**. Please make a note of this unique event in your diary now and help us ensure that every one of those 400 seats will be filled! More details in the April newsletter.

Our third event will be an open air event in the grounds of Avenue House on Sunday, **June 18th, from 3.00 – 7.00pm** There will be a programme of varied stage entertainment, children's activities, and refreshments. We need volunteers to help run the event. We will also be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to advertise in the printed programme that will be on sale about a month before the event. Let David Smith (8883 4154) know of your interest.

May we remind members that, although the originator and dynamo of the Spike Milligan Fund is The Finchley Society, it is in fact a national appeal. We have so far received donations from all over England and from Wales, Scotland, New Zealand and America. Help us keep them coming.

David Smith

- 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, between 11.00 and 4.00pm ,except on February 22nd, March 15th and March 29th .
- There will be a coffee morning at the Ballards Lane Methodist Church , on March 4th and 18th 10.00 to 12.00am. On sale also will be second hand books at 50p, greetings cards, jig saw puzzles and Barry's delicious home baked cakes and biscuits.

Barbara Warren

Octavia Hill

Barbara and Derek Warren, together with Betty Burgess, spent an interesting afternoon, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Octavia Hill Birthplace Museum Trust, the Lady Chorley, at the Cholmondeley Room Terrace at the House of Lords. It was a fundraising event in order to raise money for the equipping of further rooms at Wisbech as an educational centre. Octavia Hill spent much of her childhood in Finchley, and this is recorded in several ways at the Museum in Wisbech. The Finchley Society has donated money towards this venture, and anyone who would like to donate money to this very worthwhile cause should send to the Lady Chorley, Octavia Hill's Birthplace House, 1 South Brink Place, Wisbech, Cambs, PE13 1JE

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 anything else that Barnet Council should be dealing with. With many houses having their front gardens made up into parking spaces, the pavements in Finchley are becoming a hazard from damaged paving. These can become dangerous for blind people, mothers pushing prams and the elderly or infirm. Please report this, wherever you come across it, to the Customer Care number. For problems with pollution of the Dollis or Mutton Brook ring the Environment Agency on 0800 807060

Bird report

It was interesting to hear that Mrs Hiscocks has had a couple of parakeets on her bird feeders. They are becoming more common. Waxwings are around again, as last year, and eight have been seen in Oak Lane, East Finchley. I recently visited a lovely new Nature Reserve at Brookmans Park where there are 'swallow holes' that take the brook underground. A very interesting tree that still grows there is the English Elm.

Derek Warren 8346 5258

Walk

On Wednesday, March 22nd I will be walking along the brook looking out for kingfishers and frogs, so if you would like to join me, then meet on the bridge over the brook in Fursby Avenue, N3 at 10.00am.

Derek Warren 8346 5258

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

Next April a book will be published about the history of Avenue House and the trees of the Grounds, in colour.

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

On **Thursday, June 8th**, there will be a talk by Gerald Turvey on "Early Film-making in Finchley" in the drawing room at Avenue House, starting at 8.00pm. Non-members will be asked to donate £1 towards expenses. All members are welcome.

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. Unearthed from the archives is a green file marked "Finchley Society" in which a great deal of unfinished research has been found. Are you interested?

FRIENDS of BARNET BOROUGH LIBRARIES

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

March 20 "Ghosts of Old London" by David Baker

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

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: sakjetha@btinternet.com

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

Guy and Adele Nevill, N12 Gwendoline Harrington, NW4 John Philpott, N12

Donations

Mr Michael Holton, N2

Miss Gillian Sturdy, N12

Tony McTeare, N3

Mr Peter Clayton, Cambs

Mr and Mrs M Mitchell, N3

Mrs G Williams, N3

Dr and Mrs O Natelson, N12

Mrs Patricia Perkins, N3

Mr Martin Summers, N3

Mr and Mrs F Waters, N3

Mr and Mrs R Winton, N2

We must thank Mrs Perkins and Mr and Mrs Winton for their particular generosity.

The Peggy Wells Bequest of £5000 will be held in a separate account , to be used to fund specific projects voted for by the Trustees.

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.

EDITOR –Please note.....contributions to the April newsletter to **Barbara Warren** by March 15th please. 83, Wentworth Avenue, N3 1YN 020 8346 5258...barwar@waitrose.com