

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

www.finchleysociety.org.uk

President: Bill Tyler AADipl. ARIBA. IHBC

Founded 1971

May 2006

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Members are warmly invited to the meeting on **May 25th** in the drawing room of Avenue House at **8.00pm**. The speaker will be Mr Mike Watts, who will be talking to us about "The Chelsea Physic Garden," where he is a volunteer guide. He will explain why the Apothecaries founded the garden and describes some of the eminent men who contributed to its development over the centuries, and its contribution to medicine, botany, horticulture and even world economics. He will look at some of the features of the garden, with emphasis on medicinal plants, their role in the past and their continued importance both to conventional and ethnic medicine today.

Speaker Barry Smitherman forgot that he was to speak to us on March 30th. Our apologies. Fortunately we had discussed such a possibility fairly recently (perhaps we were tempting fate!) and David Smith, Peter Pickering and Denys Pegg filled in with Plan B, and regaled us with slides of old Finchley and their recollections of Finchley.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Nomination Forms for election at the Annual General Meeting on June 29th as Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary or Executive Committee member and as a Trustee 2006/07 are available from Robert Winton at 224, Creighton Avenue, East Finchley, N2 9BD (020 8883 2633)

NEWS of the FAMILY

Congratulations to Barbara and Derek Warren on their 50th wedding anniversary. It is good to see Carol Halls back in business after her short spell in hospital.

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

Annual Dinner – Thursday July 6th.

We hope that members will again support the Annual Dinner, now in its third year. We shall meet in the **Drawing Room at Avenue House at 7.30pm for a formal start at 8.00pm**. It will be a silver service meal and full details of the booking arrangements and the menu were sent out last month. The cost per head will still be £25. There is an upper limit of 63 diners, so early application is recommended, as over 50% have already applied. Application forms and menus can still be sent out from David Smith.

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.

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

The first of these was the **Quiz Evening** on Saturday, April 8th at Utopia, a private hall, which raised £333. Our thanks to Mike Dawson and Robina and Stan Spinks who helped clear up

afterwards, and to Grace Fensome who not only paved the way for us to use the scout facilities, but she also prepared the delicious refreshments and sold two tables of tickets. The evening was so popular that we are giving members plenty of time to put the date into their diaries now. The next quiz will be **September 9th** at the same place .The Quizmaster will be Terry McLoughlin. There will be tables of six, individual or parties. Tickets £5, including tea and coffee but bring your own wine and nibbles, 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**. This will be our first venture at this site. 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! "It will be an evening of showbiz entertainment, featuring top class comedy, zany humour, poetry and music." Tickets are available by phoning 8343 3735 .

"After the legacy of the war, comedy was the premium currency of the entertainment business, and in that period Spike became the leading exponent of alternative comedy. Together with Peter Sellars, Harry Secombe and Michael Bentine he created the Goon Show and became a household name. Spike's brand of humour set alight alternative comedy followed by Marty Feldman, Peter Cooke and Dudley Moore, Monty Python and Inspector Clouseau. Spike's legacy to the world of comedy is very much alive, no one else past or present could match this genius of comedy."

Our third event will be an open air event in the grounds of Avenue House on Sunday, **June 18th, from 3.00 – 7.00pm . A Summer Afternoon in the Park** – is the title of our second event this summer, an afternoon of comedy, and music for all the family. In one of the most attractive parkland settings in London, visitors will be able to relax to the sound of cool jazz from The Colin Peters Jazz Quartet or be uplifted by the up-beat rhythms and voices of The Angels of Kaos choir, and the show stopping energy of the youngsters from Flash Musicals, and the big band sound of Henry van Emden, a veritable doyen of the entertainment world, all spiced up by the antics of Professor Pip and his assistant Joodi!

Add to that the refreshments – including alcohol and a barbecue – and you have a recipe for a memorable afternoon. Yes, of course, the weather will be typical for flaming June ! Offers of help, PLEASE, to David Smith 8883 4154 or Derek Warren on 8346 5258.

Admission will be by programme on sale in advance at a discount . The cost will be £4 adult, £1 child and £8 family (2 adults, 2 children). On the day the prices will be £5 adult, £2 child and £10 family. Programmes will be available from the beginning of June at various venues, including Avenue House reception, The Finchley Bookshop at 98, Ballards lane, Church End, and at Tu Destino florists at 128, High Road, East Finchley.
More details in the June newsletter.

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

- Books and jig-saws are still being sold at 83, Wentworth Avenue on Wednesdays, and outside Ballards Lane Methodist Church on sunny Saturday mornings.
- We have a very nice artist from France who, with her husband, will be coming to London to unveil two portraits of Spike for the benefit of the Fund. Mr and Mrs Pattison have asked us if a member of the Society could put them up ,for a modest fee, for bed and

breakfast accommodation June 8-20th . She needs to be at Avenue House on the 18th and available to the media. Please ring David Smith or Barbara Warren

CHAIRMAN

Soon after the President, Bill Tyler, had spoken to the press concerning The Finchley Society plans to save College Farm, the Executive Committee met on the evening of April 6th, to discuss this at the end of the usual meeting. Much to my concern the President felt that he could not trust me with the details of the plan, as Derek , my husband was a trustee of the Farm. Thus I was voted out of the room by all the members except two. I resigned.

My thanks to everyone who made my short stint as Chairman of The Finchley Society so enjoyable and worthwhile. I shall miss it, though I remain a Life Member, together with Derek, and we will be serving as usual on the various committees.

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

Please use the following numbers for your problems –

Customer Care – 020 8359 4600

Environment Agency - 0800 8070 60

Trees – Ann Gallon020 8346 8533

Bird Reports and wildlife – Derek Warren....020 8346 5258....derwar@waitrose.com

Recycling – Stan and Robina Spinks....8346 9811

Built Environment – Barbara Warren....020 8346 5258....barwar@waitrose.com

Traffic and transport –Pat Dunnill020 8349 9825, Harry Branchdale020 8445 4281

Front garden paving -David Hollingworth....020 8446 9693-

The Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act is now in force and can be used to compel the council to take action. It empowers local authorities to deal with a wide range of “environmental crimes” such as graffiti, litter, fly posting and nuisance parking.

Church End Festival – May 14th

There will be our usual very popular plant stall. This is always a great success and relies on willing helpers for perhaps hourly intervals on the day. It is always a fun day...the public are so appreciative. Please let Pat know.

Pat Dunnill 020 8349 9825

Tesco planting

Tesco has planted five twenty two foot high trees in front of their store in Ballards Lane and have removed the flower beds.

Bird Report

Waxwings were early morning visitors to Oak Lane, East Finchley, through most of March, and a parakeet has been seen in Avenue House Grounds. The once rare red kite is often seen from the M40 when you drive through the Chilterns, and occasionally one is seen flying over the northern parts of the Borough.

Derek Warren

PLANNING COMMITTEE - Chairman, Stephen Cooper, 32, Cardrew Avenue, N12 9LD, 020 8445 2685....stephetherc@waitrose .com

Grove Lodge, RegentsPark Road.

Barnet have issued a Section 215 notice re Grove Lodge which requires Pardes House School to clean, paint, replace windows and door frames and make presentable, but not, curiously

weatherproof, let alone make occupyable, by the 25th September. Knowing what Pardes House did with the squash courts hard by does not inspire confidence, but at least one is encouraged that Barnet is prepared to listen and do something. It will be interesting to watch progress.

Google Earth

Google Earth is an incredible programme that enables you to have satellite pictures of almost anywhere one chooses, locally with a resolution of a few feet. Thus the roof of the rear extension of Grove Lodge not visible at all from Regents Park Road can be seen to be in poor condition, as expected. Load: it costs nothing, and have fun.

Stephen Cooper

Sternberg Centre

In spite of strenuous opposition the Sternberg development has been approved.

Wards around Town Centres

Member Barry Fineberg submitted his views on clustering wards around town centres to replace present boundaries determined by population numbers. His views are much on the political agenda. The committee will consider its view when central government has clarified its position.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP – Secretary Margaret Cullen, 21 Lyndhurst Gardens N3 1TA, 020 8346 2091 or bcullen@onetel.com

To find out how you may participate in the group's activities, please contact her.

Thursday 11 May

This is the date for anyone involved in a local history project concerning Finchley, or who would like to learn more and perhaps get involved, to meet informally for a discussion at Avenue House. For details please contact Margaret or e-mail localhistory@finchleysociety.org.uk. Membership of The Finchley Society is not a requirement.

Thursday 8 June 8.00pm

Gerald Turvey will talk about Early Film-making in East Finchley. The bulk of the talk will be about the studio set up at Newstead House, East Finchley 1911-1916. Margaret Cullen will be chairing this meeting.

Projects

- The group is currently preparing a list of the projects involving Finchley's history that they are aware of (current or proposed). If you have not been contacted but are involved in a project the we would like to hear from you as soon as possible. E-mail localhistory@finchleysociety.org.uk or ring Robert Winton on 8883 2633 or Tony Roberts on 8883 5954
- The group is also compiling a list of publications relating to Finchley's history, to be located on The Finchley Society's web site.
- The society has found a volunteer to transcribe Robert Winton's audio tape recordings of interviews with Finchley residents into word processed text. Stuart Baines will be starting the work in early June.

Tony Roberts

Origins of Finchley

Following last month's article on the origins of Finchley comes some more information from a book recently acquired by The Finchley Society's archive. This book, Borough of Finchley, was written to celebrate Finchley becoming a Borough. This extract gives us more insight into the origins of Finchley's name and history.

"Little is known of Finchley during Roman occupation but its history from Saxon times abounds in interest. Amongst others, two spellings of the name denote its Saxon origin: FINC-ES-LEA, meaning unploughed land, wood or waste, and FINCH meaning Void, and LEY a place, indicative of the fact that the Saxons settled in a small clearing of uncultivated land in what is now known as Church End.

The ancient Saxon estate has, since the Conquest, borne various names - Fynchesley Manor (Norman), Basing's Manor (13th century), Marche's Manor (14th century) and Bybbesworth Manor (15th century). The estate is now known as the Arden Estate.

The history of Finchley (excluding North End and Whetstone) is, broadly speaking, that of Finchley Manor and is closely bound up with ecclesiastical history. Records show that in 604 the Abbot of Mellitus upon assuming office as Bishop of London was given lands in Finchley and Hornsey, and that the Saxon Lord of the little settlement thus came under his jurisdiction. During the Bishopric of Erkanwald (about 675) a gift was made by a Saxon lord to provide for the upkeep of a residential priest for the cure of souls within the manor. The Parish of Fynchesley was thereby created and its church dedicated to St Mary. A charter of 1199 confirmed by King John gave this new parish city privileges."

Mike Dawson

ARCHIVES

Maggie Ferguson – Archive Custodian, 36, Oakfield Road, Finchley, N3 2HT
8349 4283...emfmr@hotmail.co.uk.

- The archive team meet on most Monday mornings between 10.00am and 1.00pm. with coffee at 11.30am.
- Charlotte Hume will be joining the team, working at the computer.
- We are grateful to Percy Reboul for the gift of his Woodhouse School Archive Material.

WHATS ON

Bothy Summer Season

June 4 th	"Wind in the Willows"	Illyria Theatre Co.	£7
June 11 th	Phoenix Concert Band		£6
June 25 th	"Macbeth"	Illyria Theatre Co.	£9

Mari I'Anson

Mari is showing her work at Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, N6 from May 9 – 22nd. Preview is on Wednesday June 10th 7 – 10 pm Finchley Society members are welcome with a glass of wine.

Roger McGough

Roger McGough C.B.E. is known to several generations through his performances way back in pop music. (Remember "Lily the Pink" and "Yellow Submarine"?) right up to the present day poetry which he brings to many BBC listeners each week.

He is known to us too as a Patron of The Spike Milligan Statue Fund, and what's more, he will be appearing in Finchley at the Arts Depot on June 3rd at 8pm. Full details will be found in the new Arts Depot brochure. It certainly sounds like an evening not to be missed. Further details on www.rogermcgough.org.uk

Long Lane pasture

The Long Lane Pasture Action Group will be holding a Friends Open Day at the Pasture on **Saturday, June 3rd** 11-00am - 1.00pm. The entrance is along the path opposite the Fire Station in Long Lane.

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

Andrew and Elizabeth Gardner, N3 Jose Gay, NW2. Mike Gee, N12

Donations

Mr Richard Buchanan, N3 Mr J Karet, N3 Miss M Kilby, N3
Mr J Segal, N12 Gardi Vaswani and Mike Gee, N12
Keith, Carol and John Wakefield, N10

We would like to thank all those who have so far responded to our Gift Aid Campaign and regret that we have not been able to thank you all individually. The campaign has resulted in an extra £400 of donations being eligible for Gift Aid this financial year, allowing us to claim a further £112 from the government. Those who have not yet received a declaration form will do so in the next two months.

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 June newsletter to **Stephen Yeo** by May 15th please. 2, Torrington Grove, N12 9NA....020 8445 9827....jsyeo@btinternet.com

There will be no newsletters in July and August

The Society will need a new editor by the end of the year.

