

Avenue House
17 East End Road
Finchley N3 3QE
www.finchleysociety.org.uk

President: Bill Tyler AADipl, ARIBA, IHBC

Founded 1971

June 2006

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 29 June at 8.00 p.m.

Members are cordially invited to the Society's Annual General Meeting at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley N3, on Thursday, 29 June at 8.00 p.m. Notice of the Annual General Meeting and Minutes of the 2005 AGM are attached.

18 June: An Afternoon of Stage Entertainment at Avenue House

- Cool jazz from *The Colin Peters Jazz Quartet*
- The doyen of the keyboard, *Henry van Emden*, with his big band sound
- The up-beat rhythms and voices of *The Angels of Kaos* choir
- The show stopping energy of the youngsters from *Flash Musicals*
- The mirth and musical mayhem of *Professor Pip and Joodi*
- The tribute to Spike Milligan by none other than *Barry Cryer* (a Patron of the Statue Fund)
- The effervescent presence of *Jono Coleman* from Radio London 94.9 FM
- Auctions of items provided by The Prime Minister, Michael Palin, Sir Terry Wogan, Dame Edna Everage, Terry Gilliam, Roger McGough, and others
- The Fun Train provided by the Mill Hill Rotary Club
- Refreshments and ice creams provided by the Kiosk
- Cool beer from the Bar, hot dogs from the Barbecue
- Face painting, balloons and bubbles for the children

Don't miss this event! Watch the press or www.spikestatue.org.uk for further information.

Sunday, 18 June at Avenue House

The Spike Milligan Statue Fund is mounting a major fund-raising event on Sunday, June 18th and asks for the support of members in a number of ways:

Support the event on the day. It takes place in Avenue House grounds, gates open at 2.30 p.m. and the stage entertainment will start at 3 p.m. It is a FAMILY EVENT, especially as it is also Fathers' Day. There will be an all-age entertainment on the stage and children's activities as well.

Please make good use of the advertising material that comes with the Newsletter. Put the poster in your window, or at work, or in local place of worship. Don't leave it in a drawer! Invite friends to come with you.

Buy a programme in advance from: Harris Fine Art Ltd, High Road, 712 High Road N12; The Finchley Bookshop, 98 Ballards Lane N3; Tu Destino Florists, 128 High Road N2; or Avenue House reception, East End Road N3. Discounted prices will apply until sunset on June 17th.

We need helpers. We need people to help on a few stalls and to sell programmes at the entrances and to patrol the boundary fence and to answer questions, and to look after money. We need a team of people to turn up on Saturday evening to erect the stage. We also need helpers on the Sunday morning and others to clear up on Sunday evening. Please volunteer to David Smith 8883 4154 or Derek Warren 8346 5258.

We need small tubs or troughs of flowers to decorate the front of the stage. Can you lend us some just for one day?

College Farm – From the President

The somewhat bald information that appeared with the last Newsletter may have left Members wondering what had led to the situation where our Chairman felt it necessary to resign and for a press statement from the Executive Committee to be included in the Newsletter. Some of the background has already been covered in the local press and you may have seen it; those with long memories will recall even more.

The Society fought vigorously to ensure the survival of College Farm as a public amenity, through the Public Inquiry on the Henlys Corner road scheme and later in arguments with the then Ministry of Transport over exchange public land. Indeed, I and our then Vice President, the late Jean Scott, personally saw our MP, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, to ask her to intervene to secure the Farm as a community asset.

We set up a special 'Friends of College Farm' group that for many years was the life-line that supported Chris and Jane Ower and kept the Farm going. Members put in countless hours running the hugely popular open days, manning the entrance gates, organising activities, setting up the art gallery and contributing monetarily with considerable generosity in numerous instances, as did others in the local community. Spike Milligan, then our President, was often a visitor on open days and persuaded other TV personalities to join in, all helping to pull in the crowds. The Society also was instrumental in obtaining listed status for the fine Victorian farm buildings. Our involvement and unstinting support for the Farm goes back a long way.

Naturally we were pleased when an independent trust was set up to negotiate the purchase of the Farm, to secure it as a local and more widely known public amenity and to undertake the restoration of the increasingly dilapidated buildings. At that

point our Friends group more or less disbanded. During the eight years that the College Farm Trust has been operating we have never been asked for assistance nor have we sought to intervene in the affairs of the Trust. It was not and is not our business to do so.

However, the closure of the Farm for public access, even before the Foot & Mouth outbreak, caused widespread concern but we assumed it would reopen under the Trust. This has not happened. When I enquired early last December about the situation I was told by Trustee Derek Warren that a deal to buy the Farm would be done by 31 December, the deadline set by the Highways Agency. In January I asked if the purchase had gone through and was told the deadline was now the end of that month. I then heard that a deal with the Highways Agency had apparently fallen apart just 24 hours before signature, following the resignation of the Chairman, Bernard Russell, and the ejection of Cllr Eva Greenspan and Mr Michael Gerson from the Trust Board and as Trustees.

I telephoned the Highways Agency in a personal capacity to find out what was happening and was told that a further deadline of the end of February had by then been agreed. I asked to be kept informed since no open line of communication existed between the Society and the Trust. I again called the Agency in early March and also spoke to MP Dr Rudi Vis, and learned that 31 March was now the deadline.

I first brought the unhappy situation to the attention of the Society's Executive Committee on 6 April, following a Highways Agency press statement that it was no longer negotiating with the Trust. It was only at a subsequent meeting on 11 April that the Executive Committee set up a Steering Committee to see if we could take matters forward with the Highways Agency. At no time prior to that was the Finchley Society "in negotiation" with the Highways Agency, as erroneously reported in a press article, nor did we have any plans for the Farm.

Because of the likely nature of the Executive Committee's discussion about possible involvement in securing the Farm as an educational and leisure facility for North London, it was considered (by 7 to 1, with 1 abstention) there was potentially a conflict of interest if our Chairman remained present. It was never an issue of trust but simply one of charity governance propriety.

Following the Executive Committee's mandate to approach the Highways Agency, as set out in our press statement, I wrote expressing our interest in being involved in any future decision about the sale of the Farm. The Agency is now undertaking a review of all the options for disposal of the Farm, which is to include the possibility of bids from charitable organisations. Your Executive Committee is conscious that this historic complex of buildings in its unique open setting could all too easily be lost for development and is determined, on behalf of our Members and the general public, to do all that we can to ensure its survival.

Bill Tyler

Stained Glass Outing to Ely – 7 October

To follow her successful talk on 27 April, Helene Davidian will be guiding an outing to the Stained Glass Museum in the Cathedral at Ely. There is so much to see and do there that it tends to be a full day outing, commencing around 10-10:30 am. Lunch can be taken in the Cathedral refectory. The usual travel arrangements for Ely trips are shared cars. If people could contact Helene to say whether they are either offering lifts or whether lifts are required. Passengers then offer a small amount

towards the petrol, according to the numbers in the car. Helene's number is 020 8444 3669.

Local History Group

The Secretary is Margaret Cullen, 21 Lyndhurst Gardens N3 1TA, 020 8346 2091 or bcullen@onetel.com. To find out how you might participate in the group's activities please contact her.

Meetings: Thursday, 8 June, Avenue House at 8 pm, 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 (1911–16)

Projects: The first projects discussion group meeting took place on 11 May around a table at Avenue House. A wide-ranging and enjoyable discussion took place of all the seventeen projects (current or proposed) on the group's list. Each person present outlined his or her progress and invited comments and questions. Given the success of this meeting another one is planned for four months time.

If you are involved in a project that we don't know about, we'd like to hear from you, whether you are a member of the Finchley Society or not. Contact Margaret Cullen or email localhistory@finchleysociety.org.uk.

Tony Roberts

What's in a Street Name?

Do you know the origin of your street name? Some have a story to tell. Many streets in Finchley, such as Summerlee and Sedgemere Avenues, are named after the large houses over whose estates the streets were built. Others may relate to the owners of the land or developers, or are named after people in public life. Lanes go back much further, some of them having had several names along the way. Church Lane used to be Bull Lane; part of Long Lane used to be Broad Lane and Squires Lane was Place Lane, the Place being the Manor House where the Squire lived. Some lanes have disappeared altogether: Green Lane was overtaken by the North Circular Road while Ducksetter Lane was made redundant by adjacent Regents Park Road. Other names, such as Court House Road, would appear to have been 'sanitised'. The History Group is collecting Finchley Street name origins, so, if you know the history of yours or have the time to find out, send in the details (with dates if possible) to Tony Roberts (See the Membership section for contact information). We'll publish the most interesting ones in the newsletter.

Tony Roberts

Compost Everything Courtesy of the Council!

Some of you may be already doing so, but for those of you who aren't, it's easy! If the Council has provided you with a green wheeled bin for garden waste and has left information attached to your bin at the end of last year telling you about the improved service, then you can now recycle kitchen waste in the green bin.

This includes:

- Meat and Fish, cooked and uncooked (no meat bones or carcasses)
- Eggs and egg shells
- Fruit and Vegetables

- Pasta, bread, rice, noodles
- Dairy products
- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- Hedge and tree prunings (branches up to 8cm/3in in diameter)
- Grass clippings
- Flowers and weeds
- Garden fruit, vegetables and windfalls

If you are unsure if this service is available in your part of the borough, or want more information, then contact the Council on 020 8359 7400 or recycling@barnet.gov.uk

Roz Avery

Coffee Mornings

The books and jigsaws coffee mornings at 83 Wentworth Avenue have not been a success, so will be discontinued. The books will still be there, of course, and if anyone would like to treat the collection as a library, please come along, any day, after ringing me to see if I am in. There will always be a cuppa. I will be at the Methodist Church coffee morning whenever possible

Barbara Warren

Environment and Transport

The Chairman of the Environment and Transport Committee is Harry Branchdale. He can be contacted at harry@branchdale.co.uk or c/o 83 Wentworth Avenue, Finchley, London N3 1YN.

Some Useful Environment and Transport Contacts

Customer care		020 8359 4600
Environment Agency		0800 8070 60
Trees	Ann Gallon	020 8346 8533
Bird reports and wildlife	Derek Warren	020 8346 5258 derwar@waitrose.com
Recycling	Stan and Robina Spinks	020 8346 9811
Built Environment	Barbara Warren	020 8346 5258 barwar@waitrose.com
Traffic and transport	Pat Dunnill Harry Branchdale	020 8349 9825 020 8445 4281
Front garden paving	David Hollingworth	020 8446 9693

Annual Dinner, Thursday, 6 July

We have in excess of 40 guests. The event will definitely take place so if you have delayed your application for tickets now is the time to act. Contact David Smith on 020 8883 4154 if you have mislaid your application form. The cost is £25 per person. The cost of drinks is extra, and paid on the night. We look forward to a pleasant evening.

Donations

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 received donations last month from:

Mr Richard S. Buchanan N3	Helene Ann Davidian N2	Michael Dawson N3
Ms Ann Gallon N3	Mrs H. Hatchett N3	Mr & Mrs E. Hurwitz N3
Noel Lynch N6	Mrs M. O'Brien N12	Mrs R.M. Rees NW11
RIBA NW London Branch		Mr & Mrs R.C. Winton N2

Where our Members are Located

By Post Code

N3 (Church End)	44%
N12 (North Finchley)	22%
N2 & N10 (East Finchley)	13%
N20 (Whetstone)	6%
NW	5%
Other parts of London	5%
Outside London	5%

Finchley Society Contacts

Archives	Maggie Ferguson	36 Oakfield Road, Finchley N3 2HT, 020 8349 4283
Events Secretary	Sakina Jetha	2 Templars Crescent, Finchley, 020 8346 2286
Membership	Tony Roberts	32a Sedgemere Avenue, East Finchley, London N2 0SX; 020 8883 5954; e-mail: membership@finchleysociety.org.uk
Treasurer	Aziz Jetha	2 Templars Crescent, Finchley, 020 8346 2286
Newsletter Distribution	Helene Davidian	020 8444 3669

**REPORTS FOR THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
BY 20 AUGUST 2006
TO BARBARA WARREN
(8346 5258 or barwar@waitrose.com)**

*visit our website!
www.finchleysociety.org.uk*