

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

President: Bill Tyler AADipl, ARIBA, IHBC

Founded 1971

January 2007

“Caring for Friern Barnet” – Thursday 25 January at 2.30

p.m.

Members are cordially invited to the Society's Monthly Meeting at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley N3, on Thursday, 25 January at 2.30 p.m. Karl Ruge will talk about “Caring for Friern Barnet.” Friern Barnet has a very long history, but in geographical terms has now disappeared from the map, having been absorbed into the Borough of Barnet. Karl, who was a member of the Friern Barnet Urban District Council until 1965, and is now President of the Friern Barnet and Whetstone Residents' Association, will explain why so many local people still care for Friern Barnet.

College Farm

At long last the College Farm Trust has been able to purchase the Farm so that it is no longer in the hands of the Highways Agency. It will, however, be some time before it can be reopened to the public as there is much work to do. Eventually we hope to have the monthly Fairs again when the public will enjoy seeing the animals. There will also be a Dairy Museum.

The derelict buildings that housed the bottling plant will be pulled down, which is a very costly operation, and new buildings constructed for the animals. We will be trying to obtain grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other organisations and there will be various fund raising events. We will need many volunteers for all aspects of the Farm development and I will give further information in due course.

Derek Warren, Trustee

Timothy and Esther Johnson

It was a pleasant moment at the November meeting when a presentation was made to Esther Johnson for the years of service that she and Timothy have given to the Society. Bill Tyler's speech mentioned that Tim and Esther had worked for College Farm, especially at the famous Open Days and in The Gallery where many local artists were able to exhibit and sell their paintings. In addition, we were reminded that Esther had been our first 'tree person' and did much to foster an appreciation of trees amongst the membership and the wider public. Timothy's own artistic talents have always been much appreciated — many members have originals in their homes — and where would we have been without Timothy's magnificent sign-writing? Their involvement in our 1977 Silver Jubilee Exhibition in North Finchley was also highlighted.

Several officers of the Society later went to the Johnsons' home to make the presentation to Timothy in person, as he had not been well enough to attend the meeting.

Planning Committee

Recently the Committee has become concerned about two general matters. The first is the effect new 'town centres' expect to have on our existing ones. Of these the largest is the proposed regeneration of the Brent Cross and Cricklewood sidings area, involving greatly increased retailing prospects and the consequent threat expected to those at Tally Ho, Ballards Lane and East Finchley. Allied to this is the smaller but more immediate threat from the ever rapacious Tesco and the expansion of their Coppetts Wood store.

Another serious concern at the moment centres on how well we are able to anticipate developments and respond to planning applications. Scrutiny of such applications recently has not been made any easier by incomplete documentation, and greater restrictions on access by Barnet.

Government expects local authorities to consult more with the community, yet we are gaining the impression that we are able to be involved less in consultation than before.

Barnet, together with many other Local Authorities, particularly in regard to the preparation of their new 'Local Development Frameworks,' are publishing lots of worthy aspirations, but we would like these to have more teeth and thus provide more substantial guidance. As they become part of such legal instruments they must not provide opportunities for ambiguous interpretation.

We are also concerned that the stretching of Barnet's resources may jeopardise the enforcement of planning decisions.

These matters are uppermost in our minds at the moment, but we do our best to continue our more routine work of scrutiny of the built environment.

Stephen Cooper, Chairman

Nature Notes

There are now regular sightings of the ring necked parakeets. They are visiting more garden feeders and are seen, or at least heard, along most sections of Dollis Brook. The fox has been calling, and observed trotting along several roads. Flocks of goldfinches feed on the alders, and greenfinches like the garden feeders. Do not forget the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch on 27th/28th January. Let me know what you see in your garden or at your local green patch.

Derek Warren (020 8346 5258, derwar@waitrose.com)

Local History Group

The History Group's Secretary is Margaret Cullen, 21 Lyndhurst Gardens N3 1TA, 020 8346 2091 or margaretcullen@f2s.com. The Group is keen to expand its activities, so if you have some time to spare, please contact Margaret to see how you can help.

The local history group keeps a list of projects about Finchley's history. If you come across any work that they may not be aware of please advise Margaret.

The next meeting for anyone involved in or interested in helping with local history projects takes place on Thursday 18 January in the evening at Avenue House. Again, please contact Margaret for more details. Non-members are welcome.

Chateau Finchley?

People continue to marvel that within the area bounded by the railway, Squires Lane, and Long Lane used to be located Claignmar Vineyard. Just over a century ago there were 18½ acres under glass producing annually 100 tons each of grapes and tomatoes and 240,000 cucumbers.

This information comes from the Old Ordnance Survey Map of Mid Finchley and Pamela Taylor's informative notes on the back. The Godfrey edition maps are usually available at the library and can be viewed at The Finchley Society's Archive at Avenue House. The list of the maps in the Archive is almost complete and should appear on The Finchley Society web site in about a month's time.

Tony Roberts

Plastic

It is encouraging to learn the Pentland Group are committed to reduce waste and particularly with regard to plastic. In their *Business Standards News* they mention that approximately 4% of all oil used goes into making plastic, and as there are about 50 different family groups of plastics, with hundreds of varieties, recycling is difficult. Pentland are always looking out for ways to help, such as reducing packaging and providing recycling paper bins on each floor of their two big office blocks in Squires Lane. They also encourage their manufacturers and clients throughout the world via their *Business Standards News*.

So what can Finchley Society members do? We must encourage Barnet Council to bring in their recycling scheme sooner than they intend, we should take our own bags when we go shopping, if there is a choice buy products made from recycled plastic, and give old plastic toys to a charity shop or a play group rather than throw them away. Hopefully members will write in with many other suggestions.

Derek Warren (020 8346 5258, derwar@waitrose.com)

New Members

The Membership Secretary is Tony Roberts, 32a Sedgemere Avenue, East Finchley, N2 0SX; 020 8883 5954; membership@finchleysociety.org.uk. If there are any changes to your membership or contact details do please let Tony know

We welcome the following new members:

Mrs Sue Ford EN5

Philip Newman N2

Jonathan Jewell NW11

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 would like to thank the following members for their recent donations:

Mrs Coral D'Eon N3	Mrs Patricia Perkin N3
Ms Jennifer Emanuel N3	Mr S. Ross N3
Miss N.C. Fletcher N3	Mrs A. Sharland N12
Mr Gilbert Frank Hill N3	Mr & Mrs D. Smith N2
Mr E.A. Green EN7	Mrs Sally Stuart NW11
Mr David Janner-Klausner N2	Ms B.J. Thornhill N2
Mr & Mrs Timothy Johnson N12	Mr & Mrs A.E.J. Toms N3
Mr & Mrs I. Lyall N3	Mr & Mrs D. Warren N3
Mr Ian Murphy N12	Mr C. & Mrs R.M. Wilson N3

Spike Milligan Statue Fund

The calendar mentioned in the previous Newsletter has now been printed and is on sale at £6.00 with postage extra. It comprises 12 colour photos of Finchley landmarks and other places that Spike would have known. This is a 'must' for Finchley folk — or even for Finchley expatriates. Telephone Derek Warren on 020 8346 5258 or David Smith on 020 8883 4154 to snap up a bargain — and help the Statue Fund at the same time. We are very grateful to Donald Lyven for having created the calendar and to Pentecost Printing and Design Ltd for having printed it.

Barbara Warren – An Appreciation

For the past couple of years, I've compiled the Newsletter on occasion, usually when Barbara has been on holiday. Editing the Newsletter every now and then is fun. Editing it month after month, for ten years, is an altogether different task, requiring enormous energy and dedication. Barbara deserves our thanks for having done this so well.

Stephen Yeo

**REPORTS FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
BY 19 January 2007
TO ROSEMARY COATES
8368 1620 or rosemary.coates@hotmail.co.uk
(*rosemary.coates – not rosemarycoates*)
visit our website!
www.finchleysociety.org.uk**