

NOVEMBER 2007

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

www.finchleysociety.org.uk

President: Bill Tyler AADipl, ARIBA, IHBC

Founded 1971

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING ON 21 NOVEMBER 2007

In accordance with our Constitution, 30 Society members have requested a Special General Meeting to discuss the following Motion:

"We, the members of the Finchley Society, believe that Bill Tyler has abused his position as President of the Society in relation to the dispute between Avenue House Estate Trust and Finchley Arts Centre Trust (The Bothy). Therefore, we have no confidence in him as President of the Society and we call on him to resign."

This Special General Meeting will be held at the Trinity Church, 15 Nether Street, North Finchley, starting at 8pm on Wednesday November 21. Only paid up members and Honorary Life Members may attend.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING IS NOT AT AVENUE HOUSE.

As you will appreciate this is a most important issue for the Society and members should do their best to come, hear the debate, and cast their vote. Our Constitution does not provide for postal or proxy voting, so only by being at the meeting can you express your opinion and vote on the Motion.

Robert Winton - Hon. Secretary

NOVEMBER MEETING THE STATUES OF LA DELIVRANCE: AN ENQUIRY INTO THEIR HISTORIES

The Society's November meeting will take place at 8 pm on 29 November in the Drawing Room at Avenue House when a talk will be given by John Rickard. The talk will be of an interim nature and will outline the research that has been carried out to date. This has involved reviewing the various, not wholly accurate, pieces of information about Finchley's 'La Delivrance', which have been written over the years. Much effort has been devoted to finding the whereabouts of other copies of the statue and the history surrounding them. It is hoped eventually to be able to compile a definitive history of all the copies of the work on public display, together with more information about the sculptor, Emile Guillaume.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AND MEETING

Please do come to our Christmas Party and meeting at Avenue House on Thursday December 13, starting at 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be served soon after 8 pm, provided once again by Joan Butcher and her assistants. If you can help by providing food or help on the evening, please give her a ring on 020 8364 9314.



The Mayor of Barnet and her escort have accepted an invitation to join us and among the other attractions will be a raffle and two short reports: from Helene Davidian, our Newsletter Distribution Manager, and from Tony Roberts, our Membership Secretary and IT adviser.

This is an event for members only and a few specially invited guests. Dress is informal and entry is free but we do ask for a donation if you take a drink.

Robert Winton, Hon. Secretary

AHET/FACT - A CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

On Thursday 11th October the Finchley Society held a meeting to discuss if there is a conflict of interest for our President also being the Chair of Avenue House Estate Trust (AHET).

The President of The Finchley Society (TFS) gave a history of Avenue House and the formation of the AHET. Following this he gave his reasons for why he believed there was not a conflict of interest by being Chair of AHET and President of TFS: a Trustee's responsibility is to make decisions in the best interest of the trust, be this AHET or any other trust and must not be influenced by membership of another organisation. He said Finchley Arts Centre Trust (FACT) was evicted because the licence for their building agreement had run out. A member of the Finchley Society pointed out that FACT had received written offers from AHET for an extension to their building licence and was awaiting a written contract when the eviction took place.

Questions on the President's speech inevitably involved a discussion on the eviction of FACT by AHET. This debate was allowed in the interest of openness, although it was not the reason for the meeting. Several people asked why eviction had been necessary and why discussions were not held to try and resolve matters before this action was taken. The President said advice from AHET's Insurers and Legal advisors had said eviction was the only solution and that they should not meet with FACT to discuss matters as FACT's solicitor had sent a letter to AHET. The President was asked if AHET's Insurers and Legal advisors had been told that FACT did not have insurance in coming to give their advice. The President would not answer this question. Several people asked if, even at this late stage, FACT could be invited back to the Bothy while mediation took place. The President said mediation was taking place but he could not confirm that AHET could hold direct discussions with FACT or that FACT would be allowed back as before, with a licence to restore the Bothy.

Mike Dawson

FINCHLEY REMEMBERED

The Society is delighted to announce that Finchley Remembered is now available again. The book, first published in 2002, records the memories and reminiscences of Finchley residents, and is illustrated with maps, line drawings and contemporary photographs. Out of print for a while, due to the bankruptcy of the original designer/printer! The book has now been put back together again, through the efforts of several members of the Society, and the new printer should have delivered the printed copies by the time you read this Newsletter.

Finchley Remembered is priced at £10.95 per copy: for postage in the UK, add £1.00 p&p for one copy, £1.40 for two copies; overseas prices on application.

Please send your orders, cheques made payable to The Finchley Society, to Derek Warren, 83 Wentworth Avenue, London N3 1YN (020 8346 5258).

Full details will also be available on our website, www.finchleysociety.org.uk, and copies of the book will be on sale at monthly meetings.

Lynn Bresler

SEPTEMBER MEETING

At the September meeting Ian Waller instructed us, with clarity and humour, in the steps to take to trace a family history - from modest beginnings talking to relatives, through websites and records offices to achieving a 'Family Pedigree'. A fascinating undertaking and good luck to anyone starting out on such a project. Although our Archive Department cannot undertake to trace relatives, please visit us if you think we might have any helpful information. We are in the Archive Room, in the basement of Avenue House on Monday mornings, from 10.30 - 12.30.

Maggie Ferguson, Archive Custodian

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

A smaller group than usual met on September 21st to discuss ongoing projects but it was a particularly enjoyable meeting since Marie l'Anson brought some of her beautiful pictures of Finchley which are to be made into a book in which the paintings of places will be accompanied with annotations. We were also celebrating the realization of one of the projects on our list, the unveiling of the plaque about La Delivrance, which we hope will be the first of a series set up at places of interest in Finchley with the support of the Peggy Wells bequest. The next on the list is St Mary's Church in Church End. It was also suggested that a record of green spaces in the area might be illustrated with a map on the Society website accompanied by linked photographs. We also discussed the forthcoming new edition of "Finchley Remembered" and the possibility of compiling another collection of local memories from material stored in the Society's archives. A new project in progress was also added to our list, on crime and punishment in Jacobean England. Our next meeting is at Avenue House on January 24 2008 and we would be glad to welcome anyone interested in researching local history.

Margaret Cullen

ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Brook Farm Open Space

The Friends of Brook Farm Open Space had a bat walk when pipistrelle and noctule bats were recorded. Their AGM will be held at St John's United Reform Church Hall in Mowbray Road, New Barnet on Wednesday 7th November at 8 pm, followed by a talk given by a representative from The Woodland Trust. Do try and support one of the small groups that look after our special green spaces.

National Tree Week

This is from 21st November to 2nd December. Yes it is one of those types of weeks. I will be measuring large trees in the area so if you know of the biggest of any species please let me know.

Derek Warren 020 8346 5258.

On The Home Front

We will be entertained by H and S Productions with War Time stories and songs and hopefully you will join in some of the singing. There will be light refreshments during the interval and tickets at £8 are available from Barbara Warren 020 8346 5258. So please try and come to the East Finchley Constitutional Club, to support the Spike Milligan Statue Fund, on Saturday 10th November at 8pm. The Club is in The Walks, approached from Park Road which is at the side of the East Finchley Methodist Church, opposite Creighton Avenue, N2.

A VISIT TO LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES

On Wednesday, 3 October, a select group of Society members gathered at London Metropolitan Archives in Finsbury. After putting our bags into lockers and placing our essentials in clear plastic bags provided we were ushered into a private room around a table on which were several ancient documents. These included the earliest register of St Mary at Finchley from 1558 and a later register from All Saints reflecting the requirements of 1870 when it became compulsory to register many details including peoples' age.

Our guide, who could not have been more helpful, introduced LMA with a brief history and explained that they were the largest Local Authority Archive in the country, with over 72 km of shelving.

The archive covers the Greater London Area with the exception of the cities of London and Westminster official records, although some Corporation of London records are kept. The records include those of the Metropolitan Board of Works, LCC, GLC, Middlesex County Council plus courts, probate, hospital and business records (including the New River Company and the Bedford and Northampton Estates).

Our guide had set up a long table of specimen documents relating to Finchley for us to peruse, including a copy of our own Finchley Remembered. Of particular interest to me was a history of East Finchley produced by members of Holy Trinity church that contained a history of my street, and a memorial album of photographs of all those men of the parish that had died in the Great War. Normal access to such documents is via microfilm.

We then had a conducted tour of the public rooms – a reading room with minute books that are accessible to the public, the microfilm viewing room (no need to book and microfilm records can be photocopied) and a room full of court records, maps etc. Our guide explained very briefly the cataloguing system (of interest to us as we develop our own Archive system) and that there is access to much information via the Internet, the web site www.A2A.org.uk being a useful portal.

Our thanks to Shirley Avery for arranging the visit.

Tony Roberts

FRIERN BARNET

At a recent meeting, our Chairman, David Smith, referred to the fact that the Finchley Society was set up to cover the interests of both Finchley and Friern Barnet, but he wondered if the Society gave enough attention to Friern Barnet. I have not had any feedback on this but as someone who lives in the area I don't think we do! Therefore to try and redress the balance we would like to include something about Friern Barnet in future Newsletters but we need some help! Does anyone have any interesting stories/reminiscences or photographs of Friern Barnet that we can use in future Newsletters? All photographs will be returned. Please send to the Editor at the address at the end of the Newsletter.

Rosemary Coates

APPEAL

I would like to appeal to the membership for a volunteer, (preferably car-driving) who would be willing to take part in our newsletter distribution. The role involves dropping off batches to Posties. Everything will be explained to the willing person or persons. The work is on a monthly basis for nine months of the year. Please contact Helene Davidian on 8444-3669. Many thanks.

At the same time we all wish to thank Shirley Avery for her input over the years in this role and wish her a well-deserved retirement.

Helene Davidian

BUSES AND TRAINS

Fifty years of the Hampstead Tube If you are interested in this or other accounts of transport in north London, Mrs M. E. Goodes is trying to find a home for her late husband's collection. Her telephone number is 8445 2821

Maggie Ferguson



LIBRARY EVENT

Let's recycle more! Come and find out more at a coffee morning on Wednesday 14 November 10.30 am to 11.30 am at Friern Barnet Library . Coffee/Tea 35p. All welcome.

NEW – INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP VOUCHERS

Have you ever thought of giving a friend or relative an introductory membership as a gift for Birthday or Christmas? Well, now you can. The Society has introductory one-year membership vouchers for both individual (£9) and joint/family (£16) memberships

How it works

Any member can purchase vouchers of either denomination by writing to the Membership Secretary and enclosing a cheque (no cash or charity cheques) made payable to The Finchley Society to the value of the vouchers requested. Be sure to include your address. The vouchers will be sent to you to use as gifts. All the recipient needs to do is to fill in the contact details on the back of the voucher and send it on to the Membership Secretary who will automatically enrol the new member and send a welcome letter.



Each voucher will include a serial number, which we recommend you and the recipient note down in case of loss. Full conditions are detailed on the reverse of the voucher.

Tony Roberts

MEMBERSHIP

We extend a warm welcome to our new members:

Christine Breen N3

Andrew C H Brown N3

Mrs Eve Byrne N3

Kate Byrne N2

Mr Lionel Byrne N3

Mr Peter Dubber N2

Mary Patricia McGuirk

Brian Watkins N3

Josephine Watkins N3

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:

Andrew C H Brown N3

Ms Jennifer Emanuel N3

Mr & Mrs G.R. Lunn N3

Mr & Mrs I. Lyall N3

Mr & Mrs P. Marsh N3

Miss E.F. Pearce N12

Mr & Mrs D.C. Pegg N3

Mr & Mrs V.L. Sainsbury W3

Cllr L. Sussman N3

Mr J.N. Thompson N3

Mrs J. Winchester N3

CONTACTS

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Archives: Maggie Ferguson (Custodian) 36 Oakfield Road, Finchley N3 2HT 020 8349 4283 emfmr@hotmail.co.uk	Treasurer: Aziz Jetha 2 Templars Crescent, N3 3QS 020 8346 2286	Distribution Manager: Helene Davidian 020 8444 3669
Membership Secretary: Tony Roberts 32a Sedgemere Avenue, East Finchley, London N2 0SX 020 8883 5954 membership@finchleysociety.org.uk		
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If there are any changes to your membership or contact details please let Tony know

**ARTICLES FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER TO
THE EDITOR BY 15 NOVEMBER 2007**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE - www.finchleysociety.org.uk

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSLETTER IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO KEEP IT
OR PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND!!