

## MARCH 2007

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

[www.finchleysociety.org.uk](http://www.finchleysociety.org.uk)

President: Bill Tyler AADipl, ARIBA, IHBC

Founded 1971

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### MONTHLY MEETING: 'PUBLIC HOUSES BEFORE THE RAILWAY AGE'

Members are cordially invited to the Society's monthly meeting in the drawing Room at Avenue House on Thursday 29 March at 8 pm when Graham Javes will give a talk on 'Public Houses before the Railway Age'

Beginning with the Roman *taverna* and Anglo-Saxon drinking halls, the talk will trace the history of drinking establishments in this country, through inns, taverns and alehouses to the public house at the advent of the railways in Victorian England. Characters met on the way, in a mixture of 18th century satirical prints and modern photographs, include the alewife, the chambermaid, tipplers and travellers. The talk will include legislation to control and to tax licensed premises: legislation that frequently had an effect quite opposite to that intended. There is nothing new about binge drinking, except the name! In earlier times the pub catered for many activities now carried out in specially erected buildings and some of these will be discussed by the speaker.



Do you recognise this view? It is actually Henly's Corner but when was the photo taken? If you think you know please tell the Editor!

## **JANUARY MEETING**

The first speaker at the start of our 2007 programme was Karl Ruge, who talked to us about Friern Barnet, where he has lived for many years. He told us of its history and about the area as it is today. He illustrated his talk with some of the outstanding photographs he has taken over the years; the ones of Friary Park were particularly beautiful. Karl was about to celebrate his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday and so he was treated to "Happy Birthday", sung by the appreciative audience.

## **OUR WEB SITE**

The Society's trustees have been looking at ways to make the site more useful and therefore more attractive to visitors. They have suggested members might make more use of it too. Members are invited to visit the site at [www.finchleysociety.org.uk](http://www.finchleysociety.org.uk) and to let me have any suggestions for expanding the content of the site. The site already has a page for each of the main activity areas; details of the monthly meetings; a section of information links and contacts and copies of most past newsletters, searchable by Google. Any late changes to meetings and occasional announcements will be found there. Perhaps we should have a members' page, or a diary, or maybe there is some article you would like to see posted on the site. Please bear in mind the following:

- The site is intended to be viewed by anyone with an interest in Finchley and Friern Barnet, Society members and non-members alike
- Any expansion of content is dependent on individuals providing that content (I will do any necessary conversion)
- A condition of our web hoster is that all content uploaded has to go through their dial-up connection and that limits the size of any upload.

Please do not send me content without first discussing it with me.

On a separate issue, I'd like to be able provide at least one page suitable for viewing by PDAs (Mobile phones with internet access or 'Blackberry's or similar). So I'm looking for someone with such a device who would be willing to do the testing for me.

*Tony Roberts* [web@finchleysociety.org.uk](mailto:web@finchleysociety.org.uk).

## **LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

The History Group is keen to expand its activities, so if you have some time to spare, please contact Margaret to see how you can help.

### **History Projects**

A meeting of the local history projects group took place at Avenue House on 18 January. It was well attended despite the storms. The wide-ranging discussion covered not just an update on projects but also use of the Archives and a possible exhibition to be held at Avenue House. Two new projects emerged – on Grass Farm and on Synagogues in Finchley. The list of current and proposed projects (with explanations) is posted on The Finchley Society's web site.

The next meeting is planned for 24 May, subject to confirmation.

*Margaret Cullen*

## **ON THE ORIGINS OF CHERRY TREE WOOD**

When I first came to live in East Finchley I felt how strange was the name Cherry Tree Wood, with hardly a cherry tree in sight. It wasn't until recently, while looking at the 1894 Ordnance Survey map of East Finchley, that I noticed the tree lined road called Cherry Tree Hill (also known as Great North Road, formerly New Gate Lane). At that time the Wood was still known as Dirthouse Wood, after the building opposite, the forerunner of the Old White Lion. The boundary with Hornsey went diagonally across



the wood, with most of it on the Hornsey side. The watercress beds are clearly marked, but much of the field known as the Quag has been obliterated by the railway. The watercress beds disappeared by the time the 1912 map was published.

The Wood was bought by Finchley Urban District Council (from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners) in 1915 and opened to the public. Subsequently it was renamed Cherry Tree Wood, presumably from its position by Cherry Tree Hill, and the Finchley/Hornsey boundary was rerouted around the outside in 1930 along with other changes.

The 1894 Ordnance Survey map is viewable at The Finchley Society Archives.

*Tony Roberts*

## **TRUSTEES MEETING – 1 FEBRUARY**

Your Trustees have started a review, which will extend over numerous meetings, of their governance, namely the way in which they work within our own organisation with volunteers and members and with outside entities such as the Borough of Barnet, the press and other local societies.

The review started at their February meeting. Rosemary Coates the Newsletter Editor and Tony Roberts who is in charge of our web site, attended. Various suggestions about the content and presentation of the Newsletter were discussed for Rosemary Coates' consideration. Tony Roberts said that many members are unaware that we have a web site aimed at providing information to the public as well as to our members; it should be given more publicity and members should be encouraged to submit material.

In addition: the Trustees considered various options for producing additional copies of the Society's book "Finchley Remembered" and for assessing if there is further demand; agreed to make a donation to the Friends of the Finchley Memorial Hospital towards their 2008 centenary celebration; approved the Society's 2007/08 budget of around £6000 turnover; approved a revised Constitution and Terms of Reference for the Administration Committee; agreed to limit the circulation of members' email addresses to comply with the Data Protection Act, and noted: that the Planning committee is greatly concerned over a recent Council design and planning document and at some of the Council's planning procedures; that the annual Dinner will be held in July; and that Long Lane pastures are now in a position to become a greenspace.

*Robert Winton*

## **GREEN WALKS**

### **Long Lane Pasture, N3**

The Long Lane Pasture Action Group is thrilled at the response for funds to help with the expenses in obtaining a lease from the London Borough of Barnet. A big thank you to supporters who contributed over £900 in just 4 weeks.

On Saturday 10 March I will give a tour of the Pasture to show you what is planned, so if you are interested meet me at the gate at 10.30 am. The entrance is along the footpath opposite the Fire Station in Long Lane. The terrain is rough and uneven grass that can be very wet at times, so wear boots if you can.

### **Dollis Brook, N3**

If you would like to join me for a walk by the brook, I will be starting from the bridge in Fursby Avenue, N3 at 10 am on Saturday 17 March. Last year two of the party saw the flash of the Kingfisher, which we will hope to see again and if we don't see the Parakeets we should at least hear them.

### **Friary Park, N12**

After Karl Ruge's interesting talk to the Society in January, I thought it would be good to go and see what he was talking about. Therefore on Sunday 1st April at 2.30 pm, meet me at the park entrance in Torrington Park, opposite Ashurst Road and we will explore.

I have measured some of the trees and the biggest I found is at the north west corner near Friary Road, this is an oak which is 6 feet 2 inches thick or 1.89m. The largest oak in Great Britain, in Cheshire, is 14 feet thick, and the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest that some of you may have seen is over 11 feet thick. If you want to know how to measure a tree then come and join us.

### **Greenspaces**

Would you like to take us on a walk around a green space near you? I recently saw a weasel in the spinney at the side of the Finchley golf course and a number of foxes have been reported, mostly trotting along a road. There is much to be seen so keep your eyes open.

### **SPIKE MILLIGAN STATUE FUND**

We were delighted when supporter Donald Lyven, who took the fine photos in our 2007 calendar, took the opportunity to display Spike as a snowman, sitting on a bench in the exact pose which we hope to do in bronze. The photograph of this and other sculptures were seen in the Hendon and Finchley Times of February 15 and will remind people of our efforts to raise money for this. Thank you Donald.

*Derek Warren, 020 8346 5258 derwar@waitrose.com*

### **SELLERS HALL, THE UNKNOWN MANSION OF FINCHLEY**

There was a grand house on this site to the southern end of Nether Street from the early 1500s. It was first known as 'Cellers Hall' and was built for the Spicer family, also known as Smith. The name 'Cellers' is thought to have come about because 'cells' in the area were used to store sheep's' wool. In 1682 the first Cellers Hall was taken down. Two years later a new mansion was built and this remained until the death in 1953 of the then owner, Richard Sayer Arnell. His son, Richard Arnell, sold the house. It was demolished and Sellers Hall Close was built. The Arnell family had strong connections with Hendon and Finchley. Richard Arnell senior had three brothers, William Frederick, Charles Christopher and John Christopher. Richard Arnell junior was a composer and later taught at the Royal college of Music. One of his protégés was Sir Malcolm Arnold. Now living in a retirement home at Bromley, he told me that his father and his father's three brothers were all developers. Richard Sayer, with his partner Mr King, built St Catherine's House at the bottom of Kingsway, London. The three brothers built largely in the Finchley area. Early research has revealed that one Arthur Herbert Christopher Arnell built a house for Adrian de Fleury in 1914 at Bridge Lane, Hendon. Richard Arnell junior believes his father built some of the houses off Regents Park Road, near Henly's Corner. There is much more to discover of the Arnell family and their role in developing Finchley.

*Mike Dawson*

### **RECYCLING**



In the excellent January Newsletter, Derek Warren asks for further ideas about recycling. He has already made what is perhaps the most important point in this debate which is that recycling has not been achieved merely by putting our glass, paper, and what have you in a bin. That warm glow you get when you do so is hardly justified. Recycling is essentially about making and selling products made from recycled materials, thus completing the cycle. And here we should welcome the new M&S initiative, which will help identify recycled products in their stores.

Plastic, as usual, is identified as the villain of the piece. Some kind of balance is needed in these debates. Today's world could not survive just on the products of nature. Plastics, chemicals and other synthetics are essential to our way of life. Plastic packaging, for example, is one of the most importance technical and commercial

developments of our age. It enabled the self-service revolution to take place by providing clear plastics films that made possible pre-packaging, pre-weighing/pricing and protected the contents against dust, dirt and the hands of the check-out girl who has just put a handful of coins from the customer in front of you in the till. The carrier bag does its job superbly. It is tough, light, flexible, and waterproof and can be recycled. No one, surely, would wish to go back to the brown paper and string of earlier years? Most criticism comes about the sheer volume used and that is largely our fault! Probably because most of them are free, we tend to use too many so if this worries you, do as Derek suggests, take your bag (or cardboard box) to the shop or ensure that your goods are packed more efficiently in store.

What we all have in common is our concern about over-packaging and bad design that makes pack opening difficult. Here again, we have the choice of buying or not buying and, for the more active, taking up matters with the manufacturer. It seems that we all want to put blame on others for using up the world's resources. I know people who will metaphorically chain themselves to railings to protest about plastic carrier bags and yet drive around in a gas-guzzling car. This reminds me that I should have gone hours ago to turn the central heating down a pip or two.

*Percy Reboul*

### **OTHER GROUPS' MEETINGS**

Friends of Barnet Borough Libraries: Monday 19 March 2007 at 8 pm for 8:15 pm Church End Library 'Poetry for Fun' – a talk by Jacqueline Morris

Agenda 21 Group: 7 pm on Monday 19 March at the Baptist Church Hall, 609 High Road North Finchley N12 0DZ. The meeting will have a speaker from 'Wedge Card' which is a discount card for local and independent shops, started by John Bird of the Big Issue.

### **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:

Dr. Steve & Diane Alpern  
(address unknown),

Barry & Margaret Cullen N3,

Mr & Mrs Timothy Johnson N12,

David & Christine Morris N12,

Dr & Mrs S.O. Natelson N12,

Miss Gillian M. Sturdy N12,

Mr & Mrs W. Tyler N2,

Mr & Mrs F. Waters N3,

Mrs Eva Freaan N3,

Mr & Mrs P. Dunnill N3,

Maureen Cartwright N12,

Mr A. Gotlop N3,

Mr A. Roberts N2,

Richard Tayler N6,

Dr Rudi & Mrs Vis N2,

Mrs G. Williams N3

### **LOST PROPERTY**

A ladies' coat and cardigan were left behind after our Christmas party last December,. If you believe they are yours please get in touch with Maggie Ferguson on 020 8349 4283.

## CONTACTS

### Environment & Transport Committee

Harry Branchdale [harry@branchdale.co.uk](mailto:harry@branchdale.co.uk)

*Please use the following numbers for your problems:*

Bird reports & Wildlife – Derek Warren	020 8346 5258
Trees – Ann Gallon	020 8346 8533
Recycling – Stan Spinks	020 8346 9811
Built Environment – Barbara Warren	020 8346 5258
Traffic and Transport – Pat Dunnill/ Harry Branchdale	020 8349 9825 020 8445 4281
Front garden paving – David Hollingworth	020 8446 9693
Barnet Customer Care	020 8359 4600
Environment Agency	0800 807 060

### Planning Committee:

Stephen Cooper (Chairman) [stephestherc@waitrose.com](mailto:stephestherc@waitrose.com)  
32 Cardew Avenue N12 9LD. 020 8445 2685

### Local History Group:

Margaret Cullen (Secretary) [margaretcullen@f2s.com](mailto:margaretcullen@f2s.com)  
21 Lyndhurst Gardens, N3 1TA 020 8346 2091

### Archives:

Maggie Ferguson (Custodian) [emfmr@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emfmr@hotmail.co.uk)  
36 Oakfield Road, Finchley N3 2HT 020 8349 4283

### Treasurer:

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### Distribution Manager:

Helene Davidian 020 8444 3669

### Membership Secretary:

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If there are any changes to your membership or contact details please let Tony know

### Newsletter:

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Rosemary Coates 020 8368 1620 or [rosemary.finsoc@waitrose.com](mailto:rosemary.finsoc@waitrose.com)

*(Please note new e-mail address)*

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[www.finchleysociety.org.uk](http://www.finchleysociety.org.uk)