

JUNE 2007

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

President: Bill Tyler AADipl, ARIBA, IHBC

Founded 1971

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND TALK ON THE STEPHENS COLLECTION

The Annual General Meeting will take place in the Drawing Room at Avenue House on Thursday 28 June commencing at 8 pm

This will be followed by a talk given by Eileen Kenning on 'The Stephens Collection'.

Norman Burgess was the powerhouse of energy and ideas who in 1993 with the encouragement of The Finchley Society, created 'The Stephens Collection', a small museum about Henry Stephens who lived in Avenue House. The collection (www.london-northwest.com/sites/stephens) features the achievements of inventor Dr. Henry Stephens (1796–1864) and his businessman son, also Henry but known as 'Inky'.

In January 2004, Eileen made a video recording of Norman Burgess's private talk. Whilst editing the video, Eileen was encouraged by Norman to go further and make a film. The result: 'Blue and Black' The Story of Stephens Ink is to be shown at the meeting with Eileen available to answer any questions afterwards. It is our deepest intention that Norman would surely approve.

Eileen lives locally and wants to remind us about the list of credits at the end of 'Blue and Black'. The list of credits is long because so many local people helped to make the film, most especially The Stephens Collection committee, of which she is a member.

ANNUAL DINNER – WEDNESDAY 4 JULY

We are quite happy to extend the deadline beyond 31 May so if you are reading this in early June and want to attend the Annual Dinner the please get in touch with David Smith on 8883 4154 as soon as possible. David can also supply duplicate application forms. The cost is £25 per head. Our Guest of Honour will be the recently retired Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet, Councillor Eva Greenspan. She will be entertaining us with a talk about the thrills and spills of being Mayor. Do join us.

REPORT OF APRIL MONTHLY MEETING

Robert Winton MBE gave us a fascinating insight into the background workings of the Society. Robert used the analogy of "Ana" the duck; all seems calm and going swimmingly but under the surface there is a lot going on to keep Ana Afloat.

There are a lot of hard-working people beavering away behind the scenes and they are the most important things in the society: VOLUNTEERS.

Robert suggests that in order to keep our volunteers, the saying "if you need something done, ask a busy person" is something NOT to follow. We should try to avoid overwork (and no pay!) for our volunteers. When talking about the society's finances Robert defined Budgeting as: "making sure there is not too much year left at the end of the money!" The Committee Secretaries are also important links in the chain, chasing people up, doing minutes and keeping things on track.

We finished with a poem:

When Committees have finished, the members gone home,
It leaves Secretaries all on their own,
Racking their brains to write a report,
What they think, members think, they ought to have thought.

Roz Avery

MEETINGS

Attendance at our meetings varies and we try to give a cross section of subjects. We are now planning the programme for 2008, so do you have any suggestions? If so please contact our Events Secretary Sakina Jetha on 020 8346 2286 or sakjetha@btinternet.com.

THE SPIKE MILLIGAN STATUE FUND

We will be at the East Finchley Festival on Sunday 24th June in Cherry Tree Wood, do come along there is much to see. We will also be at the Friern Barnet Summer Show in Friary Park, on Saturday 18th August, if we can find help to man the stall. If you can help for an hour or two at either event please contact Barbara Warren on 020 8346 5258 - barwar@waitrose.com

I have received an e-mail from Stewart Wild of The Stephens Collection, informing us of a Spike Calendar with pride of place in the kitchen of Jennifer Stephens of Massachusetts, USA. Stewart had sent one to her on behalf of The Stephens Collection, as she is the last remaining member of the family bearing the Stephens' name, and is their patron.

Are there any more out there?!

Barbara Warren

FRIERN BARNET LIBRARY

A talk by Yasmine Webb of Barnet Local Studies and Archives on 'The Parish and Poor of Friern Barnet 18th – 19th Century'. Wednesday 13 June 10.30 am - 11.30 am at Friern Barnet Library. All welcome – coffee/tea 35p.

COME TO A SPECIAL SOCIETY OCCASION!

You are welcome at the statue of La Delivrance, at the junction of Regents Park Road and the North Circular Road, at 3 pm on Sunday September 9 for the unveiling of an information board to tell the public about the statue. Among those present will be the Mayor of Barnet, the Deputy Lieutenant for Barnet and a contingent of cadets.

This will be the 80th anniversary of the presentation of the statue by Lord Rothermere to the then Finchley Urban District Council, to commemorate the Allied victory at the battle of Marne from the 6 to 9 September 1914, during the First World War

Robert Winton



The Society plans to place other information boards outside prominent buildings in Finchley and Friern Barnet.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Secretary Margaret Cullen, 21 Lyndhurst Gardens N3 1TA, 020 8346 2091 or margaretcullen@f2s.com. 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.

Local History Maps

The Archive has a wide collection of historical maps and sketch maps. A list of these is now available on our web site at:

www.finchleysociety.org.uk/actarchivemaps.htm

History Projects

In addition to the sixteen current projects there are a number proposed as volunteers become available. These include:

Updating of Finchley Charities: The current book on the history of Finchley Charities stops in 1988. The book could be brought up to date and re-issued.
Proposed by Barbara Warren

Photographing buildings at risk: When businesses close down or buildings may be demolished, to obtain permission and make a photographic record of the building inside and out; to interview the outgoing occupiers and to seek documents and records of value to future historians. [Liaison is required with Friern Barnet Local History Society, particularly for the buildings along the shared boundary].
Proposed by Robert Winton

Investigating the Finchley connection with Captain Scott's snow machines: Ranulph Fiennes' book *Captain Scott* mentions a snow machine, based on the then novel idea of a continuous looped track, being developed in Finchley. Investigations in 1985 (FinSoc website) and subsequently, revealed that the designer was Belton T Hamilton, and his firm, Autolec Syndicate Ltd was at 3, The Mall, Ballards Lane. There are many known leads to follow up concerning the designer and the machines so that the complete story may be documented.
Proposed by Robert Winton

A Finchley Museum: To investigate the feasibility of a Finchley museum.
Proposed by David Smith

Tony Roberts

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee needs a representative for the London Green Belt Council. Quarterly meetings are held in central London. Issues discussed relate to the green belt and planning, with the aim of retaining green belt land. Anyone interested should contact Mike Dawson on 020 8346 4232: mkdawson@onetel.com.

CAKE SALE AT SEPTEMBER MEETING

At the September meeting there will be a cake sale in place of the Raffle to raise money for Long Lane Pasture. Please bring some money along to purchase some tasty treats! If you would like to donate a home-made cake please let Roz or Shirley Avery know before the meeting on 8346 8484

ROZ'S RAFFLE: NEW WORTHY CAUSE!

From the June meeting all raffle money will be going towards the Long Lane Pasture Trust. They are about to sign a lease with the Borough of Barnet and are trying to raise at least £1,100 so roll up and get your tickets!

Roz Avery

LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES VISIT

On Wednesday 3rd of October we are planning a visit to London Metropolitan Archives in Islington. This is the largest local authority records office in the UK with 72km of administrative, social and family history dating from 1067. Records from schools, churches, hospitals, businesses and local government are included with maps, plans and photos. There is no charge for the visit.

If you would like to come we need to supply the Archive with your name and address before we go so please contact Shirley Avery on 8346 8484 by Monday 24th of September.

NEWS FROM THE FAMILY

We were very sorry to learn that both Denys and Joan Pegg have been in hospital and we wish them a speedy recovery. Most of you will remember that Denys was a former Chairman of the Society.

WHETSTONE STRAY

(the open space by Dollis Brook between Totteridge Lane and Laurel Way)

On seeing a large area of turf being removed alongside the Dollis Brook, I arranged to meet representatives from Three Valleys Water and the contractors, I was impressed with the surveys that they had carried out and the specialists who were involved, and I have received the following note from them:

Essential Water Works – Whetstone Stray

As part of Three Valleys Water's investment programme to improve and safeguard the water supply network in the Barnet area, a new 7.4 kilometre water main from Totteridge and Whetstone to Fortis Green is being constructed.

The route of the water main goes from Totteridge and Whetstone underground station through Dollis Valley, joining Holden Road, Westbury Road, Alexandra Grove and on to Ballards Lane. The main will then go along Etchingham Park Road, Avondale Road, Abingdon Road, across the North Circular Road and on to Long Lane to Trinity Road, Leslie Road, Creighton Avenue turning into Church Lane, Springcroft and ending in Southern Road, Fortis Green.

A section of the new water main is being laid across Whetstone Stray. You may have already seen the new health and safety fencing being erected across the open space. This is to cordon off the area where the new pipe will be laid, materials and equipment stored and heavy machinery accessing the area from both Totteridge Lane and Laurel Way.

The work itself will involve stripping off the topsoil, laying the new pipe and reinstatement of the area with work already underway and scheduled for completion at the end of July. The area where the pipe has been laid will be seeded and the fencing will remain in position until the grass has started to grow back.

Three Valleys Water has been consulting with the London Borough of Barnet and the Environment agency in order to ensure the work does not have a long-term impact on the local environment.

Some initial improvement works have already been carried out to the river area at the Totteridge Lane end of the open space and when the water mains work is complete, further improvement works will be made to the river bed, bringing it back to a more natural state.

This essential work is being carried out for Three Valleys by Clancy Docwra Limited, whose workmen carry identity badges. If you have any concerns or require further assistance please call Three Valleys Water Call Centre on 0845 782 3333.

Derek Warren

NEW MEMBERS

Enclosed is a leaflet for you to give a friend or neighbour or to someone that has just moved into the area. If you would like more to distribute please contact Derek Warren – 020 8346 5258 - derwar@waitrose.com.

Do you know of anywhere that would display our membership forms? We keep a supply in the Libraries and at Avenue House, but do you know of any other venue such as a community or religious centre, a shop or club that would take them or display a poster?

Derek Warren

COMMUNITY RE-PAINT SCHEME

Did you know that there is a Community Re-paint scheme? Paint donated by Barnet residents is collected at the Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, North Finchley and then made available to community, voluntary and other non-profit making groups and organisations in Barnet, saving them money and reducing the amount of waste disposed of in landfill. Groups can apply to have paint from this scheme by contacting Michael Lai at Barnet Council (Tel: 020 8371 3670).

So why not check your garages and store cupboards to see if there are any pots of paint you'd like to get rid off which can be re-used in this way?

CHURCH FARMHOUSE MUSEUM

For over 50 years Church Farmhouse Museum has presented hundreds of very successful temporary exhibitions, on many different topics, which have taken up all of the first floor of this fine Grade II listed 17th Century building. Times have changed since the Museum opened in 1955, and it is now proposed to devote space to a display on the history of toys and games (with lots of playthings available for the very young to enjoy); a room showing life in Barnet borough during WWII; and a temporary exhibition gallery. The new layout is an experiment and whether or not it becomes permanent will depend on the views of visitors. Please let the Museum know what you think! Tel. 020 8203 0130

BOWLER HAT: Do you have a bowler hat that you would be prepared to lend to Gerard Root of Church Farmhouse Museum from November 2007 to February 2008? If so, please contact him on Tel. 020 8203 0130.

COPPETTS WOOD CONSERVATIONISTS – WEEKEND WILDLIFE WALKS

Sunday 3 June - tour of Local Nature Reserve. Meet 2 pm in Colney Hatch Lane at the entrance to the Woods. Tour guide: Oliver Natelson.

Sunday 10 June: Bat Tour of Local Nature Reserve. Meet 9 pm (evening!) in Colney Hatch Lane at the entrance to the Woods. Tour guide: Jackie Wedd

Sunday 17 June: Tour of Glebelands Local Nature Reserve. Meet 2 pm at junction of Summers Lane and Upway. Tour Guide: Oliver Natelson.

MAPS

Peter Whitfield's "London - A Life in Maps", gives a great insight into the development of London and at the beginning of one chapter he says, "One of the most ingenious and celebrated maps ever designed was Henry Beck's 1932 map of the London Underground system.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Secretary, Tony Roberts, 32a, Sedgemere Avenue, East Finchley, London, N2 0SX 020 8883 5954 - e-mail: membership@finchleysociety.org.uk

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:

Mr. Richard S. Buchanan N3

Helene Ann Davidian N2

Ms Ann Gallon N3

Mrs. H. Hatchett N3

Mr. J. Karat N3

Miss M. Kilby N3

Mrs R.M. Rees NW11

Mr Tony McTeare N3

Mrs M. O'Brien N12

Mr J. Segal N12

Ms Rosanna Taylor N3

Mr & Mrs R.C. Winton N2

CONTACTS

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

**THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER
DURING JULY AND AUGUST**

ARTICLES FOR THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER TO THE EDITOR BY 15 AUGUST 2007

Rosemary Coates (Editor) Rosemary.finsoc@waitrose.com
38 Lyndhurst Avenue, London N12 0LU 020 8368 1620

We welcome letters, articles and photographs about Finchley
for inclusion in future Newsletters!

Visit our website!

www.finchleysociety.org.uk

THE FINCHLEY SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2006/07

The Society has had a satisfactory year in spite of being without a Chairman following the resignation of Barbara Warren in April, after three hard working years' service. Our sincere thanks for devoting so much of her time and energy to her Chairmanship.

The Society's work has continued normally because others have taken on additional responsibilities, notably Vice President David Smith, Vice Chairman Maggie Ferguson and Secretary Robert Winton.

Unconnected with her resignation as Chairman, in December Barbara Warren also resigned as Editor of the Newsletter, feeling that ten years was an adequate span of service. It is a task requiring much energy and dedication, and we must all be grateful that she did it so well. Our thanks to Rosemary Coates for taking over as Newsletter Editor

Stephen Cooper resigned in March as Chairman of the Planning Committee and as a Trustee. Our best thanks for his very valuable contributions to the work of the Society since his appointment in 2002. This, and our need for a Society Chairman and an Education Secretary, were our major volunteer vacancies at the end of the year,

Barnet Civic Awards were made to David Smith, due mainly to being Governor of Holy Trinity CE Primary School for 30 years and to his work for The Finchley Society, and to Mollie Harris for a variety of focal work. Lynn Bresler and Karl Ruge were elected Honorary Life Members and Esther and Timothy Johnson received presentations for their Society work, Congratulations to them all.

A persistent shadow is the continuing slow decline in membership and our failure to attract younger members. Nevertheless our numbers are well above the national average for our type of organisation.

Our finances remain well controlled by an annual budget, agreed by the Trustees for 2006/07 for estimated expenditure of £6 620 against estimated income of £6 650. The year's expenditure was in fact £6 708 against income of £6 903. Of our two ring-fenced accounts, the Peggy Wells bequest of £5 000 is financing an information board for the "La Delivrance" statue and the Constance Leah White bequest of £10 000 is held until it can be used "for the benefit of College Farm". These funds, plus our working reserve fund, have been placed in accounts yielding maximum interest.

The Administration Committee, which received an updated Constitution and Terms of Reference, continued initiating, reviewing and organising a wide variety of items including the Newsletter, membership matters, the Annual Dinner, the Christmas Meeting and Party, the programme of talks to members, the archives and publicity.

Among the many items which the Environment & Transport Committee has discussed and on which they have made representations to the Council are tree planting and preservation, bus services, noise, light pollution, paving-over front gardens and the removal of speed bumps. Derek Warren has continued to lead wildlife walks in addition to doing a variety of other valuable work.

Among the major concerns of the Planning Committee have been: the effect of new town centres on existing town centres; the implications of the changes in planning regulations; Borough of Barnet restrictions on the inspection of planning applications;

the adverse effect of supermarket growth on local retailers and its social implications, In addition reviewing planning applications and commenting on them to the Council has continued throughout the year.

The early problems in forming the History Group have been solved and its activities, meetings and newsletter have been assimilated into existing Society activities, The Group will in future propose two of our monthly talks to members, it has reviewed and encouraged thirteen current history projects and sought volunteers to take on seven proposed projects or to start projects of their choosing;; it has continued to make audio recordings of personal reminiscences of Finchley and Friern Barnet history, which are being transcribed for easier reference.

The Spike Milligan Statue Fund, which shares the Society's charity number, has continued its appeals and organised many fund raising events. Erecting the statue outside Avenue House has been approved by the Council.

The Trustees have begun a review of the Society's governance, the way in which they deal with volunteers, Society members and outside entities. This is a long term exercise running over a number of Trustees' meetings,

Talks to members have continued with an average attendance of 30-40. Because it was unfair that meeting expenses are met from subscriptions whereas non-members entered free, there is now a £2 non-members' entry.

Membership Secretary Tony Roberts has continued to keep computerised membership records and History Group project details and is in charge of the Society's web site, which he keeps up-to-date.

Archive Custodian Maggie Ferguson and her team have spent most Monday mornings sorting out and cataloguing material. Progress is slow but steady, with the aim of making material available to members and non members.

The Society has always taken a special interest in College Farm, so it was an enormous relief when the Highways Agency sold the Farm to the College Farm Trust, thus ensuring its future.

There is great regret at the current dispute between the Finchley Arts Centre Trust (FACT) and the Avenue House Estate Trust (AHET) which led to AHET evicting FACT from the Bothy. The Society has no role to play in the dispute.

Many thanks to our members for their support and very welcome donations, and to our volunteers for carrying out the work they have undertaken and often more, My especial thanks go to David Smith for his help, to Aziz Jetha for his meticulous stewardship of our finances, to Maggie Ferguson for many activities beyond the call of a Vice Chairman, to Janett Durrant and her staff for help with Avenue House matters, to Sakina Jetha for her patient and persistent pursuit of our speakers, and to Tony Roberts for advice, especially on IT matters.

The Trustees have approved this report with thanks to Robert Winton for his many Society activities and hard work.

Robert Winton
Hon. Secretary

April 21 2007