

Finchley Needs You...

Or, rather, Finchley needs your memories. Yes, The Finchley Society is now starting work on a new book of memories, to follow the resounding success of *Finchley Remembered* (over 1000 copies sold to date). We can't achieve another such success, though, without the input of the residents of Finchley – past and present, young and old, alike.

Your memory of living, working, playing in Finchley may not need many words – 50 or 100 may suffice; it may require 250, 500 or even more. Your memories might be about something that happened to you, or a member of your family; recollections of the Second World War, the Coronations in 1937 and 1953, the Jubilee, the Millennium; of school days, travel, shopping; of austerity, demographic change (newcomers to the area), local characters, sport, entertainment.

For those of you who haven't seen a copy of *Finchley Remembered*, and indeed for those of you who have, a reminder that your recollections were grouped into thematic chapters (Rural Echoes; Home Sweet Home; Childhood in East Finchley; School Days; Church; Shops & Business; Travelling; Wartime; Events & Celebrations; Entertainment; Famous Finchley Folk), with some longer individual pieces. All the memories were attributed to

their author (but you can remain anonymous if you wish).

Don't be shy. All contributions are welcome – we will include as many as we can in the new book. For those of you who have not yet put pen to paper, so to speak, just try to keep to the point, without too much waffle, give as much detail as you can, and generally try to make your piece personal and unique. If you are not sure of the date of an event, say so in your draft and it will be checked out in the Archives. Also, don't be put off mentioning what you consider to be facts, as there will be a general disclaimer in the Foreword of the book explaining that memory plays tricks on us all!

And don't worry if your prose style is less than perfect – that's what an editor is for! To tidy up the grammar, and correct the spelling. Although, it must be said, very little such intervention was required for *Finchley Remembered*.

So, feel free to write about whatever you want, in whatever style suits you. It's your memory, after all. And collectively these memories help to paint a picture of life in Finchley, be it in the 1800s, the 1900s, or the noughties.

And we are happy to receive material in whatever form suits you: handwritten, typewritten, or by email. Remember to

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include your name and address (so that we can acknowledge that your contribution has been received), and to use (your name only – please supply your forename rather than initial; it looks friendlier!) to attribute your memory in the finished book.

Ideally, we would like to receive your thoughts by the end of February 2009. So, if you cont.

The Finchley Society



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were wondering what to do over Christmas – now you know!

Please send your handwritten or typewritten memories to David Smith, 17 Abbots Gardens, East Finchley, London N2 0JG; email attachments

should go to
lynnbresler@tiscali.co.uk.

Should you wish to have a quick word, call either Lynn Bresler (020 8446 6249; before 6.00pm) or David Smith (020 8883 4154).

...and the Society Needs You

We will also need an editorial board that will:

- type up material (internet access would be needed)
- check dates – in the Society Archives or elsewhere
- plan the content of the book
- organise its illustration
- arrange its marketing and publicity

If these aspects of the project interest you, then please let Lynn Bresler know how you would like to help.

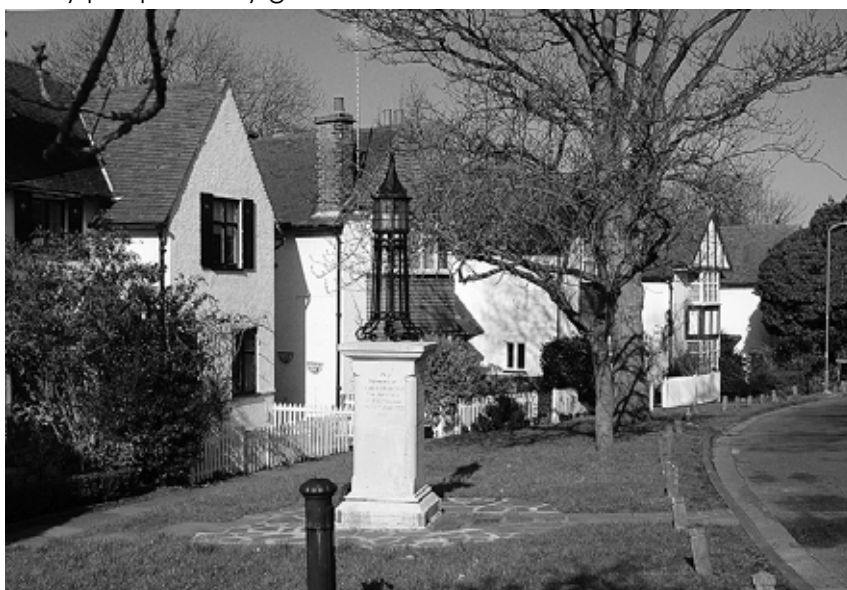
Finchley Garden Village (Part 2)

The article in the last newsletter was interesting. Many famous people have lived and lodged in Finchley Garden Village, of course, but I would like to remind members of one of them - Stephen Jack, the radio actor. Stephen was kind enough to do a tape-recorded interview with me in 1983 in which he talked about his early days in the Village and his work with the BBC and various theatrical companies: an enthralling story, a copy of which was lodged with the Finsoc archives.

As an example of his work, many people of my generation

(i.e. old) will remember with affection BBC's Children's Hour, broadcast at 5 pm on weekdays. Among their most famous and popular productions was 'Toytown'. Stephen was a master of dialects and, at one time or another, took almost every part in the production – Ernest the Policeman, the Mayor, Mr. Growler and so on. Larry the Lamb, however, was reserved exclusively for Uncle Mac. All of which is another world!

Percy Reboul



Finchley Garden Village

IN TOWN PLANNING —

minor changes proposed by developers or householders are dealt with by planning officers of the local authority; when the issues are getting more involved or on a larger scale, the planning committees, composed of elected councillors, will make the decisions. Finally, an unsatisfied applicant can appeal the borough's ruling and such an appeal will be decided by a planning inspector who will normally visit the disputed site and may arrange a public hearing.

Although this is a reasonable arrangement, in practice there are weaknesses in the system, mostly human ones. These militate against residents and their collective bodies, such as The Finchley Society or residents' associations and they can destroy the balance which the framework is supposed to provide.

Let us explain; to start with, a planning proposal will be scrutinized by an officer of the planning department; he discusses it with the applicant, and, once satisfied with the proposal, will either sanction it,

if that is within his or her powers, or recommend its acceptance to the planning committee. At that stage, the officer's commendation indicates that he considers the application worthy of approval. So, if the councillors then turn it down, this could be resented. Such resentment might colour the wording of the reasons for refusal, if this choice is left to the officer: and this, in turn, could make an appeal by the applicant more likely to succeed. For this reason a committee chairman should insist on the reasons for the Council's decision being formulated by the committee.

The planning officer, especially if he or she had spent substantial effort on licking the proposal into shape at the beginning, might well feel aggrieved that his expertise has not been vindicated by the 'laymen' who compose the committee.

If the applicant then appeals, with or without encouragement, the Council will be represented before the planning inspector by current or previous colleagues of that officer who

may even have had a briefing from him and know of the reasons, why he felt that the committee's refusal seemed unreasonable to him. In these circumstances, and expecting a fair amount of departmental cooperation and loyalty, his colleagues could find it hard to argue convincingly the case for the committee's decision. Thus, at a hearing, the well-paid and carefully briefed advocates for the appeal are opposed by Council officers who really have not got their heart in the job. It is greatly to the credit of the inspectorate that they rely on their own judgment and turn down unreasonable appeals, but it is not surprising either that some successful appeals leave a whole neighbourhood baffled and dismayed and some insensitive and aggressive appellants encouraged to think that the cards in an appeal are stacked in their favour.

So, should the pack be reshuffled more fairly? And how can this be achieved without disproportionate increase in time or cost?

Karl Ruge

College Farm

Various plans are in hand for the repair of the listed buildings, which are now 125 years old, and it is hoped that the trust will be able to open a section of the farm by introducing a few animals next July.

The intention was to start fundraising this autumn but the present economic climate means that there will have to be a delay. However we hope there will be an improvement so that we can proceed in the New Year.

The trust, under the chairmanship of John Skitt, is progressing details for future

works and events and I will keep you informed as we make progress. The trustees include two experts in education and one in finance, a veterinary surgeon, a chartered building surveyor and our member of parliament. We work in close collaboration with the Ower family who have an agricultural tenancy on the farm.

Our new web site will be up and running in a few weeks time and I will give you more details in the next newsletter.

Derek Warren 020 8346 5258
derwar@waitrose.com

Our New Baby

The Society is now the proud owner of a computer projector. It had its first public showing at our September meeting. This equipment will now be available to any visiting speaker and will also be used for Society presentations.

We are indebted to Robert Winton and Tony Roberts for each having made donations of 25% of the cost of the projector. We thank them for their generosity.

We also thank Stuart Baines for the donation of a lap-top computer that works alongside the new projector. This gesture is much appreciated.

The Finchley Society - Changes In Personnel

Robert Winton, our Honorary Secretary, has decided to resign from his position after 12 years in the post. In fact, he stood down at the end of our Executive Committee meeting on 2 October having intimated to us at least a year ago that he would wish to do so.

It is difficult to express adequately our appreciation of his work but let us try. Robert has brought to the Society a rare professional zeal to see that things are done properly without any corner-cutting or fudging. He has produced detailed agendas for our meetings and minutes that rarely needed any comment. He has communicated very effectively with the membership on a wide range of topics and problems. He has been a fount of knowledge on procedure and has taken us through two major overhauls of our constitution. He has been our point of contact with both national organisations and other local societies. He has remembered to do things that most of us would have forgotten. He has, in effect, been an amazingly effective Secretary and has, more than

anyone else, kept the show on the road. We are the poorer for his moving on.

For an even longer time Robert has been our Press Secretary, maintaining a stream of information for the local, and sometimes national, press. Often a thankless task when our news did not always seem newsworthy enough to those who edit our papers. However, Robert has stuck to his guns and has been instrumental in maintaining the local profile of The Society. He will remain in this post until a replacement has been found.

Robert has already been blessed with longevity and we wish him many more years in which to enjoy real retirement in the company of Heather and his family.

We also have to thank Aziz Jetha, our Treasurer for the past three years, for his care of our accounts and the stewardship of our assets. Aziz has often asked the Executive to consider difficult questions about costs and to look ahead more than a few months to possible problems that might affect the well-being of the Society. We

have appreciated his wisdom and his advice. We owe him too a great debt of gratitude.

We are delighted to announce that Kiran Singh has offered to take on the role of Honorary Secretary - a daunting task for anyone. We count ourselves fortunate that this post has been filled so quickly and we thank Kiran for having stepped into the breach.

Likewise, Mollie Harris has agreed to take on the role of Society Treasurer forthwith. We are grateful to Mollie for doing so; it is not an easy job but we know that she will bring her professional skills to the task. Again, we thank Mollie for having put herself forward to assist the Society.

We also thank Barbara Warren for taking on the Chairmanship of the Administration Committee and Derek Warren who has left the committee to devote more time to College Farm where he is a key member of the new Trust. Derek has done more than anyone else over the years to attract new members through various membership drives and leaflet campaigns.

Christmas Party

The Christmas Meeting and Party will take place in the Drawing Room at Avenue House East End Road, N3 on Thursday 18 December, starting at 7.30 pm. We shall be welcoming our Guests of Honour: The Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet, Cllr. John Marshall and The Mayoress, Rosie Daniels. They will arrive at 8.00 pm so could we please ask that other guests are in place before that time?

There will be a brief welcome and a few words about what has been achieved during the year. Once the formal part is over we shall go to the Salon for refreshments. There will be usual quiz and raffle. The results will be declared at 9.30 pm. New members who have joined during this year, will receive individual invitations to the event. We hope that many members will make the effort to attend this year and help round off what has been a busy year for us all.

Joan Butcher, our indefatigable catering manager, will be delighted to receive offers of help with the preparation of food and with setting up on the night (Yes, and clearing up afterwards!). Her contact number is 020 8364 9314.

Long Lane Pasture – Tree Planting

On Saturday 29 November there will be tree planting taking place at Long Lane Pasture between 10 am & midday. Please come and have a tour of the site to see the exciting things that are happening and you are welcome to visit any Saturday morning. Why not become a Friend by sending a donation to Long Lane Pasture Trust c/o 256 Long Lane N3 2RN. Derek Warren

London Wildlife Trust & the London 2012 Olympics

LWT are involved with the London 2012 Biodiversity Strategy and are members of the London 2012 Local Environmental Steering Group.

In the actual Olympic Park the vision is to re-establish a more natural river ecology along this section of the Lower Lea Valley. This will provide one of the final links in the Lea Valley green corridor, which will stretch from rural Hertfordshire down to the Thames. Much emphasis is being placed on the cleaning up of water ways, re-naturalisation of hard-edged river banks and the creation of new wetland habitats.

There is much more to be told but this shows that there will be benefits for wildlife, not only in safeguarding some of the existing areas but also being able to help the eventual re-colonisation of wildlife across the site after construction has finished. It is noted that outdoor sports venues - be they playing fields or golf courses, rowing or sailing lakes, mountain biking or equestrian courses - share important characteristics that make them valuable for wildlife. Playing fields, for example, may appear rather bland but they are valuable areas of open green space, especially for foraging birds. The real wildlife gems of London's sporting scene are golf courses.

These are odd notes that I have taken from the LWT's magazine. If you want to know more go to www.wildlondon.org.uk.

Derek Warren

The Archives

We are currently sorting through the papers, books and maps left to The Society by the late Denys Pegg, among which are some very good framed maps of Middlesex and interesting books about London. We are considering offering these for sale. Anyone interested in having details please get in touch with me on 020 8349 4283 or emfm@hotmail.co.uk.

We also thank Mr. Robert Andrewes for the gift of two framed ordnance survey maps; these are a very welcome addition to our growing collection of maps of the Finchley area.

Maggie Ferguson,

'Sweet and Sour'

I started the Trustees meeting on 2 October as Secretary and left it as an ordinary member. A sweet and sour moment: sweet because it gives me more time to myself and time to finish my book (which I am reading not writing): sweet because it has been a great experience to feel I can make myself useful from 80 to 93; and because of the many new people and friends I have met and the many new experiences I have had. Sour because I shall miss what I have been doing and those with whom I have been working.

Except for WWII this is the first time in 73 years that I have not been doing voluntary work - so what now? Just as, when I retired from industry, I never knew how I had found time to do a full time job, so now I am sure I shall wonder how I found time to be Secretary.

After 13 years I feel past my sell-by date, and the Society deserves a new Secretary and new thinking. We are most fortunate in having Kiran Singh to take over, she is already familiar with Society work as a Trustee, as former Education Secretary and as a member of the Administration Committee. It is my sincere hope and belief that she will find the work as sweet as I have.

Robert Winton

November meeting:

Sounds and Vision: Places of entertainment in Finchley and surrounding district

The November meeting will take place on Thursday 27 November at **2.30 pm** in the drawing Room at Avenue House, East End Road Finchley N3 3QU, when Yasmine Webb will give a talk on Sounds and Vision: Places of entertainment in Finchley and surrounding district. Finchley was providing cinema from very early on, catering for a rapidly growing population and it can be proudly said that pioneers in cinema history were working from the borough of Barnet. But what of other forms of popular entertainment in the 1900s - what were the choices and the provision? The talk will draw from resources in the collection of how Finchley was entertained.

A Word of Thanks

I should like to thank the team that has worked on and produced the first edition of the new-look Newsletter: Rosemary Coates, the Editor; David Coates, print design; Tony Roberts, technical adviser; Carol Halls and Lynn Bresler, working Group and Helene Davidian, logistics manager. We are indebted to these members who have been working on the project since the beginning of this year.

David Smith

Committee List

The last newsletter (following the AGM) included a current list of all the Society's committees and active members. Members may request an updated list from the Membership Secretary at any time, but do look on page 2 of the Newsletter in case the information you require is included there.

Tony Roberts,
Membership Secretary

A WALK ON THE WEST SIDE

Your walk starts from outside Tesco at Church End. Tighten your boot straps, set your cap at a jaunty angle and off we go on this leisurely stroll of almost three miles. Just a short way northwards up Ballads Lane, past the Post Office – cross over The Grove and Falkland Avenue and then turn left into Lovers Walk. Other than the comparative narrowness, there is nothing remarkable about this first section which leads to Grove Avenue. Straight across here and down the other side. When accompanied by children you could pause at the bridge over the Tube line, for them to wave to a train. If you're lucky a cheery driver may wave back. High walls on either side after this, the doors on the left shield a few rather nice houses - what a trek for the removal men when moving home. At the bottom is Nether Street. Cross slightly to the right and you will spot our path beyond the five bar wooden gate. Is that the



Goldilocks cottage just over there? Walls have now given way to an abundance of trees and bushes and the name Lovers Walk takes on more significance and happy memories for some local folk. Still dropping down we twist along before crossing Dollis Brook via a footbridge. Strictly speaking we have now left Finchley until re-crossing later on. Although ascending, it is not a steep climb through the

golf course where a screen of trees affords protection from any mis-hit projectiles. A few hundred yards until we join a quiet roadway which leads out into Frith Lane where we turn left. What may appear to be a tranquil rural route, is at times a very busy thoroughfare so take care crossing to the safety of the pavement. The land immediately next to you is old Ministry of Defence property and along the road is Frith Grange, a Scout campsite where generations of young people have spent their first night under canvas. Keep going, under the railway bridge, swing right and join the main road. Then turn left. There are shops here at Holders Hill Circus (Kelly's Corner) where you could replenish your stock of toffees or detour 25 yards over to 'The Mill' for a drink or lunch.

Suitably refreshed, continue past the garage for about 200 yards until the road makes a sharp turn to the left. Our way, though, lies directly ahead across another footbridge over the Brook. Playing fields on either side, with a good view of the railway viaduct (Opened in 1867) beyond St Mary's school over to the left. This path will emerge in Lyndhurst Gardens which we cross to discover the aspect of green fields has been succeeded by Tennis courts. A sharper incline now up to Dollis Avenue. Onwards and upwards climbing Church Crescent, the road directly ahead. Not really difficult but the steepest section of the walk and also the only segment with houses on both sides. At the top, instead of veering left like the roadway, enter the wide footpath just ahead. This is the entrance to the graveyard of St Mary' Church, complete with ancient Yew trees. No sign now of the bomb damage suffered

in 1940, just another incident since its foundation in the 12th century. At Hendon Lane go left and next to the Library notice a small garden. This was the site of a 17 century Plague Pit dug just outside the Parish Churchyard and will never be built on. (I wonder why there is no notice telling the story?) A



little further on is a Courthouse which dispenses justice on the spot where St Mary's School dispensed education for more than 150 years.

Another 300 yards and 'The Dignity' is passed. Situated amidst an uninspiring 1960's block, this establishment is the latest embodiment to replace 'The Old King of Prussia' a fine old tavern with a cobbled courtyard. When Charles Dickens lived in Finchley he used to meet here with Henry Stephens of Avenue House. Over the bridge near the station and lo and behold we are back where we started by the Finchley grocer.

Now how about suggesting a walk in your part of town?

Tony McTeare.

September Meeting – Christ's College Finchley

Members enjoyed a very entertaining talk given by Steve Goldsmith, on Christ's College, its staff and pupils since it the school began in 1857. Steve is a teacher at the School. The school started as a boarding school in the converted Queen's Head Tavern near St. Mary's Church in Hendon Lane, moving across the road to a new building in 1860. One surprising fact is that the School has had only six headmasters in over 100 years. Many 'old boys' went on to become influential people all over the world and all seemed to excel at sports especially cricket and rugby!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I write regarding the article *Church End* in September's Newsletter. Naming areas after stations rather than vice-versa can be fraught with dangers, and can sound strange when they include an adjective that comes after a noun, as in the case of Finchley Central. Also, West Finchley station, opened in 1933, is the only station in Finchley not to have changed its name at some time and is actually further east than Finchley Central station! The latter opened in 1867 as Finchley and Hendon, became

Finchley [Church End] in 1894 and was renamed Finchley Central in 1940 when the first tube trains ran through from Highgate. Woodside Park started as Torrington Park Woodside, and East Finchley began as East End, Finchley. North of Finchley Central lies West Finchley Ward, legitimising West Finchley as a name for that area. In any case, place names evolve, much as language does, understanding is what matters.

Tony Roberts,
Sedgemere Avenue N2.

Membership Matters

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:

Ros Avery	KT17	Roger Enskat	N3
Mr N. Bar	N12	Ms L. K. Farmer	N3
Christine Breen	N3	Mr & Mrs I. Lyall	N3
Mrs Marjorie D. Bridges	NW11	Miss E.F. Pearce	N12
Miss Josephine Canning	N3	Mrs M.D. Randall	N3
Mrs Jill Chalmers	TW1	Mr P.E. Pickering	N12
Esther Cooper	N12	Mr A. Roberts	N2
John Davall	N10	Mr & Mrs D. Tofield	N12
Michael Dawson	N3	Mr K.W. Weinberg	NW11
Mrs Derrett	N3	Mr & Mrs R.C. Winton	N2
Christa Dimont	N3		

New members

We offer a warm welcome to the following new members:

Mrs Jill Chalmers, Twickenham Gerald & Barbara Kushner N3

News of the family

Shirley Avery

is recovering from two hip replacements and we all wish her a speedy recovery.

Obituaries

Josephine Cashmore

We record the death on 12th September of Josephine Cashmore, a former member of The Finchley Society, whose enthusiasm for art and architecture was much valued in our early days. She was a member of the Committee and shared with Jean Scott, our Founder, an appreciation of Finchley and its history. In fact, she wrote a booklet about the history of Holy Trinity Church, East Finchley. Jo was the wife of the late Francis Milton Cashmore, the architect of Shell Mex House, amongst others.

John Donovan

We are also sad to hear of the death of John Donovan, Founder and President of the Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

Corrections:

Previous Newsletter

We apologise for the following errors in the last Newsletter:

Page 1 - Finchley Village Open Day the name Sarah Benett was incorrectly spelt Bennett.

Page 4 - The Denys Pegg Bequest, on line 5, the word 'tune' should read 'time'

Oliver Cromwell: Our Chief of Men

Oliver Cromwell, who died on 3 September 1658, was by any standards one of the most significant figures in British history. From obscure beginnings as an MP for Huntingdon, he went on to become a brilliant military commander who overthrew the monarchy and a gifted orator who ruled over an-almost-united Great Britain.

Cromwell was a man of action in a violent time, but also a man of ideas in a period full of new ideas. His legacy was to put the lie to the Divine Right of Kings (after all, he executed one of them!), to establish Britain as a world power, and to introduce a measure of religious toleration previously unknown in this country in an age when religion was politics.

It is appropriate that Church Farmhouse Museum- Hendon's only surviving mid-17th Century building- should mark the 350th anniversary of Cromwell's death with a small display of depictions of Cromwell- even a copy of his death mask, and other objects relating to the Civil War, with a brief look at some local Cromwell connections (Richard Cromwell, his son, lived at Finchley in the 1680s, and General Monck's men camped at Tally Ho Corner before marching on London to restore Charles 11 in 1660). The display includes an overview of Cromwell (with a free accompanying article) by leading Cromwellian scholar Professor Ivan Roots. The display is on until 30 November. Please ring 020 8359 3942 for further details.

Gerrard Roots

Planning Matters

Finchley Memorial Hospital is to be redeveloped. At the first public meeting to discuss the new hospital, residents were assured they would be consulted on the proposals and that there would not be an increase in patient numbers. The main concern expressed by local residents was on-street parking. We now know that a GP Centre with fifteen doctors will be built there within four years. This alone will result in a large increase in patients and an inevitable increase in attendance by car.

There is normally much activity on our Planning Committee. Currently we have a special need for people with an interest in what is being proposed for North Finchley. There are two large sites on the High Road - the redevelopment of Furnitureland (at present a dreadful eyesore) and the Police Garage Depot which has an application in for flats (one building 7 storeys high), offices and retail units.

The Furnitureland site application was for three blocks of flats, each 6 storeys high, and although that application has been withdrawn, there will doubtless be another requiring careful consideration.

Please offer your help, particularly if you have architectural or town planning expertise (although this is not essential). You can see these are major issues which will affect the North Finchley townscape and we need to consider them objectively.

Contact either Carol Halls (020 8445 6172) or Mike Dawson (020 8346 4232) to discuss what is involved.

Forthcoming

(see inside for details)

November

Until 30th: Cromwell display
Thur. 27th: Monthly meeting
Sat. 29th: Tree planting

December

Thur 18th: Christmas Party

Our Web Site

We welcome contributions for the web site from any member, provided it isn't commercial, Party political or religious. If a local society you value in the area is not listed in our links please bring it to our attention. We are happy to publish societies' events that are open to the public in our diary. Equally, if you have a photo of our area that may be of general interest we are happy to publish it. Most contributions will be on the site within one week of receipt. Please send text and pictures as separate attachments to web@finchleysociety.org.uk and include the word FinSoc in the email title to beat the spam blockers.

The Limes, Oakfield Road, Finchley

The Society has received an e-mail from Freda Wren who is trying to trace the history of the above nursery which existed in Oakfield Road in the 1920s/30s. Her family name is Bryers. If anyone has any information about this establishment, please notify the Editor so it can be passed on to Mrs. Wren.

**ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER TO THE EDITOR BY 10 DECEMBER 2008
(Please note the change to the email address)**