

FEBRUARY 2008

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

Founded 1971

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

20 February - Brook walk (see page 2)

28 February - Finchley Society meeting (see below)

8 March - Spike Milligan Fund Quiz night (see page 3)

FEBRUARY MEETING: MR PEPYS AND HIS DIARY

The meeting will take place in the Drawing Room at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley London N3 at 2.30pm on 28 February 2008.

A talk by Brenda Cole, City of London Guide Lecturer, on one of the most fascinating characters of 17th century London.

Most people know of Samuel Pepys only through his diary which remains a primary source for historians of London in the 1660s, including the Great Plague of 1665 and the Great Fire of 1666. However, Pepys was much more than just a diarist. This talk will describe how he rose from quite humble beginnings to become an important executive, administrator and reformer of the Royal Navy, as well as holding high office in other institutions. Brenda will also examine his down-to-earth character and quote passages from the famous diary.

The talk is fully illustrated with slides.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We have had exciting news from Barnet Local Studies. They have launched an image database of 500 pictures that, from the 15th January, can be browsed on the internet from their web page. www.barnet.gov.uk/archives. The publicity leaflet shows interesting pictures and photographs from different times. They hope to load more images in the future but the first 500 should provide plenty of interest; this is clearly more pictures than are contained in any of the books on the history of the area and anyone interested in Finchley's past should find much to enjoy.

Margaret Cullen (Secretary)

PLEASANT FINCHLEY

Extract from the Parish Magazine of Christ Church, North Finchley dated August 1878.

"Though Finchley is a pleasant place, and the air very pure, yet most of us have a change at the sea-side about once a year: but the little children of the poorer residents go on from year to year without any. Indeed, we have met with a case - and there are many like it - of a child in our school about 12 years of age, who had never been out of the parish until we had occasion to send her to Barnet."

Derek Warren

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Wildlife

Although one or two Parakeets have regularly been recorded in Finchley over the last few years, they are now gathering in larger numbers; a flock of 7 having been seen at West Finchley and one of 15 at Woodside Park.

Redwings are often seen in gardens at this time of year, and on playing fields where the gulls also like to feed. You may see the odd Lesser Black-backed, a few Herring, a number of Common and many Black-headed gulls.

There have been 26 Siskins feeding on the Alders along the Dollis brook and the over-wintering Blackcap has been visiting gardens. Owls have been calling (do let me know if you have heard one) and of course there is the ubiquitous Fox.

Feeding birds in the garden attracts other ground feeders, especially rats. Because of this problem the residents in a terrace of 15 houses in Whetstone have, reluctantly, agreed to stop feeding the birds. I have heard of other isolated cases where this has happened.

I get to see many newsletters of other organisation and one of the best belongs to the Friends of Brook Farm Open Space. If you are interested in helping them, to look after this interesting area along the Dollis Brook, then contact Sue Ford on 020 8441 5033.

Richard Fuller, an urban ecologist at the University of Sheffield, says that there is a wealth of evidence showing that access to green space increases the well-being of people in towns. Also biodiversity matters, so the more species there are, especially plants, the greater the psychological benefits that follow from a walk in the park. We are lucky that our area is teeming with wildlife, so let's go!

Brook Walk

Join me on Wednesday **20th February** for a walk along the brook to the confluence of the Dollis and Mutton brook, which is the beginning of the river Brent. Meet in Waverley Grove, N3, on the bridge over the brook, at 10am. This will last for less than an hour, and for those who wish we will then spend about 45 minutes in Windsor Open Space.

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

Flooding

You do not have to be beside a river to be liable to flooding. The torrential rain that comes down upon us these days can sometimes find nowhere to go. This is particularly so if you live on a hillside and the rain cannot be cleared by drains clogged with Finchley rubbish and fallen leaves. It heads for the nearby gardens only to find brick forecourts. If you have a garden the flood is cleared, but if there are only forecourts you have flooding. The rain could end up under your door. The situation will improve if, when you are considering bricking up your front garden, a few open spaces are left for shrubs and flowers.....and the rain.

Barbara Warren, 020 8346 5258, barwar@waitrose.com

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL TREE IN FINCHLEY

Last year David Smith nominated the Cherry Blossom tree at the junction of Deans Way and Brim Hill in East Finchley as the most beautiful tree in Finchley when in full bloom. We asked members to let us know of other special trees in Finchley and Marian Werner wrote to suggest the Ginkgo tree outside No. 40 Long Lane. She says that she does not know of another Ginkgo tree in Finchley. The Ginkgo tree is said to be the oldest tree in the world, growing in the time of the dinosaurs and surviving ice age conditions.

Another suggestion came from Peter Olney who nominated the Swamp Cyprus tree situated on the lawn outside Victoria Park on the corner of Ballards Lane, N3 at The Ridgeway. This magnificent, tall tree is a native of the USA.

Please send further nominations so photographs can be taken for future Newsletters.

SPIKE MILLIGAN STATUE FUND

Our next Quiz Evening is on Saturday 8th March at the East Finchley Constitutional Club at 8pm. There will be tables of 6 and tickets at £5 per head, can be obtained from Barbara Warren on 020 8346 5258. There is a licensed bar. The club is in The Walks between Park Gate and Market Place. From East Finchley High Road go down Park Road opposite Creighton Avenue.

Barbara Warren, 020 8346 5258, barwar@waitrose.com

DENYS PEGG

Following the obituary for Denys Pegg in the January Newsletter, I received an e-mail from Stephen Ross, who wrote to say how sorry he was to hear of Denys' death. He met with him many years ago at a meeting of the Fire Mark Circle at the Chartered Insurance Institute. Finding they were both members of the Finchley Society with an interest in insurance history, they struck up an instant rapport and Denys gave him and also lent him, items of memorabilia from his collection to copy.

Denys told him that as far as he knew, the only remaining fire mark in Finchley can be seen, on careful inspection, in the brickwork of the front elevation of the Georgian house in Hendon Lane opposite Gravel Hill. Stephen has not looked at this mark for many years but thinks this may be from the Hand in Hand Insurance Company.

Rosemary Coates



The Finchley Society

* Voluntary Contact Scheme *



*The Society is obliged to keep members contact information confidential. Some members have expressed a wish to be able to contact other members in their area, so The Society has decided to introduce a voluntary contact list. If you are an **individual** or **joint/family member** and would like to participate in this scheme, and so have access to others in the scheme, please sign this form and return it to: **Membership Secretary Tony Roberts, 32A Sedgemere Avenue, London N2 0SX***

DECLARATION

- I wish my name, address and telephone number (as kept in the membership records) to be included on the voluntary contact list.
- I give The Finchley Society permission to make this contact information available to other members on the list only (Not to anyone else).
- I agree not to pass any information from the contact list on to anyone not on the list.
- I agree not to use the list for commercial purposes.

Name:

Signature:

Postcode:

Date:

PTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Best wishes to Esther Johnson on her 90th birthday. Esther has been a great worker for the Society over many years, especially on the Sales Table at numerous functions and activities, and particularly at College Farm. She also keeps fit by being one of our postman, still delivering the newsletter to 13 members in her area.

Derek Warren

ANNIVERSARIES DURING 2008

During this year there will be three major anniversaries of events connected with Finchley.

The first is the 60th anniversary of the Olympic Games held in London in 1948 when Water Polo Games were held at the old Finchley Open Air Swimming Pool on the High Road N12.

The second is the 75th anniversary of His Majesty King George V granting the Charter of Incorporation to Finchley. This event took place on 5 October in 1933 and the Royal Charter was conveyed by Major-General The Earl of Athlone, KG and H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, to the Charter Mayor of Finchley, Alderman Vyvyan Wells and to Alderman Pike as the last Chairman of the Urban District Council and Deputy Charter Mayor .

And finally it is the centenary of the opening of Finchley Cottage Hospital in 1908. The name was changed to Finchley Memorial Hospital in 1922 when the War Memorial Extension was added.

If you or anyone you know has any memories, information or photographs of any of these events the Editor would be delighted to hear from you!

The Finchley Society voluntary contact scheme.

Eligibility

- The scheme is open to all life members and paid up individual and joint/family members, but **not** to associate or corporate members.
- No one can participate in the scheme without first signing the form.
- It will not be possible for participants to decide which data is included.

Requesting Information

- All requests should be made to the Membership Secretary, who will first check whether the requester is eligible to receive the information.
- Information regarding individuals from the list may then be relayed over the phone. (Please phone Tony Roberts on *020 8883 5954*)
- A copy of the list can be sent by post. (For a list, please send with your request a stamped, self-addressed envelope to *Membership Secretary, Tony Roberts, 32A Sedgemere Avenue, London N2 0SX.*)

For further details about the scheme please contact Tony Roberts on 020 8883 5954

FRIERN BARNET LIBRARY COFFEE MORNING

The next coffee morning talk will be on Wednesday 20 February – 10.30 – 11.30. Oliver Natelson , who used to be a pharmacist locally, will give a talk on 'Pharmacy and Medicine changing through the 20th Century'.

WEB SITE

Anyone visiting our 'what's new' page will have seen that I have rearranged the page and added a diary of events. I am hoping members will make use of this, visiting the page regularly to check for updated and new entries. All events are subject to change, and the traditional, printed ways of bringing information to you are of necessity several weeks out of date before they reach you. So, to be certain of an event before you visit it, visit the page and confirm the details. Equally, if you know of any event changes that I haven't taken account of, please let me know.

I would like this information to be accessible to modern mobile phones and other portable digital accessories but, not having any myself, I am unable to test the design. So, if you would like to help by volunteering to test my designs on your PDA, please contact me

Tony Roberts, Membership Secretary

QUARK EXPRESS

The free copy of Quark Express 5.01 – desktop publishing programme for Windows is out again with the computer Shopper. I already have my own copy so can make this one available to the first person to show an interested. Needs to be registered by the end of February.

Tony Roberts

MEMBERSHIP

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:

Ms Barbara Kail NW11

Mrs J. Mitchell N2

David & Christine Morris N12

CONTACTS

Admin. Committee David Smith (Chairman) 17 Abbots Gardens N2 0JG 020 8883 4154 joda@fsmail.net	Hon. Secretary: Robert Winton 224 Creighton Avenue N2 9BD 020 8883 2633	Treasurer: Aziz Jetha 2 Templars Crescent, N3 3QS 020 8346 2286
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Membership Secretary: Tony Roberts 32a Sedgemere Avenue, East Finchley, London N2 0SX 020 8883 5954 membership@finchleysociety.org.uk If there are any changes to your membership or contact details please let Tony know		
Newsletter Editor: Rosemary Coates 38 Lyndhurst Avenue, London N12 0LU 020 8368 1620 rosemary.finsoc@waitrose.com ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER TO THE EDITOR BY 15 FEBRUARY 2008		

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!!