

**FEBRUARY 2008**

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

Founded 1971

---

### **WE HAVE A NEW PATRON!**

Major P.J. (Paddy) O'Brien TD MA FRSA has accepted an invitation from the Society Trustees to become a Patron. He will not just be a figurehead but will attend the regular Trustee meetings where his experience in management and training will be very valuable. For many years he was Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Barnet, representing the Queen and arranging royal visits. In 2004 he introduced the Duke of Kent to Society trustees during the Duke's visit to Barnet.

Paddy and his wife, Una, are Finchley residents. He will not become a Trustee or be entitled to vote at Trustees' meetings, but the Trustees are confident that his experience and standing will strengthen the Society.

*Robert Winton, Honorary Secretary*

### **MARCH MEETING: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE FAMOUS IN FINCHLEY**

The meeting will take place in the Drawing Room of Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London, N 3 at 2.30 pm on Thursday 27 March 2008.

The speaker will be Paul Baker, a City of London Guide (who also does guided walks in the Barnet area). His talk will concentrate on some of the hordes of famous – and infamous -- people who have lived in Finchley, or whose visits to the area have had an impact on its culture and history. Writers, painters, politicians, variety artistes, actors, architects, lords and villains have all left their imprint on Finchley.

### **LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

Among matters discussed at our January meeting, Stuart Baines told us more about his research on crime and punishment in Jacobean Finchley 1612 - 1618; the crimes include witchcraft and riot and should make for interesting reading.

We learnt from Tony Roberts that the index of local listed buildings and buildings of interest is now complete.

Robert Winton described progress with the plans for our second information board: this one is to be at St Mary's Church in Church End.

Derek Warren told us more about the history of Dollis Brook

Everyone was interested to see *The A-Z of Edwardian London* published in 2007 which I had for Christmas! This includes Finchley, unlike the Regency edition which I have since acquired. There is also a mid-Victorian version (which I hope to get for my birthday) which should show Finchley when it consisted of just 250 households.

We were sorry not to see more of the members who have expressed an interest in local history at the meeting and warmly welcome them to the next on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Perhaps the light nights and warm weather will make this more inviting?

*Margaret Cullen (Secretary)*

## **ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Extracts from minutes of our last committee meeting:

At a recent committee meeting, Chris Hall from London Buses gave a short presentation. He is in a team responsible for surface transport throughout London and they deal with 8,000 buses on over 700 routes. They plan the whole development of the network, the routes, the timing, the stops, and the Bus Companies. These have a 5-7 year contract to run to those details and are responsible for training the drivers. However during their first year the drivers have to pass a further test set by London Buses, to cover such things as how to deal with the disabled and elderly.

One aim is for everyone to be within 400m of a bus stop, and by 2009 they hope to have audio announcements onboard all buses. The Countdown boards which are installed at some stops will be more accurate in the future, as the buses will be tracked by satellite.

With some other European cities, a successful trial has been carried out with Hydrogen fuelled buses. They have no emissions other than water, although Mike Gee pointed out at question time, it takes 3 barrels of oil to deliver 1 barrel of hydrogen. There is also a trial on two routes with hybrid fuel, diesel and electric, which has reduced emissions. They have to compete with other transport for funding, such as Cross Rail.

An interesting discussion then took place which included:

Direct bus routes needed to hospitals, especially to Royal Free and it is almost impossible to get to Chase Farm from Finchley.

Schools should be made aware that all children should have an Oyster card as it greatly facilitates group travel. A youngster who had to give her address to obtain an Oyster card is now plagued with junk mail.

Could anything be done about disturbance on buses, especially from noise of music from mobile phones?

Location of bus stops, one is especially needed opposite Waitrose at North Finchley. Peter Crockford had many statistics from his surveys, including that the four worst routes for regularity now have bendy-buses, but they are still irregular.

### **Trees:**

In January Pat Dunnill discovered by chance that the two pavement trees in Ballards Lane, near the junction with Cornwall Avenue, were to be removed as the road would be widened at this point, whilst the pavement was being relayed. After several e-mails to various councillors, by a number of society members over a 5 day period, we were assured that the trees would not be removed.

Mike said he was sad to see that Barnet appeared to have stopped their Tree Warden scheme whilst Haringey's scheme was flourishing. He hoped that Barnet would restart this as it was beneficial to the Borough to have local people keeping an eye on the street trees.

## Recycling:

Stan reported a good start had been made on 01.12.07 in making East Finchley a plastic bag free zone. This is organised by REEF (Regeneration & Enhancement of East Finchley) a young group who we will be hearing more of in the future. Stan and Robin ask us to give them all the support that we can.

Pat had contacted Barnet about all the **waste from shops** that is never recycled. The reply from the Waste & Sustainability Team was that recycling targets are for household waste only, and that local authorities do not currently get set targets for recycling commercial waste. They say that business rates do not presently include the collection of waste for disposal or recycling, therefore businesses would have to pay for such a service. They say they can understand how frustrating it is to see this type of waste going to landfill, but trade waste recycling will be researched in 2008 so there may be changes to this policy in the future.

## Long Lane Pasture

We are pleased to hear that the Long Lane Pasture Trust has now received charitable status, so future donations can be "gift aided". If you would like to become a "Friend" then contact me, or better still have a look around the site on a Saturday morning between 10 and 12.

## Green Spaces

On our web-site we have listed over 100 green spaces that we would like to keep an eye on, with your help. If there is one near you, even if it is not on our list, then do let us know if anything of interest happens, especially with regard to wildlife. If you are interested but do not have a computer, then give me a ring and I will deliver a copy of our list to you.

The birds are now in good voice and the woodpeckers are drumming. Recent sightings include siskins on a feeder in Village Road, redpoll near West Finchley, brambling at Whetstone Stray, and just outside our area a little egret by the Dollis Brook the other side of Barnet Lane.

Is the frog spawn early or late this year? I am going to take the chance that it will be at the same time as last year in Rocklands Pond, so if you want to see if I am right meet me on the bridge over the brook in Fursby Avenue, N3, on **Saturday 29th March** at 11am. Our stroll will take about an hour. The lesser celandine was out in flower, on the banks of the brook, by the middle of February.

Our Environmental Audit of the Church End Conservation Area found it looked more cared for than on previous visits. The few problems that we noticed are being reported to those concerned.

*Derek Warren. Secretary Environment & Transport Committee.*

## News From Friern Barnet!

What pleasure I get from the birds visiting my large, well planted garden. I now have 8 nest boxes scattered around the garden and am usually lucky enough to be host to 3 or 4 families each year. They are well fed from 6 hanging, squirrel proof, feeders plus two bird tables.

On a regular basis there are various types of finches, wrens, robins, also very often long tailed tits – a group of 6 or 7 come to the sunflower heart feeders, all the tits all the time, plus a group of goldcrests. I also have a woodpecker who had taken a liking to my winter flowering cherry tree and one single grey wagtail visits every so often – it's the same one because it has a deformed left foot, but he still manages to bob about and is

just so lovely! He is not really grey as the underside is an acid yellow colour. I also have thrushes and blackbirds and a little wren.

Last year a pair of long tailed tits took five days to build the most magnificent elongated oval nest with the smallest hole she had ever seen but during brooding the eggs, next door's cat tore the nest apart. Naturally, I was very upset but the poor little birds built another nest in a different bush and I put netting round it, with old holly branches and blackberry ramblers. They had five little bundles to feed and the cat sat for hours watching them! He gave up after being drenched by the hose pipe a couple of times!

*Evelyn Hiscocks*

### LIFTS TO MEETINGS

The Society has always been keen to encourage members to attend the monthly meetings of their choice but transport, or darkness, can often be a problem.

We invite members willing to provide lifts from their area to let Betty Burgess know, Members who require a lift should also contact Betty so she can indicate who could provide a lift in that person's area. Of course, there is no guarantee that the person offering a lift is intending to attend a particular meeting. It would be the responsibility of the person requiring the lift to contact the person offering the lift. It would not be Betty's responsibility to arrange lifts on a month by month basis but merely to put people in touch in their area.

It would be understood that the same driver would take the person home afterwards.

If you would like to be involved in the scheme do contact Betty Burgess on 8346 6337. Needless to say, the scheme will not work if no one volunteers to offer lifts!

*David Smith*

### OTHER PEOPLE'S EVENTS

**March is Awareness Month** in local libraries for the University of the Third Age, a national self-help organisation. The Third Age is a time of creativity and fulfilment for older people. Our North London U3A branch meets in locations around Finchley, Highgate, Muswell Hill and also in members' homes. We have over sixty interest groups covering very diverse areas including cryptic crosswords, walking, bridge, French, visiting museums, current affairs, country dancing, history of gardening, literature, jazz, art and craft, singing for pleasure, Italian, photography, films and theatre, architecture ad many, many more – something for everyone.

It's a great way to continue learning and extend your social life., The membership is only £23 per year which entitles you to join as many groups as you have time for, Contact BARRY DAVIES on 7226 7658, e-mail [julibar@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:julibar@blueyonder.co.uk). Hope to see you soon!

**Friern Barnet Library coffee Morning:** Wednesday 19th March 10.30 - 11.30 - the talk and demonstration will be about Indian Head Massage

## WEB SITE

Thanks largely to the efforts of Derek Warren I have been able to post in the Environment and Transport section a list of Finchley and Friern Barnet's green spaces (with associated map). If your favourite local space has been forgotten please let us know.

The diary of events has been updated and now includes a printable copy. I update the list fortnightly; if your favourite local walks and talks are not included, again, do please let me know

*Tony Roberts, Membership Secretary*

## MEMBERSHIP

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:

Maureen Cartwright N12	Mr & Mrs G. Davidson N3	Ian Murpy N12
Dr & Mrs S.O. Natelson N12	Mr Donald Sawyer Bexhill	Stanley & Robin Spinks N2
Martin SummersN3	Miss Gillian M. Sturdy N12	S Underwood, J.Szablowski N12
Mr & Mrs F Waters N3	Mrs G. Williams N3	

A big thank you to those members that have already filled in their voluntary contact forms, and a reminder to those that haven't that there is still plenty of time. The more members that participate in the scheme, the more successful it will be. Those that have included a stamped addressed envelope will be sent a copy of the list towards the end of this month

*Tony Roberts*

## CONTACTS

<b>Admin. Committee</b> David Smith (Chairman) 17 Abbots Gardens N2 0JG 020 8883 4154 joda@fsmail.net	<b>Hon. Secretary:</b> Robert Winton 224 Creighton Avenue N2 9BD 020 8883 2633	<b>Treasurer:</b> Aziz Jetha 2 Templars Crescent, N3 3QS 020 8346 2286
<b>Planning Committee:</b> Mike Dawson (Secretary)  020 8346 4232 mkdawson4@yahoo.co.uk	<b>Local History Group:</b> Margaret Cullen (Secretary) 21 Lyndhurst Gardens, N3 1TA 020 8346 2091 margaretcullen@f2s.com	<b>Archives:</b> Maggie Ferguson (Custodian) 36 Oakfield Road, N3 2HT 020 8349 4283 emfmr@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Environment &amp; Transport Committee</b>  Derek Warren (Secretary)  020 8346 5258 <a href="mailto:derwar@waitrose.com">derwar@waitrose.com</a>	<b>Newsletter Distribution Manager:</b> Helene Davidian 57 Elmshurst Crescent N2 0LN 020 8444 3669	(If you do not receive your Newsletter please let Helene know)
<b>Membership Secretary:</b> Tony Roberts 32a Sedgemere Avenue, East Finchley, London N2 0SX 020 8883 5954 <a href="mailto:membership@finchleysociety.org.uk">membership@finchleysociety.org.uk</a>		
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Rosemary Coates 38 Lyndhurst Avenue, London N12 0LU 020 8368 1620 <a href="mailto:rosemary.finsoc@waitrose.com">rosemary.finsoc@waitrose.com</a>		

**ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER TO THE  
EDITOR BY 15 MARCH 2008**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE - [www.finchleysociety.org.uk](http://www.finchleysociety.org.uk)

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSLETTER IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO KEEP IT

OR

PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND!!