

APRIL 2008

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

Founded 1971

APRIL MEETING: LIVING IN BARNET - A PARTNERSHIP

At our meeting on Thursday 24 April, Michael Lassman, a member of the Local Strategic Partnership, will be giving a talk on how its work impacts on the planning and delivery of local services. The partnership between public, private and voluntary organisations and the borough resident is an essential aspect of the success of living locally. He will explore this and how the Barnet community can be enhanced by increased participation and engagement. The meeting starts at 8 pm in the Drawing room at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley London N3.

MORE MEMORIES OF FINCHLEY

We have a number of articles in our archives on people's memories of Finchley. If these could be added to, we would be able to produce another book! If you did not contribute last time, or you did and would like to add more memories, then please send them to our archives custodian Maggie Ferguson, The Finchley Society, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3 3QE. If you would just like to talk about your memories then Robert Winton would come and see you with his tape recorder.

In our archives I found a thesis written by Miss Cooke on the history of Christ Church, North Finchley. Does anyone know Miss Cooke? I guess this was written in the seventies and would be interested to have more information.

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

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

I live on "the most picturesque residential estate in Finchley within five minutes' walk of Church End Station." A fact I discovered from an advertisement by the Grass Park Estate Office in 1905. I also learnt that some of their most luxurious houses were available with motor homes. The vision of caravans in every driveway this evoked soon faded, but it seems a pity the apt and vivid "motor homes" gave way to the much duller "garages".

My house was in fact built on Footpath Field which was part of Grass Farm, the largest estate in Finchley after the Manor House. When, some thirty years ago, we dug up part of the lawn to grow vegetables we came across several broken clay pipes. These were clearly the cigarette ends of their time and I wondered whether

there was a regular smokers' corner in the field-behind a barn, perhaps - or whether any newly dug section would yield the same crop.

Most readers of this newsletter must also be living on an ancient Finchley field. There are old maps available which could give you the often interesting name of the field beneath your home.

Margaret Cullen

"ANYONE FOR THE SKYLARK?"

Well, in days gone by outings were looked upon as one of the high-points of the year. "A day spent on Hampstead Heath away from the toil of East End life was greatly enjoyed by thousands every year whilst a day at Southend was only one step short of paradise. Times have changed and the lure of a day out with The Finchley Society has seemed to be less attractive. Yet, some members would still like to venture forth...

Outing 1: Thursday, 15 May. 11.00 a.m. Apsley House, Hyde Park Comer:

The home of The Duke of Wellington, Commander in Chief of the British Army, and later Prime Minister. The rooms are filled with gifts from grateful nations made during and after the Napoleonic Wars and there is a magnificent art collection. Members will make their own way to Apsley House by tube or bus and meet at the main entrance. Tell David Smith beforehand if you intend joining the party (8883 4154). Admission is £5.30 or £4.00 for concessions. The visit will conclude at 12.30 p.m.

Outing 2: Saturday, 19 July. 9.00 a.m. departure to Chatham Dockyard, Kent. This time we hope enough drivers will come forward to offer transport, or we could hire a minibus if we can fill it We did have a very enjoyable visit to the Dockyard some years ago and much has been added to the site since then. There are, for example, three preserved naval vessels including a submarine, the only working ropery from the age of sail, a museum, the "Wooden Walls" exhibit, and the inevitable gift shop. A cruise on the Paddle Steamer Kingswear Castle is also possible. If you are interested in going please contact David Smith. Cost of admission would be £13.50 and concessions £11.00. Transport costs are extra.

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual dinner will take place again at the South Herts Golf Club on Wednesday 9th July. The menu and application form will be published with the May Newsletter. The cost will be £25 per head. Members are urged to make a note of the date now to consider attending the Dinner. Last year we enjoyed an excellent meal and the company wasn't bad either!

David Smith

PLANNING ISSUES

Ian Murphy joined the Planning Committee at the March meeting. He has specialist knowledge of licensing issues plus a very good knowledge of planning law.

Barnet Council is currently writing its Local Development Framework (LDF), which replaces the Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The UDP is a ten-year plan setting out development proposals for the borough. The LDF has several sections and our committee has already been involved with discussions with Barnet Council on those sections already formed. In some cases we have been concerned that important development aspects of the LDF have been set prior to 'consultation' with civic groups. This concern spreads to general major redevelopment projects in the borough as the Council has taken the decision not to involve civic groups, such as

the Finchley Society, in the early stages of 'consultation' for these. When we do get involved at a later stage it has been difficult to remove policy, which we and other civic groups believe to be bad policy. Our concern is shared by the 'Federation of Residents' Associations in Barnet (FORAB).

Mike Dawson

THE SPIKE MILLIGAN STATUE FUND

We are holding another Quiz Evening on April 19th at The East Finchley Constitutional Club. Do come and join in the fun. Tickets £5 each from Barbara Warren, 8346 5258, barwar@waitrose.com. We have raised over £20,000 so far and the moulding of the statue is well under way.

WILDLIFE

It was nice to have a contribution from Evelyn Hiscocks in the last newsletter and it would be great to hear from other members. Do try and drop a line to the editor. I had three calls from members about owls but these were all in the Dollis Brook area. Also Esther Johnson reported that the greater spotted woodpecker has been drumming in Fallow Court Avenue, N12. The pond in Swan Lane Open Space, N20 had frog spawn at the end of February.

Reports have also been coming in on other ginko trees, (Ginko biloba, Maidenhair Tree). There are two in Dale Grove, N12, and a very tall one in a garden in Nether Street, N 12. A couple of years ago Tesco planted five in front of their store in Ballards Lane. A lovely tall one had to be felled in Avenue House Grounds, as it was rotting at the base, but a new one has been planted. It is interesting to see that the base of the old one is sprouting a number of new shoots.

If you would like to join me, I am going to listen to, and hopefully see, the nightingale at Fishers Green in the Lee Valley on Wednesday 30th April.

THE BOTHY GARDEN

Weather permitting, a group of volunteer gardeners work in the Bothy Garden on Friday mornings between 10.00am and 12.30pm. Visitors are welcome. The garden will be open on the following Sundays in 2008, between 3pm and 5pm:- May 4th; June 1st; July 6th; August 3rd.

The annual Garden Party will be held on Sunday, September 7th 3pm - 5pm.

Donations towards the continuing future development of the garden would be most welcome. Contact Maggie Ferguson on 8349 4283 or email: emfmr@hotmail.co.uk

Derek Warren

IVY - FRIEND OR FOE?

Many trees are now covered in ivy, but is this a problem? We know that the ivy is good for wildlife, many birds use it to roost and nest, and they feed on the berries and the abundant insect life, as do some mammals and butterflies.

However does the ivy damage the tree? It doesn't take nourishment from the tree as it is rooted into the ground, but the roots of each may be in competition for water and nutrients. I have recently seen a stem with a diameter of 4 1/2 inches (11cms) so it is the weight that can be a problem. On a weak or dying tree the leaves, especially where they hang in clumps, or where they swamp the crown, act as a sail

and take a considerable amount of pressure from the strong winds that we get these days.

It will also travel over the ground to find another tree to climb, and therefore smothers the plant life, although it is a good place for insects and small mammals to hide. If it is on walls it will get into cracks, or openings, or fill up the gutter.

We have obtained details on this subject from Clive Cohen of the London Wildlife Trust, which included information from "Ivy - Friend or Foe" by Andrew Cowan, N.D.Arb. first published in 2000. This information runs to four pages and if you would like a copy please let me know.

In the spinney at the local scout camp a number of ivy covered dead trees have been blown over, so for safety reasons we have had to cut the ivy from a number of other trees. In my own garden I have an ivy covered cherry tree that is now dead, but not because of the ivy, and it is the haunt of the Holly Blue butterfly. When thinning out the ivy recently, because of the weight on a dead tree, I found three greenfinch nests, a blackbird and a pigeon nest, and a squirrel dray at the top. I have also seen the wren nesting in the ivy and a blue tit uses the nest box that hangs there.

To have ivy on a tree or wall is great for wildlife, so it is nice to see it around, but when it takes over all the trees in an area it should be controlled. Every tree has a different type of bark which is interesting to look at, and in some cases very beautiful, and together with the shape they are diagnostic features, so it is a pity if they are hidden by ivy.

If members fear for the welfare of a much loved tree then try and make contact with the owner to discuss the situation, and if it belongs to Barnet then contact the Tree Officer via 020 8359 2000.

So much for my ideas, what about yours? Do drop a line to the editor.

Derek Warren.

MIGHT YOU BE INTERESTED IN BEING THE PRESS OFFICER?!

After 15 years as Press Officer I am looking for someone to take over. No previous experience necessary – I didn't have any when I started! All you need is an interest in writing and an e-mail connection – I can show you how to write releases, how to communicate with the press and I will provide any help you need after you have started. It does not take very much time and can be very interesting. If you would like to find out more, please contact me.

Robert Winton – 020 8883 2633

MONUMENT IN GREEN BANKS

We were pleased to hear from one of our members, Eric Morgan, that the Finchley Society was mentioned on BBC London 94.9 radio recently. A listener had rung the Robert Elms programme wanting to know the origin of the monumental 'Corinthian' capital standing outside a 1970's block of flats in Greenbank off Woodside Avenue in Woodside Park. A lady called Ruth, who lives in Woodside Park, rang with a possible solution that on the site stood Woodside House, a manor house built in 1699, although the column could have been built in the Queen Anne style in the 1750's when there was also a Woodside Farm. Does anyone have any further information on the monument?

Eric assumes Ruth is also a member of the Finchley Society as she went on to read out a letter written to the Society by Spike Milligan in 1971 in which he thanked the Society for looking after the community and saving buildings!

OTHER PEOPLE'S EVENTS

Long Lane Pasture Trust is holding its AGM at the Pasture on Saturday 19th April.

The Friends of Windsor Open Space have a Wild Flower walk on Sunday 20th April.

The Friends of Brook Farm Open Space have their Dawn Chorus Walk on Sunday 4th May at 5am

Friern Barnet Library coffee Morning: Wednesday 16th April 10.30-11.30 A Miscellany of History, Poetry and Prose by June Smith. Coffee/tea and biscuits 35p. All Welcome

Church Farmhouse Museum Greyhound Hill, London NW4 4JR – Exhibition: The Case of the Influential Illustrator: Sidney Paget's Sherlock Holmes – which runs until 5 May 2008

Sidney Paget was the most important British illustrator of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories. It is to Paget's drawings that we owe the now- iconic image of Holmes: the hawk-like features, the deerstalker cap and Inverness cape. Paget lived for a time in Finchley, and he is buried there in Marylebone Cemetery. The exhibition, which marks the centenary of Paget's death in January 1908, includes many of his drawings for the Holmes stories, background material on Holmes and Watson, and clues - guess the Holmes story they refer to.

Hours of Opening: Monday- Thursday 10am- 1pm; 2pm- 5pm, Saturday 10am- 1pm; 2pm- 5.30pm, Sunday 2pm- 5.30pm. Admission free. Contact: Gerrard Roots, at the Museum - Tel. 0208 359 3942. email: gerrard.roots@barnet.gov.uk

Coppetts Wood Conservationists are holding a Woodland Festival on Sunday 11th May 2008 - 2 – 4 pm. Includes face-painting, fancy dress, live Band, treasure hunt, craft-making, clay model making, tree-spotting quiz, Plants for Sale – Details from Oliver Natelson on 020 8 361 2496

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

New Members

We offer a warm welcome the following new members

Andrew Christie EN5

Patrick and Una O'Brien N12

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 C. R. Coombs Bournemouth

Mr L.H. Beltran Surrey

Miss V.M. Costello N12

Miss G.M. Costello N12

Mr Ian Dunbar N3

Mrs C.N. Grocott N3

Mrs J.H. Hodges N12

Mr Tony McTeare N3

Miss Margaret Pacey N2

Karl and Yvonne Ruge N20

John Sparrow N2

Mrs O. Stevens EN5

Miss B. Walls N3

A reminder that if you'd like to persuade a neighbour to join, we have both individual (£9.00) and joint membership (£16.00) vouchers that you can purchase from Tony Roberts. Please include your own name and address, details of the vouchers you require and a cheque made out to The Finchley Society and he will send the vouchers to you.

Tony Roberts Membership Secretary

CONTACTS

<p>Admin. Committee</p> <p>David Smith (Chairman) 17 Abbots Gardens N2 0JG 020 8883 4154 joda@fsmail.net</p>	<p>Hon. Secretary:</p> <p>Robert Winton 224 Creighton Avenue N2 9BD 020 8883 2633</p>	<p>Treasurer:</p> <p>Aziz Jetha 2 Templars Crescent, N3 3QS 020 8346 2286</p>
<p>Planning Committee:</p> <p>Mike Dawson (Secretary)</p> <p>020 8346 4232 mkdawson4@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>Local History Group:</p> <p>Margaret Cullen (Secretary) 21 Lyndhurst Gardens, N3 1TA 020 8346 2091 margaretcullen@f2s.com</p>	<p>Archives:</p> <p>Maggie Ferguson (Custodian) 36 Oakfield Road, N3 2HT 020 8349 4283 emfmr@hotmail.co.uk</p>
<p>Environment & Transport Committee</p> <p>Derek Warren (Secretary)</p> <p>020 8346 5258 derwar@waitrose.com</p>	<p>Newsletter Distribution Manager:</p> <p>Helene Davidian 57 Elmshurst Crescent N2 0LN 020 8444 3669</p> <p>(If you do not receive your Newsletter please let Helene know)</p>	
<p>Membership Secretary:</p> <p>Tony Roberts 32a Sedgemere Avenue, East Finchley, London N2 0SX 020 8883 5954 membership@finchleysociety.org.uk</p> <p>If there are any changes to your membership or contact details please let Tony know</p>		
<p>Newsletter Editor:</p> <p>Rosemary Coates 38 Lyndhurst Avenue, London N12 0LU 020 8368 1620 rosemary.finsoc@waitrose.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ARTICLES FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER TO THE EDITOR BY 15 APRIL 2008</p>		

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!!