

## Welcome to the new style newsletter. We hope you like the new format. Let us have your views!

### Finchley Garden Village Revels

On Saturday, 5 July Finchley Garden Village celebrated its centenary. The first sod in the building of the estate was turned on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1908 and the project completed in the early 1920's. The architect was Frank E. Stratton and his name is commemorated on the Village's own War Memorial in Village Road.

This year the Finchley Garden Village Revels presented a lively programme of entertainment, food and sports, races which had taken place at the celebrations through the years from 1911 featured, such as the three-legged race, the wheelbarrow race and the tug-of-war (won this year by the Lower Green).

There was a fascinating display of Village Road memorabilia organised by George and Gillian Lunn at their house. Much of the material is from the late Peggy Wells Archive Collection; she had always lived at No. 50 Village Road and had many documents, photographs, artefacts, press cuttings and reminiscences from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.

Memories of the famous Suffragette, Sarah Bennett, who

broke Selfridges' windows and who lived in Village Road; of the concert pianist, Tamas Vasary, having his grand piano moved to his house by crane through the bedroom window, and following the nearby explosion of a doodle-bug many toilet seats in Village Road being cracked.

In 1941 the Central Village Green was taken over by the Municipal Borough of Finchley; in 1978 the Village was made a Conservation Area and in 1989 the Residents Association was founded.

Invited by Audrey Baker, one of the prime movers in the organisation of the event, The Finchley Society was represented by David Smith, Robert and Heather Winton and myself. We passed a very enjoyable, friendly and rain-free afternoon. The revels continued into the evening.

Our congratulations to everyone involved and all good wishes to the Village for the future.

*Maggie Ferguson,  
Vice Chairman*

| Page | Content  |
|------|--|
| 1    | Finchley Garden Village Quiz Night                                 |
| 2    | Finchley Borough Charter Local History group                       |
| 3    | Annual dinner<br>Planning issues<br>News of the Family             |
| 4    | Monthly meetings<br>Monty Python<br>Saving the Planet              |
| 5    | Environment<br>Membership & Donations                              |
| 6    | Finchley Memorial Hospital Gardens<br>Working for The Society      |
| 7    | 1948 Olympics and Finchley<br>Other people's events<br>Statue fund |

### Quiz Night

The Spike Milligan Statue Fund are holding another Quiz evening on 20 September, this time back at Utopia, the scout HQ in Grove Road, North Finchley. Doors open 7:30pm for 8:00pm start. Tickets at £5 per head are available from Barbara Warren, 020 8346 5258. Terry McLoughlin runs a great quiz so come out for an evening of entertainment.

## The Finchley Society



Avenue House,  
East End Road, Finchley,  
London, N3

www.finchleysociety.org.uk  
Reg. Charity No. 266403  
Registered with the Civic Trust.

President: (vacant)

Patron: Major PJP O'Brien

Chairman: David Smith  
020 88834154/joda@fsmail.net

Hon. Secretary: Robert Winton  
020 88832633

Membership: Tony Roberts  
020 88835954  
membership@finchleysociety.org.uk

Treasurer: Aziz Jetha  
020 83462286

Archives: Maggie Ferguson  
020 83494283/emfmr@hotmail.co.uk

Planning: Mike Dawson  
020 83464232  
mkdawson4@yahoo.co.uk

Local History: Margaret Cullen  
020 83462091  
Margaretcullen@f2s.com

Environment & Transport:  
Derek Warren  
020 83465258/derwar@waitrose.com

Spike Statue: Barbara Warren  
020 83465258  
www.spikestatue.org.uk

Newsletter Distribution:  
Helene Davidian  
020 84443669

Newsletter Editor: Rosemary Coates  
020 83681620  
rosemary.finsoc@waitrose.com  
38 Lyndhurst Avenue, N12 0LU

## 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRANTING OF THE CHARTER TO THE BOROUGH OF FINCHLEY.

It was a memorable day, the 5th October 1933: the Granting of a Charter of Incorporation to the new Borough of Finchley. By this Charter the former Urban District of Finchley became a Municipal Borough, with a Mayor, as opposed to a Chairman, with its own Seal and with its own Armorial bearings. The Charter allowed eighteen Councillors representing three wards (North, East and West). The first Mayor was the magnificently named Councillor Hallifax Vyvyan Wells, the Deputy Mayor was Councillor Alfred Thomas Pike (who had previously been Chairman of the U.D.C.), and the first Town Clerk was Mr Herbert Wood Barter. The first meeting of the Council was held on 9 November 1933.

The real effect of the Charter was that the Council took a greater responsibility for local affairs, in particular in education, health and planning. Previously these had been under the direct control of the Middlesex County Council.

### Local History Group

The Finchley Vestry Minutes for 1818 record that, "Tipling and disorderly conduct prevailing until late hours, a list of all persons in receipt of parish relief was sent to each public house, and the landlord desired not to suffer such persons to be tipling in his house. Subsequently the Constables were ordered to attend the public houses to keep the peace".

A surprising aspect of this probably useless attempt to deal with the drinking problem is that, in 1774 at least, "the poor were domiciled in the workhouse: this was the public

The Borough of Finchley ceased to exist when it became part of the London Borough of Barnet in April 1965.

Because of the initiative of the late Norman Burgess the Society has already twice held special celebrations marking the 60<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Granting of the Charter. We have built up a quite extensive archive on the subject and members are invited to view this by contacting our Archive Manager, Maggie Ferguson.

Our collection also includes items donated by the late Alfred Pike who in his later years became an active member of the Society.

To mark the anniversary the Mayor, Councillor John Marshall, has invited Society officers to a dinner in October. We are proud to continue the tradition of marking this important event in the life of our home town.

*David Smith*

ale-house known as The Five Bells". It doesn't seem the most sensible way to discourage "tipling"!

At our May meeting we learnt more about the constables and crime in Jacobean times when Stuart Baines gave us some lively detail from his research. Our next meeting will be at 8pm on Thursday 18 September and we warmly welcome anyone who would like to contribute to the informal discussion of local history projects in progress.

*Margaret Cullen,  
Local History Secretary*

## News Of The Family:

Our patron Paddy O'Brien had a severe heart attack whilst he was away in Eastbourne in June. He collapsed on the pavement and hit his head and then some one trying to revive him broke some ribs. At the end of July he was transferred to Chase Farm Hospital but still with a ventilator. Unfortunately whilst at Chase Farm, Paddy has had a second heart attack. It is now hoped to move him to a heart hospital where a pacemaker can be fitted. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Barbara Warren had a mild heart attack also in June but fortunately spent only 4 days in hospital, during which time she had a stent fitted in a coronary artery, and is now active again, taking over as Chairman of the Administration Committee.

## The Annual Dinner

Our Annual Dinner took place at the South Herts. Golf Club on Wednesday, 9 July. Our Guests of Honour were Mr Martin Russell, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Barnet, and Mrs Russell. Forty guests sat down to a fine dinner and, after the Toasts, were entertained by Mr Russell who gave us an account of the complexities of his job as Deputy Lieutenant. The Health of our Guests of Honour was proposed by Mr Robert Winton, and the Vote of Thanks was given by Mr Peter Pickering.

*David Smith*

## APOLOGY

We apologise to Nick Papadimitriou for misspelling his name in the last Newsletter.



## Planning Matters

Two major development schemes are currently being discussed by the Planning Committee.

The first at the old Police Garage at 931 High Road is for a scheme incorporating 3 to 7 storey building comprising 182 apartments and 10 mews houses, as well as 1444.48 sq. m of flexible commercial floor space.

The second on the Furnitureland site, a short distance away (although not yet an official application has obviously been discussed with the Council) is for three blocks of flats, one of which is designated 'affordable housing'. If the application, when submitted, is approved, the

existing library in Ravensdale Avenue would be closed and a new one housed on the ground floor of the Furnitureland development.

The freehold of the old library would be transferred to the developers of the Furnitureland site and in exchange they would give £500,000 to fit out the new library.

These two schemes would obviously have a great impact on North Finchley. We would welcome any comments you may wish to make and indeed, would welcome more volunteers for the Planning Committee, so please do not hesitate to contact us in the first instance.

*Mike Dawson,  
Planning Committee Secretary*



## Sailing and Saving the Planet

Paul and I recently spent 10 days sailing a 33 ft yacht from Corfu to the Greek mainland and down the west side of the mainland to Prevaza.

My only previous boating experience was on a canal boat, during which I had similar thoughts about how spending time on boats make you think more efficiently about resources and minimising your impact on the environment.

As water is contained in a tank that can only be filled when in port somewhere, we were very sparing with water and it makes you realise you can manage with very little. In the galley there was a tap supplying sea water and one with fresh water from the tank. This meant washing up water (hot at first as left over from boiling kettle) lasted all day as washing up was first rinsed well in sea water.

In the heads (toilet) sea water is used for flushing the toilet! There was only an improvised shower on the deck of the boat, a 10 litre bottle with pump system. We therefore swam in the sea then rinsed off in the "shower" so the water would last!

The boat had a fridge that was run by a solar panel. This meant during the night it did not stay really cool so we were also a lot more careful about buying just the food we needed until the next food stop as it did not last in hot weather. Coupled with the fact that all rubbish has to be stored on the boat until port, this reduced food wastage. Food, vegetables and bread is not in any packaging in Greece so there is no unnecessary waste from this. I think we would all be a lot better at reducing waste if we lived on a boat!

Roz Avery

## The Denys Pegg Bequest

We have recently taken delivery of the final batch of books, maps and photographs left to us in the will of Denys Pegg, a lifelong member and one-time Chairman. These items are a valuable addition to our archives and we place on record our appreciation of these gifts as well as our acknowledgement of Denys' long and valuable service to the Society.

### Kruger Clip

Following the excellent talk on the Kruger National Park, given by Roz Avery at our June meeting, reference was made to a video clip on this subject. Members may like to look at this although it may not be for the faint hearted it is worth staying with it for the whole eight minutes.

It can be accessed at:  
<http://uk.youtube.com?v=LU8DDYz68kN>

## Monty Python Event

The British Comedy Society is organising an event at Elstree Film Studios on Sunday, 21 September at 11.00 a.m. There will be an unveiling of a plaque to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the making of their film "The Meaning of Life". This will be followed by the screening of rare Python footage, a Q & A session with the stars followed by a delicious lunch, including wine, and an auction. All profits will be donated to the Spike Milligan Statue Fund.

Three of the Monty Python team, Michael Palin, John Cleese and Terry Gilliam, are Patrons of the Fund. It is anticipated that Michael Palin, Terry Jones and Terry Gilliam will all be present. Tickets cost a cool £68. If you are interested in attending please contact David Smith (8883 4154) for further details).

## The Finchley Society Monthly meetings September and October 2008

Both meetings will be held in the Drawing Room at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley N3, starting at 8 pm. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for these interesting talks.

**25 September:** Steve Goldsmith, who has taught at Christ College Finchley for 28 years, will be talking on the history of Christ College since its foundation in 1857

**30 October :** Jon Finney will give a talk entitled 'Why, how and what we conserve: Philosophy and practice in the local context. Jon gave the Jean Scott memorial Lecture as his title "Why, how and what we conserve"; examining the reasons for our desire to retain ancient objects, which objects we select and how that process informs the way in which we conserve such objects., Jon Finney is the London Borough of Barnet's Principal Architect/Planner and used his wide experience to talk about the general principal of conservation and related them to local examples of historic buildings and areas.

## Environment Matters

An item I found in Finchley (St. Mary's) Church Monthly, written in September 1902

### Church End:

It is said that a movement is on foot to persuade the Great Northern Railway to change the name of our station to West Finchley. We feel sure that all that are members of the congregation will protest against the suggestion of such an alteration. We, at least, love and are proud of the ancient designation of Church End, and should deeply regret the loss of all its historical associations. Moreover, Finchley is Finchley, and has been from time immemorial; and there is no such place as West Finchley, although new outlying neighbourhoods may be called North and East Finchley. ....

Barbara Warren is a great campaigner for Church End, Finchley. If someone advertises that they are at Finchley Central she asks them what platform are they on. The only Finchley Central is the station. If you see anyone with the address of Finchley Central tell them that there is no such place other than the name of a station. The same could be said of West Finchley, it is only the name of a station.

### Trees:

In Broadleaf, the magazine of The Woodland Trust, they mention that more children should be playing in woods. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents say "We need to ask ourselves whether it is better for a child to break a wrist falling out of a tree, or to get a repetitive strain wrist injury at a young age from using a computer or video games console"

## Membership Matters

### New members

We offer a warm welcome to the following new members:

Anna & Niall Soutar N12,  
Mrs S Stedman N3

### 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 R.R. Fantoni N2  
Ms Valerie Flessati N3  
Mrs C. Halls N12  
Mrs J.M. Hewson N3  
Mr Robert Hogan SW5  
Mr F & Mrs D Kelsall N3  
Ruth Jane Lea N3  
Mr E. Morgan NW2

### Renewals

As previously reported in the newsletter, the newsletter will be appearing at six regular intervals in the year, rather than monthly with a gap of 3 months in the summer and two months in the winter. This means that from now on those members who pay their subscriptions by cheque will receive their renewal notices and reminders rather more regularly. Some of you will now receive your notices a month later than previously.

*Tony Roberts,  
Membership Secretary*

### "100 Club"

Wanted: a volunteer to take charge of running a Finchley Society "100 Club" to help boost Society funds. Previous experience would help but is not essential. The work can be done almost entirely from home. Overheads are paid by the Society. Please contact David Smith if you are interested. (8883 4154)

## FRIENDS OF.....

Cherry Tree Wood will hold their AGM in September

Windsor Open Space  
AGM in October

Brook Farm Open Space  
AGM in November

Do try and support them by getting along to hear what they have been up to. Details from Derek Warren 020 8346 5258

## The Bothy

Two reports on The Bothy, in the grounds of Avenue House, have been made public. The first, a technical description of the condition of the building in February 2008 was drawn up by representatives of the London Borough of Barnet and of the Finchley Arts Centre Trust. It is available from the office of Cllr. Mike Freer, Leader of the Council, at North London Business Park or from Cllr.M.Freer@barnet.gov.uk . It comprises five and a half pages. The second report has been prepared for the Heritage Lottery Fund and is dated August 2007. It comprises forty-nine pages. The Society has a copy for loaning out to any interested members or further copies can be obtained by contacting TPS, Centre Tower, Whitgift Centre, Croydon, CR9 OAU or via the internet: info@tpsconsult.co.uk .

## Finchley Memorial Hospital Centenary

There will be an exhibition, including some old photos and postcards from our archives, and an Edwardian Tea Party. If you would like to be a steward and dress up in Edwardian clothes please let me know. Do come anyway, 1.30 - 5.30 on Saturday 18 October.

*Derek Warren*

## Garden For A Living London:

There are a number of organisation getting together to help us cope with climate change and to encourage us to make our gardens more sustainable. The London Wildlife Trust say that there are over 3 million gardens in the capital. They can provide shade, absorb carbon, soak up flood water, retain water and help to cool buildings. [www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening).

The GLA are giving away £500 of National Garden Gift Vouchers, to help you create your very own Sunshine Garden and more detail can be found on [www.london.gov.uk/sunshinegarden](http://www.london.gov.uk/sunshinegarden).

Other sites to visit are :-

[www.rhs.org.uk/climate/advice/plants.asp](http://www.rhs.org.uk/climate/advice/plants.asp)

[www.right-trees.org.uk](http://www.right-trees.org.uk)

[www.thameswater.co.uk/waterwise](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/waterwise)

[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) ( this is recycling)

[www.livingroofs.org](http://www.livingroofs.org)

[www.english-nature.org/nature\\_in\\_the\\_garden](http://www.english-nature.org/nature_in_the_garden).

They all give much advice and one I like is "Bring back the clothes-line! Save money and energy by giving your dryer a rest."

## Other Peoples Events:

**Friern Barnet Library** – Coffee Morning talks:

Wednesday 17 September 2008 –

"The Battle of Britain" – a talk by David Keen from the RAF Museum.  
10.30 am to 11.30 am.

Wednesday 15 October 2008 –

"Living with Dyslexia" – a talk by Elisabeth Landsbury.  
10.30 am to 11.30 am

Wednesday 12 November 2008 –

"Easy Feng Shui tips" – a talk by Foon Chik .  
10.30 am to 11.30 am

## A Friern Barnet Garden

Mrs. Hiscocks wrote again in June to tell us about the activities going on in her garden:

"I have three nests in my garden. A blackbird and four babies are securely hidden in the prickly pyracanthus bush, watched by next door's cat! A little tomtit with a large brood in a box in the apple tree and for the third year running a robin has 3 babies in an old brown teapot (which lost its lid) and is in the winter jasmine bush on the trellis archway.

Most of these babies are begging food from their parents, in the trees by the different feeders, which is great

to watch them growing day by day. The tits still have little tufts of fluff on their heads as do the blackbird youngsters.

The nicest prize for feeding the birds and making my garden bird friendly all year round is to see them nesting and seeing the babies. A large family of goldfinches are in the cherry tree as I write - 11 in all. The adults have bright red parts above the bill but this only appears on the babies as they mature.

In the big trees which surround my garden, there is obviously a greater spotted woodpecker's nest as both male and females come to feed, especially on

## Working For The Society

At the Annual General Meeting I paid tribute to the many members who beaver away behind the scenes to keep the Society going and who seek no reward for doing so. It is true that we are very fortunate to have such unselfish members but we must not be complacent and assume that those people will carry on regardless. There are already posts that need filling, as you will see elsewhere in the Newsletter, and I should like to appeal especially for new volunteers to join the PLANNING and ADMINISTRATION Committees. We can never have enough on the planning front: the scrutiny of planning applications is, after all, the single most important role of the Society. The Administration and Publicity team keep the wheels of the Society turning and ensure that things happen when they should. Do step forward to help: your commitment would be for six meetings a year. You would be doing a lot to help the Society. The Society would be very grateful.

*David Smith,  
Chairman.*

the peanuts soaked and mixed with fat. The most favourite food of all the birds (except starlings) is the sunflower seeds, I buy the fully shelled type which leaves no husks on the floor to clear up.

I've just seen an adult greenfinch taking more nesting materials from the wire netting hanger, I fill it with stuffing from old pillows.

Also I'm sure I will soon see new baby fish in my pond as the adults have been very busy! Plus the frogs and dozens of male/female newts. So you see its all happening in Friern Barnet!

## The Olympics and Finchley – 1948

Although I make no claim to being an athlete, I thought it might be timely to investigate Finchley's connections with Olympics past and present:-

Finchley was represented in Beijing 2008 by 25-year-old Richard Kruse, who narrowly missed a place in the Men's Individual Foil quarter-finals. Not only does he live in Finchley, he trains at Finchley Foil, where one of the instructors is Britain's Olympic coach.

(<http://www.finchleyfoil.co.uk>)

Finchley provided one of the venues for the London 1948 Olympics; which summed up their time and place every bit as much as the previous Olympics - Berlin 1936 - did theirs, and with less notoriety. The 'Austerity' games were hosted on a tight budget by a nation that was still getting over the War. Germany and Japan had not been invited (too soon); and the Soviet Union, though invited, declined to attend. Other iron curtain countries did attend, however, and we see the first example of

cold war sport asylum-seeking (a Czech gold-medal female gymnast).

No Olympic Village was constructed: foreign athletes were accommodated in old wartime barracks and schools. London-based athletes were expected to travel in from home. Rationing of food and clothing was still in force; though GB athletes were entitled to extra food rations, not to mention a free uniform. London 1948 were the first Olympics to be televised, but very few people could actually afford TV sets.

([http://www.olympic.org/uk/games/index\\_uk.asp](http://www.olympic.org/uk/games/index_uk.asp))

The main venue for swimming events was the Empire Pool, Wembley. Finchley Borough Council was asked to help out by lending the now-defunct Lido for some of the Water Polo matches. (There being no question of constructing proper new facilities.) Out of a total of 44 Water Polo matches, 10 were played at Finchley, the rest at Wembley. Only 18

nations entered - men's teams only, until Sydney 2000 - and the host nation was eliminated in the two matches that constituted the first round. GB was trounced 11-2 by eventual silver medallists Hungary at Wembley, and drew 3-3 with Egypt at Finchley on the same day: 31 July 1948 - perhaps the old Lido's greatest day!

A photograph of a water polo match at Finchley can be found in the official report of Olympiad XIV (online on Page 537 of

<http://la84foundation.org/6oic/OfficialReports/1948/OR1948>

.pdf. It shows a spectator stand, which seems to consist of hardly more than scaffolding and planks. It does not show either the diving boards, or the ornamental fountains at the opposite end, however, making it difficult (for me, at any rate) to 'place'.

And so we look forward to 2012, and the opening-up of the 1911 Census.

*Robert Hogan*

### **An excerpt from the XIV Olympiad 1948 souvenir brochure of the Water Polo Games, played at the Finchley Open Air Swimming Pool.**

It is with the greatest pleasure that the Finchley Borough Council have placed their Open Air Swimming Pool at the disposal of the Olympic Games Committee, and on behalf of my fellow members and all the inhabitants of the Borough, I am indeed pleased to extend a welcome to our visitors.

In these difficult days, when no country is without its post-war troubles, it is a happy omen for the future that representatives of so many peoples are gathered together in sport and it is I am sure in the spirit of good sportsmanship, mutual understanding and co-operation that we shall establish international friendship and goodwill.

It is our earnest hope that all members of the Olympic Teams who compete at the Finchley Pool may thoroughly enjoy their visit here, and carry back to their homelands happy memories of the 1948 games and of Great Britain.

*Percy Lawrence, Mayor of Finchley*

**The Nations participating in the Water Polo Games were:**

Argentine  
Australia  
Austria  
Belgium  
Chile  
Egypt  
Eire  
France

Great Britain  
Greece  
Holland  
Hungary  
India  
Italy  
Norway  
Palestine

Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
U.S.A.  
Uruguay  
Yugoslavia



**Members of the 1948 Olympic Sub-Committee were:**

His Worship the Mayor of Finchley (Councillor P. Lawrence, J.P.)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor F. L. Pike)  
Councillor Dr. J. Hudson Clifford (Chairman)  
Alderman A. T. Pike, O.B.E., J.P.  
Councillor J. G. Bryson  
Councillor C. W. Harris  
Mr. Charles C. Morgan-Webb, M.A.

**ARTICLES FOR THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER NEWSLETTER TO THE EDITOR BY 10 OCTOBER 2008**