

## Local Planning matters

Redevelopment of Furnitureland and the Police Depot at North Finchley has been delayed due to planning issues. Currently these two major sites are being appraised separately and are not being considered as a part of the North Finchley 'Town Centre' study.



In contrast to these major projects two local issues are of particular note. Application to demolish 1 Court House Gardens, N3 and replace it with six flats and the conversion of a house to two flats at 2 West Avenue are being opposed. Houses in this part of West Finchley are family homes in single occupancy. A worrying precedent would be set if these two applications are passed. Local residents are active in opposing both applications, which should be an important consideration for Councillors when they are heard at committee.



Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT) has acquired the land needed to redevelop Finchley Memorial Hospital. Meetings have been held between the PCT and Barnet Council planning officers to set an outline-planning brief for the new hospital. We await Barnet Council's consultation process for the new hospital.

We have commented on Barnet Council's 'Core Strategy, Issues and Options' paper, a part of the Local Development Framework. This document will set the basis for development in the borough during the next ten years. The Council had failed to consult with Civic Societies when setting this paper. There is a general lack of supporting 'evidence' for the Council's proposals. We urged the Council to remedy this failure when setting its 'Preferred Options', by engaging with all Key Stakeholders. Several topics were considered to present problems. Population increase over the next twenty years is taken as given without any question, in particular without any discussion whether it is necessary, or its consequences for housing are sustainable or acceptable to the people of Barnet.

Public transport provision for East West routes is poor so increasing the pressure on already congested roads, while comments are inadequate in their discussion of cycling - the part it can play in a sustainable

Page	Content
1	Local Planning Matters
2	Officer details Monthly meetings
3	Membership Matters Secretary's Dinner College Farm Long Lane Pasture
4	Environment & Transport Brook Farm Open Space Wildlife Quiz Night Paved Front Gardens Finchley Needs You
5	Peter & Helga Hatchett Letters to the Editor Finchley Catholic Grammar
6	The Finchley Society funds Phoenix cinema
7	Other People's events
8	Finchley Memorial Hospital Forthcoming Events

transport policy and what options are open to the Council to encourage it.

In early December we met the Head Master at the Wren Academy in North Finchley, which specializes in design and the environment. We hope to work with the Academy on two fronts; planning issues and Civic issues in Finchley.

*Mike Dawson*

## 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: Kiran Singh  
020 83468852

Administration: Barbara C Warren  
020 83465258

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

Treasurer: Mollie Harris  
020 84454175

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  
finsoceditor@supanet.com  
38 Lyndhurst Avenue, N12 0LU

## December Meeting and Party

Illness took its toll of the guests at the party. The Mayor and Mayoress were both indisposed so their place was taken at the last moment by Councillor Eva Greenspan. We were pleased to welcome Cllr. Mike Freer, Leader of the Council, and Mr Don Cooper, Chairman of HADAS, Therese Jones, Chairman of the Barnet National Trust Association, and Mr and Mrs McKenny from The Whetstone Society. We also missed the presence of Robert and Heather Winton. Robert had been taken into hospital the same day with a chest infection. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Carol Halls gave us a round-up of the Planning Committee's work and Harry Branchdale told us about the work of the Environment and Transport Committee. Noel Lynch brought us some more 'mysterious objects' and Maggie Ferguson presented a quiz that tested our knowledge of local topography. The raffle was run as ever by Roz and Shirley Avery and Kurt Weinberg presided over the bar. Joan Butcher and her helpers once again prepared a very tasty finger buffet and we finished the evening with good wishes all round.

*David Smith*

## January Meeting: Our water supply, from source to tap

Ian Pilsworth, legal advisor for Three Valleys Water will be giving an illustrated talk on the journey water takes from source to tap. The Meeting is to be held in the drawing room in Avenue House on Thursday 29 January 2009 at 2:30pm

## February Meeting: The City's Old Lady

The Bank of England was founded in the City more than 300 years ago and, with London developing and retaining its pivotal role in the financial world, the Bank has both national and international significance. This talk will deal with the history of the Bank, its functions and some of the interesting characters who have worked for it. The origin of its famous nickname "The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street" will also be examined.

The talk (fully illustrated with slides) is by City of London Guide Lecturer Brenda Cole who originally comes from Hampshire but has lived in the Staines area for more than 30 years.

A lifelong enthusiasm for history and a love of London led Brenda to qualify as a City of London Guide Lecturer in 1992. Since then she has run her own series of guided walks every summer and she regularly talks to numerous organisations on many aspects of the "Square Mile". She has also acted as Tutor in respect of several adult education courses relating to the City of London.

She first gave a talk to the Finchley Society in February 2006, when her subject was *Blitz! London during World War 2*. Then in October 2007 she told the story of the real Dick Whittington and on her third visit in February 2008 she described the life and times of Samuel Pepys, including extracts from his famous diary.

She is a long-standing member of the City of London Guide Lecturers Association and an Associate of the Institute of Tourist Guiding.

The Meeting is to be held in the drawing room in Avenue House on Thursday 26 February 2009 at 2:30pm

## Membership Matters

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The Trustees regret to announce that membership subscriptions will increase with effect from 1 April this year. This follows a steep increase in costs all round, in particular the costs of hiring accommodation for meetings, printing and postage and is the first increase since 2004.

The new rates will be £14 for an individual member, £20 for joint membership or associate membership and £30 for corporate members. In view of the current difficult financial climate, the concessionary rate remains at £5.

Members who pay by standing order will automatically receive a new form to complete nearer to the time of their renewal date.

### ***New member vouchers – buy now and save!***

As stated above, the subscription rates will be increasing with effect from 1 April this year. But if you buy new member vouchers before then (i.e. at the existing rates), they will continue to be honoured (for new members) after that date, effectively that will be equivalent to a discount. They can be purchased from the Membership Secretary.

### **New members**

We offer a warm welcome to the following new members:

Mary Radwan N20

Wilf Thorp N12

*Tony Roberts,  
Membership Secretary*

### **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:

Mrs Eve Byrne N3

Rosemary Canning & Mike Gee N3

Mrs Jill Chalmers TW1

Michael Dawson N3

Mr & Mrs P. Dunnill N3

Mr E.A. Green EN7

Mrs S. Jackson N12

Mr David Janner-Klausner N2

Mr & Mrs W. Keen EN4

Mr & Mrs G.R. Lunn N3

Mr & Mrs P. Marsh N3

Mrs Joan. Pegg N10

Mr & Mrs V.L. Sainsbury W3

Mr David Smith N2

Mr. L. Sussman N3

Mrs E. Terry N3

Mr J.N. Thompson N3

Mr & Mrs A.E.J. Toms N3

Elisabeth Vandyk N3

Mr & Mrs D. Warren N3

Brian Watkins N3

Josephine Watkins N3

Mrs J. Winchester N3

## Dinner for Our Retiring Secretary

The Executive Committee thought it would be a good idea to show their appreciation for Robert Winton's work as Honorary Secretary by inviting him and Heather to a dinner.

We don't wish to make this event in any way exclusive so if you have enjoyed working with Robert and/or have appreciated what he has done for the Society and would like to attend please tell David Smith before 16 January. The cost of the meal will of course be borne by those attending. It will be £18 per head excluding drinks.

The dinner will take place at the Finchley Golf Club, Nether Court, Frith Lane, London NW7 1PU on Wednesday, 21 January starting at 7.30 p.m.

It will be a three-course meal with coffee. The menu will offer a choice of Chicken Kiev, a fish dish or a vegetarian option. There will be onion soup as a starter and a dessert of apple and summer fruit crumble. Contact David Smith now on 020 88834154 or [joda@fsmail.net](mailto:joda@fsmail.net) to reserve a place and to make your choice of main course.

*David Smith*

## Long Lane Pasture

The tree planting day was a great success with over 30 people attending and over 50 trees being planted.

Two goldcrests were seen on a silver birch and the week before, a heron came down to the pond to bathe. You are probably thinking how can it be a pasture when there are so many trees? Well, come and see for yourself, any Saturday morning between 10 and 12.30.

*Derek Warren*

## College Farm

The Trust is making progress and you can keep in touch by going to their website: [www.collegefarmtrust.org.uk](http://www.collegefarmtrust.org.uk).

In due course there will be a Newsletter for "Friends" so please contact me if you would like to receive a donation form.

Derek Warren 020 83465258 [derwar@waitrose.com](mailto:derwar@waitrose.com)

## Friends of Brook Farm Open Space

Sadly at their AGM in November, the Friends Group was disbanded as none of the 49 members would take on the job as chairman. The Group started by David Ford was a great success and after his death, his wife Sue took over the reins. But due to personal reasons she now has to give up. This is the problem with many groups in all walks of life: things would happen if only some one would take the lead. Thank you Sue for all your efforts in looking after a Green Space in Finchley.

*Derek Warren*

## Wildlife

On 19 November I had a call that there was an unusual bird in a back garden at the bottom of Dollis Road, near the viaduct. It had been injured, perhaps by flying into the fence on the railway embankment, but by the time I got there it had died. It was a lovely woodcock. They used to breed in the Hertfordshire woodlands and they move around in winter time, when it is seen on occasions further along the Dollis Brook and in the Totteridge Valley.

*Derek Warren*

## Quiz night for the Spike Milligan Statue Fund

Saturday 28 February 2009 this time at Stephen's Hall, behind Christ Church at North Finchley, which is opposite Homebase. A great night out, very informative and still at the bargain price of £5. Start time is 8 pm, doors open 7.30. Come and join in with others or make up your own table of 6. Bring your own refreshment but tea and coffee will be provided. Raffle, and goods for sale. Tickets from Barbara Warren 020 83465258

[barwar@waitrose.com](mailto:barwar@waitrose.com)

## Finchley Needs You...

A quick reminder that the Society hopes many of you are busy writing your memories for the proposed follow-up to *Finchley Remembered* – see details in the November 2008 Newsletter. Handwritten or typewritten memories should be sent to David Smith, 17 Abbots Gardens, East Finchley, London N2 0JG and email attachments should go to [lynnbresler@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lynnbresler@tiscali.co.uk), by end February 2009.

If you would prefer to help on the editorial board, rather than contribute in writing, let David Smith (020 8883 4154) or Lynn Bresler (020 8446 6249; before 6.00pm) know.

**"Finchley Remembered"** is still on sale and is available at our monthly meetings or from Guy and Adele Nevill on 8445 5502.

## Environment & Transport

The next meeting of the Environment and Transport Committee will be in the Study at Avenue House on Monday 26 January 2009. It will start at 8pm with a few words from Cllr. Andrew Harper, Cabinet member for Environment and Transport. Society members are welcome to attend but must ring me first to make sure that there will be space.

One of Barnet's aims is to increase local street and environmental cleanliness and to reduce litter and detritus, graffiti, fly-posting and fly-tipping. BUT they do need our help. You joined the society to care for Finchley and Friern Barnet, so when you see any of these problems and you can't clear it up yourself, then ring the council's customer care no. 020 83594600. They will give you a reference number so you can chase them up if nothing happens. From my experience they are very good in taking action.

Another aim is to keep Barnet moving, which includes

## Paved front gardens

Planning permission is now required if you wish to cover your front garden with impermeable material which allows water to run off into the road and drains, as this can then cause flooding and pollution to the watercourses. No permission is required if you use permeable material, as the rain will then soak into the ground and take some time before it reaches the brook.

*Derek Warren*

reducing average queue length in hotspot areas. This has been a great success where there is now a feed off road as you leave Summers Lane to enter the High Road.

At our last meeting John Cox of Campaign for Better Transport showed us plans and gave details of a proposed light railway, similar to the Docklands light railway, to run from Finchley Central to Mill Hill East and to continue along a new track to Finchley Road via such places as Colindale, Hendon and Brent Cross Shopping Centre. At Brent Cross Thames Link station there would be a connection with a similar line to Wembley Stadium, Park Royal and Ealing Broadway. This is just an idea at the moment but you can obtain further information by going to [www.bettertransport.org.uk/london\\_local\\_group](http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/london_local_group) or by post to BCR, 57 Chelsea Close, NW10 8XD .

*Derek Warren*

## Peter & Helga Hatchett

Helga who died on the 19 November and her husband Peter who died around Christmas two years ago contributed so much to life in Finchley. Helga was always very supportive of Peter's work, and indeed they both spent most of their married life living in a fine example of it, the house that Peter had himself designed.

When I first knew him Peter was a practising architect, mostly working with one company. When that company was taken over by another which had their own architect, Peter lost no time in developing professionally the skill which until then had been merely a hobby, antique furniture restoration.

Peter did not do things by halves and was very soon restoring furniture worth thousands of pounds, for example an intricately inlaid table owned by a merchant

bank. His skill was astonishing and I have a couple of pieces that he restored by me as I write. One is a pillar on a desk that was broken during cleaning, the other a table top that had warped. He gave new meaning to invisible mending, for I defy anyone to detect the break or tell which leaf was straightened.

He even taught a course on antique furniture restoration at Barnet College and there cannot have been an evening class with a more loyal or enthusiastic body of students. It was one of those classes you had to get your name down for as soon as booking opened and as well as being practical was thoroughly enjoyable.

At home in his workshop at the end of his garden he gathered together a superb collection of antique carpentry tools, which he actually used, and I particularly remember one

beautiful piece of rosewood latticework he was restoring. Among his collection of bits and pieces he had just the right oddment to replace a missing section. The trouble and care he took was breathtaking. Of course he was in far greater demand than could possibly be met and Helga did a wonderful job of shielding him.

His architectural expertise at the time of the threatened Civic Centre in Church End during the seventies was a powerful weapon in the armament of its opponents and played an essential part in ensuring the demise of a scheme which would have turned this part of Finchley into a mini-Croydon.

Peter and Helga will live on in the memory of so many of us, especially those who have examples of Peter's fine work and generosity about them.

*Jestyn Phillips*

---

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In a perfect world, Finchley Central tube station would surely be named South-West Finchley; with East Finchley named South-East Finchley, and Woodside Park named North-West Finchley. Only West Finchley would have its existing name.

West Finchley, so named in 1933 (as Tony Roberts points out), had its name chosen as the result of a poll conducted by a local estate agent. Something

to be said for the 'wisdom of crowds', perhaps!

While there is obviously no chance of the above 'perfect world' nomenclature being adopted by TfL, I think reverting to Finchley (Church End) for Finchley Central might make the only feasible best of a bad job. There is talk, after all, of Arsenal station reverting to Gillespie Road.

*Robert Hogan*

### **DID YOU GO TO FINCHLEY CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL from 1956 to 1961?**

Phil Nichol has written to that fine magazine 'Best of British' (January 2009) seeking ex-pupils who knew him or Joe Spedding.

Phil can be contacted at 8 Dakota Close, Mudeford, Dorset, BN23 4TN (tel. 07831 131883 or email: p\_nichol@hotmail.co.uk)

## The Finchley Society funds

At the 2008 Annual General Meeting it was disclosed by the Executive Committee that due to the increased rent at Avenue House we would not be able to continue to rent the Archive Room.

It was suggested that funds could be raised by running a "100 Club"

This would require members of the Society to take out shares of £12 for the year, £600 of which would be returned as prizes and £600 as funds to go towards covering the increased rent.

If you are interested in joining the 100 club there is a form available. You must be a member of the Society and you can take out as many shares as you wish.

The Archives are an important part of the Society. This is one way to play a part in retaining them and it could be profitable to you too!

*Peter Marsh*

## The Phoenix Cinema

The Phoenix Cinema is one of the cultural and architectural jewels in Finchley. Serving the community for 98 years we have welcomed over 5,000,000 people through our doors. We want to ensure that future generations can also enjoy this wonderful building.

We have launched our Centenary Restoration Project which will refurbish the interior of the cinema and repair the external walls, restoring it to its 1930's glory. Alongside this we have plans in place to convert current office space into a substantial café and bar area. This will feature a striking terrace at the front of the building overlooking the high street.

This is a project that is vital to the long term future of the cinema, it is important culturally, financially and for heritage reasons.

We have applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for 56% of the funding for this and I'm thrilled that we now have over 35% towards our own target for the match. We couldn't have got this far without support from those who share our passion for this wonderful cinema – and we hope that we can count you among them.

There is still a huge amount of work to do to turn these plans into reality. Our aim is to restore, renovate and



**Phoenix's Proposed Facade**

develop this beautiful but ageing cinema in time for its centenary celebrations in 2010. As someone who cares about the built environment of Finchley we would be delighted if you would join us in supporting this important venture and consider making a donation to this historical project.

Any level that you could support this project on would be enormously beneficial. Gifts over £500 will be recognised with a plaque on a wall in the cinema featuring a year between 1910 - 2010 and a film

from that year. The building project is key to safeguarding the future of The Phoenix, preserving its architectural status and providing opportunities through increased capacity to extend the reach of our work.

To make a donation please contact Paul Homer 020 84420442  
paul@phoenixcinema.co.uk or donate online at [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk/support/campaigns](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk/support/campaigns)  
52, High Road, London N2 9PJ

## Other People's Events

**Barnet Society** - Meetings start at 2.30 pm in the Wyburn Room, Staplyton Road, Barnet (details 020 83649161).

Wednesday 14 January – "Safety in the Community" - Amanda Wapshott from the High Barnet Safer Neighbourhood Team will talk on safety and security in and out of the home. Useful tips and a chance to hear how the police operate in Barnet.

Tuesday 10 February – "The Woodland Trust" a talk by Pam Forley. The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading charity dedicated solely to the protection of our native woodland heritage. In particular Pam will talk about the new Sandridge site (North of St. Albans) that will be the largest forest site in England with a planting of 600,000 new native trees.

---

**Hornsey Historical Society** – Talks are held at 8 pm at the Union Church Community Centre at the corner of Ferme Park Road and Weston Park.

Wednesday 14 January – A Place in the Sun – Fire Insurance for Local History" - a talk by Brenda Griffith-Williams

Wednesday 11 February – "Postcards by Cynacus – Humorous and Satirical - a talk by Hugh Garnsworthy

---

**Friern Barnet & District Local History Society** – All meetings take place at 7.45 pm in St. John's Church Hall, next to Whetstone Police Station in Friern Barnet Lane. Non-member £2, members free. For details of the Society contact David Berguer on 07745 254101

Wednesday 28 January - St. Pancras by John Neal

Wednesday 25 February – 100 years of the North Circular Road by Reg Hart

---

**Hendon and District Archaeological Society** – lectures start at 8 pm in the Drawing Room, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley N3 3QE

Tuesday 13 January - 'An Exploration of the Western Desert of Egypt' a lecture by Nicole Douek.

Tuesday 10 February - 'The Building of the Underground' a lecture by Tony Earle

---

**Guided Walks in Barnet – 2009** by Paul Baker

Sunday 25 January at 11 am – 'The Heart of High Barnet' – a historical walk through High Barnet – meet outside Barnet College, Wood Street, High Barnet.

Sunday 1 February at 2 pm 'A Meander through Monken Hadley' – A historical walk (carrying on where the previous walk leaves off) through beautiful Georgian Monken Hadley. – Meet outside The Spires. Barnet High Street.

Sunday 8 February at 2 pm - 'The Battle of Barnet' – explore the famous battlefield of 1471. Meet at the junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road

Sunday 22 February at 7.30 pm – 'Things that go Bump in High Barnet' - meet outside High Barnet Tube Station – please bring a torch if possible.

Sunday 1 March at 11 am – 'East Barnet Village' - a historical walk through ancient and modern East Barnet. Meet outside East Barnet Library, Brookhill Road.

All walks cost £7. Accompanied under-12s £3. For further details of these walks and others taking place during 2009, please contact Paul on 020 84406805. email: pbaker54@hotmail.co.uk.

Web-site: [www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net](http://www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net)

---

**Friern Barnet Library Coffee Morning Talks**

21 January, 10:30-11:30am. "Early History of Friary Park" given by Mel Hooper (Friern Barnet & District Local History Society).

18 February, 10:30-11:30am. "Come into the Garden" given by Yasmine Webb (Local Studies & Archives).

---

## Finchley Memorial Hospital Centenary


A great celebration was held on 18 October in a very large marquee in the grounds of the hospital. There was entertainment all afternoon and a lovely free cream tea was available the whole time. It was a pity that not many of our members were there to see the exhibition of old photographs, most taken from our archives.

*Derek Warren*

Book on Sale now

### Finchley Memorial Hospital

The First Century  
1908-2008



This in-depth history of the last 100 years is a fascinating insight into the history of a much loved and supported hospital.

Priced at only **£10** it is a must have addition to any bookshelf.

The Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital are delighted to sponsor the publication of this history of the hospital to mark its first hundred years of service to the community.

Dorrell Dressekie, a local author, has written a very interesting book on Finchley Memorial Hospital to mark its first hundred years of service to the community. This can be obtained from Peter Packer, Chair of the Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital (Tel. 020 84464537 or the Primary Care Trust office at Edgware Community Hospital. It is also available on Amazon.com

## Forthcoming Events

(see inside for details)

### January

21 Secretary's Dinner	3
21 Friary Park talk	7
25 High Barnet walk	7
26 Env. & Transport Mtg	4
29 Monthly meeting	2

### February

1 Monken Hadley walk	7
8 Battle of Barnet walk	7
18 Garden talk	7
22 Ghostly Barnet walk	7
26 Monthly meeting	2
28 Quiz Night	4

### March

1 East Barnet Village walk	7
----------------------------	---

**ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER TO THE EDITOR BY 15 FEBRUARY 2009**

[finsoceditor@supanet.com](mailto:finsoceditor@supanet.com)