

## Finchley Community Festival

Saturday 11 July in Victoria Park N3 between 12 noon and 5.00 p.m.

This is the successor to the Finchley Carnival and is still sponsored by Pentland. The Society will be there on Saturday 11 July and so will the Spike Milligan Statue Fund. If you are willing to help on the publicity stall for an hour or so please contact Derek Warren (8346 5258) or David Smith (8883 4154). The event is much quieter than it used to be: there will be no funfair, so we stand a good chance of attracting a few new members.

### Can You Help?

Both Tony Roberts, our Membership Secretary, and Helene Davidian, our Newsletter Distribution Manager, will be standing down early next year and we are therefore looking for two people to take over these roles.

Could you help with one of them? Full training will be given!

For further information on these posts, please contact Helene Davidian on either 8444 3669 or at [helenedavidian@googlemail.com](mailto:helenedavidian@googlemail.com)

### Long Lane Pasture

We are pleased to hear that the Long Lane Pasture Trust have now received a lease from Barnet Council and this nature reserve was officially opened by the Mayor on 19 June. Do go and have a look around, you will be surprised at the work volunteers have carried out so far. It is open every Saturday morning and most Sunday afternoons. The entrance is along the path opposite the fire station in Long Lane, N3.

There will be a Butterfly Day on 25 July and blackberry picking in August.

*Derek Warren. 8346 5258*

### Why Don't They Do Something About. . .?

Have you ever asked that kind of question? Most of us have, perhaps as much as once a day. If you think that any aspect of your environment or of the quality of your life could be improved if only someone bothered then why not contact the relevant committee and suggest some action? We can usually suggest ways of approaching a problem and you will have the support of the Society. You are always welcome to come to a Committee meeting to discuss your ideas: simply contact the relevant chairman or secretary to start the discussion going.

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## The Finchley Society



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Reg. Charity No. 266403  
Registered with the Civic Trust.

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## September Meeting

### Please note there will be no meetings in July or August

Members are warmly invited to the September meeting which will take place at 8 p.m. on 24 September 2009 in the Drawing Room at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley N3, when the speaker will be Susette Palmer.

Susette, who has an MA in ancient civilisations and is a Liberal Democrat Barnet Councillor, will be giving a talk entitled 'They all laughed at Christopher Columbus'. Most of you will know the end of the quotation ('because he said the earth was round').

The Greeks were well aware of this. Why then does the earth on the medieval maps look so flat?

It all depends what you want to show!

This talk explores the theories and times behind the maps and the discoveries that led to changing the way maps were presented. It starts with Homer's Iliad and ends with the 20th century exploring how philosophies of the 3-dimensional universe were portrayed in 2 dimensions.

## Tree Watering

In view of the promise of a "Barbeque Summer" we thought it a good idea to talk to the London Borough of Barnet about the watering of street trees. The good news is that arrangements with contractors have been made to water all street trees planted by the local authority. However, two points: (1) members still need to remain vigilant and to take action if a tree is seen to be suffering in the extreme heat; (2) trees planted by residents' groups will NOT be watered by contractors so DIY has to kick in here. Keep Finchley and Friern Barnet green throughout the summer!

## Looking for

### the Family of Flight Lieutenant Patrick James Garland

We have received a letter from Wing Commander John Turner DFC, MA, RAF, who is searching for the next of kin of Flight Lieutenant Patrick James Garland, who served in the No. 11 (Army Co-operation) Squadron RAF and was killed on 1 January 1945 aged 36. He is buried in the Netherlands but records indicate that at the time of his death he lived in East Finchley and was married to Mary Elizabeth Garland.

In May 2012, the Squadron, currently stationed at RAF Marham, Norfolk will celebrate its 100th Anniversary as the oldest fixed wing Squadron in the world. Among the activities to remember this historical fact is the publication of a book, describing the events that took place during these 100 years. In the book there will be a Roll of Honour mentioning all Squadron Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks who lost their lives while serving in the Squadron. As part of the anniversary activities they are anxious to trace the family of Flight Lieutenant Garland. It is a particularly sad story as Flight Lieutenant Garland's three brothers, Flg Off Donald Edward Garland VC, Flt Lt John Cuthbert Garland and PI Off Desmond William Garland also died in service.

Please contact the Editor if you have any information that can be sent to the RAF.

## Annual Dinner

This may reach you just after the deadline for booking tickets (4 July) but if you have forgotten to apply, do phone David Smith on 8883 4154 to get a last-minute place. The date is Wednesday, 15 July at South Herts Golf Club.

## The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust, under whose aegis our Society was formed in 1971, has ceased to exist. The recent appeal for extra funding from amenity groups and from individual members failed to fill the coffers sufficiently and the Trust went into Administration in late April.

However, because of the excellent work done by that organisation to promote a healthy nationwide network of local amenity groups, other national bodies have stepped in to offer assistance. These include The National Trust, English Heritage, The Campaign to Protect Rural England and the Royal Institute of British Architects. We understand that Heritage Open Days will take place as planned in September.

A new interim organisation has been formed. It is called "The Civic Society Initiative" and its website is [www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk](http://www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk). It invites donations of between £50 and £100 from every amenity group. The Finchley Society Executive Committee discussed this at its June meeting but in view of the fact that we had only a short time ago sent off our annual payment of £170 to The Civic Trust we did not feel generous enough to make a further payment. Individuals might like to donate a small amount to help the nascent group see the light of day and the Committee will consider the situation later in the year. It is important that the civic society movement, of which we are a part, has a strong voice and a national structure.

There is a donation form on the website or cheques may be sent to: The Civic Society Initiative, Unit 101, The Tea Factory, 82 Wood Street, Liverpool, L1 4DQ.

## Environment & Transport Committee

At our next committee meeting at 8.00 p.m. on Monday 20 July we are pleased to have a return visit by Councillor Andrew Harper who will be talking to us about transport and the environment. If anyone would like to come along please let me know as seating is limited.

I hope those who are interested managed to get along to the Exhibitions that Barnet held on the alterations at Henly's Corner and on the proposed North Finchley Town Planning Strategy.

Members of the committee attended a meeting organised by Barnet on Open spaces, sports and recreational facilities. We have sent them our list of green spaces and this of course you can see on our website.

The highlights on the walk through Whetstone Stray in May

were good views of a muntjac deer and a male bullfinch. The owls have been in fine voice this year, please let me know if you have heard one. I have had the privilege to watch kingfishers taking food to their nest site in a bank along the Dollis Brook, they were visiting about every 5 minutes. As you have probably seen in the press, there has been an invasion of painted lady butterflies that migrate from the Mediterranean countries. They have been seen all over Finchley for several weeks, usually travelling quite fast.

Sadly Peter Crockford died in May. He was a regular and long standing member of the committee and carried out many interesting surveys. (see obituary on page 5).

Derek Warren. 8346 5258  
[derwar@waitrosse.com](mailto:derwar@waitrosse.com)

## Robert Winton's Bequest

The Society is most touched to be a beneficiary of Robert Winton's will. He has left us a bequest of £1000 This is in addition to the £750 donated at the time of Robert's funeral in lieu of flowers.

Peter Winton's letter that accompanied the Bequest says: "Father found great pleasure in the work he did for The Finchley Society; he wrote and spoke often of the generosity shown to him by the people he met and worked with. It was his wish that the attached bequest be made to The Finchley Society, to disburse as you, and the members, see fit. Both Heather and I hope that, in some way, this will enable the Society to accomplish more than might otherwise have been planned, and that the Society's good work may continue." Thank you, Robert.

## Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon

Have you ever been to the Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon?



If not, it is well worth a visit – and it is free! It is situated on the historic site of the London Aerodrome and contains over 100 exciting displays of aircraft from around the world including some very early aircraft designs, war planes through to the latest modern day jets and military aircraft. The Museum is open daily from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

You will find it in Grahame Park Way, Colindale, NW9 5LL  
Telephone 020 8205 2266.

## College Farm

Unfortunately the economic climate has delayed work starting on the repair of the listed buildings, dealing with the Tea House and the animal pens. However an architect has been appointed and is preparing plans.

Derek Warren 8346 5258

## Do You Know Of This 11?

Someone very kindly sent me this photograph - a formal group of eleven gentlemen. There was no covering note, so we are unable to contact the sender. Can you help us identify the group or any of the individuals in it?

Please send any information to me at: 36 Oakfield Rd, N3 2HT or contact me by phone or email; my details are on p2.

Thanks,

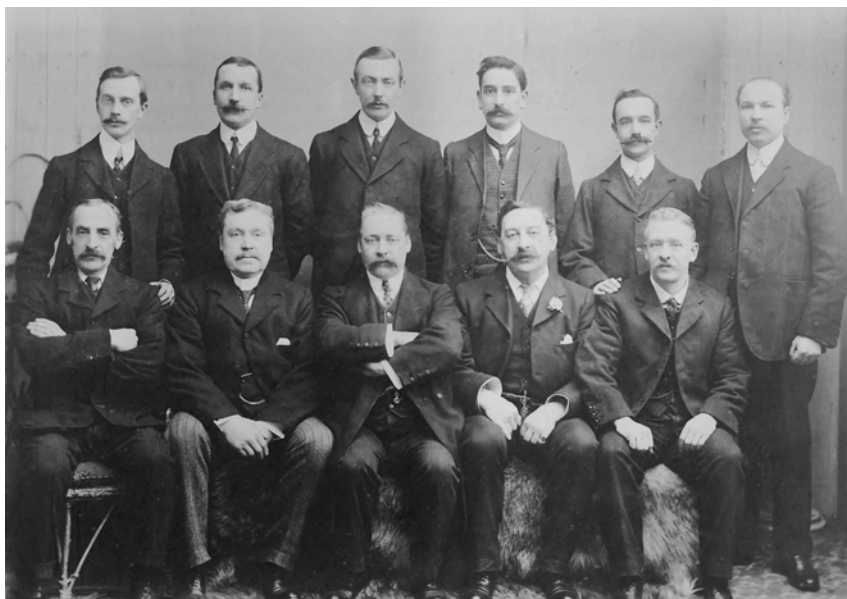
Maggie Ferguson, Archive Manager.

## Finchley Remembered

Another victim of the recession is the company that printed our book "*Finchley Remembered*". It has gone into receivership so we have to find a new printer. Thanks to the foresight of Lynn Bresler and Tony Roberts we have an electronic version of the book that can be used to produce new copies.

We are still keen to receive written contributions for the next book. Please send them in when ready. We thank all those members who have already done their 'piece' but there is plenty more to tell: what about the Coronation in 1953 (or even 1937)? And the exploits of Finchley Football Club in the early 50's? Or the horrors of the "Eleven Plus", Wartime rationing? Naughty things we did as kids? Memorable days at Golders Green Hippodrome? Cinema visits? Famous people who lived in your street? Street traders? The rag and bone man? Digging for victory? Keeping hens during the war? Home entertainment before the advent of TV? And so on....

David Smith



## Letters to the Editor

I was in Avenue House the other day, and saw a copy of your newsletter, asking for contributions for 'Finchley Remembered'.

From 1954 to 1978 I lived in Finchley. In the sixties — can't remember the exact date — Bob Cobbing and I started the Finchley Arts Council, which had a logo very similar to yours. It put on poetry readings, art exhibitions and other events, usually in the Public Library. I remember one evening I gave a reading of Allen Ginsberg's great poem "Howl", which went down very well. We had a campaign to turn the cinema into an arts centre, but this never happened. We had a

weekly column in the local paper, which went on for some years.

Then when Barnet took us over, we founded the Barnet Borough Arts Council, with a quite different logo, but much the same bundle of events. This went on until Bob (now deceased) moved out of the area, soon after which it died. But in the meantime it had done some very good work in bringing the arts to local people.

I wonder if anyone else remembers these efforts, which were of very high quality in many cases.

John Rowan

## Obituaries

We are sorry to report the deaths of the following members of the Society:

### **Peter Crockford - 1924-2009**

We are sorry to have to report the death of Peter Crockford, a long-standing member of our Society who contributed much to the work of the Transport and Environment Committee.

Peter lived in East Finchley and attended Tollington School. He took a degree in aeronautics and worked for Handley Page. When that company closed he worked for the Traffic Control Department of Westminster City Council. Here he developed a keen interest in statistics and graphs.

These skills were well used: he assiduously studied the frequency of the 263 bus service and made representations to the appropriate authorities. He also carried out surveys of the (few) public toilets available in Finchley and reported any failures to Barnet Council. He also took a great interest in public clocks, road conditions and the speed of traffic along the A1000. He was a great cyclist and was seen frequently up and down the High Road. In fact he continued cycling until a few months before his death in April.

When he moved into a care home in Muswell Hill Peter, in typical fashion, carried out a risk assessment on it! We shall miss Peter's contribution. We hold him up as an example of a person who thought about his

environment and whenever he found fault he did something about it.

*David Smith*

### **Sarah Bramble 19 December 1937 - 22 April 2009**

I first met Sarah at a Finchley Society meeting at Avenue House in the mid 90's. We both enjoyed the same interests, music, art and history and so it was the beginnings a close friendship. She was a bright and intelligent and passionate person with tremendous energy, creativity and curiosity for life. A great companion, and sorely missed.

Sarah was educated at Oldham Grammar School and went on to Edinburgh University to study Social Anthropology. Here, she met and married Hugh, a solicitor. They had three children and enjoyed a good and comfortable life in a beautiful Georgian house in the city. In 1974 Sarah took a post as personnel assistant, and was delighted to be accepted into the Scottish School of Business Studies to study personnel management.

They moved to Hampstead, London in 1976 and she completed her studies at The London School of Economics where she loved the diversity of culture and opinion. Soon after,

Sarah and Hugh separated and Sarah came to live in Finchley with their three children, Esther, John and Mark. As a single parent she worked hard to support her three teenagers. She worked as Personnel Consultant for Age Concern, for Fisons PLC and The Institute for Cancer Research.

With her children grown up and leading their own lives Sarah retired and moved to a flat in Dukes Avenue. She sang in the Pro Arte Choir and like her father began making ceramics producing some really coveted, beautiful and quirky pieces that revealed her sense of humour. She enjoyed working at The Royal Free Hospital as a volunteer and joined The Finchley Society finding both the coach outings and intellectual companionship stimulating. She made many new friends. She became an active grandmother to Zac aged 11 and twins Herbie and Harvey, now eight and embraced their passion for football.

Through much of her later life she lived courageously through bouts of depression and paranoia and continued to passionately value her freedom and independence. Unbeknown to her she had a terminally ill condition -- pancreatic cancer and died in her sleep.

*Mari l'Anson*

## What Happened To The Golf Clubs?

At the May meeting of the Local History Group Robert Hogan told us of his recent discovery of an early history of Finchley Golf Club which mentioned how the club was taken over by the army at the start of WWII. We found ourselves wondering whether this happened to all the local clubs or whether it was due to this club's proximity to the barracks. It occurred to us that members of The Society probably knew what places were commandeered in the war and we could compile a record for the archives.

Coincidentally Derek Warren had also been finding fascinating information about the role of the local Scouts in the war which he is going to put in the archives. In the course of discussion we realised that there were other questions to which some members would have answers – for instance the question of which schools were evacuated where. Let us know. It might, too, remind people of stories they could tell about war-time Finchley for the new version of *Finchley Remembered*.

The question about paraging in my last article led to Esther Johnson sending me a detailed account of paraging which appeared in the 1972 newsletter and answered our queries on that subject and also led us to speculate where in Finchley, Grimaldi lived.

Stuart Baynes is extending his researches into the period before and after the Jacobean survey he had completed and told us a sad story of a man who moved his family from London to escape the Plague only to have the house where they were staying burn down causing two deaths and £100 pounds' worth of damage. Since this was clearly a very

large sum in those days, I wonder which splendid house he was staying in.

Another recurring theme at the meeting turned out to be Edward VIII. Eve Byrne had brought a photograph of Church End where one of the few E VIII R signs erected during his short reign survives, while Maggie Ferguson had been contacted by a man whose father worked at Summers Brown in Church Lane where cricket bats were made and it turned out that one of these was for Edward VIII. We wondered if there are any other surviving links with Finchley

We have fixed our next meeting for Thursday 17 September in Avenue House at 8.00 p.m and look forward to seeing anyone interested in the discussion of such topics there.

*Margaret Cullen (Secretary)*

## The 100 Club

Thanks to the generosity of members 84 shares were taken up in the 100 club. This raises over £500 for the society and the same amount for distribution as prizes at the 10 meetings we have in the year.

The April and May prizes of £42 were won respectively by Mr. J Thompson of N3, and P & D Dawson of N12.

The June prize will be double this amount to be drawn at the end of the AGM.

You are invited to purchase the remaining 16 shares so any future prizes would be proportionately increased. All numbers are entered at each draw.

Thanks to all contributing members and good luck for the future draws.

*Peter Marsh*

## Membership Matters

IMPORTANT As a result of the increase in subscription rates, members who pay by standing order are receiving a standing order revision form about two months before their next subscription is due. Please return these to me without delay so that there is sufficient time for me to process the form, send on to the bank and for the bank to make the necessary changes before the next payment is due. There is no time for me to issue a second reminder. If you need assistance with completing the form please contact me.

### New members

We offer a warm welcome to the following new member:

Ken Carter N2

### 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:

Andrew & Carolyn Berkeley	N3
Mr J D S & Mrs J V Bumpus	N3
Mrs K.J. Butcher	EN5
Alan & Monica Chard	N12
Barry & Margaret Cullen	N3
Helene Ann Davidian	N2
Mr & Mrs P. Dunnill	N3
Mrs C. Halls	N12
Ms Margaret Harris	N12
Mrs H. Hatchett	N3
Mr Aziz & Mrs Sakina Jetha	N3
Mr J. Karet	N3
Mr J. Segal	N12
Mr & Mrs W. Tyler	N2
Keith, Carol & John Wakefield	N10
Mrs Catherine Weston	N3
Mrs Heather Winton	N2

*Tony Roberts,  
Membership Secretary*

## Finchley Swimming Pool

Below are two photographs of people enjoying themselves at the old Finchley Swimming Pool. The photos were probably taken during the 1920's. In the first picture Finchley County School can be seen to the left of the photo but there was no Granville Place. However, in the second picture it is almost completed! Can anyone put a date to either photograph?



## Other People's Events

**Barnet and District Local History Society** - all lectures are held in Church House, Wood Street Barnet (opposite the Museum) on Monday afternoons starting at 3.00 p.m.

Monday 14 September: A talk will be given by Pamela Wright on 'The development of the English county house from medieval to the 20<sup>th</sup> century based on National Trust properties'.

**Hornsey Historical Society** - All talks are held at 8.00 p.m. in the Union Church Community Centre at corner of Ferme Park Road and Weston Park.

Wednesday 9 September: 'The Tottenham Outrage' a talk by Mrs. Patricia Collier

Wednesday 14 October: 'A.V. Rose the first Flight over Walthamstow Marshes' a talk by Dr. Neil Houghton

**Friern Barnet & District Local History Society** - All meetings will take place in St. John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Lane Start 7.45 p.m. £2 for non-members.

Wednesday 23 September: Daphne Glick will give a talk on 'London Garden Squares'.

**Friern Barnet coffee Morning Talks** at 10.30 a.m. in Friern Barnet Library.

Wednesday 17 September: "The Battle of Britain" a talk by David Keen from the RAF Museum, Hendon.

**Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association** - Meetings will be held at 8.00 p.m. in the Muswell Hill Bowling Club Kings Avenue, N10 (just off Queen's Avenue )

Wednesday 17 October: Representatives from the Primary care Trust will talk about the closure of the Fortis Green clinic and the future of Hornsey Central Hospital and issues related to these moves.

Wednesday 21 November: Jack Whitehead will announce the winners of the local neighbourhood quiz and there will be an opportunity for members to put questions to the committee on any subject.

**Incognito Theatre** - Holly Park Road (behind the Health Centre) N11 3EB. Tickets: 0791 2875700. Performance at 8.00 p.m. except Sunday at 6.00 p.m.

Sunday 12 July to Saturday 18 July: "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

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(see inside for details)

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**ARTICLES FOR THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER NEWSLETTER TO THE EDITOR BY 10 AUGUST 2009**

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