

## Finchley Borough Seal

We were delighted to receive from Mrs Crick of Ashurst Road, an original seal from the old Borough of Finchley. We thank her for this item which has been added to our Archive Collection.

## New Patrons

The Spike Milligan Statue Fund is proud to announce that Mr. Andrew Secombe and Mr. David Secombe, sons of Sir Harry Secombe, have both agreed to become Patrons of the Fund. We now have a complete set of "Goons" as Patrons (Milligan, Sellers and Secombe) as well as three "Pythons"(John Cleese, Terry Gilliam and Michael Palin).

## The Bothy Garden

Thank you for the Society's generous cheque from the raffle proceeds towards the cost of maintaining the garden. The garden will be open on Sundays 2 May, 6 June, 4 July and 1 August from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will be no charge for admission on these dates. We will be holding our annual Garden Party Sunday 5 September also from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and look forward to welcoming you all on any or all of the above dates.

We would also welcome more helpers in the Garden on Friday mornings; please come along any Friday between 10 and 12.30. Coffee provided.

*Alison Dean*

## The Phoenix Cinema

Those of us who pass the Phoenix Cinema on our daily rounds will be aware that it is now covered in scaffolding. Initially this is to improve public facilities and access and will not interfere with the routine programming. Then from the end of May until September, the Phoenix will be closed for more internal work although, as we have a listed building, the Edwardian barrel vault ceiling and Art Deco moulding will be preserved. So, in its 100<sup>th</sup> year, one of England's oldest independent cinemas is to enter a new phase. The Phoenix Heritage Education Committee meets every month to plan new initiatives and information projects, to make the cinema more widely known and appreciated. Special screenings, touring exhibitions in local libraries, school and education projects - so much is planned over the next few months. There will also be a new book: 'The Phoenix Cinema: A Century of Films in East Finchley' by Gerry Turvey, which should be most interesting.

The committee (of which I am a member) hopes there may still be more unknown archive material so please look out those old photographs - particularly of the 1940's and 1950's when it was still The Rex! The Finchley Society is lucky to be involved in this important part of our local heritage and I will try and keep the Newsletter abreast of developments.

*Neil Watson*

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## The Finchley Society



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## Planning Matters

Barnet Council has a development plan for new developments in the borough, which is currently called the 'Unitary Development Plan'. This will soon be replaced by the 'Local Development Framework' (LDF). The LDF proposes where new building will take place and proposes increased density housing along main routes such as the A1000.

As a London borough, Barnet is guided on acceptable density for new housing by the London Plan, which considers density based on 'Public Transport Accessibility Levels (PTAL)'. The final decisions on what is allowed rests with the local planning authority, in our case, Barnet Council.

While we can accept that there will be some variation from the PTAL Density ratings given by the GLA, Barnet Council officers are proposing acceptance for planning applications for flatted developments more than two times higher than those set by the London Plan.

This is of particular concern to the Society and local residents surrounding the sites at North Finchley where two large proposals for high-density flatted development have been made. On this part of the A1000 the old Furnitureland building and Police Depot at 931 High Road propose buildings up to six storeys. If allowed, this will cause a 'canyon effect' along the A1000.

The London Plan suggests areas for intensified use, "*Urban Dense development, with a mix of different uses and buildings of three to four storeys, such as town centres, along main arterial routes and substantial parts of inner London.*" Compared to the three to four storey limit given here, Barnet's officers are suggesting acceptance of proposals for five to six storeys. This is not wanted by residents and would damage the character of the area.

Officers claim that both sites are 'urban' due to their High Road frontage. The majority of both sites goes back into suburban housing, particularly 931 High Road, so are in fact mainly 'suburban'.

Councillors, against officers' advice, refused previous applications for both Police Depot and Furnitureland at Committee. Traffic congestion is a regular event at North Finchley. Surely it does not make sense to allow 'canyon effect' along the A1000 with even more traffic congestion that must inevitably follow?

Mike Dawson

## Dr Rudi Vis, M.P.

It is very sad news to learn that Rudi is fighting terminal cancer. In a letter to our Chairman he says that "I am almost sure that I will never be in London again". It is a cruel twist of fate that, at the moment when Rudi is poised to leave Parliament, after serving the Finchley and Golders Green Constituency since 1997, he should be struck down and denied the pleasures of a well-deserved retirement with his family. We have thanked him for his support for the work and activities of The Finchley Society and of The Spike Milligan Statue Fund, both as Member of Parliament and as a local Borough Councillor. We shall miss Rudi on the local scene and will be the poorer for his many interventions in local affairs.

## Finchley Society Meetings

All our monthly meetings take place in the Drawing room at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley N3 3QE

**May meeting:** Our next meeting will commence at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday 27 May when there will be a talk give by Ann Brown on Long Lane Pasture. Ann is Chairman of the Long Lane Pasture Trust, the community group which fought to save and now looks after Long Lane Pasture, a green space in the heart of Finchley. This talk is the story of how local people saved Long Lane Pasture from a housing development and restored it for public enjoyment and recreation – the reason why it was originally purchased by Finchley Urban District Council in 1912. It will also describe the history of the land, what it has been used for, and what is there today. Most importantly, it will also explain how a 10-year campaign to re-open the site was eventually successful and how this experience and the lessons learnt might be used to save other green spaces under threat.

Ann has lived in Finchley for 33 years and has been a member of the Finchley Society for most of that time! She was part of the Finchley Local Agenda 21 Group (no longer in existence) which re-discovered Long Lane Pasture and determined to re-open it for public enjoyment. Ann is currently the UK Executive Officer for Falklands Conservation, a charity protecting the wildlife of the Falkland Islands.

**Annual General Meeting:** The Annual General Meeting will be held at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday 24 June and all members are invited to attend. Forms for the meeting are enclosed with this Newsletter and it is hoped to see a good turn out of members at the meeting. The attached documents can also be viewed on The Finchley Society website.

Following the AGM there will be a talk by Roz Avery entitled 'Return to the Kruger National Park'.

## Civic Voice

The Society took part in the recent election for a new Board of Trustees for the newly-formed Civic Voice which is a replacement body for the now defunct Civic Trust. We cast three votes and are pleased to note that two of our preferred candidates were amongst the six successfully elected. The six come from Birmingham, Hampstead, Coventry, Alnwick, Midsomer Norton and Canterbury. The new Chairman is Paula Ridley from Merseyside and the Treasurer, Martin Meredith, is from Chester.

We note that only 160 societies took part in the vote. This suggests that, like The Finchley Society, many groups are waiting to see whether the new organisation will be able to motivate and mobilise a vast majority of amenity groups throughout the country.

We are still anxious about the great increase in annual subscription from £170 to £500.

*David Smith*

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## Environment

I am always pleased to hear about any wildlife in the area, but you can now put details onto our website, [www.finchleysociety.org.uk](http://www.finchleysociety.org.uk), by sending your report to [web@finchleysociety.org.uk](mailto:web@finchleysociety.org.uk). Go to the Environment page and then click onto Nature reports.

There was plenty of frog spawn in March, especially in the ponds at Long Lane Pasture, Avenue House Grounds, Coppetts Wood, and Rocklands pond by the Dollis Brook. Chiffchaffs and blackcaps have been in fine song, the latter having overwintered in a number of gardens around. For two or three weeks there was a solitary

waxwing feeding on the berries on a tree outside the petrol station in Regent's Park Road, opposite College Farm. A sparrow hawk flew over Coppetts Wood, and one landed at Long Lane Pasture. Further reports on owls have come from Windsor Open Space and Avenue House Grounds. The woodpeckers have been drumming, with one reported in the gardens along Fallow Court Avenue. A grey wagtail was seen in Howcroft Crescent flitting from roof to roof.

Why not visit Long Lane Pasture on 15 May between 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. to see the moths that were trapped the night before. Then on Sunday 16 May there is the Woodland Festival at Coppetts

Wood between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. This is especially for children, and there will be a walk around the reserve.

There is a Wild Flower Day at Long Lane Pasture 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on 19 June and 20 June there is the East Finchley Festival at Cherry Tree Wood, which is well worth a visit. All these events are free, so there is no excuse in not going to see what is happening in Finchley.

If you would like to know more about parks and gardens in London then go to [www.londongardensonline.org.uk](http://www.londongardensonline.org.uk) where you will find many of Barnet's Open Spaces listed.

*Derek Warren*

## Annual Dinner

A reminder that applications for the Dinner on 14 July should be sent to David Smith, together with a cheque. The application form was sent out with the March Newsletter. We regret that we are not yet able to announce the Name of the After-Dinner Speaker.

## Recent Finchley Society Meetings

We have had three excellent monthly meetings in January to March, not only because of the high standard of the talks but also because of the good attendance and the interest shown by the audience.

There has also been some lively discussion about local issues, for example, the future of Accident and Emergency Departments in the North London area. At the February meeting "Murders in the Finchley area" we not only had a very entertaining and sometimes gruesome talk by Roger Morris but we were visited by Nick Papademitriou, the author of "Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths in Barnet, Finchley and Hendon". This book is published by Pen and Sword Publications. Further information from Nick on 07772 547707.

Do join us at the May meeting and at the Annual General Meeting where there is always an opportunity to discuss matters of common interest.

## NEWS JUST IN!

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, The Finchley Society supported an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant towards the St. Mary-at-Finchley Organ Fund.

We have just heard that this application has been successful and that the sum of £50,000 has been awarded by the HLF to the fund.

Very good news indeed!

## Education Secretary

As previously reported, we have had to stop our service to schools because we no longer have an Education Secretary. Can you help? Could you take over this role? If so Barbara Warren would be really pleased to hear from you on 020 83465258

## Music and Mechanisms: The Organ and How It Works

We promised details of a visit to St. Mary's Church in Hendon Lane to see and hear a demonstration of the organ. This will be held on Tuesday, 11 May at 7.30 p.m. You are invited, along with other local groups, to this informal presentation given by Simon Williams from the Royal College of Organists who will explain the workings of the organ using the Willis organ at St. Mary's. Learn how music and mechanism combine in this great instrument. This organ dates from 1876 and it now needs major work. Come and hear the organ before it is refurbished.

The event will last one hour and is followed by refreshments. Entry is free but donations to the Organ Restoration Fund will be welcomed. Suitable for ages 9 to 90. This event is in no way a religious one and so members of other faiths or of none, will feel welcome in the oldest building in Finchley.

We are grateful to Alison Fisher, Director of Music, for organising this event.

On Saturday, 15 May, the church will be holding an Auction and Sale of Art in aid of the Church Organ Fund in the Church Hall. Anna Evans of Christie's will be the auctioneer. Bidding starts at 7 p.m. and viewing and sales at 6 p.m.

Mari l'Anson is one of eight local artists donating a painting to be auctioned.

For more details you can phone Mari on 020 83467011

## Audrey Baker

We hear that Audrey Baker has moved to a nursing home on the south coast. We wish her good health and will miss her genial presence at our monthly meetings - and of course the many floral decorations she gave us over the years.

## Thank You

Firstly, to Tony Roberts, our recently retired Membership Secretary. Tony has kept the wheels of the Society turning since he and his computer took over this role. He has brought us right into the 21st century in terms of advising members of the need to renew their subscription and of welcoming new members to the Society. We have greatly appreciated his bi-monthly reports on the health of the membership statistics and he has often concentrated the minds of the Officers and Committee when problems have arisen. We shall miss his efficiency and his drive. Thank you, Tony! We are glad that Tony has agreed to continue to operate our Society website. {By the way, have YOU looked at it lately? It is worth looking at.}

We must also thank Helene Davidian for being a super-efficient Newsletter Distribution Manager. It is a fairly thankless task and most of us just accept the fact that our Newsletter arrives at our home on time and we think no more of it. But supposing there is heavy snow, supposing the printing is delayed, supposing several 'postmen' are unavailable at the same time? Helene is the person who has solved all these problems for us. Thank you Helene!

*David Smith*

## **Flight Lieutenant Patrick James Garland**

In our July/August 2009 Newsletter, we printed a request from the RAF who were seeking the family of Flight Lieutenant Patrick James Garland, whose family were believed to have lived in Finchley. Flight Lieutenant Garland, who was killed in a wartime flying accident when he was 36, served in No. 11 (Army Co-operation) Squadron which is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012. To mark the occasion, the RAF is publishing a book describing the history of the Squadron and the book will include a Roll of Honour mentioning officers who lost their lives while serving in the Squadron.

We were very pleased to receive an e-mail from Sally-Anne Harrison saying that Flight Lieutenant Garland flew for a while with her father in 2 Squadron, and she has a newspaper cutting regarding his death. In this article his mother is listed as Mrs. Lane of Lyttelton Road, London N.

On the afternoon of 1 January 1945, Lieutenant Garland, was flying with Leigh Woodbridge and their spitfire went off on an Arty/R South of Gorinchem. On returning to the airfield the spitfire bounced badly on landing, stalled and crashed on its back, killing him. It is not clear if damage to the airfield may have contributed to the accident. His death was particularly tragic as he was the last of four brothers to be killed. All were pilots and one, Donald, had been awarded the VC in 1940.

Although we have been unable to trace any of the Garland family, this information has been passed on to the RAF.

*Rosemary Coates*

## **New Finchley Farmers' Market**

A new Finchley Farmers' Market is being launched on Sunday 13 and Saturday 26 June, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Avenue House. It will be held in the Stable block and courtyard area which is just to the right of the house as you are facing the building. Please see [www.finchlinks.com](http://www.finchlinks.com) for a picture which will help you identify the space.

The market will be run by City and Country Farmers Market [www.weareccfm.co.uk](http://www.weareccfm.co.uk) who run the Alexandra and Campsbourne School Farmer's Markets in Muswell Hill (pop along for a visit to get a taste of what will be coming out way!). If you are a producer and would like to apply for a stall please contact CCFM direct, they are inclusive and supportive of community producers.

After June the market will be held on every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Please spread the word, the only way this can succeed is if people attend, and given how positive everyone has been about the idea of a local Farmer's Market, it stands a good chance of being a hit!

## **Obituary - Ken Duffin**

We are sorry to announce that Ken sadly died at the beginning of March, just short of his 84th birthday. He had been a member of the society for over 30 years, having moved to Finchley to join the local authorities Tree Team. He was in charge of looking after the street trees. Many will remember him working hard at the College Farm Open Days, where he organised the volunteers to collect the entrance fee. He was also responsible in making sure all the stall holders were happy, and sorting out any problems. He had been a trustee of the College Farm Trust for many years.

Our condolences go to his wife Grace to whom he was married for 47 years, to his daughters Anne and Philippa, and to the grandchildren.

*Derek Warren*

## **Two Counties, Two Boroughs and an Urban District**

A friend of mine sometimes wears a tie commemorating his visit to that point which constitutes the common boundary of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. Sometimes, post-prandially, we speculate if said point is large enough to stand on with both feet, so as to be in all four states at once; or whether one would have to perch on one foot, on tiptoe.

Now while the topography of the Dollis Valley is exciting in a different way from that of the Mojave desert, it was possible (until 1965) to stand simultaneously in two counties, two boroughs and an urban district: at the confluence of Dollis Brook and Folly Brook. There, at the centre of an island too small to have a name, lay the common boundary of the Middlesex boroughs of Finchley and Hendon, and the Hertfordshire urban district of Barnet (civil parish of Totteridge).

If you had stood there on one leg, facing west, the other leg pointing east, each arm thrust forward at a horizontal angle of forty-five degrees; you would have functioned credibly as a sign-post, at a now-extinct edge of the Home Counties.

*Robert Hogan*

## '100 Club' Fundraising

Thank you to all members who have joined the second 100 Club. At the time of writing we have 72 shares taken up. This will provide £432 for The Society this year. As stated before, we set up the 100 club in order to raise enough money to off-set the increase in rent for The Finchley Society's archive room at Avenue House. The increase was £600 so we have not managed to reach that target yet.

May I remind anyone who intended to join the club but has mislaid the details that it is not too late? Shares are £12 each and a cheque made out to Finchley Society 100 Club posted to me at 2 Park Crescent N3 2NJ with your name and address is all you need to do.

There are 28 shares available. Please help The Society and at the same time stand a chance of winning one or more of the 10 prizes. Good luck!

The list of winners for 2009/2010 is:-

April	ticket 46
Mr John Thompson	£42
May	ticket 36
P & D Dawson	£42
June	ticket 8
Mrs Esther Johnson	£84
September	ticket 6
Mari l'Anson	£43
October	ticket 47
Mr John Thompson	£43
November	ticket 33
Barbara Warren	£44
December	ticket 39
Mr & Mrs Lewis	£88
January	ticket 86
Barbara Warren	£44
February	ticket 61
Miss M Harris	£44
March	ticket 26
Mrs Pauline Dawson	£44

*Peter Marsh*

## Membership Matters

In February Stephen Yeo took over from Tony Roberts as Membership Secretary. Tony continues to manage the Society's web site.

### New members

We offer a warm welcome to our newest member,

Martin Ellman of N12.

### Members' Donations

We are supported entirely by subscription and without the generosity of our members the aims of the Society could not be met. Some donations are quite substantial and on a regular basis. In addition to the estate of the late Peter W. J. Crockford, we would like to thank the following members for their recent donations:

Mr L.H. Beltran	GU27
Miss V.M. Costello	N12
Miss G.M. Costello	N12
Mr L.A. Perdoni	N3
Miss Margaret Pacey	N2
Mr K.E. and Yvonne Ruge	N20
Maureen Cartwright	N12
Mrs J.H. Hodges	N12
Ms Barbara Kail	NW11
S. Underwood & J. Szablowski	N12
Mr Tony McTeare	N3
Ms Rosanna Taylor	N3
Helene Ann Davidian	N2
David and Christine Morris	N12

*Stephen Yeo,  
Membership Secretary*

## A Finchley Sketch Book

A beautifully illustrated picture book of Finchley has been published. Local artist Mari l'Anson has sketched the streets and people of Church End, East, West and North Finchley filling pages of her sketchbooks with drawings and watercolours. Many of these have been brought together to make up this lovely book, which has already proved a success. First editions are running out, which means you have to get in there quickly to reserve a copy. Many people have written to say how much they enjoyed looking at it; both those who live here and others who have lived in Finchley in the past, bringing back memories of the area.

A seasoned illustrator and painter, Mari's sense of observation has helped her to see the unusual, the architecture above the shops, the detail of patterned brickwork, decorative rooftops and chimneys that are so prominent in this area. From the high streets to the side streets, shops, schools, churches and houses are well represented. All have been gathered together in this unique book.

Published by The Finchley Society, the book is in A4 landscape format and has 62 pages of coloured illustrations. The first edition of Mari l'Anson's "FINCHLEY SKETCHBOOK" is available price £15. To purchase please telephone Mari l'Anson on 020 83467011 or David Smith on 020 88834154.

## Change of Distribution Manager

Martin Summers has now taken over from Helene and all communications relating to distribution should be made to Martin on 020 83460619. [martinsumm48@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:martinsumm48@yahoo.co.uk)

### Important message for all

**"postmen"**: If you will be away when newsletters are to be delivered circa 1 July, 1 September etc. please let Martin know in advance so a suitable alternative arrangements can be made. Thank you.

## High Road shops!

The photographs below are of the shops on the High Road between the North Circular Road and Squires Lane, Finchley.

The first was taken in 1989 before the flyover was built over the North Circular Road.



The second photograph, taken recently, shows, in addition to the roadworks that were undertaken, that the first couple of shops were also demolished to widen the junction at the end of Squires Lane.

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## Planning Application for a memorial in Green Park

Our sister society, the Thorney Island Society, which takes its name from the island in the Thames which was once no more than a dense thicket and upon which Westminster Abbey was first built, drew to our attention the proposal to erect a very large memorial in Green Park for the members of Bomber Command who died during the Second World War, and asked us to support them in their opposition to it. The

Thorney Island Society comprises the Friends of St James's Park and Green Park, and though in favour of a memorial somewhere in central London they are very much against the effect the proposal would have on the natural habitat of this unique peaceful park, destroying hedges and trees and imposing an 85 metre long colonnade along Piccadilly. Members of the Planning Committee

considered whether to take the unusual step of commenting on an application which is a long way from Finchley, and decided to do so, because we are Londoners who appreciate our capital city and share in its guardianship. We have therefore put in an objection to Westminster City Council, who will shortly be considering the application.

*Peter Pickering*

## Other People's Events

### Other People's Events

**Friern Barnet Library coffee morning talks** between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

Wednesday 19 May - "A Peep at Postcards" by Terence Atkins"

Wednesday 16 June - "350 Years of Church Farm Hendon" by Gerrard Roots

**Friern Barnet and District Local History Society.** - All meetings are held in St. John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Lane (next to Whetstone Police Station) at 7.45 p.m.

Wednesday 26 May - The John Donovan Memorial Lecture: '100 Years of the Phoenix Cinema' by Gerry Turvey. This will be preceded by the AGM.

Wednesday 23 June - Freeman of the City of London and Liverymen of the Stationers Company - a personal view' by Andrea Cameron

**Hendon and District Archaeological Society** - are held at Avenue House, East End Road N3 commencing at 8 p.m.

11 May - Greco-Roman Period Funerary Practices in Egypt - a lecture by John Johnson

8 June - 49<sup>th</sup> HADAS Annual General Meeting

**South Friern Library coffee morning talks** - between 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon

7 May - 'Southgate before World War One'

4 June - 'History of Colney Hatch Asylum'

**Hornsey Historical Society** - Lectures take place on the second Wednesday of the month promptly at 8 p.m. at the Union Church Hall, corner of Ferme Park Road and Weston Park N8.

12 May - Alexandra Palace in postcards - John Hinchelwood

9 June - Madame Tussauds and the 1789 revolution in Wax - Dr. Pamela Philbeam

### The Greenacre Bicycle Rally 2010

The third annual Greenacre Bicycle Rally will be held on Sunday 13 June. Those taking part should assemble at the Artsdepot in North Finchley at 11 a.m. for a 12 noon start. A leisurely route will be taken through Friern Barnet and Whetstone with a refreshment stop at Friary Park. An additional bicycle ride in conjunction with Barnet Cyclists will take riders along Dollis Brook to Barnet Countryside Centre in Byng Road, where the centre will be holding an Environment Fair.

Get that bike out of your shed and join us!

For further information on the Greenacre Bicycle Rally telephone Mike Gee 020 83465503. For information on the Greenacre Writers contact Rosie 020 83469449 or Lindsay 020 83437181. E-mail: [MrGreenacres001@aol.com](mailto:MrGreenacres001@aol.com).

## Forthcoming Events

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**ARTICLES FOR THE JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER  
SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY 10 JUNE 2010**

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