

An Evening of Song and Laughter

This event was held at The Middlesex University Hendon Campus on Sunday, 18 April to raise money for the statue to Spike Milligan, our late Patron.

Ian Cameron and Barry Booth, both veteran professional musicians, started us off. Jane Milligan, Spike's youngest daughter, sang "Alice in Wonderland" as she had at her father's memorial service. She was accompanied by Ben Goddard, currently playing the lead in "The Mousetrap". Victoria Wood and friends then entertained. Victoria was at her sparkling best. Then followed singer Jessie Buckley who had risen to fame when she came second in the "Search for Nancy" on BBC TV. She was accompanied by Joe Thompson who usually plays at The Ivy. The first half was brought to a wonderful conclusion by The Angels of Kaos Choir, the only amateurs in the line-up but wonderfully inspiring singers.

After the interval Maureen Lipman and The Mayor, Councillor Brian Coleman, presided over the auction of ten books which had all been signed by patrons of the Statue Fund. This raised £380. Maureen Lipman then took over for the second half of the programme before Jessie sang a final song. The evening was declared a success and everyone went home happy. The next day someone sent in a cheque for another £30 telling us that we had charged too little for the tickets. We took that as a compliment.

In all, the event raised just over £3,600 for the Statue Fund.

Annual dinner

It is still not too late to apply for a ticket for the Annual Dinner at South Herts Golf Club on Wednesday 14 JULY. If you have mislaid your application form, contact David Smith (8883 4154) as a matter of urgency. The cost is £27 per guest. Our Guest Speaker this year will be Mr. Peter Hart who lives in Finchley and who works for the Imperial War Museum. We are sure his after-dinner talk will be most interesting.

Chairman on Television

During the recent election campaign our Chairman was interviewed by Jacob Illeborg of the Danish Broadcasting Corporation for their TV news programme. The idea was to get away from the over-familiar views of Big Ben and Tower Bridge and to see everyday street scenes in the suburbs. Finchley was chosen because Jacob had once lived in Stanhope Avenue.

Finchley Society Meetings

There will be no meetings in July or August. Our next meeting is on Thursday 30 September starting at 8 p.m. when there will be a talk by Mike Watts on The National Trust and how it works. Further details will be given in our next Newsletter.

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The Finchley Society



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350 Years of Church Farm

2010 is the 350th anniversary of Church Farm, the oldest surviving house in Hendon, and now Barnet Borough's museum. The Museum is marking the anniversary with an exhibition and associated events.

The exhibition, *House on a Hill: 350 Years of Church Farm, Hendon*, tells the story of the building - as the centre of a busy hay and dairy farm, as a dwelling and as a museum - and runs from 29 May to 18 October.

Supporting the exhibition, we shall have a 'Living History Day' in the Museum garden in July, with re-enactments of scenes from everyday life in the 1600s; a series of talks (at Hendon Library), setting Church Farm in the context of national and local history; and, we hope, an evening of 17th Century music.

HADAS and UCL Institute of Archaeology, with pupils from local schools, will once again be digging in the Museum garden in July; then HADAS & UCL (using CFM as a base) will move on to excavate the WWII public air-raid shelters close by in Sunny Hill Park. (A small selection of finds from previous digs will be included in the exhibition.)

Children visiting will be invited to draw or paint the Museum, and we shall display their pictures during the exhibition. There will also be new displays within our exhibition of playthings past, *The Moving Toyshop*.

Dates and details of the events will be posted on the Friends of the Museum's website, at: www.churchfarmhousemuseum.co.uk. Please come and join us in celebrating this splendid building - and keep your fingers crossed for decent weather!

Apology

The Editor apologises to the Honorary Secretary for omitting her name from The Society details on page 2 of the last Newsletter.

Post of Honorary Secretary

At the time of writing no one has stepped forward to fill this most important role in the life of the Society. We again ask for a volunteer to help keep the Society running and to ensure its evolution. (We could accept an offer from a member to become Minute Secretary. This would help make the post of Secretary a little less daunting). If you are interested in either post please contact the Chairman or Kiran Singh (8346 8852) as soon as possible.

As Kiran steps down from her two years as Secretary, we should like to place on record our thanks to her for her efficiency and dedication in the role. She has kept the wheels turning and has ensured that the Society knows what it is about.

The Executive Committee thanks her for having kept it fed and watered since we decided not to pay for refreshments at our Avenue House meetings.

Civic Voice

If members want to read about the progress of the new body that is aiming to replace The Civic Trust then they should go to www.civicvoice.org.uk or phone 0151 708 9920 or write to Unit 101, 82 Wood Street, The Tea Factory, Liverpool L1 4DQ. You will then be able to have your own copy of "Your Voice" that will keep you up to date on the new movement. The number of societies that have joined the new organisation has now passed 200 but is nowhere near the 1000 that were once united under The Civic Trust banner. Our Society, like many others, is waiting in the wings to see how the new set-up develops.

Obituaries

Dr. Rudi Vis

As foreshadowed in our last edition, Rudi lost his fight with cancer on 31 May. We are very sad to report this news because Rudi was a very committed Member of Parliament who took a great interest in local matters and was also very helpful to The Society in many different ways. He gained a great insight into the whole of the Borough of Barnet through his work as a Councillor until – to his considerable surprise - he was catapulted into Westminster in the election of 1997.

We shall miss his genial presence, his twinkling eyes and his insights into the nature of political power. Rudi was always his own man and was a vociferous opponent of the removal of one of our fire engines from Finchley Fire Station and campaigned for the retention of the Ballards Lane Post Office.

Rudi regularly attended Society events and found the time to join us at our Christmas meetings unless he was on his way to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

We have written to his wife, Jacqui, and her two boys to express our sympathy at this very sad time.

Several members of The Society attended the funeral on 11 June. It was a very moving service at which a number of people paid tribute to Rudi including the Rt. Hon John Prescott who gave an excellent eulogy.

Pat Sharland

We also record the passing of our second Chairman, Pat Sharland. Pat died on 16 May. Pat was Chairman from 1972 to 1976 and saw our membership grow impressively as we strived for 1000 members.

Pat was a charming lady who was an excellent ambassador for The Society. She was also very helpful in providing duplicating supplies for the Newsletter when it was produced on ink stencils. Pat did valuable work for the Musicians' Benevolent Society.

Ruby Cattle

We are also sorry to report that Ruby Cattle, a long serving member of The Society, died on 30 May aged 94. Ruby spent all her life in Finchley and attended Woodhouse School.

On retirement she started to trace her family tree and she was very pleased to discover that the family had connections with both Lord Nelson and Sir Roland Hill.

Ruby contributed two items to 'Finchley Remembered' and through this was traced by a childhood friend now living in Northamptonshire, who had been sent a copy of the book. They were able to meet up again after losing touch for many years.

Environment News

Coppetts Wood: Although a bit wet the Woodland Festival at Coppetts Wood was a great success with all sorts of activities, including a fine display by the Morris dancers. The Green and Greater Spotted woodpeckers were in fine voice, also Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Whitethroat.

Long Lane Pasture: The summer resident Common Whitethroat and Blackcap are at Long Lane Pasture, and a Lesser Whitethroat was singing for a day or two. It was great to see a pair of Moorhens nesting on the pond, and the whole site is a picture with wildflowers everywhere.

Try to visit, especially on 17 July to look at the butterflies, and on 14 August to check on the pond life. You are welcome to blackberry pick on any Saturday or Sunday in August between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., just leave a donation.

Slow worms have been seen again in Wentworth Avenue gardens and on the Gordon Road allotments. Another area where hedgehogs have been spotted is near the top of Friern Barnet Lane.

Edwardian Music Hall

As part of the Friary Park Centenary Celebrations an Edwardian Music Hall event is taking place on 24 July, starting at 8 p.m. at All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North. Tickets are £10. Ring 020 8368 3927 for tickets and further information.

News from your local police

See web site: www.met.police.uk/teams/barnet for local news. There are drop-in surgeries at Waitrose, Tesco, Avenue House and the Sternberg Centre.

Burglary: The Finchley Church End officers provide high visibility patrols at times of peak demand. Leaflets are delivered in hot spot areas with home security advice and surgeries are being held in West Finchley to increase crime prevention awareness.

Fly Tipping: a quantity of debris was cleared from Windsor Road and other places and the team keep a close eye out for fly-tipping while on their regular high visibility patrols.

Drug Dealing: Tally Ho is a problem area and much is being done to deter the drug activity....premises are being searched with positive results and arrests made.

Membership Matters

New members

We offer a warm welcome to our newest members:

C Peter Gude of N12 and Joy Bigwood of NW11.

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. We would like to thank the following members for their recent donations:

Mr Richard Buchanan	N3
Richard Golland	N3
Mr Robert Hogan	SW5
Mrs R.M. Rees	NW11
John Sparrow	N2
Elisabeth Vandyk	N3
Keith, Carol & John Wakefield	N10

*Stephen Yeo,
Membership Secretary*

Other People's Events

Finchley Community Festival - Victoria Park - 10 July

North London Hospice - Party in the Park. Live music and fun for all in Avenue House Grounds - 18 July

Friern Barnet Summer Show - Friary Park - 21 August

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

There will be no talks in July or August. The next talk will be:

Wednesday 15 September - "Local Ghosts" by Ollie Natelson

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society. - There will be no meetings in July or August

Hendon and District Archaeological Society - There will be no meetings in July or August

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

2 July - 350 Years of Church Farm, Hendon

30 July - History of British Film Posters

3 September - History of Pharmacy

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.

14 July - AGM

Forthcoming Events

(see inside for details)

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July

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4 Bothy Garden open

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30 British Film Posters 4

August

1 Bothy Garden open

21 Friern Summer Show 4

September

3 History of Pharmacy 4

5 Bothy Garden Party 1

15 Local Ghosts 4

30 Monthly Meeting 1

Arden Road, Finchley in 1930



If no page number shown above -
see previous newsletter

**ARTICLES FOR THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER NEWSLETTER
SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY 10 AUGUST 2010**

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