

A year in the archives

It has been a busy and fruitful year for Finchley Society archives.

Cataloguing

Over the years the Society has received bequeaths and donations of documents, books, maps, photos and press cuttings not to mention some artefacts rescued from various places.

For the first time the archive has a main index. A modified version of this is on the Finchley Society web site where it joins the lists of maps and books. A photos list is under way but it is a painstaking and slow process and will not appear until the end of the year. Cataloguing of the press cuttings will need to wait until a keen and active volunteer steps forward to do the work

Acquisitions

This year The Society received 9 large boxes of planning documentation from Bill Tyler to sort. There have been a few smaller acquisitions, including Barbara Phillipson diaries 1922, 1935, 1942, photo albums of Aerofilm photos of the Simms/CAV factory in 1975, 1977 and 1978 and a bound volume of Finchley Press 1953. We now have Derek Warren's research files into war memorials, targeting and postboxes.

Visitors and Enquiries

The Society receives a steady trickle of enquiries for example about Samuel Jackson, Finchley resident 1844-1883; Mrs Leach's Nursing Home; Express Dairy tea shops; pre-1964 road signs; old photos of Woodside Avenue; The Old School House, Hendon Lane; a war time Day Nursery in Torrington Park Road; 1940s newspapers in North Finchley; information and photographs on the history of College Farm; Henry Westbury Simpson and the founding of the Finchley Press; a small painting by Mrs. B. Lucas; old photos of Red Lion Hill; the history of Finchley Cottage and Belle Vue; Jean Scott's involvement in Hawthorn Dene.

Visitors have included Objectif, a graphic design studio based in London wanting info on Finchley Common, Tallyho Corner and North Finchley's architectural heritage; MUF regarding historical material for the improving of Tally Ho; Museum of London Projects investigating Stanley Field on behalf of English Heritage to consider whether a dig was required before Academy is built and Magnus Copps has researched Avenue House history for a funding application.

We have also provided David Pentecost with scans to assist his book about Torrington Cottage and surroundings, which he is hoping to expand with the Society's involvement with Lodge Lane.

Members are welcome to visit on non-Bank Holiday Monday mornings but please make an appointment (see web site, or email archives@finchleysociety.org.uk) in view of space limitations.

Archive Team

The archive team currently consists of Tony Roberts, Margaret Cullen, Jane Mitchell and Derek and Barbara Warren. Stuart Baines is helping to sort the photos on 'unofficial' days.

Tony Roberts, Margaret Cullen