

The Finchley Society Archives Annual Report 2019-20

Cataloguing

The Archive Team, consisting of Derek and Barbara Warren, Carol Vielba and Jane Mitchell have worked tirelessly with myself to complete the second level cataloguing, of what's in the main boxes, and was on track to complete the work at the end of 2020, until coronavirus struck. The archives were closed temporarily until further notice on 16 March 2020.

Acquisitions

The archives continue to receive a sporadic trickle of photos, books and documents for the archives. This year we have received amongst other items, some legal documents ca 1904 regarding a property on Redbourne Avenue; historic documents for a house in Bow Lane, some of it handwritten on vellum; a large high quality photograph of the East Finchley Brotherhood Male Voice Choir in 1931 with all members identified; an electronic copy of the Finchley fire brigade around their early fire engine; 23 electronic photos of Christ's College 1922/23. Also, some gaps in our copy of Barnet Library Series photos have been filled.

Enquiries

The archives continue to get a slow stream of enquiries via the internet. Most are by members of the public requesting photos of places their ancestors lived or documentary evidence for them being there. I estimate we can help in just under half of the cases. Cases this year included a request for historical plans of a property in Church Lane; details of owners of a property in Cedar Court who are not on the land registry; the name of a music shop in Finchley in 1963; information regarding a plaque in Windsor Open Space in memory of a Flying Officer in WW2; the location of a photo taken in 1929 from the buildings in the background; a photo of an Aveling & Porter Steam Engine; a blacksmith who lived on the High Road in 1881 and photos of the Green Man; information on Holmewood School around 1915 and obituaries in 1958; an explanation why 3 Dale Grove was built considerably before 1 Dale Grove; information on Sellers Hall; a copy of March 1972 Finchley Society newsletter regarding Craigmar vineyard; historic photos of the North Finchley area for year 3 Moss Hall School; information about Violet, born in 1903 and sent to Australia as an orphan in 1914, with only a bible; maps of where bombs fell in Finchley; photos of the pub for an ancestor of Fred Pleasants.

Digitisation and Internet

The new computer and Internet connection installed last year have proved a boon for the work of the archives but computer failure in December 2019 has halted this until the equipment can be repaired. Although extremely useful, the speed of the connection renders it unsuitable for any large scale on line digitisation

AR 29 03 2020