

March 2009

Friern Barnet and Whetstone Residents' Association

- We are non-political
- We work for all residents in the area
- We discuss issues with Local Councillors and Council Officials
- Associated with the following bodies
 - The Federation of Residents' Association of Barnet
 - The Post Office Advisory Panel
 - The Finchley Society
 - Friends of Friary Park
 - The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society
 - Coppetts Wood Conservationists
 - The London Green Belt Council
 - North Finchley Local Agenda 21

Victory as future for Friary House is assured

How time flies! In our Newsletter of February 2005 we reported to you that we were then at the same point as three years previously when, you guessed it, Friary House stood empty and a use for it had to be found. We finished an article four years ago with "... maybe you have ideas for the use of the House? We would like to hear from you in that case."

Well, we received various possible suggestions and some warnings – such as the need to avoid traffic spoiling the Park. But the House has not improved by standing empty and its main function is now the very popular and efficiently run café in part of the ground floor, an oasis for young families who use the playground opposite.

Both your officers and those of the Friends of Friary Park have tried to encourage Barnet Council to put the attractively situated building to some acceptable use. We are happy that progress can now be reported. The local authority is applying to itself for permission to spend a reasonable amount of money towards updating the upper floor for use by two or three Local Neighbourhood Police teams, and for refurbishing the ground floor for new occupiers.

We certainly welcome the decision by the Police to use Friary House as a base, as their



March 2009: Karl Ruge and Helen Hooper (both represent your Residents Association, as well as the Friends of Friary Park) have campaigned for years on behalf of the future of Friary House

activities will not increase vehicles travelling in the Park, and their popular presence will undoubtedly discourage vandalism.

At the beginning of 2008, Barnet Council asked the Barnet Voluntary Services Council (BVSC) to help plan the future of Friary House. We hope soon to hear whether the BVSC, whose assistance created substantial optimism at the time, has now made a shortlist of potential tenants. We also appreciate the Barnet Council's decision to remain "landlords" and to continue administering the tenancies.

Old buildings need upkeep and create a large hole in the owners' pockets whilst empty. Another such edifice, nearby, also seems to be nearing a solution after several years of fruitless endeavours – and that is St James' Church. Here it now looks certain that the local Greek Orthodox Church will acquire the building, thus ensuring continuation of a religious character in the handsome and fascinating churchyard.

Both buildings may therefore soon start a new phase in their lives and make welcome fresh contributions to the life of Friern Barnet. May we encourage you to either pray or keep your fingers crossed, that our efforts and those of The Friends of Friary Park will have been worthwhile – according to your beliefs, of course!

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Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents Association

AGM (at a new venue)

**Wednesday 29th April 2009
at 7:30 p.m.**

**Community Centre, adjacent to St John
the Evangelist Church, Friern Barnet
Road, N11**

All Members Welcome

**The meeting will be followed by a
presentation and Q/A session on the
new Finchley Memorial Hospital by
Alison Blair, Deputy Chief Executive
Barnet Primary Care Trust**

AGM Change of Venue

This year's AGM involves a change of venue. The meeting will be held at the

Community Centre, St John the Evangelist Church, Friern Barnet Road—opposite the Friern Barnet Library.

Speaker

This year's AGM guest speaker is Alison Blair, Deputy Chief Executive of the Barnet Primary Care Trust, who will talk about the future of Finchley Memorial Hospital. As part of the development for the new Hospital, the Barnet Primary Care Trust is going through the consultation period. Alison will be presenting some of the background and plans for the new Hospital; this will be followed by a Q/A session, when she will respond to questions and listen to opinions from the floor.

Most of the members of our Association have used Finchley Memorial Hospital at some time and we are fortunate to have the opportunity to air our views on its future.

Parking

Given the location of the Community Centre we expect most members to come by car. There is plenty of parking space along Friern Barnet Road, especially on the Church's side, There is no real parking within the grounds of St James's church (the existing parking spaces are for the residents of the houses within the Close).

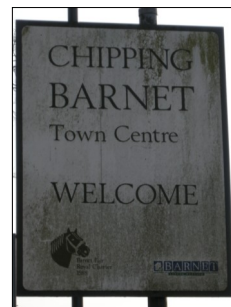
Next Year

In previous years we have met in the Jubilee Room of St James, but for reasons of access this room is no longer for hire. As you may know, the church of St James in Friern Barnet Lane is to be leased to the Greek Orthodox community. It may be possible to hire the Jubilee Room again, some time in the future.

A sign of the times—no welcome for Friern Barnet



The town centres of Barnet all have "welcome signs" - all except Friern Barnet. Hopefully this woeful lack of a sign will be remedied soon. We do not want to be like that strange place "Finchley North", although we do like their coach and horses. We want to have a logo on our Welcome sign. If New Barnet can have



a train, and East Barnet a Christian Cross and Chipping Barnet a horse, then Friern Barnet's logo should be something old and ecologically sound, maybe a penny-farthing bicycle!

<p>Finchley Society</p> <p>Thursday, 30 April at 8.00pm</p> <p>Gerry Turvey will talk about "Finchley's pioneers of film exhibition 1909-1918"</p> <p>Avenue House, 17 East End Road</p> <p>Non-members welcome but are asked to make themselves known to one of the Society's officers present. Admission charge for non-members £2:00</p>	<p><i>Friern Barnet Library</i></p> <p>Friern Barnet Road</p> <p>Coffee Morning Talks</p> <p>10:30—11:30 Weds 22nd April</p> <p>"Friern Barnet in The Times and elsewhere in the 18th and 19th Century"—A Talk by Hugh Petrie from Church Farmhouse Museum</p> <p>Weds 20th May – Another dip into nostalgia—A Talk by Terence Atkins from the Barnet Society</p> <p>All talks start 10.30, coffee etc 40p</p>
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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF FRIERN BARNET AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wed 22 April 2009
Hertfordshire and Local Convicts
by Ken Griffin

Wed 27 May 2009
RAF Museum
By David Keen

All meetings take place at St John's Church Hall, next to Whetstone Police Station, Friern Barnet Lane. Starts 7:45 p.m.; cost £2 to non-members.

incognito
theatre

Sunday 10th May to Saturday 16th May

Accidental Death of an Anarchist

by Dario Fo

Performances start at 8 p.m., except Sunday when performance starts at 6 p.m.

Incognito Theatre is located in Holly Park Road (behind the Health Centre) Friern Barnet, London N11 3EB

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