



Name That Photo

By Daphne Chamberlain

In the basement of Avenue House is part of an old wooden sewer, an ARP's tin hat, a Mayoress's diary/scrapbook, and hundreds of unidentified photos.

These are just some of the contents of The Finchley Society Archives. The basement room houses a comprehensive collection of material about the people and buildings of Finchley and Friern Barnet. There are official records, newspaper cuttings, postcards, slides, cassettes and artefacts. There are also many identified photos (including a picture of the visiting 1966 World Cup team). It is the mystery ones which are concerning the Society's archivists at the moment though.

Who's who?

"Every time we come in, there are more photos waiting for us," says Maggie Ferguson. "Often they are handed in by people clearing the house of a friend or relative." The

Finchley Society is grateful for these donations and hopes they will continue. After all, they are the pieces of social history which the Archives are there for. Often the photos are good quality and potentially interesting. All they need is an identity, which somebody – hopefully an *ARCHER* reader – may be able to supply.

Looking at them makes Maggie feel like a newcomer to Finchley. "I've only lived here since the 1970s, and I've only really felt part of the area since I retired," she admits. Other members of the team are Finchley born and bred, but they don't know all the answers either. Here's hoping some of you may help them out.

The Finchley Society Archi-

vists, who have co-operative links with Barnet Borough Archives and the Hendon and District Archaeological Society, welcome visitors between 10.30 and 12.30 on Monday mornings. They can be found at Avenue House, East End Road, N3, where they will receive donated materials and answer enquiries. The number to contact is 020 8343 3180. When the Archives are closed, you may leave a message.



Archivists at work, Derek and Barbara Warren and Maggie Ferguson Photo by Toni Morgan.

Wildlife Diary

By Linda Mitchell

I worried at the end of last year, during that spectacular autumn, that I might have tidied up too much in the garden. It is so important not to be too fussy. Otherwise the wildlife is at great risk, as their food and shelter are badly affected if we over-tidy.

But, throughout autumn and winter, the birds came constantly to feed. In September I saw five young starlings lined up on the TV aerial, all wearing their lovely new speckled coats. A pair of collared doves were regular visitors and one afternoon in mid-October I counted five mistle thrushes, two dunnocks, a woodpecker, three jays and a pure white pigeon. In November, a flock of eight parakeets came and perched in the apple tree. The sight of them in my garden still amazes me.

Signs of spring

The foxes appear less often now. I wonder if that's because of the introduction of the wheelie bins, which means there are not so many bin bags now to rummage through.

The woodmice have had a nibble at the potted bulbs in the greenhouse. I have noticed several butterfly chrysalises. Maybe I'll get to see one emerge.

I have not seen any sign of the hedgehog, although I imagine he is in hibernation amongst the leaves that I left at the back of the borders.

My strangest wildlife sighting was not in my garden, but hopping along Fordington Road late one night. A large rabbit! An escapee, I imagine.

It is lovely to hear the owl hooting at night, and by day the magpies are already flying about with twigs in their beaks.

Well, spring is certainly around the corner. Let's hope we all enjoy a good time in our gardens this year.

RSPCA News

Spring is here, so pet-owners are reminded to check that their animals' vaccinations are up to date. Friendly meetings in the woods can spread disease, so come along to the Clinic for a check up and a booster.

Also time to pick up a flea spray, as these pests will be looking for their summer hosts. The RSPCA Clinic is in Park Road, N2 and is open on Monday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 7.30 pm (not Bank Holidays).

Current charges are:

- Consultation: £5 with proof of benefit book, £10 others.
 - Vaccinations: From £10 for rabbits to £15 for cats, enteritis, leukaemia and dog booster.
 - Micro chipping: £10
- Saturday 24 April at Fel-

lowship House, Willifield Way, NW11 from 2pm is the Easter Fair. Star attraction is an Easter Cake made by one of the members who is a professional patissiere. Raffle tickets are 25p each or 5 for £1, on sale at the Clinic or at the fair.

Last but not least, the local RSPCA are looking for new blood on their committee. If you are a member of the RSPCA, or intend to join, and are interested in all aspects of animal welfare, please consider joining their friendly group of volunteers. For more information telephone 020 8444 2329



One of many historical photos which The Finchley Society need help in identifying. Do you recognise anyone in this picture? Do you know which firm was going on an outing - and maybe even when and where? If so, please contact The Finchley Society Archives on 020 8343 3180. Photo from The Finchley Society archives

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