



Spike on a bench Photo by Erini Rodis

Spike Milligan honoured

By Erini Rodis

On Saturday 22 May a blue commemorative plaque was unveiled in honour of the late Spike Milligan. The event was organised by the Finchley Society and attended by a number of notables, Goon fans and members of the Milligan family. Bill Tyler, now president of the Finchley Society, was a fellow founder with Spike. "It was always a delight when committee meetings were held in the Milligan's large Edwardian house," remembered Mr. Tyler, "with its long garden sweeping down to the Dollis Brook. It was a truly wonderful house, filled with laughter and the delight of children and noise and activity."

Milligan's daughter Jane also spoke proudly of her father: "His talent covered many different areas - his writing, his music, his art, his compassion for animals, conservation, his love of the environment. He was a soldier; his themes ranged from environmental issues to the war, from his love of architecture to depression. There was something in Spike for everybody. I think I'm extremely lucky to have called him Dad."

The site of the plaque is on the side of a house which now stands on Milligan's former home at 127 Holden Road. This is hallowed ground for the family, as



Plaque unveiled Photo by Erini Rodis

Jane continued, "It was here that Spike was going through his most creative and passionate pioneering work - the Goon show, his memoirs, and the start of the Q series. Somewhere in the soil underneath these flats are the bones of our

family pets; hamsters, rabbits, fish, bits of action men, pieces of Lego, air rifle pellets and probably unread letters to the pixies and fairies. It was a great home and a wonderful place to grow up."

Sculpture

A sculpture by artist John Somerville is also being planned, and a committee including Joanna Lumley and Michael Parkinson is being set up to raise funds for it. The life-size statue will be seated on a bench, outside Avenue House, turning as if to talk to imaginary companions. It should be a good place for a lot of people to stop and say hello.

Sippy's run continues...

By Daphne Chamberlain

Sippy Azizollah is a Five Bells regular, but never before has she turned up there at 6.15 in the morning. When she finally went home at 9pm, she was several hundred pounds closer to her aim of raising £10,000 for Lupus UK.

Throughout the day the challenge was for runners/walkers to clock up 100 miles between them, over a course starting and finishing at The Five Bells. Mark Wilson started it off at 6.30, and then stayed all day to facilitate events, until, right at the end, a group of 10 brought the total mileage to 101. Rob Banks (of the Five Bells football team) was fastest with a time of five minutes, 26 seconds.

Time was not what it was about, though. Sippy herself notched up a mile along the corridor of her Fairacres home in 80 difficult minutes.

Youngsters who ran, aged from six to 16, asked to do it all over again, and Bobby Moore, who organised the event, does hope to repeat it.

Sippy wants to thank

Bobby and his family for all their efforts. "Bobby's girls" ran bring-and-buy stalls and a darts game, which helped to raise £200, while other on-site money-spinners included Michael Solomons, a talented artist who himself suffers from cerebral palsy. Michael sold sketches he did during the day. A neighbour donated sweets for a "how many in the jar?" competition. (229, if anyone is still wondering.)

Sippy summed up, "I want to thank everyone, but must mention Sandra Hyman, who helped all day, and of course Pat O'Shaughnessy, the Five Bells landlord, who gave us a free run of the pub and the garden. I'm just blown away by people's generosity. It was a golden weekend for me."



Sippy and supporters outside The Five Bells pub.

Photo by Toni Morgan

Long Lane Pasture

Barnet Council has just granted the Long Lane Pasture Action Group access to the ancient meadow just off Long Lane N3 that goes under the name of Long Lane Pasture. Recently threatened with housing development, the area is now on course to become a green space to benefit wildlife and the local community.

The Action Group is working towards securing the site on a long term basis and help is urgently needed to support the initial work of drawing up plans and surveys.

Anyone wishing to become a Friend of Long Lane Pasture should write to the Action Group at 1 Princes Avenue, Finchley London N3 2DA.

There is no subscription but Lane Pasture Action Group donations payable to Long are welcomed.

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