

Friern Barnet *Newsletter*

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MEMORIES OF COMRIE HOUSE SCHOOL

by Richard Testar

In 1949, when I was five years old, we lived in Torrington Park and the time had come for me to go to school. My parents decided to send me to a local school called Comrie House which was in Friern Park, on the corner of Torrington Avenue. It was a private school in a converted detached house. Belonging to the school, and running parallel to Torrington Avenue was a long field which sloped upwards from the back gardens of Cardrew Close. Behind the school there were extensive gardens which also included a wooden building housing the kindergarten and school hall which doubled up as a gymnasium and dining hall! I have a faint memory of a plaque beside the front door which said something like "Comrie House School – For the Sons and Daughters of Gentlefolk". I wonder if any readers will be able to verify this?



Photo Karl Ruge

The school was run by the headmistress, a Mrs Annie E. Winterburn who died about three years after I started and is buried in St James's churchyard. The headship was then taken on by her daughter, Maisie Harnden, who was sadly confined to a wheelchair. She did, however, have a son who was a pupil in the school. Her husband worked for Post Office Telephones and I don't think he ever

got involved with the school. Looking back, it must have been a very brave thing to do on her own, to run a school of nearly 200 pupils. She must have had a secretary to help her but I don't remember one. She developed a system of pressing a buzzer which was connected to the adjoining classroom where monitors were appointed to respond to the buzzes and run errands or even wheel her about!

There were five classrooms, plus the kindergarten, and later on, a day nursery. Behind the building was a terrace which doubled up as a playground, although in summer we were allowed to play in the school field. Attached to the back of the school were stables which housed two donkeys – Polly and Neddy – who were kept to keep the grass down in the field. I remember a boy being appointed to muck out the stables. His mother wondered why he used to come home smelling terribly and she created a great fuss when she discovered the reason!

I remember my first day at kindergarten; it was a wet September morning and I reluctantly waved goodbye to my mother at the school gates. In the wooden buildings there were two kindergarten classes of about thirty children, run by a Miss Hawkins and a Mrs Holmes. There was also a Miss Perry, who perhaps worked part time. We sat on benches at tables which were brightly painted in varying colours. One of our 'recreational' tasks was to make patterns in trays of dry sand. Later on, when we became more advanced, we were given pieces of cardboard with eyelets and laces, which gave us our first practice in tying our own shoes! When we first learned arithmetic, we had to chant out tables in unison every morning, which on reflection was by far the best way of learning. Handwriting and spelling was also painstakingly taught, which set me in good stead for later years.

Form 1 took me into the main house, upstairs. The floor was brown lino and I remember the smell of polish which mixed with the aroma of cabbage being cooked in the kitchen below. We looked out of the window on to the front drive where there were two enormous Scots pine trees which are still there today, on the forecourt of what is now a block of flats called Whitefriars Court. The rest of the classrooms were downstairs. Each one had an open coke fire in the winter in front of which the milk crates were placed to warm the bottles before the morning break. I hated the lukewarm milk, and it took me many years to get used to drinking the stuff on its own!

I remember many of the teachers' names. There was Mr Wisebard (who always frightened me by coming up close and glaring into my eyes), a Mr Golding and Mrs Gerrard who were part-timers. Mrs Gerrard's son ran Ted Gerrard Cycles in Woodhouse Road. My favourite teachers were Mrs Biddle and Mrs Godsiffe. Mrs Biddle lived in the High Road, Whetstone and whilst a good teacher, she was very strict. Mrs Godsiffe lived at 76 Torrington Park and would come to school by bike. She was invariably late in the mornings and a class member would be posted by the window to watch her cycling down Friern Park, in order to warn the class of her imminent arrival. Meanwhile, Mrs Biddle, who had already started lessons in the room next door, would stand on a desk and peer through the glass of the dividing partition and admonish rowdy members of our class. In later years, when I was in Form V, Mrs Biddle would come into the classroom to take over from Mrs Godsiffe. They usually had a good old natter which went well into

the next lesson. I was also a prefect in Form V, and duties included bringing in the milk crates in the morning, and walking across the terrace ringing a brass handbell to announce lesson changes.

We went to St James's church twice a year, on Ash Wednesday and at Christmas. Dressed in our yellow and navy uniforms, we would walk in a crocodile down Friern Park, along Ashurst Road and through to Friary Park. The services were always shared with the boys from St James's School in Friern Barnet Lane, who always seemed a rowdy mob, getting up to such awful antics as rolling marbles along the pews!

Sports days were held in the school field. We always had to run *up* the field, never downwards, which seemed very unfair to me. The same went for the sack race, egg and spoon and obstacle course. The field wasn't suitable for football, which meant another weekly crocodile walk to Friary Park. The pitch was on the triangular grass area to the east of the house which now has many more trees, and in those days we used piles of coats as goalposts. In the summer we played cricket on the grass which led down to the old bandstand.

I left Comrie House in 1955 where friend John Norman and I passed the entrance examination to Haberdasher's in Cricklewood. John's father, an ardent Liberal, became Chairman of the Friern Barnet Urban District Council in later years. Oddly, despite living in the neighbourhood for many years since, apart from John, I don't think I've ever bumped into any of my old classmates since the day I left. If there's anyone out there let me know and we can share or add to my memories.

ELECTRIFYING MEMORIES

by Ron Kingdon

My family moved from Highbury to East Barnet (Osidge Lane area) in Feb 1936. I was attending the North Western Polytechnic for Electrical Engineering, having won a scholarship and grant from the LCC. Fortunately the Hertfordshire County Council agreed to continue to pay for the grant, plus a contribution towards my fares to school. I tried many routes, but all required a long walk to the nearest public transport system but I finally settled on the tram for the journey.

Picture the scene: a cup of tea in bed from my father at approx. 6am then getting on my bike to deliver the newspapers, with the round getting bigger every week. On my return, a neighbour was waiting to borrow the cycle to ride to work in London, then I had to take the dog for a walk. A quick breakfast followed, then I grabbed my case containing books and sometimes sports gear for the long walk over the style and fields to Whetstone to catch the no.19 tram to Kentish Town (we had special cheap tickets), arriving around 8.50am. No wonder the headmaster would sometimes say: "Try to keep awake, Kingdon."

On travelling home in the late afternoon, especially on hot days, with the swaying of the tramcar on the upper deck I would nod off. Later I would wake up at the Barnet terminus with the conductor saying: "We are not going any further son. This is the end of the line." The crew were usually good enough to allow me to travel back to Whetstone at no extra charge, but on at least two occasions I had the long walk back home (money was short in those days) and, to add insult to

injury the neighbour would return the bike with a puncture, which I had to mend for my paper round next morning. All this for 1/6d per week, plus 7½d for loan of the machine and homework on top of this. I wonder why modern schoolchildren think they are hard done by?

I joined the Northmet, as the electricity supply company was known, as an electrician's mate later in 1936 and our stores and workshop was behind the showrooms at 70 High Street, Barnet. We were one of the companies in the Underground group, with a common chairman, Lord Ashfield, and we received a Christmas card every year from him, along with the Northmet calendar, an excellent production.

The Barnet substation with its rotary converters was built in Tapster Street in 1900 for domestic use but with the coming of the trams in 1907 it was used to supply the system and stayed in use until the end of the trolleybuses in 1962. When we required cement, bitumen and other heavy duty material for mains terminations we would collect this from the site and I well remember hearing the noise and seeing the mighty converters in action. We kept a hand-propelled tower wagon there and on more than one occasion I was detached to help push the gigantic wheeled wooden structure along Barnet High Street; we used this for replacing the street lamps and for painting the lighting columns. It had a wooden ladder affixed to one side to gain access to the platform at the top and my job was to stand below watching the traffic while the electrician was working on the platform. We had little in the way of warning signs and certainly no hard hats in those days. This monstrosity was still in use in the post war years and I can recall watching from an upstairs window when an unfortunate lady driver under instruction collided with the tower wagon, resulting in silver paint being flung all over the road. I was not involved in this but hoped that she was not taking her driving test at the time!

The Tapster Street sub-station was also used by Northmet staff as quarters for electricians on emergency duties between 6pm to 10pm for domestic consumers. One of my colleagues was Frank Murray who, in 1938, was working temporarily at Potters bar and had to climb the masts at Brookmans Park transmitting station to change the lamps in the warning lights; he got danger money for working above a certain height. After the war Frank worked on contract to an electrical firm and became resident electrician at the Spurs ground at White Hart Lane; among other duties he was responsible for the floodlights on the tall towers. He was well thought of and had the privilege of sitting in the Directors' box to watch the matches.

The Northmet was a good company in many ways. We had to go to night school to obtain paid holidays and they paid me half pay right through my World War II service days both at home and overseas. As a Corporal Electrician Group I in charge of the workshop in the Middle East Air Force I was paying income tax at Code 1. Unfortunately, when Eastern Electricity took over things were never the same.

PAPER EPHEMERA

by David Berguer

Ever since the Society was formed we have been collecting things of local interest. As well as objects, which we call *artefacts*, we have managed to

assemble a number of printed or written items and which John Donovan has christened *paper ephemera*. Our collection of old Ration Books, Driving Licences, Estate Brochures and bills from local suppliers was recently supplemented by a kind donation from Karl and Yvonne Ruge, who were having a clear out at Ruge Towers. Amongst the many goodies was this from 1960/61:

For Ratepayers Use
 CHEQUE No.
 DATE

Notes sent through the post should be registered. Cheques, Money Orders and Postal Orders should be made payable to FRIERN BARNET U.D.C. and crossed; they should not be made payable to any individual officer.

Urban District of Friern Barnet
 Treasurer's Department, Town Hall,
 Friern Barnet, N.11

1⁶⁰/₆₁

GENERAL RATE

Friern Barnet Urban District Council have made a General Rate at **Eighteen Shillings and Four Pence (18/4)** in the £ in respect of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1961. This is made up by the following items of which further details are provided overleaf:-

	s.	d.
Urban District Purposes	5	3.115
County Purposes	12	4.500
Metropolitan Police Purposes	1	7.500
	19	3.115
Less Transitional Receipt		11.115
Total	18	4.000

By order of the Council,
ARTHUR PITT,
 Treasurer and Rating Officer.

* Payment of the first of two equal instalments, and arrears (if any) of former rates, as shown below is now due from you.

If undelivered please return to:-
 TREASURER'S DEPT., TOWN HALL, N.11

Mr. K. E. Ruge,
11, The Ridgenway,
N.11.
 or Occupier

OFFICE HOURS FOR COLLECTION PURPOSES:-
 MONDAY-THURSDAY:
 9.30 a.m.-4.45 p.m.
 FRIDAY: 9.30 a.m.-6.15 p.m.
 SATURDAY: 9.0 a.m.-12 noon

Particulars of changes in ownership or occupation should be notified to the Treasurer

Rate Book Ref.	Description and Situation of Hereditament	Rateable Value	Amount of Rate
330/9	House, Gge/Premis. 11, The Ridgenway	67	£ 30 14 2

Net Annual Value (where it differs from Rateable Value) £

IMPORTANT NOTICE

No application for Allowance or Refund will be entertained unless notice is given immediately the property is vacated

The rate of £30. 14. 2 seems trifling today, as no doubt my 2006/07 Council Tax Demand of £1588 will to historians in the year 2052!

If you are having a spring clean this year and you come across anything old and fragile, please think of John Donovan! All contributions will be greatly received and will go into our archives.

WORKING FOR JOHN LEWIS

Following our highly successful meeting on 22 Feb 2006 (64 people attended), when Dean Perrott gave us an excellent talk on the history of Waitrose, Sylvia Stilts sent us the following memories of her time working with another member of the John Lewis Group.

"In 1957/8 I had a Saturday job in the Ladies' Shoe Department in Jones Bros. in Holloway Road. The shop was in the John Lewis Group and, as a Partner, I received three £1 shares and was trained to be polite to customers (who were always right, of course) and how to spot shoplifters.

Staff entered the building by a side door which led down to the basement where there was a cloakroom. The canteen, however, was on the top floor and I begrudged the time spent going to the basement to wash my hands before climbing all those stairs to partake of lunch; staff didn't use the lifts. Shoe sales assistants were supposed to measure customers' feet and ensure that shoes fitted properly before they were purchased. Vanity prevented some women from admitting their correct shoe size and they were prepared to totter to the mirror in toe-pinching, corn-crushing, too-small footwear. Sometimes they tried on half a dozen pairs before deciding not to buy and I had to clear the shoes away and re-box them before attending to the next impatient customer.

One fraught Saturday morning, I discovered that a customer had walked out in new shoes, leaving her old ones behind. Then, a woman returned a pair of shoes I had sold her the previous week because, on looking at them in daylight, it was apparent that one shoe was navy and the other black. Fortunately, I hadn't sold the other "pair", but I was sure I would be sacked. However, I was just told to be more careful in future.

The till, which also produced a bill, was the latest in the Lamson Paragon range and when we took out the change, it had to be checked by a senior assistant. The first time I gave change I was reprimanded, because I had worked it out in my head first, instead of counting it out from the till. If an assistant noticed a shoplifter, she picked up the phone and requested "Q". The sets of coloured lights on the walls were then flashed in a sequence which "Q", the woman store detective, recognised and she went to investigate. We were told never to acknowledge her, but just treat her as a customer if she spoke to us.

Staff were told that if they were in financial difficulty the Partnership would help them find a way out, so there was never any excuse for dishonesty and if they did steal goods, they would be dismissed instantly. On our way out at the end of the day, a random search was made of bags and I never heard of anyone trying to steal. Goods bought in-store by staff were wrapped and sent to the basement to await them when they left. In case you are wondering about my three shares, a year after I left Jones Bros the Registrar wrote to me and offered to buy them back. I did make a small profit!"

BOOKWORM'S DELIGHT

Do you enjoy a good read? Would you like to borrow a book from our well stocked Society library? All we ask in return is that, while you are reading, you jot down on a sheet of paper any references to our district that you find – places such as Friern Barnet, New Southgate, Whetstone, North Finchley and the like. Recently Marilyn Testar borrowed *Spike Milligan: His Part in Our Lives* and noted that on page 108 it refers to him living in Holden Road, on page 109 there is a reference to the formation of The Finchley Society and on page 113 Avenue House is mentioned and so on. The result would be a quick reference list for use in our researches (to save us having to look through the whole book), and hours of pleasure for you. If you are interested in helping us in this way please contact David Berguer (020 8444 3089) or John Donovan (01707 642 886) for a list of our books covering British History, London History, Local History and Transport.

SWEETS WAY

by John Heathfield

Queenswell School was opened in 1950 using wooden buildings previously used as railway offices. At that time, the head teacher of Oakleigh Infants School (at 116 Oakleigh Road North) looked after both schools, using a gap in the hedge to speed communication! The huts were replaced by permanent buildings in 1974 and by the following year there were about 450 children on the site.

The old school, now All Saints C of E School, and the current Queenswell Schools were built on the site of the former Sweets Nursery, but the history of the area goes back much further. This was once Beldhams Field, one of the oldest recorded sites in the district. A certain John Doggett held three crofts called Beldhams, Middlefield and Cokhefeld (Beldham is the old name for a witch) and in 1486 he sold *Beldhams Felde* to one Thomas Yon.

This was all grazing land, part of Manor Farm, with most of used for hay production. Manor Farm extended from about what is now Bethune Park to Oakleigh Road and from the High Road to Friern Barnet Lane. The farm used a building where Middlesex Golf Club clubhouse now stands in Friern Barnet Lane. By about 1820 the farm was being used by Henry Holding, a cow keeper but in 1865 it was sold to a William Davies who established a 23 acre site between Oakleigh Road North and Friern Barnet Lane. In 1884 the business was bought by James Sweet who built more greenhouses and was to become known as "the father of the modern hot house industry." Sweet had a horticultural background, having previously worked as a gardener in Stanmore and then at a nursery in Chelmsford.

A hundred years ago the nursery was one of the largest employers in the district, using about 300 women, mostly working part-time. The main crops were flowers, especially heather, and grapes. Strangely enough, Sweet actually exported heather to Scotland! Every day at 3 o'clock in the morning a cart left Whetstone for Covent Garden market carrying flowers and hot house fruits like grapes, melons and tomatoes.

By 1936 there was a growing awareness of the approach of war and plans were made accordingly. A ring of anti-aircraft defences was planned around London and the Inner Gun Ring coincided roughly with the Metropolitan Police District. In 1939 the nursery fields were requisitioned by the Army and the greenhouses

were demolished, although part of the nursery continued to be used to grow vegetables in the open air and these were sold from a small wooden hut which was used as an office. The story of the Army's occupation of the Sweets site is a complex and interesting one and will be featured in the next issue of the Newsletter

As for the Sweet family, James Sweet retired in 1913 and was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society Victoria Medal of Honour in 1920. He died on 7 June 1924 aged 83 and is buried in St James's Churchyard along with his wife Sarah, who died on 20 Feb 1925 aged 83 and his son Andrew who had died on 10 June 1912 at the early age of 47.

FICITON MIRRORS FACT

by David Berguer

Following the piece on Alfred Arthur Rouse in the November 2005 Newsletter, I had a call from Barbara Warren of the Finchley Society pointing out that this murder case features in a novel by the renowned crime author P D James. In her book *The Murder Room* a museum in Hampstead which specialises in crimes of the twenties and thirties will be closed down unless all three of the three trustees agree to keep it open. One of them is reluctant to do so and a series of murders take place, based on the earlier killings. James' hero, Commander Adam Dalgliesh, is called in to solve them.....If you can't bear the suspense of reading this gripping thriller, the references to Rouse appear on pages 31 and 155 of the paperback edition, published in 2004.

Another reference to Rouse appears in the excellent new film *Pierrepont*, starring Timothy Spall, which traces the life of Albert Pierrepont, the public hangman from 1934 to 1954.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO....

The Friern Barnet UDC Council minutes of 29 May 1931 record the following: "The Committee had before them a resolution passed by the New Southgate Baptist Chapel protesting against the practice of gambling and other questionable games carried on at the annual Fete and Fair held at the Friary Park and urging that the Committee responsible for the Fete and Fair will discourage such games in the future. The Committee would point out that this is a matter for the Fete and Fair Committee, to whom a copy of the Resolution had been sent by the Church Committee."

Just a reminder that the Friern Barnet Summer Show will take place this year on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 August. Gambling will be restricted to buying a few tombola tickets from various stalls!

HAPPY HONEYMOON, 1930s STYLE

by David Berguer


John Holtham was rooting around at home when he came across some postcards that were sent to his parents on their honeymoon in Sidmouth in 1938. The friend responsible, Ivy by name, obviously had a sense of humour and did not begrudge spending 1d a time on postage!

The cards were produced by Bamforth & Co and the illustrations appear to have been the work of Donald McGill. I was surprised to find that local Watch

Committees in some seaside towns would confiscate McGill postcards and in Lincoln in July 1954 McGill (Donald Fraser Gould McGill to give him his full name) had actually been fined £50 plus £25 costs for a breach of the 1857 Obscene Publications Act and that, as a result, retailers destroyed large stocks of his saucy postcards.

McGill only received 3 guineas for each design but today original McGill postcards are very collectible and although they are not now considered obscene, they will probably be seen as politically unacceptable by some people. And so the world moves on.....


HOW TO LIVE ON 30/- A WEEK!



	s.	d.
BEER	18	0
WIFE'S BEER	1	6
WEEK'S GRUB		CREDIT
RENT		SOMETIME
MID-WEEK BEER	2	6
WIRELESS (HIRE PURCHASE)	2	0
COAL		BORROW IT
BURIAL CLUB (WIFE)	1	0
PICTURES	1	0
HOLIDAY CLUB	2	0
SIXPENCE EACH WAY	1	0
MORE BEER	2	6
TOTAL	£1	11 - 6

**THAT MEANS 1/6 IN DEBT, SO
PERSUADE THE WIFE TO BE TEETOTAL!**

HOW TO TREAT THE WIFE



**ALWAYS GIVE HER A KISS WHEN YOU
GO OUT AND WHEN YOU COME IN.
GIVE HER ALL YOUR WAGE.
DON'T SMOKE. DON'T DRINK.
DON'T SWEAR. DON'T GO OUT AT NIGHT.
DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN FOR HER,
AND IF THAT DOESN'T
SATISFY HER, ASK HER IF
THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE SHE WANTS,
AND WHATEVER IT IS SHE WANTS,
LET HER HAVE IT,
AND IF THAT DOESN'T SATISFY HER,
DROWN HER!**

GOON BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The Finchley Society is organising a special tribute to Spike Milligan at the Pentland Theatre in the *arts depot* at Tally Ho at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17 May. Profits from *The Quixotic Spike Milligan* will go towards the commissioning of a statue to Spike which will be erected outside Avenue House. Tickets can be obtained from the *arts depot* box office or by phone on 020 8369 5454.

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

An exhibition under this name will be held at MoDA (the Museum of Design and Architecture) between 25 April and 29 October. It will celebrate 50 years of eating habits in Britain and will feature videos, anecdotes, advertisements, magazines, packaging and utensils. MoDA is situated on Cat Hill, Barnet and you can contact them on 020 8411 5244 or via their website: www.moda.mdx.ac.uk.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will take place on Wednesday 24 May prior to the talk by John Dyke on North Middlesex Golf Club: the First 100 Years. With this Newsletter is your official invitation to attend, along with a Nomination Form and a copy of last year's Minutes. If you would like to join the Committee please return it to John Donovan by Tuesday 9 May. If you have any item that you wish to raise under Any Other Business, please notify John by Wednesday 17 May.

NEW CONSTITUTION

When the Society was formed six years ago, we had no idea how successful it was going to become. It is fair to say that its Constitution was formulated more from the need to have a document to present to third parties (banks, other societies, etc.) than with any conscious thought as to how things might develop. Now we have had those years of experience and the Committee believe that the time is now right to revisit the Constitution and make it more appropriate to the way the Society actually conducts its affairs.

It is proposed that the new Constitution (copy herewith) shall be adopted at the Annual General Meeting on 24 May. We believe in particular that it is important for members' entitlements and for the role of the Committee to be clarified, and that this document is more structured and logical than that which we propose to replace.

Please take time to read the new Constitution and be prepared to express your views prior to the vote on 24 May, or at the actual meeting.

**Friern Barnet & District
Local History Society**

President: John Donovan
01707 642 886
Chairman: David Berguer
020 8444 3089

Friern Barnet & District Local History

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be "The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society", hereinafter referred to as The Society.

2. OBJECTS of the SOCIETY

- a) To stimulate an interest in history, particularly local history, by way of lecture meetings, exhibitions, publications and visits.
- b) To conduct research into and promote a wider understanding of the history of the district.
- c) To record changes to the built environment in the district and encourage the preservation of documents, photographs and other artefacts relating to that environment.
- d) To collect and collate the reminiscences of local residents by way of written records and audio or video recordings.
- e) To acquire and maintain an archive of artefacts, books, documents, maps, photographs and other material of local historic relevance.
- f) To be non-political in pursuit of the above objects.

3. MEMBERSHIP and SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a) Membership shall be open to any person or group interested in furthering the objects of the Society, save that the Committee reserves the right to reject any application.
- b) There shall be three categories of Membership:
 - i) Individual membership.
 - ii) Family membership for related members residing at the same address.
 - iii) Group membership for other organisations with similar objects to those of the Society.
- c) Membership is annually renewable on 1 April and shall be deemed to have lapsed if the appropriate subscription is unpaid by 30 June of the same year.
- d) The annual subscription rate for each category shall be fixed at a General Meeting (normally the Annual General Meeting) of the Society.
- e) On joining the Society members shall receive a copy of this Constitution.
- f) On payment of the subscription, Members are entitled to:
 - i) Receive notices of, attend and vote on resolutions at any General Meeting of the Society.
 - ii) Nominate the Officers and Committee of the Society and vote on their election.
 - iii) Attend the Society's monthly lecture meetings free of charge.
 - iv) Take part in any visits or social events arranged by the Society, provided that any additional individual charges have been paid.
 - v) Receive the periodic newsletters published by the Society.

4. HONORARY OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

- a) The Honorary Officers of the Society shall be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. They shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall serve for one year.
- b) The day to day affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the Officers and other members as elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee may co-opt additional members from time to time.
- c) Nominations for office and Committee membership shall be in writing and shall be sent to the Secretary, accompanied by the written consent of the nominee, 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.
- d) On joining the Committee members shall agree to abide by the Standing Orders.
- e) The Committee shall meet as and when required, normally monthly.
- f) A quorum of the Committee shall consist of four of its members, of which one must be the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer of the Society.
- g) The Committee's powers and responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to:

- i) Keeping minutes recording its decisions and proceedings.
- ii) Maintaining a register of members and accounting for all income and expenditure.
- iii) Hiring space and purchasing equipment in connection with the monthly lecture meetings.
- iv) Purchasing beverages, food and catering supplies in connection with the Society's social activities.
- v) Publicising the Society's activities and maintaining links with other organisations.
- vi) Authorising the production of publications in the Society's name.
- vii) Opening and operating bank accounts for the management of the Society's funds.
- viii) Engaging the services of guest speakers and other specialists as required.
- ix) Arranging insurance cover for the Society's events.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) The Society's year shall run from 1 April to the following 31 March. Within two months of the year end an Annual General Meeting shall be held.
- b) The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include but not be limited to:
 - i) The approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
 - ii) Receiving the Chairman's report on the past year's activity.
 - iii) Electing the Honorary Officers and Committee members.
 - iv) The presentation of the Society's Annual Accounts.
 - v) The appointment of an Independent Examiner for the accounts.
 - vi) The setting of membership Subscription Rates for the year from the following 1 April.
 - vii) Voting on any resolution to change the Society's Constitution.
- c) Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be posted to members' addresses, as shown on the Society's membership records, not less than 21 days before the date of the Meeting. Such notice shall be accompanied by copies of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, any proposed resolutions and nominations for Officers and Committee members.
- d) Except as provided in Section 8c below, all resolutions and elections at an Annual General Meeting shall be voted upon and decisions made by simple majority of those voting.

6. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) A Special General Meeting may be convened by the Secretary at the written request of not less than ten members. Such request must state the reason for the meeting.
- b) The Secretary shall post Notice of such Special General Meeting, and the reason(s) for it, to members' addresses, as shown on the Society's membership records, not less than 14 days before the date of the Meeting.
- c) Any resolutions before a Special General Meeting shall be voted upon and decisions made by a two thirds majority of those voting.

7. DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

- a) The Society may be dissolved by resolution at a Special General Meeting.
- b) Following the passing of a resolution to dissolve the Society, the Committee shall be charged with clearing all debts and liabilities outstanding from the funds of the Society.
- c) After the discharge of debts any remaining assets of the Society, including financial assets, shall be transferred or donated by the Committee to a not-for-profit organisation or institution having objects similar to some or all of those of the Society.
- d) On dissolution the Society's archive shall pass to the London Borough of Barnet's Local Studies and Archives Centre or any organisation or institution having objects similar to some or all of those of the Society.

8. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

- a) Alterations to this Constitution may only be made following a proposed resolution or resolutions received by the Secretary 14 days before an Annual General Meeting.
- b) The Secretary will forward a copy of the proposed resolution(s) to members with the Notice calling the Annual General Meeting.
- c) To be accepted, a resolution to alter the Constitution will require a two thirds majority of those voting at the Annual General Meeting. Following acceptance a copy of the revised Constitution shall be sent to all members.