

Friern Barnet *Newsletter*

Published by Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

Issue Number 56

February 2014

CARNIVAL TIME!

by David Berguer

On 15 September 1900 *Barnet Press* reported on a local carnival:

“On Wednesday evening the New Southgate, Friern Barnet and district annual carnival and lantern parade were held, and they were an enormous success. For the occasion the shops and houses in the principal streets along which the procession passed were tastefully decorated, and all the evening the streets were thronged by enthusiastic crowds of local people and visitors. The procession was in many respects an improvement on that of last year, and by everyone it was much admired. The arrangements were most complete, and the affair passed off without the slightest hitch. The weather during the evening was very fine; in fact a better evening for such a function could hardly have been expected at this season of the year.

The collections made at the carnival will be put to the funds of the Passmore Edwards' Cottage Hospital, an institution which well deserves the hearty support of the district. The hospital was established for the benefit of the



A group of cyclists at North Finchley at the turn of the last century

districts of Southgate, Wood Green and Hornsey and it was opened in 1895. It may be mentioned that during the last twelve months some 200 patients have been attended to, and that the cases were mostly results of accidents which occurred within the three districts. Since the hospital was opened more than 700 patients have been relieved or cured in the institution. If the Council are to continue their work in the present efficient state and cope with the ever increasing demand for accommodation £800 a year will have to be raised for maintenance. Last year £350 was subscribed, and £450 was raised through carnivals and other kindred efforts.

Most of the local clubs took part in the carnival, and a few details regarding the institutions represented will, we feel, be appreciated:

New Southgate Cycling Club – The club was formed in 1890 and its headquarters are at the Railway Hotel, New Southgate. It has country quarters at the Waggon and Horses, Ridge Hill. Its president is Dr Trist, and its captain H O Turner. W D Andrews, 46 Friern Barnet-road, New Southgate, is the hon. sec. The club is affiliated to the Essex and Middlesex Cycling Union.

Orient Cycling Club – This club, which is of comparatively recent origin, was instituted in May 1899, by a few enthusiasts of the wheel who were in the habit of riding together. The suggestion of one of them that they should form a cycling club having met with the approval of his friends, suitable headquarters were at once obtained at the Cherry Tree Hotel. From that time onward the club has made rapid strides. Club runs take place on Saturdays, starting from headquarters at 4 o'clock punctually. Impromptu runs take place on Thursday evenings at 7.30, and Sunday morning at 9.00am throughout the season, which is from March to October. During the past season the club has had several very pleasant tours, notably, Cambridge (night ride), Brighton, Newmarket and Herne Bay. The attendance shows an average of 75 per cent. The club colours are myrtle green and white. A great feature in the club's doings last year was the social evenings and concerts held at the Cherry Tree throughout the winter."

It is worth remembering that in the early 1900s hospitals relied entirely on private money; in fact Finchley Cottage Hospital (later Finchley Memorial) was opened in 1908 thanks largely to the generosity of one man (Ebenezer Homan) and by contributions from local residents. Carnivals, including Finchley Carnival, were an important source of money. Cycling was an extremely popular pastime in the 1890s and early 1900s and cycling clubs abounded but the arrival of the motor car led to their eventual decline. Today, of course, cycling is undergoing resurgence in popularity.

FUN IN THE SNOW

The following appeared in *Barnet Press* of 2 January 1909:

"Tobogganing was all the rage at the early part of the week; thousands availed themselves of the opportunities afforded at the Alexandra Park for this enjoyable and innocent pastime. There were advantages in tobogganing here not available elsewhere. On the hill behind the switchback (writes a correspondent) the unique sight was witnessed of the educated elephant

“Topsy,” one of the performers in Austin Fryers’ Circus at the Palace, engaged in drawing relays of sleighs, loaded with their owners, to the crest of the hill from the bottom. “Topsy” was accompanied by her inseparable companion, the camel “Wendy,” and both animals appeared to enjoy the novel experience.”

SHOPS SURVEY

Our annual survey of the shops in the area was conducted over the summer of 2013. There were no significant changes and it is particularly encouraging that the number of empty shops did not increase – perhaps this is a reflection of the gradual upturn in the economy in London.

	2012	2013
Restaurants/ Take Aways	111	112
Food shops	34	34
Estate Agents	25	22
Ladies Hairdressers	25	26
Beauty Salons	19	20
Ladies Wear	16	17
Furnishing/Carpets	15	18
DIY/Hardware	15	14
CTNs *	14	12
Dry Cleaners/Laundrettes	14	14
Electrical	13	11
Pubs	13	13
Bookmakers	12	13
Chemists	11	11
Garages/Car Accessories	10	9
Charities	10	10
Opticians	8	8
Gents Hairdressers	8	9
Banking/Insurance	7	7
Mens Wear	6	5
Footwear	6	6
Printers	6	4
Jewellers	5	6
Building Societies	5	5
Children’s Wear/Toys	5	5
Wines	5	5
Chain Stores/Discount Stores	5	5
Pets/Vets	5	5
Florists	4	4
Post Offices	4	4
Books	3	4
Health Foods	3	5
Photography	3	4
Travel Agents	3	2
Mobile Phones	2	3
Others	64	73
Vacant shops	49	49
Total	563	572

*= Confectioners, Tobacconists, Newsagents

The breakdown of shops by area is as follows:

	2012	2013
Ballards Lane	34	33
Colney Hatch Lane	42	43
Cromwell Road	1	1
Friern Barnet Road	65	64
Friern Bridge Retail Park	11	10
Nether Street	5	5
North Finchley	150	156
Oakleigh Road North	45	45
Oakleigh Road South	10	10
Russell Lane	19	19
Sydney Road	2	2
Whetstone	107	108
Wilton Road	1	1
Woodhouse Road	72	75

WHEN THE ROMANS CAME TO FRIERN BARNET LANE

by Percy Reboul

Last September in his lecture on London's Riverside, when Colin Liversidge talked about Roman London, my mind turned to an audio tape recording I had made in 1980 with an old resident who lived in Friern Barnet Lane, just a few yards from the Church hall in which we were sitting.

Alfred Bishop had been a tunnel miner or "tunnel tiger" as they called themselves. As he said, it was like coal mining, but more dangerous! When young, he had worked on digging the Mersey Tunnel and later on, tunnels in the Underground such as the one between Wood Green and Arnos Grove on the Piccadilly Line. Towards the end of the interview I asked him if he had ever found anything of interest. He mentioned a major find in the City of London when they had uncovered a hoard of Roman pottery which was duly excavated and removed by the Museum of London. Later on in the area, in Lower Thames Street, he had found a small pottery figure on the foreshore of the Thames which a neighbour had identified as coming from the times of Charles I. It was on top of his wardrobe and, yes, I could have a look at it.

I am no expert on Roman pottery but even to my untutored eye it looked like the figure of a Roman goddess and Alfred agreed that I could take it to the Museum of London for identification. They confirmed it was a Roman figurine of Venus and wanted to acquire it because, although they had eight examples in their collection, this one was in mint condition – the rest of theirs were badly smoke-damaged, probably in the Boudiccan sack of Londinium. I like to think that the goddess fell off the galley that had brought it from Gaul, where it was made, when it was being offloaded onto the Roman quay. Whatever the truth, the trip from Roman London to the top of a wardrobe in Friern Barnet Lane is an unusual one.

SATURDAY JOBS AND OTHER MONEY-MAKING VENTURES

by Pamela Ellis

Growing up in Friern Barnet in the 1950s and 60s, I was, like most teenagers then and now, keen to earn a bit of extra money. My first venture into the world of paid employment was as a papergirl for the local newsagent's Ettles, on Queens Parade. I was 13 years old and was given quite a short round: my own road, Hollyfield Avenue, plus Hillside and St John's Avenues. For delivering newspapers and magazines to

those streets seven days a week I was initially paid 9 shillings a week, rising to 10/- after a trial period. This was before the days of blockbuster Sunday papers, but even so the bag was frequently extremely heavy, especially on the days when the women's magazines came out. I must have done this job for about a year before the early mornings outweighed the cash and I gave it up.

- * WALLS ICE CREAM
- * STATIONERY, ETC.
- * CONFECTIONERY
- * TOBACCONISTS
- * NEWSAGENTS

W. A. & L. V. ETTLES
(LATE F. T. CARTER)

22 QUEEN'S PARADE
FRIERN BARNET, N.11

Telephone ENTerprise 2746

My next opportunity to earn some money came through an acquaintance of my mother's, who ran a small employment and lettings agency in North Finchley. Known as the Hillside Agency, this was a cramped premises in Ballards Lane and I was paid 12/6d for a Saturday morning minding the office and answering the phone – a much easier task, for more money, than delivering papers. I don't think this job lasted all that long, and I can't remember why it came to an end; possibly the proprietor decided to staff the office herself rather than pay me to do so.

CONCERNING . . .

OFFICE STAFF Temporary or Permanent	<i>or</i>	ACCOMMODATION Furnished and Unfurnished
PHONE . . .		

HILLSIDE AGENCY
HILLSIDE 6035 or 1710

Write or call:
313 BALLARDS LANE, NORTH FINCHLEY, N.12 (Tally-Ho Corner)

Around this time I was able to supplement my income by doing a bit of babysitting for another of my mother's friends, who had a little boy of about 2 or 3. On occasions, when she and her husband were going out, I would put the child to bed and then stay the night, and although I was a nervous child this held no terrors for me because the husband was a policeman and their flat was above the police station on Ballards Lane. I reckoned it was an unlikely place to attract intruders.

When I was about 16 I started a Saturday job in Lewis Separates, a women's wear shop on High Road, North Finchley. The smaller items of clothing (stockings, jumpers, cardigans, etc) were on shelves behind the counter and had to be brought out for the customer to make her selection. Skirts and trousers hung on rails in the

body of the shop, but it still required the presence of a salesgirl to assist the customer. I earned £1 a day lasting from 9.00am to 6.00pm. In the summer holiday I was asked do some holiday cover, and at £1 a day I took home £6 for a full week, more than the regular staff because I was paying no tax or NI contributions.

My final job before I left home for university, and by far my favourite one, was at Finchley Central Library. Again this was a Saturday job; the salary was £1 10s a day but for some reason I cannot now recall I was paid £1 one week and £2 the next. I loved riffling importantly through the library cards in their long, narrow wooden trays, and flourishing the rubber date stamp with a satisfying clunk, but I was also happy putting books away and tidying the shelves. I worked here throughout my upper sixth year, with a few weeks off around A-level time, and hoped to be able to work through the summer too, but they couldn't offer me anything so I decided to leave and try to find a holiday job. In the end nothing came of this plan and I wished I had stayed working Saturdays at the library.

FOOTOTE BY DAVID BERGUER

Reading Pam's reminiscences as a papergirl reminded me of the job I had with a local newsagent in Wood Green, although I didn't actually have a paper round - my job was to assemble the papers for the paper boys and girls. This involved getting up at 5 o'clock each morning, going to the shop and marking up and then collating the papers and magazines into the various rounds.

On most days when I arrived at the shop, the owner would have taken in the large bundles of papers which had been delivered overnight by the wholesaler and left on the doorstep. However, on several occasions he would oversleep and I had to go round to the alleyway at the back of the shop, pick up handfuls of small stones and throw them at his bedroom window to waken him. I became an expert at this and never once broke the window! The beauty of the job was that, not only was I working in a warm shop and did not have to lug heavy newspapers and magazines round the cold, wet streets, but I got paid £1 a week - the boys and girls doing the heavy work only got 10 shillings!

BARNET THEN AND NOW

Our member Yasmine Webb has written an excellent book on the Borough of Barnet. Yasmine has selected 45 old photographs of buildings across the borough and supplemented these with photographs of them as they are today. Yasmine was Barnet Local Studies & Archives Collections Manager until 2013 and she has used her knowledge of the borough to provide captions to each pair of photographs giving details of their history and the changes that have taken place.

Areas covered include Arkley, Barnet, Burnt Oak, East Barnet, East Finchley, Edgware, Finchley, Friern Barnet, Golders Green, Hendon, Mill Hill, New Barnet, North Finchley and Whetstone.

The book is published by The History Press (ISBN 9780752488325) at £14.99 and is available from them (www.thehistorypress.co.uk or 01235 465500) or from Waterstones in Barnet or any good bookseller

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU SEE

by David Berguer

After my talk in October last year on Friern Hospital one of our members approached me and asked if I would be interested in a book about the hospital. This turned out to be a small spiral-bound Patient Registry from 1936 which listed the names of over 500 patients in five of the hospital's wards and gave details of the rooms they were located in, their date of admission, the reason for admission and their dispositions. On a facing page were details of the various types of medicines available, the treatment offered and lists of patients' symptoms and their behaviour traits.

I lent the book to our Treasurer Nick McKie who began to study it and after a while he started to become suspicious as several of the patients' names were duplicated, giving the impression that they were situated in more than one room in the hospital at the same time.

Patient Observations		
Medications	Treatments	Symptoms/behaviour
Paraldehyde	Leucotomy	Repetitive tapping
Opium	Chemical	Lethargy
Barbiturates	therapy	Paranoia
Strychnine	Physical	Excitement
Cocaine	exercise	Irritability
Thyroxine	Hot baths	Screaming
Benzedrine	Insulin coma	Crying/sobbing
Amphetamine	therapy	Shouting
Hysocine	Restraints	Peculiar fancies
Morphine	Garden walks	Hallucinations
Pain relief	Padded room	Low spirits
Analgesics	Electro shock	Muttering
Bromides	therapy	Hitting
	Hypnotism	Spasmodic
	Vapour treatments	Bilious
	Colectomy	Rocking
	Hysterectomy	
	Lobotomy	
Further Observations		
	R Wells listed	
	my own	Ruby

Room:388 Case No.1294- Petra Sheretova age 24 Admitted: 21 May 1933 Reason: Acute distress Class: anxious Disposition: nervous, rambling, numb
Room:389 Case No.2341- Henry Miller age 41 Admitted: 4 September 1929 Reason: nonsensical Class: idiotic Disposition: unmanageable, rambling
Room:390 Case No.2783- Rosemary Wells age 63 Admitted: 22 January 1921 Reason: illness Class: immobile Disposition: helpless, infirm, sick
Room:391 Case No.3821- Darcy Willows age 23 Admitted: 13 February 1935 Reason: detached Class: vulnerable Disposition: helpless, withdrawn
Room:392 Case No.3422- Milton Jeevers age 18 Admitted: 30 July 1934 Reason: epileptic fits
Room:393 Case No.2551- Reginald Holt age 55 Admitted: 21 August 1920 Reason: incapacitated Class: helpless Disposition: severely ill, impaired
Room:394 Case No.35511- Ian Northcutt age 27 Admitted: 19 August 1928 Reason: Acute distress
Room:395 Case No.2063- Palmer Loxton age 39 Admitted: 14 May 1929 Reason: rambling Class: demented Disposition: idiotic, nonsensical

The same case number would also appear for different patients. All in all, the book, which had pencil notations and yellowing pages, some of them slightly damaged, appeared to be an authentic record and he started to wonder if it had in fact been prepared by the hospital authorities as a way of hoodwinking the London County Council into believing that certain targets were being fulfilled.

One evening Nick's partner, Louise, decided to look on the internet to see if there was any reference to this publication. It was then that all was revealed. It turned out that the book was, in fact, a very clever fake which had been produced by a company in America, Outlaw Effects, that specialises in making extremely authentic looking publications which are then used by magicians and mentalists to astound their audiences by seeming to read their minds. The book was readily available for \$85,

together with instructions on how to perform apparently impossible tricks using the book's contents.

Clever as the book was, including a very distressed looking front cover, the publishers had made one mistake which, had we looked closer at it, we would have spotted straight away and saved hours of time analysing its contents. On the title page is the legend: "Published by Greenhill Smith Publishers Ltd, 348 Gloucester Road, London SW7 4SF." Anyone in Britain would have been able to tell the publisher that in 1936 alpha-numeric postcodes did not exist – they were not introduced until the 1970s. Had the postcode read merely "SW7" the authenticity would have been in no doubt right from the beginning.

The fake falls in to a category called "book tests" and details can be found of this, and other seemingly authentic publications on: www.outlaw-effects.com. On the page "Luna 1936" is a full description of the Colney Hatch book, together with an illustration of its front cover.

We shall keep the little book in our archives, together with a note warning of its dubious provenance!

UFO OVER FRIERN BARNET

As a serious history society we don't normally publish fiction, but we couldn't resist the following piece from our member Sylvia Stilts:

"Did you read in the local paper the report of a UFO being spotted over Friary Park? Seconds later, it was seen overhead, following a 251 bus down Totteridge Lane.

I am able to recount some background information on the episode, but keep it to yourself please, because I really don't want to be interviewed by the press; you know how they distort things.

I had promised a friend in Scotland that when her son came to London to see the sights, I would put him up. I hadn't seen him for years; not since he was a five-year old with a cherubic face and blond curls. Anyway, this tall, fair young man knocked at the door and I immediately assumed he was Bryan. He didn't contradict me when I used his name and we sat over tea and cakes and chatted until I had to cook dinner. He followed me round and was quite helpful. But it was odd because it seemed as if he chopped onions into miniscule bits with one flash of the knife and he whisked the egg whites into peaks before I had drawn breath. The cooker clicked and when I looked, the hot plates were glowing under the saucepans, although I hadn't actually seen Bryan switch them on. Suddenly the mixer whirred and the vacuum cleaner switched itself on. I leapt to turn them off. Then I asked Bryan if he would like to watch TV and led the way to the sitting room. The lights and the TV came on as we entered. I was quite perplexed and Bryan looked embarrassed. "I'll have to take off my belt," he said and handed it to me. "Would you put it in an insulated place, please? The studded belt felt hot and was vibrating. I dropped it into the cool bag we used for picnics and zipped it up, though I wasn't sure that was what he meant. However, it seemed to do the trick because the various electrical appliances returned to normal.

The next day, Bryan helped me to peg out the washing and then he disappeared into the jungle of brambles and weeds at the end of the garden. I heard clanking sounds and thought it he must have stumbled over the buckets I keep to pop over the rhubarb. He emerged with ruffled hair and I patted it in a motherly way and then froze as I noticed a tiny pair of silver antennae protruding from his scalp. "You are not Bryan! Who are you? Where do you come from?" I gasped.

"You would not be able to pronounce my name, or my planet," he assured me. "We were sent to do a study of Earth people. We left the Mother Ship in our pods and I landed at the end of your garden." "I wondered why you hadn't brought me shortbread and a haggis," I said. "But since you are here, I suggest we go back to the kitchen and I'll answer your questions over coffee."

When Bryan was ready to leave, I handed him his belt and hoped it wouldn't set anything off. I followed him down the garden and into the wild vegetation where an object like a six-foot spinning top nestled among the nettles. Bryan twiddled knobs, a door opened and lights flashed. In a daze, I wished him "Goodbye" and persuaded him to let me take a photo. The pod spun up and whisked off in the direction of Friary Park where I guess it joined the Mother ship.

Life seems humdrum now and the photo didn't come out, so that wretched belt must have seized up the camera's electronics.

WHERE IS THAT?

It would appear that a couple of local take-away owners have discovered new neighbourhoods. North Whetstone and South New Southgate feature in recent flyers:

ORDER HOTLINE
020 8361 7991
433 Oakleigh Road,
North Whetstone, N20 0RU
OPEN 7 DAYS INCLUDING BANK HOLIDAYS
MONDAY TO SATURDAY: 5pm to 11pm
SUNDAY: 5pm to 10.30pm
Free Bottle of Drink
ON ORDER OVER £12 WHEN COLLECTED

FREE HOME DELIVERY
MINIMUM ORDER 10
LAST DELIVERY IS 10.30PM
TEL: 020 8361 8661
28 OAKLEIGH ROAD, SOUTH NEW SOUTHGATE, LONDON N11 1NH

SUPPORTING SCOTT

The following letter appeared in *The Times* of 20 July 1910:

“Sir, Sir Edgar Speyer has written to the daily papers stating that nearly £8,000 is still required to make up the balance necessary to place Captain Scott’s Expedition Fund on such a basis as to relieve the gallant explorer and his brother-officers from monetary anxiety before leaving New Zealand on their perilous undertaking.

Captain Robert Scott being a Devonian, the moment is therefore opportune for the London Devonian Association to make known what they are doing in connexion with this fund, and we have much pleasure in asking you, Sir, to give publicity to the following facts and accompanying appeal:-

On June 16 the Devonian Association gave a “send off” dinner to Captain Robert Scott, who is a native of Devon, on the eve of his ship the Terra Nova leaving England.

In acknowledging the toast of his health and the hearty good wishes of the company for the success of his spirited enterprise, Captain Robert Scott referred to the financial side of his undertaking, and mentioned that whilst he had received assistance from practically every county in the kingdom to supplement the grant from the Government, he had not so far sought aid from his native county. Captain Scott added that he was chiefly concerned about the fund which it was necessary to complete in order that during the absence of the expedition a proportion of the wages of the crew should be paid to their wives and children left at home. At the present moment this fund was not as large as it should be by something like £8,000.

Later in the evening the Chairman, Earl Fortescue, announced that Captain Scott’s statement with respect to the fund had come as a surprise, but the committee had at once held an impromptu meeting, and he was now authorized to state that a subscription list would be immediately opened with a view to augmenting the fund for the purpose in question, and it was confidently anticipated that Devonians in Devonshire as well as Devonians in London and in other parts of the country would gladly contribute. A considerable sum was immediately promised from those present; including Earl Fortescue (the Lord Lieutenant of the county) and Lord Clifford of Chudleigh; and since then other public representative county gentlemen have sent us donations. This preliminary subscription list embraces the names of Earl Fortescue, Lord Clifford of Chudleigh, Viscount Sidmouth, Lord Northcote, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., Hon W F D Smith, Admiral Sir W H Fawkes, K.C.B., Admiral R F Hammick, Engineer Vice-Admiral Sir H J Oram, K.C.B., Sir Thomas Acland, Sir Charles H Radford, M.P., Sir W A Ferguson Davie, Sir Thomas Hewitt, K.C., Major Clive Morrison Bell, M.P., Colonel Lucius Cary, Colonel E T Clifford, V.D., Messrs F J Lyons and Co., A G Duncan, Esq., J.P., S Sanders Stephens, Esq., D.L., M B Snell, Esq., J.P., J B Burlace, Esq., J C Pillman, Esq., J.P., R P Chope, Esq., B.A., Sydney Simmons, Esq., J.P.

The committee are now anxious that this appeal should be regarded as applying to Devonians generally, whether resident in their native county or elsewhere. It is unnecessary for us to emphasize the claims of this fund, the object of which must surely come home very strongly to the heart of every Devonian; for, whilst uncertainty as to the ultimate result of this daring enterprise must of necessity for a time hang over it, there should be at least

the one certainty connected with it – viz., that the families of the brave men under Captain Scott should be adequately provided for in any event.

Cheques or postal orders should be made payable and sent direct to the hon. Treasurer of the London Devonian Association, Mr H B Squire, manager of the London County and Westminster Bank, Wood-street, E.C.; or, in cases where a fund may be opened by the Mayor or chairman of the local council, to the local hon. Treasurer.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,
E.T. CLIFFORD, Chairman of the London Devonian Association
H.B. SQUIRE, Hon. Treasurer of the London Devonian Association
JOHN W. SHAWYER, Hon. Secretary of the London Devonian Association

5, Hemington-avenue, Friern Barnet, N., July 19.

Robert Falcon Scott and his four companions died on 12 March 1912, having been beaten to the South Pole by the Norwegian Roald Amundsen who had arrived there five weeks earlier. Scott's final entry in his diary read: "Last entry. For God's sake look after our people." Fortunately the efforts of notable Friern Barnet resident Sydney Simmons and his fellow Devonians helped to make this possible.

'TAKE THE HIGH ROAD' PROJECT

by Colin Barratt

In previous *Newsletters* I have given reports on the progress of various projects in the New Southgate Masterplan. One of these is "*Take the High Road*", which is an attempt to create a "green corridor" along the former High Road, from the Ladderswood estate to Friern Barnet Road.

The first stage of this project was the re-landscaping of High Road Open Space, between Upper Park Road and Springfield Road, which was completed last June. This has new play equipment, a green gym, and a small football pitch, and appears to be a successful new feature for the local community.

The second stage is re-landscaping Grove Road Open Space (on the corner of Grove Road and High Road), which is nearing completion. This will have a small play area for young children, but it will mainly be a pleasant area for walking through, sitting (on new wooden benches) and enjoying the trees and newly planted flowerbeds. This is a fairly small area, so has a more intimate feel than the High Road Open Space.

Enfield Council has consulted residents about this work, and it was suggested that there should be an historical interpretation board set up on the site to explain the history of this space, which is known locally as "the Bombie." This is because it was created by a V1 flying bomb landing on it in WW2, which destroyed the two large houses originally on this corner. I have been asked to help with this, and have provided some photographs for it. The final design of this interpretation board is yet to be agreed, but hopefully will include old photos of the area, a map of what the corner looked like pre-WW2, the destruction left by the bombing, and a plan of the new landscaping. It will also have details of two local men who once lived in Grove Road: Allister McReady-Diarmid, who won a posthumous VC in World War 1, and Gerald Massey, the playwright and Egyptologist.

The Council intend to make the board of stainless steel, which they feel is more durable than polycarbonate. Modern printing techniques allow photos and colour to be included on stainless steel, so it will be interesting to see what it looks like. A draft of the proposed design has recently been circulated to residents and other interested parties who have been asked to give their comments. I have reported to the Project Manager a few errors in the text, and made some suggestions about the layout, and which images to include.

At the heart of the re-landscaped Open Space is a new feature, a circular stone area, with seating around it. It is intended that it will have an engraved slate centrepiece containing a brief text about the site. It hasn't been decided yet what this text will be, but it is likely to mention either the bombing of the site or the local VC winner.



The Grove Road Open Space, "The Bombie", nearing completion

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

A reminder that your subscription expires on 31 March 2014. If you wish to renew for another year (April 2014 - March 2015), and we sincerely hope that you do, please complete the Membership Form with this Newsletter. The subscription rates remain at £8 for a single person and £14 for a couple. If you have not renewed by 1 June we will have to remove your name from our mailing list and you will no longer continue to receive copies of the Newsletter.

**Friern Barnet & District
Local History Society ©**

President: John Heathfield Chairman: David Berguer 46 Raleigh Drive, N20 0UU
Phone 020 8368 8314

email: friernbarnethistory@hotmail.co.uk Website: www.friernbarnethistory.org.uk
Photographic website: www.friern-barnet.com

