

Friern Barnet *Newsletter*

Published by Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

Issue Number 40

February 2010

A WALK TO THE SHOPS IN 1951

by Richard Testar

Here's a short trip down memory lane. It might strike a chord in your minds, and some of you will no doubt be able to add similar reminiscences....

It is about 1951, I was seven and I can remember going to the shops with my mother. This seemed to be a daily routine, bearing in mind that there were no supermarkets in North Finchley then, we didn't have a fridge, and a basket on wheels could only carry so much.

We would walk up the road from our house in Torrington Park, past the pig bin which was chained to a lamppost outside Waverley Court. First stop was the chemist, R H Nind, which was at the top of the road on the corner. It was run by a helpful family, Mr & Mrs Nind and their son Bernard. I was always intrigued by those coloured glass bottles on display! Next, down the High Road to W H Smith, which lay opposite Lodge Lane. The foyer housed a newspaper counter and, once inside the shop we would go upstairs to the lending library where there was a view over the pedestrian crossing (my mother-in-law worked at Smiths in the late 50s).

The grocer Buckle & Hughes was the next stop (about where Superdrug is now). Oh, the smell of ground coffee as you entered! It had a black and white tiled floor



Buckle & Hughes had been in the High Road since the early 1900s.

with counters on the left and right. I remember the cheese being cut with a wire. I think J Sainsbury was nearby too, before it moved to the corner of Friern Park, and many years before it went to its current spot on the corner of Ravensdale Avenue. Boots was in about the same place it is now. If I remember correctly, they also had an upstairs lending library.

So much for the groceries. We then crossed the road to Booth Brothers who had a shop and outside stall next to *The Torrington Hotel* as it was officially known. This was before the old building was demolished. It was built in a similar style as the existing *Malt & Hops*, although somewhat larger. It had a cobbled forecourt where Cronshaw's Coaches would pull in to collect passengers for day trips to the coast! I remember that my Dad (who was a regular at *The Torrington*) once arranged for me to go with my sister on a coach trip to Bertram Mills Circus. A little further down on the same side was a luggage shop called Frewins (or was it Fruens?).

A quick call at the Express Dairy (opposite Torrington Park) with its yard entrance next door, later acquired by a pet food seller, then in to one of North Finchley's two Post Offices. This was about where Thomas Cook now stands. It was only a small place (no 'post shop') in those days, and to me the most intriguing feature was an amazing model steamboat in the window, about three feet in length and which was built in great detail.

If we needed to have shoes mended, we continued to Harris's (opposite the current Sainsbury's), where there was a traditional smell of leather on entering the shop, and I was always fascinated by a model cow which revolved on a turntable in the window. Nearby was a toy shop called Armstrong's where I would linger, staring into the window, or if I had some birthday money to spend, go inside and buy some bits for my train set. Sainsbury's in those days was the Austin showroom, H A Saunders. Apart from seeing the latest Austin Somerset or A55 displayed on the parquet floor surrounded by potted plants, what really took my fancy was the children's Austin electric model cars (more advanced than a pedal car!) in various colours which were lined up by the window. I always wanted one, but by the time I was seven, I was far too big to fit in them. Am I right in thinking they were manufactured by Remploy, or something similar? The rest of the current Sainsbury's site was occupied by the Co-op which comprised separate premises – a grocers, a chemist and a funeral directors. The entrance to the Co-op dairy was round the corner in Ravensdale Avenue. Going on the same side of the road it was sometimes time to buy some more school uniform. The outfitter for Comrie House School was Ashby's, which was very close to Radio Renters (not Rentals).

Returning to Torrington Park, there was a visit to Jones the bakers, where the bread always seemed so freshly baked and where they sold those miniature loaves of Hovis. Some years later they opened a teashop upstairs. Apart from the United Dairies, I remember Jones still operated a horse and cart, which I can recall trudging wearily up Torrington Park at the end of its rounds, returning to its stable at the end of the alleyway behind the shop.

Finally, as we turned into Torrington Park, there was a stamp shop, which was demolished to make way for the Sainsbury's goods entrance. Back home past the day nursery with all the play equipment and toys on the front lawn (now the doctor's surgery). The trip would take at least two hours, as my mother would

spend a considerable time chatting to her friends and neighbours and relatives she had met at the shops!

DID FRIERN BARNET HAVE A TOWN CRIER?

by John Heathfield

The old Friern Barnet fire station and Town Hall stood on ancient lands.
At a special manorial court held at St. Paul's on Thursday 13 April 1797:

We grant an absolute surrender from Abraham Roberts and William Row; Darling Goad and William Thomas Goad to Thomas Lermite of St Botolph. Aldgate. All that cottage near the Common in Colney Hatch late in the occupation of John Law or and all that parcel of land 43 feet by 34 feet East upon a field formerly of John Marsh and part of the estate

N.B. part of the estate is unsold and in the possession of Mr Allen at a rent of £35 as Mr Allen sold.

Fine £75-0-0 paid by Lermite

Court charges

Search	6s 8d
Drawing surrender - fair copy and stamp duty	£2 2s 0d
Special court	£3 3s 0d
Receiving the surrender	£1 8s 0d
Admission copy and entry	£1 1s 0d
Hire of 2 court rooms	14s 0d
Stamps	15s 0d
Fealty	3s 6d
Surrender to will and entry	14s 0d
Clerk	10s 0d
Cryer	1s 0d

Fealty is the feudal tenant's acknowledgement of the rights of the Lord of the Manor.

This is the only reference I have found to a Crier. It is hard to imagine a Town Crier standing at the cross roads shouting about land sales. I suspect it was a sinecure and simply an excuse for charging fees.

References to a Common are rare. I suspect it was used to describe waste land and the borders of Friern Barnet Lane.

GROWING UP IN POST-WAR FINCHLEY

by Michael Mayers

If my father had had his way, I would have grown up in post-war Germany. During World War II he was an officer in the Royal Armoured Corps which was a tank regiment (he had originally joined the Duke of Wellington Regiment which was a cavalry regiment. It was merged with the Royal Armoured Corps but throughout the war my father received a 'hay allowance' for his non-existent horse). When the war ended he was based in Germany and had the rank of captain. He was involved in helping to run the civilian administration of his local area; the occupying forces needed his skills and experience after the war to help in the rebuilding of Germany. He was asked to stay on and if he had agreed he would have been promoted immediately to major and within a year he would

have reached the rank of colonel. He wanted to do this but my mother put her foot down and refused point-blank to live in Germany.

And so it was that my father came back to England in 1945 and my mother and I left Camberley where we had been living and came to stay with my grandparents in their small flat in Queensborough Court, which is on the North Circular Road just to the east of Henley's Corner. I was nine years old when this happened. It was a tight squeeze for us in the flat and I had a camp bed under the table in the dining room. I went to a small primary school in Child's Way, Temple Fortune. It was my sixth primary school in four years because my mother and I had followed my father all over the UK wherever his regiment was stationed during the war until he went overseas, through France, Belgium, Holland and eventually Germany.

My memories of the next two years are of ration books and rationing, long queues for bread (for which we had bread units); Boots the Chemist in Temple Fortune, which was also a lending library; and the naked lady statue (La Delivrance) is today is a pleasantly designed garden, but back in 1945 it was just a simple lawn. However it was ideal for me and my school friends to play football and cricket on. Perhaps my best memory is of College Farm in Regent's Park Road which in those days was the Express Dairy Farm. It had a herd of cows which were milked daily and the milk was distributed to the local population. Visitors could go and watch the cows being milked but, for me, the real attraction was the fleet of horses and carts used for milk delivery. I became friendly with our milkman and during school holidays and on Saturday mornings I would go round with him on his horse-drawn milk cart helping deliver the bottles of milk (pints and half pints with silver tops or, if you were posh, gold tops) and collect the empties off people's doorsteps. This was a hugely rewarding activity in terms of sweets, cakes and tips at Christmas time.

At school in Child's Way we played an anarchic game of at least 50 a-side football with a tennis ball, before the bell went for assembly. When not playing football we would relive the weekly episode of the Goon Show with remarkable accuracy – or so we thought. This was the pre-television age when the main entertainment was the BBC steam radio with its Home, Light and Third Programme channels. Of course there was the Regal cinema at the top of the hill in Temple Fortune, next to Child's Way. Not only was it a cinema but it also had a restaurant on the top floor. The queues for an especially popular film would stretch for several yards down the hill.

My world changed again with the dreaded 11+ exams. I wanted to get into Christ's College, considered in those days to be one of the best in North London. Alas, the competition was too great and I wound up in Orange Hill Boys' Grammar School. By this time we had moved from my grandparents' flat to a rented converted flat in Thyra Grove, N12. I had to catch a trolleybus, either a 660 or 645 to Golders Green and then take the tube to Burnt Oak and then walk a mile up Orange Hill Road to school. I made this journey both ways for the next seven years.

The move to North Finchley introduced me to Tally Ho and a marvellous department store called Priors, which is where Argos is now. The wonderful thing about Priors was not only did it have a nice restaurant on the top floor, but it had what I considered to be a space-age system of taking payment for the goods that

you bought in the store. This was on the ground floor. The assistants at each counter would place the cash or the goods (no credit cards in those days) in a small metal canister. This was then attached to a spring loaded hand gun and literally fired across the ceiling on a wire to a central cash point, at high speed. The change and the receipt came back the same way. Well, as an eleven year old boy, I loved to stand and watch all the metal canisters whizzing from all directions across the ceiling in Priors.

On the other side of the road opposite was the Gaumont. This too had a restaurant upstairs and, like the Regal in Temple Fortune, it became a major source of family entertainment for us. In my later teens it was where I fell in love with Gina Lollobrigida and Sophia Loren – at the same time. I got over them eventually; it was their loss.

The most important place in North Finchley for me between the ages of 15 and 18 was the library at the top end of Ravensdale Avenue. It was here that I spent many hours in the reading room working first of all on my 'O' levels and then my 'A' levels. This gave me access to a complete set of Encyclopaedia Britannica. My efforts paid off eventually as I managed to get to Birmingham University. For the many of you who know the Smedleys, Peter was the first student I met at Birmingham in September 1954 and amazingly we discovered that we were on the same course. After university we met again during National Service in the same battalion and after a gap of seventeen years we met again when, as a married man with a family, I moved to Whetstone in 1975 and our friendship has continued ever since. And the rest as they.....

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

by David Berguer

With money being in short supply everywhere, it was particularly pleasing that Barnet Local Studies and Archives were able to obtain a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for an oral history project involving Friern Barnet.

Yasmine Webb, the curator of the Local Studies, had outlined the project to us beforehand and we gave it our full support. Her feeling was that, not only was there not a great deal of information on Friern Barnet in the Archives, but also there was a need to tell today's schoolchildren what working conditions were like in the 1950s and 1960s. The plan she devised was that twenty people from the Society would be interviewed for their reminiscences on their working life, starting with leaving school and continuing on through their careers until retirement. The interviews would be recorded on tape and video for posterity and extracts from them would be collected and put into a book which would then be distributed to every school in the London Borough of Barnet.

The interviews took place over two weeks at the end of last November and were held at the Archives in Daws Lane, Mill Hill with interviews being conducted by Yasmine herself together with Hugh Petrie and Ann Taylor from the Archives and Kay Stonham, a lady who lectures on Creative Writing at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute and who also lives in Friern Barnet. I conducted two interviews myself.

The project involved nineteen members of the Society, plus Stan Springate, who had worked at STC and who has written two books on the history of the company. The interviewees had had a variety of jobs, ranging from advertising to

nursing and engineering to teaching and it became apparent that things were very different in the past, with mention being made of long-dead things like GCEs, Grammar Schools, Sandwich Courses and Apprenticeships. The interviewees also supplied photographs, copies of letters of appointment, certificates and other paperwork which will be included in the book which will be distributed to schools and libraries in June of this year.

Everyone who took part in the interviews agreed that it was an interesting and rewarding experience, if only because it made them delve into their memories to recall things they thought they had forgotten. The tapes of the interviews, together with the written transcripts will be held at Barnet Archives for posterity and will join other oral histories conducted in the past by our local historians Percy Reboul and John Heathfield.

Although not part of the project, we hope to be interviewing more local residents and members of the Society in future so that their memories can help us to record things as they used to be in the good (or not-so-good?) old days.

MORE ON BAWTRY ROAD

Following the article by John Neal in the September 2009 issue of the *Newsletter*, we had the following letter from our member Sylvia Stilts:

“I showed your piece on Bawtry Road to a friend who had lived in Balfour Grove during the 1930s and she made the following comments:

There was a ‘laundry’ at the end of the road, but it may have just been run by someone who took in washing in her garage. Children attended Holly Park School and some went to Sunday School in St Michael’s. There was a Post Office /Newsagent on one corner and a small grocer’s on the other. Food was bought from Whetstone Sainsbury’s who delivered by bikes to which a large green box was attached. Clothing was purchased in the indoor market in Caledonian Road. Every family had a cat and some had a dog which was allowed to roam free. Families paid a very small weekly sum to join a local clinic where a nurse dealt with minor injuries. Local doctors visited willingly and sent cases of scarlet fever to Coppetts Road Isolation Hospital for three weeks. Parents could not visit the children but were allowed to hand in eggs for them. Toys and books at home were burned or fumigated. I hope this fills in a gap or two.”

LAMAS CONFERENCE 2009

by Colin Barratt

The 2009 Conference of the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society (LAMAS) was on the subject of *Open Air London – Pleasure, Parks and Protest*. It was again a mix of well presented topics from people who knew their subject, and display tables set up by Local History Societies from around London. In between the talks, our table was visited by many people, and we sold a good number of publications. The talks were as follows:

WOODLANDS AND COMMONS

There are 122 heaths and commons in the London area, many of which date back to medieval times. The Saxons had cleared many woods and by 1086 the Domesday Book recorded that only 10% of Middlesex was woodland. “Common” land provided commoners with material for fuel and grazing. Our present open

spaces are survivors from these. Trees such as hazel, sweet chestnut and hornbeam were coppiced. Larger trees were used for construction, and small pieces of wood were used for heating bread ovens etc. With trees being cut down, and heavy grazing, woods began to disappear, and gradually changed into commons. Some were enclosed for protection, after the Great Enclosure Acts of the late 18th century, while other areas started to be used for recreation helped by the Metropolitan Act of 1866, such as Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest. Some woods were sold off for development, while some new woods were planted – for hunting game. An Act of 1671 allowed landowners and titled people to hunt – but not commoners!

THE LONDON SQUARE: ISLETS IN OUR DESERT OF BRICK, SLATE & MUD
Britain created the idea of having squares in towns – bringing nature into towns for the exclusive use of the inhabitants. This was taken up by Paris, where development included new parks and gardens – but for the use of all. Squares started in the 1660s due to the wish to enclose waste areas (common land) for inhabitants to use for recreation and grazing e.g. Moorfields, Lincolns Inn Fields and Leicester Fields. These were modified and laid out. Spaces were added in new developments to improve light for houses. Squares were included in developments after the Great Fire in 1666, for the benefit of residents. They were initially empty, but then had sculptures installed, the first being Soho Square in 1755. These squares often became haunts for vagabonds etc so they were built with high fences or hedges and other defences, and policed by beadles. However, they were still attractive to mobs, vandals and nuisance makers, and it was difficult to keep the squares private. The issue continues to this day.

LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATIONS AWARD

Before the break for lunch, the annual award was announced. The winner was the Camden History Society with their *History Review no 32*. This year no runners up prizes were awarded.

COMMON PEOPLE, COMMON LAND: A HISTORY OF LONDON'S OPEN SPACES AS PLACES OF PROTEST

The political use of open spaces has a long history. Each year on 1 May there are marches by various groups. Political protests have also been carnival occasions and May Fairs were used for protests. The large open spaces around the City were used to assemble the protestors. *St George's Field* – late 18th/early 19th century (Gordon Riots); *Copenhagen Fields* – radical meetings in the 1820s (early Trade Union movement); *Kennington Common* – 1848 (Chartists); *Hyde Park* – in the 1860s republicans and free thinkers assembled here. However, open land was under pressure as suburbs expanded. Building of public parks began to make open spaces more respectable. The authorities fought against assemblies. Hyde Park used to be closely controlled, available for the upper classes only. Crowds protested against this, attacking carriages in Rotten Row and pulling down railings. In 1872 the Royal Parks Demonstration Act allowed limited access. *Trafalgar Square* -1866 unemployed rally and riot and 1890s Labour Day marches. In the early 1900s the Suffragette movement was banned from Hyde Park. Protests in Hyde Park and Trafalgar Square continued throughout the 20th century – today's rights were won by the law breakers of the past.

THE PLEASURE GARDENS OF LONDON: A CREATIVE USE FOR OPEN SPACES

The final talk of the day was unusual in that it included a soprano singer and a harpsichord player, who interspersed the talk with musical pieces from the era concerned. The speaker and musicians were from the Fishcocks Musical Museum who have created a display there of the history of London Pleasure Gardens. Although Pleasure Gardens started in the 17th century, they came into their own in the 18th. *Vauxhall Gardens*, which opened in 1732, was the first large one in London. Music and songs by well known composers such as Handel, were written for the Gardens which provided an escape from the reality of the sometimes dangerous city, with music, dancing, tea and wine. *Marylebone Gardens* was another which had a successful, although short-lived existence. Ranelagh Gardens, near Chelsea, was built to try to outdo Vauxhall, with bands, boat races and masquerade balls. Fireworks were the main attractions in these Gardens, and firework theatres were built for them. The owners also brought in other special attractions, such as demonstrations of huge balloons. By the end of the 18th century, many of the pleasure gardens had gone or were going. Vauxhall carried on, but was more like a music hall then, and closed in 1859. There are various reasons why they didn't survive; a main one was the coming of the train. However, they inspired many similar gardens around the world, a notable being Tivoli, which copied Vauxhall. The influence continued to the present, and led to Disneyland and the theme parks of today.

ALL SAINTS' PARISH MAGAZINE

We were delighted when, at a meeting with Rev Adrian Benjamin of All Saints Church in Oakleigh Road North to discuss this year's Friern Barnet Summer Show, he kindly offered to lend us bound volumes of the Parish Magazine dating from 1884 to 1966. We spent a couple of weeks going through these and, with his permission we have extracted several items of interest which we will be publishing over the coming months.

The first two items span the period of the First World War - one appeared in the magazine of August 1914 and the second from October 1918. It is fascinating to compare and contrast the attitudes to war and fuel supplies with those same topics today, which seem always to be in the headlines.

NOTES OF THE PARISH

by Rev Henry S Miles

How little we thought when our last Magazine was issued what tragedies were before us. For years there have been rumours of the danger of a European war, but we have always felt that the very awfulness of it under modern conditions would be the great safeguard against it, and that the nations of Europe would vie with one another in their endeavours to prevent, by the science of diplomacy, such an awful outrage upon our civilization and our Christianity. So we hoped up to the last moment of possibility, and then in a few days our hopes were utterly shattered, and we found ourselves forced upon the appalling catastrophe which we had believed to be impossible. We could not for a moment entertain the "infamous proposal" made to us by Germany, nor could we ever have lifted up our head again as a nation if we had allowed a treaty to be broken or a small nation to be crushed. The Government stood firm; all parties were united in supporting them; those who had laboured most for peace were of one mind in upholding the declaration of war; the whole country has approved the action of those in authority; contending parties are united in the common cause, breaches which seemed to be hopeless have been closed and healed; thousands have

come forward to help in various ways, and the United Kingdom has been more truly united than it has been for many years.

We are most thankful that in our own Parish many of our young men have offered themselves in their country's cause, and many others have shown themselves ready to make such sacrifices and to do such work as seem to be required of them.

We have been very thankful also to note the serious and humble mind with which this war has been entered upon by our country; so different to what we remember in the case of the South African war fifteen years ago. There has been no flippancy, no arrogance, no self-complacency or self-sufficiency, no bombastic tone. Very quietly, though with marvelous rapidity our arrangements were made; we had no doubt of the righteousness of our action, and from the first we commended it humbly to God and asked for His blessing, and defence, and help. And now we must leave the issue in His hands. No one can venture to predict how long this awful war is likely to last, but so long as it does last we at home must be like Moses, Aaron and Hur in the mount, holding up hands and hearts in prayer for God's blessing on our forces by sea and land and on all who are fighting with us against the power that is responsible for this terrible Armageddon.

From the beginning of the month there will be a celebration of Holy Communion daily, with special intention for the war, that we may offer the great Memorial each day and plead with Almighty God for all those who are fighting for our honour and safety, for all the wounded, the dying, and the faithful departed and above all for the speedy restoration of an honourable, effective and enduring peace. The Celebration will be generally on Monday, Thursday and Saturday at 7.45am and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 7am.

At these Services we will mention by name all those of our own people who are serving under the colours in any capacity at home or abroad, so the clergy will be glad to receive the names of any friends or relatives of parishioners whom they may desire to add to the list of those prayed for.

THE COAL CRISIS

Sir Guy Calthrop, the Coal Controller, makes the following urgent appeal - "The country is faced with a serious coal shortage, and I appeal to clergymen of all denominations to do their utmost to bring the facts to the notice of their parishioners and congregations, with the view to enlisting the services of every man, woman and child in this country in one united effort to save coal.

Coal is the key industry of Great Britain and the Allies, and the outlook of today is very much more serious than is generally realized. The causes of the shortages are:-

1. The call to the Colours of 75,000 miners to meet the peril of the German offensive in March and
2. The almost complete stoppage of the mines in Northern France as a direct result of the German advance in the West

Coal is the source of power: it makes gas, electricity and steam. It drives the ships and it drives the trains. It helps to carry The American army to France. It helps to move their army while in France and it keeps their soldiers warm.

It is sold to neutrals to buy shipping to bring American troops over and is exchanged for food which would otherwise go to Germany. Coal is the source of power wanted to end the war. Coal burned in a house in excess of absolute need is power wasted. It is, therefore, the duty of everyone to save coal, because to save coal is to save lives.

Except among the poorest houses, there will not be a dwelling in Great Britain this winter with as much coal as it would like to burn. Self-denial is called for. England today is short of 36,000,000 tons of coal. By the system of household rationing we hope to save 9,000,000 tons of coal. Twenty seven million tons, therefore, remain still to be found. This deficit can be reduced – not made good – only if the miners get more coal, and if householders use less than their ration. Even then the supplies of coal to industrial works will be short.

This will mean that woollen manufacturers, pottery manufacturers, fabric dyers, bleachers, and others may have their businesses seriously curtailed, and their workpeople, consequently, must suffer. Notwithstanding economies already made in these directions, we are still on the danger line, and the facts cannot be too insistently and too often brought to the notice of the people of this country.

The stocks of our munitions works are being eaten into, gas and electric companies are crying for coal to build up their stocks against the winter months. These stocks are not being accumulated at the present time; they are being drawn upon, and we have not been able to fulfill our coal obligations to our Allies. The miners' leaders have promised to do their utmost to induce the men to increase the output, and the public are being asked to do their part in reducing consumption of coal, gas and electricity to a minimum.

It is a race with winter. The miners and mine managers and owners can help the country to win through. Every consumer should try to manage on three-quarters of his ration. The quarter saved will help our brave soldiers warm.

(signed) Guy Calthrop
Controller of Coal Mines
10 September 1918.”

Footnote: It was only two months after this letter was written that Germany signed an armistice with the Allies and all fighting ceased on the Western Front.

OUR WEBSITE

We now have over 2000 images on our website, ranging from old documents relating to Friern Barnet (which we call “Paper Ephemera”) to photographs and postcards. Many of the old postcards that we have reproduced are from the collection of the late Andrew Forsyth who kindly willed these to us. If you have any photographs or documents that you would care to lend us we could add these to the collection which means they will be preserved for posterity and available to anyone interested in the history of the area. Or, if you wish, you can scan these into your computer and then upload them on to the website for us to download. It is a very easy process as you will see if you log on to: www.friern-barnet.com and follow the instructions on the “Upload a Picture” page. For those of you who have moved away from the area and would like to see what it looks like nowadays, the website contains many photographs taken in recent years, and we are adding more all the time.

SHOPS SURVEY

by David Berguer

Here are the results of our annual survey of the local shops which was conducted last year: Figures for 2008 are shown as a comparison:

	2008	2009
Restaurants/ Take Aways	100	103
Food shops	29	28
Estate Agents	23	23
Ladies Hairdressers	23	24
Furnishing/Carpets	16	17
Electrical	13	16
Ladies Wear	17	16
Pubs	16	14
CTNs *	16	14
Beauty Salons	16	14
Dry Cleaners/Laundrettes	13	13
DIY/Hardware	12	12
Bookmakers	9	11
Chemists	10	10
Gasrages/Car Accessories	7	9
Opticians	9	9
Banking/Insurance	9	8
Charity Shops	7	7
Gents Hairdressers	9	7
Mens Wear	6	7
Footwear	6	6
Health Foods	4	5
Jewellers	6	5
Building Societies	5	5
Children's Wear/Toys	4	5
Wines	5	5
Chain Stores/Discount Stores	5	5
Mobile Phones	4	4
Photography	4	4
Florists	5	3
Post Offices	4	3
Books	2	3
Travel Agents	2	2
Antiques	2	2
Video Hire	1	0
Others	63	60
Shops Vacant	43	45
	529	525

*= Confectioners, Tobacconists, Newsagents

The breakdown by area is as follows:

	2008	2009
Ballards Lane	34	33
Colney Hatch Lane	40	41
Cromwell Road	2	2

Friern Barnet Road	63	62
Friern Bridge Retail Park	11	11
Nether Street	2	2
North Finchley	154	152
Oakleigh Road North	44	43
Oakleigh Road South	9	9
Sydney Road	2	2
Whetstone	101	103
Wilton Road	1	1
Woodhouse Road	66	64
	529	525

The decline in the traditional British pub continues and we have lost two in the last twelve months: *The Bull & Butcher*, (now a bar/restaurant called *I bar*) and *The Black Bull*, 1446-1448 High Road Whetstone (closed in March 2008 and subsequently demolished). This is not just a local phenomenon, it is claimed that on average 5 pubs a week are closing down throughout the country. Since the survey was done, *The Rising Sun*, 248 Oakleigh Road North has now been transformed into an up-market Indian Restaurant – *The Sapphire Lounge*, and the *Ennis Tavern*, 359 Ballards Lane has closed its doors for the last time.

A sign of the changing face of retailing is the closure of the last Video Hire shop in the area (*Video Viking* in Ballards Lane) and the opening of a new type of shop *The London Gold Factory* at 376 Ballards Lane which specializes in buying second hand gold items. A similar outlet opened in May at 272 Friern Barnet Lane, in the former Thorne Printers building.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

A reminder that your subscription expires on 31 March 2010. If you wish to renew for another year (April 2010 - March 2011), and we sincerely that hope you do, please complete the Membership Form with this Newsletter. The subscription rates have been increased to £7 for a single person and £12 for a couple.

As the Royal Mail have announced a further increase in the cost of a second class stamp to 30p (the second increase in just over a year), we propose to discontinue the issuing of Membership Cards and receipts, however, if you still require a receipt, please let us know when you renew.

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