

Friern Barnet *Newsletter*

Published by Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

Issue Number 86

February 2021

ALL ABOUT MILK

by David Berguer

Before the widespread introduction of refrigeration housewives had no option but to shop for fresh food almost daily. Milk was delivered door-to-door and those of us over a certain age will recall the friendly milkman who delivered our daily 'pintas'. In the 1950s and 60s over 90% of British households bought their milk in glass bottles which would be recycled some 30 times. With the coming of the supermarkets in the 1980s and the introduction of the plastic milk bottle, the milkmen's days were numbered and today only some 3% of households have their milk left on the doorstep.

When I was a young child, we had the United Dairies (the 'UD') and our milkman had a horse and cart and if we were lucky the horse might leave droppings outside our house. It was my job to grab a bucket and a shovel and rush outside and gather the manure which, after a few months, would be added to our back garden. I was also charged with paying the milkman at the end of the week.

I seem to recall that dairies were allocated specific roads and a friend of mine who lived in a different road had the Co-op deliver the milk, including sterilised milk which the UD did not stock. I loved the taste of it.



Sam James Wescott was born in 1898 and worked for Manor Farm Dairies which were taken over by United Dairies. He received an inscribed pocket watch for 25 years' service. He and his donkey were photographed in Muswell Hill

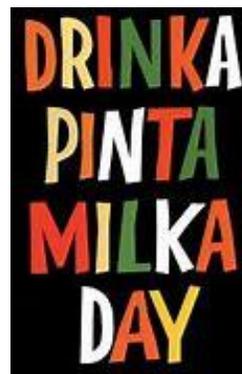
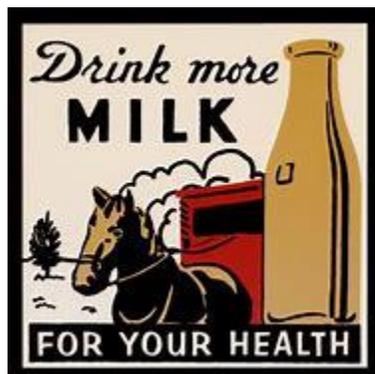
Electric milk floats were introduced in 1923 and eventually replaced the horse and cart which not only had the advantage of being cheaper to run than petrol powered vehicles, but were also quiet so neighbours were able to sleep undisturbed in the early hours of the morning. At their height there were over 50,000 electric floats – the largest fleet of electric vehicles in the world.



In those far off days milkmen, along with postmen, were a useful part of everyday life and they were able to keep an eye open for their customers – uncollected milk on the doorstep might mean that something was amiss in the household.

School milk was introduced in 1946 and a third of a pint was given each day to all children under 18. I not only remember this but also very thick orange juice, cod liver oil and something called Radio Malt which was disgusting but presumably good for me. When school milk for the 7-11 year old's was discontinued in 1971 by Margaret Thatcher she was nicknamed 'Margaret Thatcher – Milk Snatcher' which was somewhat unfair as in 1968 a Labour Secretary of State for Education, Edward Short had stopped 11-18 year old's receiving it and another Labour Secretary of State, Shirley Williams, withdrew it for 5-7 year old's in 1977.

The Milk Marketing Board was responsible for the production and marketing of milk from 1933 until 2002 and it ran several memorable advertising campaigns – 'full of natural goodness', 'Is your man getting enough?' and, more memorably, 'milk's got a lotta bottle' and 'drinka pinta milka day'



BARNET HILL

This appeared in *Barnet Press* 9 September 1922:

A WEEK'S TRAFFIC ON BARNET HILL.

INSTRUCTIVE RETURN.

9,000 TONS AVERAGE EVERY 16 HOURS.

Interesting figures are given in the returns of the census of traffic on Barnet Hill, taken near the Victoria Cottage Hospital during the week from August 20th to 26th. The following summary shows the numbers of various types of vehicles which were counted during sixteen hours of each day:—

	August 20th.	21st.	22nd.	23rd.	24th.	25th.	26th.	Total.
Ordinary cycles	3311	1761	1661	1539	1221	1490	2766	13749
Motor cycles	1561	462	384	336	272	349	1041	4405
Motor cars	2251	1308	1240	1365	1074	1346	2008	10592
Motor vans (covered)	57	292	261	361	293	355	231	1850
Motor omnibuses	260	110	105	110	105	93	147	930
Motor lorries (rubber tyres)	64	592	582	578	620	670	272	3378
Trailers to rubber-tyred lorries	6	12	17	9	20	11	8	83
Light tractors	5	63	73	66	62	48	38	355
Trailers to light tractors	2	15	20	13	22	22	16	110
Traction engines	1	4	2	2	2	1	—	12
Trailers to traction engines	1	4	2	2	3	1	—	13
Total motor vehicles and trailers	4208	2262	2686	2842	2473	2896	3761	17288
Light vehicles (one horse)	97	155	149	216	169	176	170	1132
Light vehicles (two or more horses)	—	10	3	19	8	5	7	52
Heavy vehicles (one horse)	3	154	177	175	128	128	79	844
Heavy vehicles (two or more horses)	—	35	34	36	23	53	23	204
Total horse-drawn vehicles	100	354	363	446	328	362	279	2232
Tramcars (electric)	568	233	230	231	240	236	504	2242
Horses (led or ridden)	—	22	26	31	21	33	22	155
Cattle	1	4	12	—	—	—	—	17
Sheep and pigs	—	—	96	64	—	—	—	160
Handcarts and barrows	11	17	36	25	17	35	28	169
Horses drawing vehicles	100	399	400	501	359	420	309	2488
	680	675	800	852	637	724	863	5231
Grand total	8299	5652	5510	5679	4659	5472	7669	42940

The estimated average weight of this traffic per day, excluding tramcars, is 9091.39 tons.

Electric trams had been running up and down Barnet Hill since 28 March 1907 and it is surprising that fifteen years later they would still be sharing the road with cattle, sheep and pigs and horses as well as horse drawn vehicles, including, perhaps, Sam Wescott's milk float. As we pointed out in our December 2013 *Newsletter*, Barnet Hill had been modernised by Thomas Telford in the 1820s, to lessen the gradient.

WHETSTONE SCHOOLS IN THE 20th CENTURY

by John Heathfield

Following on from my article in the November 2020 issue of the *Newsletter* here are some comments by Head teachers in Whetstone schools after 1899:

1900 Fresh supply of ink! This was welcome as we had run out several weeks ago, and had to return to slates.

Mr Townsend and I spent the whole evening redecorating the classroom walls. This is the first time they have been painted since the school opened in 1854.

Half holiday – Relief of Ladysmith.

1901 Began to use McDougal's National Arithmetic books throughout the school. Girls received Holborn Readers, Geography of Europe (3 dozen), 6 dozen pen holders, drawing copies, drawing books.

Boys received 1 pair dumb bells for Drill.

1902 It is so cold that the Girls are allowed to have a Marching lesson instead of Singing.

Standard II will go into the playground for Marching and Tables, as they seem unable to learn without saying them out loud, which disturbs the other children. Monitor goes with them.

Half holiday – Peace in South Africa.

1903 Prize winner Jessie Blackborow.

1904 Received Gelatine copying apparatus.

Admitted 13 infants from Colonel Puget's school.

1905 First mention of school closure for Empire Day. The children walked in procession behind a Union Jack.

1906 So many cars go to and from the Golf Course that I am worried about the danger to children. I have asked for a streetlight.

Holly Park School is the first Local Authority School in the area. It is an 'all-age' school taking children from 5 to 12 years. Children will be educated until they are 12 or reach Standard Seven. The Headmaster is W G Collier who has been Head of St James' School where he taught the top class full time. *(His ideas were unusual for the period - he believed that if children understood, they were more likely to remember, that co-operation was a better method of discipline than fear, and that the function of a teacher is to help children to learn. Nevertheless, he struck fear into the hearts of some of the children. The school was renowned for its high academic standards.)*

1907 Globe received from Philip and Tacey.

22 pairs of scissors sharpened, first time since school was opened in 1884. Specimen sets of weights and measures on loan for two weeks.

School closed for Finchley Carnival.

1908 The oldest Girls are to go to Garfield Road School for Cookery once a week.

1914 Albert Goody aged 8 came to school late, drenched with rain, without boots or stockings, with legs and feet covered with mud.

1917 Zeppelin air raid warning.

1919 Funeral of Arthur Lawman run over by a tractor. He was a nice little boy.

1920 Flushing toilets installed at St James' School and master's house.

1924 Head teacher wrote: "Today I received 7 tons of coal, 3 tons of coke and 800 bundles of firewood and spent most of Saturday and Sunday stacking it."

1925 At St James' the bell tower formerly surmounting the roof has been dismantled as the timber is decayed. The bell has been rehung on the east wall.

1927 Empire Day medals given to G Smith, A Wray, R Gaylor, T Powell, L Oerkins, Jarman and L Osborne.

A Public Lending Library, open on Tuesday evenings, housed in a cupboard in the Boys' school, will be attended by the Headmaster.

- 1934 The Girls are to go into the Small Hall twice a week for Dancing and Eurythmics.
1936 First Boys' school sports day on Railway Clearing House grounds.

We have 3 women teachers with no proper lavatory, a note is to be sent to the Managers.

- 1937 St James' School for Boys allowed 200 pupils.

Electric light installed.

- 1948 June. First Residential trip. Miss Leroy and Mr Grout went with 29 boys to St Mary's Bay Journey Centre, for two weeks.

1950 First use of Standardised tests at 11+.

- 1951 There are now 218 infants in Oakleigh Infants School and 91 juniors over at Queenswell. The dining hall gets very crowded and we have two sittings.

July. Queenswell School separated from Oakleigh Infants.

Oct. Oakleigh Infants and Queenswell Schools temporarily combined.

Playground of Infants resurfaced and school gardens laid out.

- 1952 Oakleigh Infants' School. The school needs a hall, doors to the playground, a reduction in the number of school meals. "It is a happy community and the thoughtful way it is conducted is greatly to the credit of the Headteacher and her staff."

December. Workmen began underpinning the south west end of Oakleigh Infants School.

- 1954 Girls Dept. Miss Sowter is going into hospital today, no supply staff are available, so some children have been sent over to the infants.

These children won prizes for Road Safety paintings.- Felicity Carmody and Kathleen Davis aged 6, Phoebe Smethers and Gillian Rhodes aged 5.

Empire Day. The children all wore their uniforms – Brownies, Cubs, Bluebirds etc and walked round behind the flag.

Infants Harvest Festival. All things bright and beautiful, The fields and vales, See here are the red apples. The farmer has laid out the corn.

HMI Report: "The severe deficiencies in the Boys' School noted in the report of 1933 are still present."

Oakleigh Infants – radio and electric gramophone have arrived. 'The new hall echoes so badly that it is impossible to use it for wet weather play.'

- 1955 HMI has suggested that the children should make their own Wordbooks for their own spellings. The lower three classes are to do less copying and more free composition and number games. The children are to be allowed to write their own little sentences.

A workman is fitting the shelves ordered and delivered four years ago. He says that he has not got the right screws. Four days later he completed the task.

- 1956 Boys' old building – electric light installed to replace gas.

- 1958 Oakleigh Infant School Sports Day prize winners – M Tugwood, J Smalley, K Chivers, M Carter, J Dupre, C Robinson, C Callahan, R Lumo, D Rothenberg, A Campbell, J Conway, J Revell, D Edgar, L Guy, D Williamson, D Bradley, R Churchdah, R Spoor, R Wilson, C Collett and L Rupley.
- 1959 Empire Day now called Commonwealth Day.
- 1960 A Cuisenaire demonstration was held for the Infant teachers.

Out of 132 infants on roll, we have 38 absent with Chicken Pox, 9 Mumps, 2 Whooping Cough, 1 Measles.

Raymond, who is habitually late in the morning owing to his laziness, will be kept in at playtime every time he is late.

Infants School leavers – 23 to St James, 22 All Saints, 5 Queenswell, 2 Holly Park, 2 out of district.

- 1962 Improvements to Girls' school – hot water in wash basins, lighting, windows enlarged, drinking fountain in playground.
- 1963 First recorded visit of a Theatre group to the school.

Oakleigh Infants. The coke ordered over three months ago has still not arrived. The caretaker is having to carry seven cwts by wheelbarrow each week. All the children's toilets are frozen in spite of having boiling water and anti-freeze poured down them. We might have to close the school if things don't get better soon.

Snow has started coming through the roof. Temperature 41. Hoar frost inside the roof of the school.

- 1965 All schools are to have a whole day's holiday to celebrate the 700th anniversary of Magna Carta.

All Saints' Girls School – two-week trip to Scandinavia.

The school boilers burst during the night. The office sent 4 Calor gas heaters, 3 of which were defective.

- 1968 Class1 parents came to Assembly today. The pattern is to continue.

First cruise abroad – Mr & Mrs Hicks took 16 boys to Norway and Holland.

July 17 – First Open Evening for parents.

September. A group of parents came in on Thursday afternoons to help in the classrooms. This has proved highly successful.

The air raid shelters have been removed.

- 1969 Oakleigh Infants. Oil fired boilers fitted.

THE FINCHLEY & FRIERN BARNET VOLUNTEERS

by John Heathfield

It all turned out to be a bit of a damp squib really.

At a special meeting of the inhabitants of the parish of Finchley and the adjoining parish of Friern Barnet, held in the parish church of Finchley on 12 May 1798 the inhabitants resolved that a corps of infantry should be formed under the denomination of Finchley

and Friern Barnet Volunteers for the defence of the country. At a meeting of the two parishes held on 28 May, £75 7s 6d was subscribed. A resolution asked that “all persons willing to be armed and exercised for the public good” should send their names to the Lord Lieutenant. Further, “all persons willing to furnish, in case of emergency, carts of horses for the public service either gratuitously or for hire, be requested in like manner to signify their proposals, together with the number of vehicles they can provide.”

This followed from a vestry meeting on 3 May when the following sections were minuted:

iv. That no member of the association shall be liable to serve out of the limits of these parishes without his own individual consent

vii. That every member of the corps shall be ready to attend in case any fire should take place in either of these parishes caused by accident or design, on being summoned by beat of drum or otherwise

xi. That the uniform shall consist of a dark-blue cloth coat or jacket with red collar and narrowed edging, yellow buttons, with the letters F&FBV thereon, a white kerseymere waistcoat with yellow buttons, pantaloons of Russian duck, black stock and hat to pattern

Thirty people subscribed, including “Widow Nixon 2s 6d”, the only sum below 21 shillings. The other volunteers were John Bacon, Rev Ralph Worsley, Thomas Collins, Samuel Hawkins, Thomas Gildart, T H Andrew, Sir Thomas Pasley Bt, John Pasley, John Bickley, Thomas Lermite and Rev Mr Lake. These people also subscribed £36 15s 0d towards expenses.

So what was the reason for this appeal to patriotism? The answer was that England, along with Prussia and Austria, had been at war with France under Napoleon since 1792. Each country was hoping to conquer parts of France following the chaos after the French Revolution.

On 9 July John Bacon reported to a meeting at Finchley Church that the resolution had been transmitted to the Lord Lieutenant but the following reply had been received on 7 June:

“I am very sorry that consistently with the instructions I have received in the last circular letter on the subject of Volunteer Corps from Mr Dundas, I cannot recommend any offer of associating for the defence of particular parishes, and I am therefore under the necessity, however unwilling I may be to damp the spirit and loyalty of the inhabitants of Finchley and Friern Barnet, of declining their offer.

I shall take care to transmit to the Earl of Harrington an account of the number of teams to be furnished in case of emergency. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant, Scott Titchfield.”

Suitably humbled, everyone received their subscriptions back.

The most interesting aspect of this affair is that there must have been long discussions to decide on the details of the design of the uniform, before such niceties as availability of weapons had been decided.

It all smacks of enthusiastic amateurs. Were they the Dad’s Army of the time?

AN ACTOR AND HIS BIKE

David John White was born at North Middlesex Hospital on 2 February 1940; he had a twin, but his brother died in childbirth. He lived in Lodge Lane, North Finchley and after leaving Northfield Secondary Modern School he trained as an electrician and worked for six years. before giving up his job, and became an actor and changed his name to David Jason.

He described his early life:

“I had always wanted a motorbike. Cars were an unattainable dream when I was a teenager – way out of my price league. The motorbike was the working-class man’s vehicle of escape. And here I am with my mate Brian Barneycroft – two Jack the Lads on our most prized possessions.

When I was seventeen I heard that a bloke was selling a bike from his garage at home. It was a 350cc BSA B31 – a bit of a beast, in all honesty, and certainly a more powerful machine than I was looking for. But the bloke selling it was very persuasive. ‘You might as well start with a proper bike that is going to really look after you,’ he said.

He had a point. Besides, the bike had taken on a romantic lustre in the half-light of the garage, and I was already smitten. So I parted with all the money I had been stashing away in the Post Office and took him up on his generous (and quite cunning, as it would turn out) offer to ride the bike home for me.

All went swimmingly for a few days, my pride surging as I coolly piloted my new machine around the neighbourhood, fancying myself the liberated bachelor. Then, one morning, at the bottom of our road in Finchley, a worrying noise started up, as if someone was attacking the engine with a hammer. I discovered the engine had become detached and was waving about like a flag in the wind. In a state of near-tearful distress I wheeled it home and visited its former owner to request a refund. He was less than helpful. ‘Nothing to do with me, guv,’ he said. ‘Sold as seen.’ And with that, the door closed.

I was mortified. All my savings. Gone! After a few days in despair, I pushed the thing to a repair shop, where I was told I’d been flogged a pup. The bike had been in an accident, which had entirely broken its frame, and the owner had welded it back together and painted over the damage. It would take weeks to make it roadworthy again. Collapse of super-stud’s ego.

Still, that was my first motorbike – little beloved of my mum, who naturally feared, as mothers will that I was destined to end up killing myself. She also resented my habit of stripping down the engine in the kitchen. But a year or so later, with some hard-earned money salted away, I traded up, to a long-coveted 495cc BSA Shooting Star. That wonderful machine took me all over Britain – east to Clacton, west to Cornwall and north to the Lake District. I still have a copy of it, which I have restored to look like the original – again after salting away some hard-earned cash.”

FRIERN WATCH

by John Heathfield

Friern Watch was the estate to the east of the High Road, North Finchley, now occupied by Mayfield Avenue, Friern Watch Avenue and Ravensdale Avenue.

A court roll of 2 Henry IV (1401) refers to 'premises held for life by John Tromer.' This was probably Friern Watch. In 1484 the Finchley court recorded that the Rector of Finchley had encroached upon a parcel of land at Tromers Street. This is probably what is now Finchley High Road. Tromer also owned property nearby, some of it across the border in Friern Barnet.

It is possible that the estate was an encroachment onto one of the earliest settlements on the east side of the newly opened road from Highgate to Whetstone and the North. Henry de Basing, Chief Minister to Henry II (1154-1189) held property opposite what was the *Swan & Pyramids* at number 975 High Road. A survey of 1554 says that Henry Bellamy held a barn in Whetstone and three fields – Sheepcote, Tromers and Cuckholds all in Friern Barnet. The origin of the name Friern Watch is a mystery, although one theory is that there used to be a watch tower used by the Knights Hospitallers.

William Perte lived at Friern Watch and married Isabel Conyers. The first record I have of him is for 1580 when William Perte, stepson of William Clark, the bailiff, was granted a lease for 100 years by the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's. The house stood in Adams Field. Perte built a dovecote, which caused one field to be called Doves. On the south side of this was Hogman's Hurn with two wooden houses on it. Hogman's Hurn is where Woodhouse Road bends around what is now Woodhouse College. 'Hurn' is an old word for a pond and the road obviously deviated round the wet ground. The cottages might have been occupied by a swineherd and could be the origin of the name Woodhouse.

To the north of Doves was Goslings, now Finchley Park. Goslings was held in 1486 by Thomas Sanny, a member of a numerous tribe who all married their cousins and whose family tree would baffle Bletchley Park. The will of William Perte dated 13 February 1608 leaves Friern Watch to Margery, his wife. The house was then in the occupation of William Shepherde on a 921-year lease. This was an unusual figure for a lease – 999 years was more common. Could it be that it was the unexpired portion of a longer lease? 999 minus 921 is 78. That suggests some kind of rebuilding about 1530, which fits neatly with the Dean & Chapter taking over from the Hospitallers about 1540. Tindal Pert (who may or may not have been from the same family) leased the manor of Friern Barnet about 1630.

By the 1870s Ebenezer Holman had built a fine house. The estate was in the two parishes of Friern Barnet and Finchley with the parish boundary running through the middle of the house. According to the great great-great-grandson of Ebenezer, Anderson Wrenn who lives in New Zealand, the house had extensive cellars which had been used to manufacture whiskey which was smuggled out! Holman made his fortune as a boot and shoe manufacturer and left £324,000 at his death in Lyme Regis. He gave land at Fallow Corner for the Finchley Cottage Hospital (renamed Finchley Memorial after the First World War.)

After the Homan family moved out in 1917 the house became St Elizabeth's Home for Incurable Women. It was a branch of the Mother House, All Saints Convent at London Colney, which had been founded in the 1880s in Mortimer Street.



A postcard postmarked 1947.

During the 1939 war there were 30 ladies there, 18 of them bed ridden and looked after by a staff of 8, some of whom were nearly as old as the residents.

The residents of Mayfield Avenue organised a fire watching group and when it was realised that there was a risk of incendiary bombs setting the roof alight. However, the only man on the site was the 70-year-old caretaker who lived in a bungalow in the grounds and he was incapable of climbing a ladder. The sisters offered a room at the top of the house for fire watch use so the building would have permanent protection at no cost to the council. The firewatchers called themselves the St Elizabeth's Group and they built a watch tower on the roof which gave them a splendid view of the neighbourhood, Mr E Grant was chairman of the group, Mr Boyce was secretary and Mrs Boyce was the treasurer; she also organised a Savings Group.

The house was demolished in the 1980s and a block of retirement flats, Homan Court, was built on the site.

Footnote

Earlier references to Friern Watch can be found in our Newsletters of April 2003 (page 9), July 2003 (page 8), April 2004 (page 11) and December 2004 (page 5).

MEMORIES OF HOLDEN ROAD – continued

by Caroline Wright (née Cooper)

When my room was decorated, I had lovely pale yellow curtains, white wallpaper with yellow roses and a brand new pretty yellow nylon eiderdown to go with my new single bed that I loved. The wallpaper I had really wanted was too expensive (14/11d a roll) but I can remember it to this day. The fireplace was blocked up with white painted pegboard and I loved it all. In my teens I won a prize at Bingo – I imagine we were on holiday somewhere – and I chose a bedside lamp that looked like a boat with a yellow sail. I bought a large glass decanter full of lavender water from a jumble sale and kept that for years – it stood on a painted wooden bureau. Also on the desk was a jam jar with sand from Barafundel bay and a small glass doll with layers of coloured sand that Anthony had brought me back as a present from a school trip to the Isle of Wight. The

windows overlooked the building opposite which was Marion House – a Roman Catholic Byelorussian community lived there but from my window and bed I was directly overlooked by a small dormer window in the roof of Marion House and often wondered if I could be seen by whoever used it. I have always liked moving furniture around in rooms and experimented with my bed in different places. For a short time I had my bed in the bay window but Mum warned me that I could get a sty in my eye from the draughts. She was right. I had an armless rocking chair in my room painted of course in primrose yellow again. I covered all my books in yellow paper that Mum had brought back from the chest clinic and was used for storing x-ray film. It was just the right shade of tallow. Every book covered – not just school ones. Mum and I shopped for curtain material – the bay window was very large so it was expensive to do but we found some pale yellow plain curtain materials that Mum made up and then made a cover for my kidney shaped dressing table that Dad had found second-hand I think.

The large bedroom was Anthony and Christopher's bedroom decorated in the dark red wallpaper that one of them then ran their fingers down the corner and split the paper. This room had French doors out onto a balcony but the balcony had no rails and we weren't really allowed on it. We often spent Saturday mornings playing in the room with the beds being turned into boats with sheets etc. One day Mum storms into the room telling us that all the jumping up and down was causing the ceiling in the lounge to fall down. We thought she was exaggerating but when we went down half the ceiling plaster had fallen into the room, exposing the wooden lathes. It was some years before they could afford to repair it. Anthony discovered the power of electricity when he decided to see what would happen when he cut through the cord on the light switch that hung above his bed. – a flash and a bang. This is the bedroom we all huddled into when Anthony came into my bedroom one of the first times we had been left on our own, woke me up telling me that we were going to be murdered in our beds as he had heard noises – turned out it was our next door neighbour (Mead) saying goodnight to her boyfriend! When Grandma and Grandpop took over the room as their lounge Anthony slept downstairs in the Christmas Dinner room and Chris went into my little room on the landing. This large bedroom made a lovely big lounge with a fireplace and they had lots of their furniture in there when they came from Brookland Hill.

Later on Anthony moved up into the attic room – he painted all the wooden boards that lined the walls in yellow, put up beer mats to decorate it and made elderflower wine that exploded in the tank room. The attic room had a skylight and the water tank. My first memory there, however, was of the family watching the Coronation on a black and white television that Tony Hastings had made. I remember eating or seeing oranges as we watched. I would have been just four. The attic room was at the top of the house, two flights of steps up from the main landing with its own landing in between. When Anthony left the CD room Chris moved in down there instead of having the little landing room with its glass doors.

The back garden at Holden Road was pretty big. It had two trees at the bottom that we could climb and make into a sort of primitive treehouse. There was also a trapeze swing that hung from one of its branches. Mum would hang out the washing (normally on a Monday as this was washing day) on a clothes line that stretched down the right hand side path in the early years but later on diagonally across the grass and held up with a clothes prop that was a long piece of wood with a forked end. If she ran out of room the clothes would be spread on the various shrubs and bushes or even on the grass on a warm day. The washing would be hung out even in winter. I remember there being forsythia, hollyhocks, rhubarb, gooseberry bushes and there was a peony

underneath the living room window. I used the petals as confetti when one of my dolls got married. I used to love making miniature gardens out there. There was an apple tree that we could climb on the rare occasions that it was hot and we could sit in its shade.

Dad was notorious for building a wall of breeze blocks just outside the cellar between the outside cellar steps and side passage. A bird landed on the top and they all fell over. In the early 1950s we had a great time with a large inflatable dinghy in the garden – like a bouncy castle with or without water. Dad had lots of rugby friends though I only remember going to watch him play once for Northern Polytechnic (green and white hooped shirts) standing on the sidelines getting cold and bored on a Saturday afternoon. They played at Tufnell Park. When dad came home from work in the summer we used to nag and nag him to come and play cricket with us in the garden. He taught me how to hold a cricket bat. In my teens I had a tennis kum-bak as a birthday present. The elastic on the ball would rot quite quickly and the ball would fly off never to be seen again. On Guy Fawkes night we would have a firework display; there were sparklers, jumping jacks, bangers and snowstorms as well as rockets. I hated the jumping jacks. Someone would make treacle toffee and we would have hot tomato soup. We used to be very impatient waiting for it to get dark. The next day we would retrieve jacket potatoes that we had left to cook in the ashes of the fire and would also collect as many dead fireworks as we could.

RECYCLING

We tend to think of recycling as a fairly recent innovation however in the *Urban District of Friern Barnet Year Book* for 1947-48 we find the following:

“Salvage. A house-to house collection of salvage is carried out by the Council refuse collectors. The collection of Waste Paper averages 12 tons per month and Textiles 8cwt per month. Non-ferrous Metals, Bottles and Jars are also collected.

Food Waste. A special collection of Food Waste is made daily from 150 bins distributed about the District. The collection is made under agreement with the Council by a local pig-keeper and an average of 14 tons is collected per month.”

Refuse disposal. The district’s refuse is disposed of by ‘controlled tipping’ in the Central Allotments area, Crescent Road, where low-lying land is being levelled and allotments reinstated after tipping. The average weekly collection amounts to 140 tons.”

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

Your subscription runs out on 31 March 2021. If you wish to renew for a further year, from 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022, please complete the attached form and return it with your cheque. The rates are - £10 for a single person and £16 for a couple or group.

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

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

Email: friernbarnethistory@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.friern-barnethistory.org.uk

Photographic website: www.friern-barnet.com