



Church Lane as it used to be

## The High Road in 1902

By Daphne Chamberlain

The 1902 High Road was a busy shopping street, though without some of its current landmarks. Martin School and the library had not yet appeared, and there was no cinema until 1912, the site of the Phoenix being an open space. Fairlawn and Creighton Avenues, Chandos, Kitchener, Leslie and Leopold Roads, and Chambers, Lewis and Lankaster Gardens were still to be built.

Chapel Street did exist but has now disappeared – demolished by a World War 2 landmine, but leaving its name with Chapel Court.

Several well-known names have played musical chairs. For example, Joslin, the stonemason now on the corner of Chandos Road, doubled as a house agent, appearing almost next door to the station and beside the Finchley Free Press.

The High Road had two schools, both next to churches. Miss Jane Hooper's ladies school was next to the Congregationalists (who occupied the site now taken by Budgens), and the East Finchley Grammar School stood beside the Methodists.

After Hertford Road on the eastern side there was only a Baptist Church, Freeman's the house furnishers, the cemetery and its lodge, a residence called

Oak House, a carman, a farrier and the Green Man pub (run by a woman). Then came Strawberry Vale (rural version) and a public footpath to new Southgate. No North Circular, of course.

Traders extended further along the western side than today. A monumental mason was on the corner of Church Lane, next to a Netherwood House, and another was just past Willow Walk – already a roadway, though the Grange did not exist. A house called Craven Lodge foreshadowed Craven House. A florist and a laundry were the other side of Oak Lane, with a dairy past Sylvester Road.

The balance of shops was different. I counted seven monumental masons, six drapers, three bootmakers, and only three eating-places – Alfred Claydon's Dining Rooms, just

before Huntingdon Road, the Black Bess Coffee Tavern on the corner of Hertford Road, and Mrs Jane Green's Tea and Luncheon Rooms, on the corner of Beresford Road. Some things certainly change!

## 1911 Through the Eyes of a Child

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Dorothy Jerrome – formerly Dorothy Ditcham – moved to Lincoln Road in 1911, when she was six, and although she has lived elsewhere, the same house is her home today.**

She played in Coldfall Wood when it extended to Fortis Green and residents had keys to the gate there. Another playground – the fields across East End Road – became the Suburb, with “all the stuff” for the new houses brought there in horse-drawn carts.

On Saturday mornings “a little band of us” went to the newly built cinema. (Not so much a Phoenix Freddie as a Picturedrome Dorothy?) Her

brother's friend became so excited at seeing horses on the screen he knelt up on his seat to imitate the action.

Dancing was more Dorothy's style. She learned ballroom dancing, Irish jigs, fan dancing and tarantellas with a tambourine from Mrs Welch in Durham Road. Apt pupils (Dorothy and her sister among them) sometimes entertained in the Athenaeum at Muswell Hill – now Sainsbury's.



The three Ditcham children: 7-year-old Dorothy (left); 5-year-old Marjorie and 3-year-old Russell c.1912

## On the Move?

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Over 50 angry 263 and 143 bus users made their frustrations plain at last month's Agenda 21 meeting, attended by Metro-line and Transport for London representatives, Deputy Mayor Jenny Jones, MP Rudi Vis and Councillor Colin Rogers.**

“We haven't come here to hear excuses”, said one. Most were unconvinced by explanations for lack of frequency and bunching. Both official bodies seemed to be pinning their hopes on a computerised aid being pioneered on some routes, which guides drivers to adjust speed according to traffic ahead and intervals between other buses.

What was admitted was inconsistency in driving standards, disability awareness and customer care, and unsatisfactory bus design, which are apparently being addressed.

A suggestion that long “articulated” buses, providing more seats downstairs, could be introduced on the 263 route was said to be not feasible, because of turning difficulties at either end of the route. Similarly,

Transport for London considers double-deckers unsuitable for the whole 143 route.

Transport for London subcontract to operators, giving them a basic timetable and directions as to which type of bus to use. The operator manages drivers and day-to-day running of the service, and has a duty to meet required targets immediately.

If Metroline meets targets, drivers and controllers receive a bonus. Transport for London monitors the service, but feedback from the public is vital.

Speaking after the meeting, Agenda 21's Hazel Burnett said, “We know people are still angry. The speakers were aware of that too, and next time we will concentrate on items in depth.”

Chair Peter Hale had already proposed a series of follow-up meetings. *THE ARCHER* will publish details.

Meanwhile, anyone is welcome to attend the local Transport Group meeting at the Neighbourhood Centre on 19 November at 8pm.

Queries and comments about London buses should be sent to Customer Services, 172, Buckingham Palace Road, SW1W 9TN or customerservices@tfl-buses.co.uk.

### High Road shopping

Jones Brothers at Holloway was where the family bought special purchases but everyday shopping was done in East Finchley.

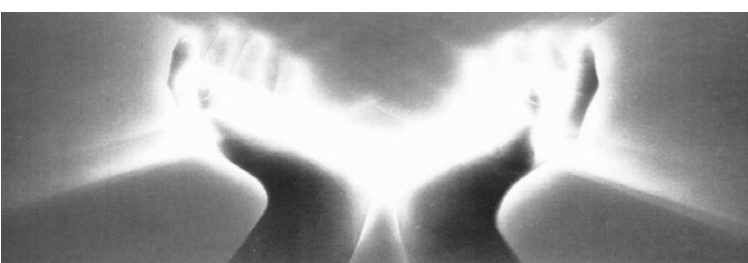
Underwear and hats came from Harry Barker's, at the end of Lincoln Road, and greengrocery from Bigglestone's – now Tony's. Every Saturday a woman came to the house for her mother's orders. Thorne's, a grocer on the corner of Leicester Road, also delivered – as did Pulham's, the butcher who preceded Tom's. Hahn's (the baker on Chorak's site) called round with a tray of cakes on Saturdays, while the shop sold 13 fairy cakes for one shilling (five new pence). United Dairies brought milk in jugs – and later, a churn.

### Fishy business

On the site of our present fishmonger's, Mr Dodd had his shop without a window. At night, a shutter came down in front of the fishes' marble slab. Almost next door, Salmon's gave a penny for returned jars, which Dorothy was allowed to keep. On the other side of Dodd's was a newsagent, where she sometimes borrowed books from a subscription library at the back of the shop.

Dog biscuits and parrot food came from one of the corn chandlers. Their parrot, who had lived abroad, spoke Portuguese and French, and told the dog – in English – to go to its basket.

*We hope to bring you more of Dorothy Jerrome's recollections in future issues*



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