

# Friern Barnet *Newsletter*

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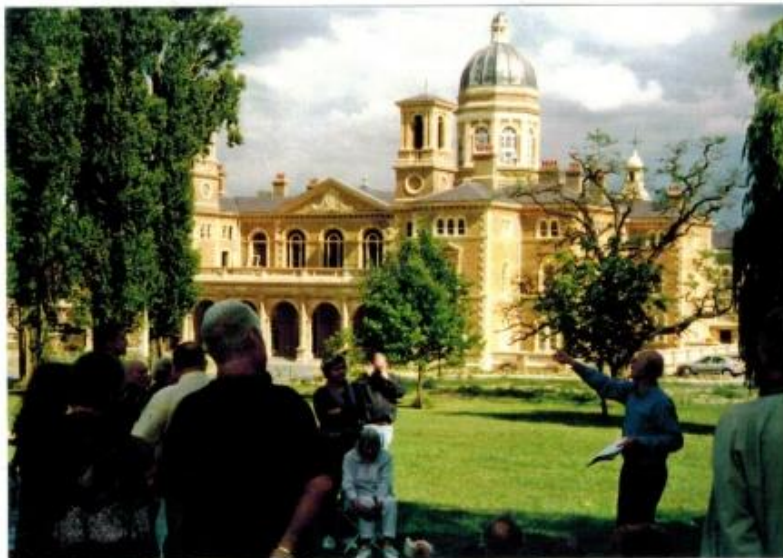
November 2001

## **FRIERN VILLAGE PARK**

Those of you who attended our Meeting on 4 September will recall that we conducted a poll to try and find a suitable name for "Friern Park". From a list of five names with historical associations (Asylum Park, Hawkins Park, Prince Albert Park, Colney Hatch Park and Curtis Park) the overwhelming choice was Colney Hatch Park. Although this was subsequently presented to representatives of Barnet Council at a public meeting, they opted for "Friern Village Park." The name Friern Village has no historical significance and was a title given by the residents of the estate of new houses to the south of Friern Hospital

We think it is regrettable that neither The Finchley Society, Amos West Community Association, Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents Association, The Whetstone Society, The Holly Park Residents Association nor ourselves were asked to participate in the naming, since all of us are aware of the great significance of the former hospital to the area as a whole.

Barnet Council has said that it will erect boards in the park, which will describe the history of the site, and have wisely asked Ollie Natelson to help with this project, so at least we can be sure that the historical details will be correct.



*Ollie Natelson (right) points out some of the features of the Hospital on one of his conducted walks*

## HARPER'S DIG

by John Heathfield

What I always call Harper's, but what the scholars call 1263-75 High Road Whetstone, was the subject of an exploratory dig that was carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Unit in April and May, 2001.

The site is undoubtedly an old one. The Baxendale estate to the south was probably owned by Adam de Basing, who was living around 1250. The Bull & Butcher site to the north was the subject of a legal dispute in 1406. It is therefore reasonable to assume that the intervening

in the kingdom.

The shop on the corner was sold by William Chambers to James Saunders in 1804. In 1819 Saunders sold a baker's shop to Joseph Trendall (it was part of a lot of 16 houses), who sold it in 1851 to Joseph Baxendale. The shop was used by the Harper family after 1846, although they actually lived further south along the High Road, near Swan Lane recreation ground. The shops were rebuilt about 1880.

The Victorian cellars obliterated all traces of the earlier dwellings. The remains of the walls of some of the



*Gone forever. The lovely roof over Harper's in November 2000, just before demolition.*

properties were occupied by about 1350

The earliest reference I have is to "The George", a pub which stood about where Waitrose's car park comes out into Totteridge Lane. In 1596 this pub was owned by John Page. About 1680 it was occupied by John Odell who then moved to East Finchley, where he opened another pub called "The George" and also opened a pig market; he eventually became one of the richest pig dealers

Georgian buildings were excavated but the finds were disappointingly few - a total of 15 pottery sherds were found from the period 1350 to 1450. They were identified as Late Medieval Hertfordshire Glazed ware and South Herts grey ware. Thirty-five pieces of metal were found, of which the most striking was a copper-alloy thimble dating from about 1650-1760. In spite of this paucity of finds, the evidence all points to continuous occupation over some 650 years.



### **WARTIME MEMORIES**

When we heard of the tragic events in New York and Washington, we wondered if it was appropriate to continue with the theme of Wartime for our 9 October Meeting. In the end we decided to proceed and we were very glad that we did, for it turned out to be our largest ever.

This was in no small part due to the presence of John Heathfield, who kept everyone enthralled with his grasp of the subject and his improvisational abilities when the slides turned out to be in no particular order, thanks to his having dropped them on the way in!

Although we had assembled a fair number of relics, these were well outnumbered by those provided by the members themselves. Ration books, old diaries, Identity Cards, an incendiary bomb, pieces of shrapnel, a gas mask, several tin helmets and a Quench bomb (something we had never heard of before - it was used for putting out fires caused by the incendiaries) all helped add to the atmosphere. Thank you all for making this a very memorable evening. You will be glad to know that we shall be inviting John Heathfield back next year for another dose of his light hearted history lessons!

We prepared a special sheet with some wartime facts, and for those of you who were unable to attend the Meeting, this is included within this Newsletter. Happy reading!

### **WARTIME POSTSCRIPT**

Shortly after the Wartime Meeting we received a very nice letter from one of new members, Mr Bonny Dellevoet, who kindly let us have

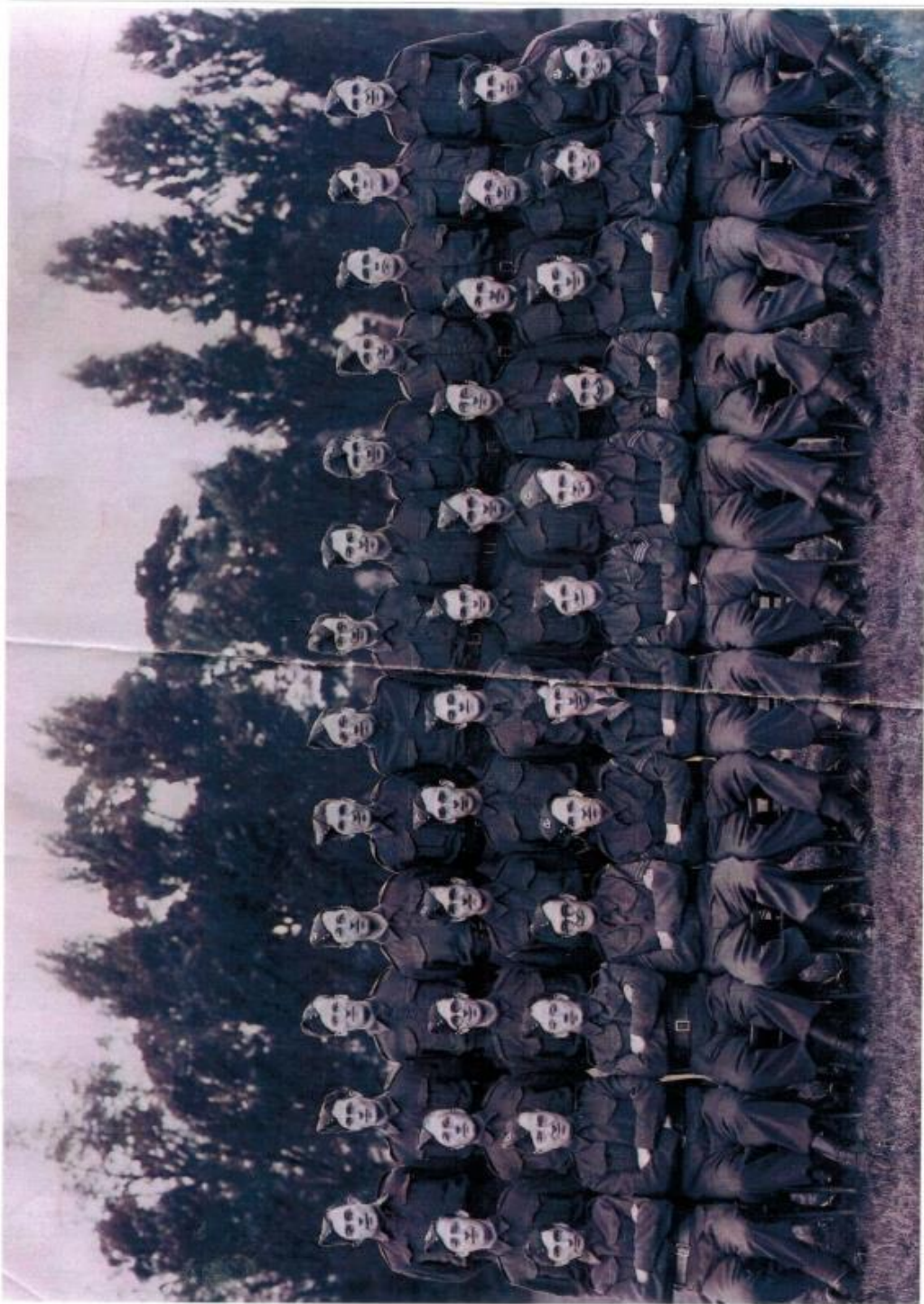
some of his wartime memories.

Bonny grew up under Nazi rule in occupied Holland and remembered the excitement when they were finally liberated in October 1944. Although life during the war was pretty hard for the adults, for the kids it was a great time being sent home from school because there was no heating, or the Germans had taken over the buildings.

His eldest brother served in the Dutch marines, and happened to be in the Dutch West Indies when the Netherlands was overrun in May 1940. They became a Netherlands detachment attached to the United States Marines and he did his commando training at Camp Le Jeune in North Carolina. Bonny's other brother spent some time in slave labour in Germany, but was released because of ill health after a year or so. Towards the end of the war, Bonny's father, who was a policeman, had to go into hiding from the Gestapo, as they were suspected of belonging to an organisation that smuggled Allied pilots through Belgium, France and Spain back to England.

Bonny's connection with Friern Barnet began in 1953 when he came over on a radar (P.A.R.) course for the Royal Dutch Airforce at STC and met Pat Clarke. Bonny and Pat were married in April 1957.

Bonny supplied us with a photo of the Home Guard unit at STC New Southgate which must have been taken sometime during the war. Edward Charles Dudley Clarke (Nobby) is in the front row, fifth from the left. If you recognise anyone in this picture, please let us know.



THE HOME GUARD UNIT AT STANDARD TELEPHONES & CABLES



## WARTIME RECIPES

### Sweet Potato Chocolate Spread

2 tablespoons mashed potato  
1 tablespoon cocoa  
1 tablespoon sugar  
Almond or vanilla flavouring

Mash the potato thoroughly. Mix in the cocoa, sugar and flavouring. Use as a spread instead of jam.

### Woolton Pie

1 lb mixed vegetables (swede, potato, cauliflower, carrot)  
3-4 spring onions  
1 tablespoon oatmeal  
1 teaspoon vegetable extract

Cook the ingredients for 10 minutes with just enough water to cover. Allow to cool, put into a pie dish, sprinkle with chopped parsley and cover with a crust of potato or wheatmeal pastry. Bake in moderate oven until pastry is nicely browned.

### Rabbit Pudding with Mushrooms

2 young rabbits  
A few slices of bacon  
4 sage leaves, chopped  
Tablespoon chopped onions  
¼ lb suet  
½ lb flour  
Mushrooms

Line pudding basin with a suet crust, put in a layer of rabbit, chopped sage and onion, then a layer of peeled mushrooms & bacon cut up into small pieces. Sprinkle flour between each layer. Continue until the basin is full. Fill basin with water, cover with suet crust and steam for 3 hours.

### Vegetable Pudding

½ lb of Macaroni  
1 cup fresh peas  
1 cup breadcrumbs  
2 spoons white sauce  
1 tablespoon grated cheese

Put the ingredients in a greased pie dish lined with breadcrumbs. Spread 1 oz margarine on top the grated cheese. Bake until golden brown.

### Mince Slices

8oz mince  
4oz cooked mashed potatoes  
4oz stale breadcrumbs  
Salt and pepper

Mix ingredients together. Turn out onto a floured board and roll into an oblong a quarter of an inch thick. Cut into slices & fry.

### Snoek Piquante

4 spring onions, chopped  
1 can snoek, mashed  
4 tablespoons vinegar  
2 teaspoons syrup  
½ teaspoon pepper  
Salt and pepper to taste

Cook the onions in the liquor from the tin of snoek, together with the vinegar for five minutes. Add the snoek, syrup and the seasoning and mix well. Serve cold with salad.

## COOKERY HINTS

- *Don't throw vegetable water away – use it for soups and sauces*
- *Never throw away stale bread. Use it as breadcrumbs*
- *Cook potatoes in their skins – it prevents their goodness dissolving in the water*
- *Well-shredded spinach, heart of cabbage and leaves of spring greens make a delicious salad*

### WARTIME WAGES (1943)

Men over 21.....	121s 4d
Men under 21.....	47s 1d
Women over 18.....	62s 11d
Women part time.....	29s. 0d
Women under 18.....	33s 11d

### WEEKLY RATIONS (1940)

Ham or bacon.....	4 oz
Sugar.....	12 oz
Butter.....	4oz
Meat.....	16oz
Tea.....	2oz
Cheese.....	1oz
Jam, Marmalade, Syrup.....	8oz
Sweets.....	3oz
Eggs.....	2
Milk.....	1/2 pint

### PRICES (1940)

1 lb Cheese.....	10d
12 new laid eggs.....	2s 0d
Tin golden syrup.....	7d
Tin pineapple.....	6d
Tin evaporated milk.....	3d
3/4 lb tea.....	2s 0d
1 lb tomatoes.....	6d
1 cauliflower.....	4d
1 lb dried apricots.....	1s 0d
2 pints milk.....	7d
1/4 lb cocoa.....	5d
3 lb topside.....	3s 6d
3/4 lb white fish.....	10d
Girl's Siren Suit.....	15s 11d
Ladies Suit (Harrods).....	13gns
Women's blue overalls.....	9s 10d
Turkish towel.....	4s 11d
Knights Castile soap.....	4d
6 word telegram.....	2s 6d
6 piece dining suite.....	15gns
Austin 7 Ruby saloon.....	£125

### WARTIME SLOGANS

**Dig for Victory**  
**Careless talk costs lives**  
**Wear something white at night**  
**Save to Win the War**  
**Save fuel for the factories**  
**Can I do you now, Sir?**  
**It's being so cheerful what keeps me going**

### WHETSTONE MEMORIES

One of our new members, Mr Ron Kingdon, has been taking photographs of all his life and from his huge collection he has very kindly donated a number of pictures of local scenes for our archives. We reproduce two of these below.



*On a snowy day in November 1968 there appears to be no activity on the site of the new Northway House building at 1379 High Road*



*Elephants in the High Road in the early 1950s! These belonged to Roberts Brothers Circus. The lad on the leading elephant is Bobby Roberts, who now runs the Circus*



## PROJECTS UPDATE

We are working on a variety of projects, most of which would benefit from your input and feedback. As we have said before, facts and figures are all very well, but it is people's memories that bring the past alive.

Ollie Natelson is researching the history of Friary Park and hopes to be able to publish his results in due course. If you have any interesting memories, please talk to Ollie either at one of our Meetings or phone him on 020 8361 2496.

David Berguer and Ollie are jointly working on a history of Friern Hospital. This is a huge project, but they hope to be able to produce an abbreviated history of the asylum and its work before too long.

John Donovan and Janet Liversidge are working on the history of the Friern Barnet Summer Show, which will celebrate its sixtieth anniversary next year.

Ollie is getting near the end of his detailed survey of Torrington Park

but there is still much research to be done into the early history before it can be published. Did you know that it took builders about 150 years to put houses along its full length?

If you see someone on their knees with a big paintbrush, sweeping the pavement, please don't phone for the men in white coats - it will be Ollie taking close up photographs of a manhole cover. There are so many interesting and varied ones under our very feet, ranging from the circular coal hole covers which lead to people's cellars, to the many different types of Post Office Telephones and BT covers.

Mel Hooper, who is a train spotter at heart, has assembled much data on the early days of the Great Northern Railway. David Berguer is accumulating a vast amount of information and photographs on transport, mainly trams, trolleybuses and buses. Between them, they hope to produce a series of histories of transport in the area. If you have any transport memories, please talk to Mel or David.



*A B type bus on route 43 at Muswell Hill Broadway circa 1920*



Colin Barratt, as well as researching the history of his family, is finding out as much as he can on New Southgate, where he was born and brought up. This is particularly important because much of the area now no longer exists, having being redeveloped in the 1970s.

We are continuing to interview local residents and to record their reminiscences on tape for posterity. The difficult part is then transcribing these interviews which, even with the help of our new transcribing machine, can take up to five hours for a one hour tape! This task is being valiantly performed by Pat Cleland who admits that although it is laborious, it is also absolutely fascinating. She tells us that she started typing one afternoon with the intention of doing a couple of hours work, only to suddenly realise that it was nearly six o'clock and she hadn't started preparing dinner!

If you have experience as an audio typist and would like to help out, we would like to hear from you, but please keep an eye on the clock!

For those of you who would like to get involved with any of our projects, or who can help us with your photos or memories please contact John Donovan.

### **READERS WANTED**

*by John Donovan*

The Society has its own (growing) collection of books and pamphlets, all of which have some relevance to Friern Barnet and District. These range from "Alf's Memories" and Jerome K. Jerome's autobiography to the Victoria County History (Friern Barnet section) and works by John Heathfield and Percy Reboul. What

we need now are volunteers to become 'Readers'. The idea is, you borrow one of our publications and, as you read it, you make a list of all the references to local matters that you find in the text. We shall cross-reference each item on your list with our own archives. Thus, for example, our list for Friern Barnet Lane might include Barnet at War, *page 6*, Around Whetstone & North Finchley, *page 110*, and so on. So, if you think you could help us, please phone any members of the Committee; you'll enjoy reading the books, and we'll be glad of the help.

### **JOHN DALES**

We already have a comprehensive book about the history of STC (Firm Friends - Telling it Like it Was) but, as far as we are aware, nothing similar has been published about John Dale. We believe the firm was originally named Day, Carr & Martin, and over the years they made boot polish and inks, as well as packaging material.

If you know of anyone who worked there, or if you worked there yourself, please let us know, so that we can piece together the history of one of the area's major employers.

Incidentally, Day & Martin's boot-polish is mentioned in a Charles Dickens novel; one of the characters speaks of "...putting Day & Martins on my boots"!

### **CHECKING ON PRICES**

As part of our shopping project, we are collecting a number of items for our archives, which we hope will be of interest to future historians. These include price lists, menus and flyers from local restaurants and fast food outlets and the descriptive

sheets issued by local estate agents to prospective buyers. These are of particular interest as they include not only photographs of the outside of the property, but sometimes shots of the interiors, as well as giving the descriptions and dimensions of rooms. In years to come people will marvel at the fact that a house in Friern Barnet cost as little as £300,000!

### **BRITISH MUSEUM**

The British Museum now runs conducted tours lasting about 50 minutes, under the heading "Eye Openers". Specially trained volunteers show you about 4 pieces in each gallery, so there is little walking involved. The discovery, use and workmanship of the artefacts is explained and put into historical context and the guides are most knowledgeable and enthusiastic and they welcome questions. There are a number of different tours under 8 different headings and they start every half hour between 11am and 3pm.

For more information you can ring the Museum on 020 7323 8299 or e-mail them at: [information@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:information@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk) or you can just turn up.

### **NEW CHURCH OPENED**

The following news item appeared in the 17 May 1958 issue of Barnet Press:

"As reported in our last issue, the Archbishop of Westminster visited Whetstone on Wednesday of last week to lay the foundation stone of the new £35,000 Roman Catholic Church in Athenaeum Road. The colourful and impressive service was witnessed by some 300 people who

crowded into the forecourt and along the sides of the partly completed building.

On parade were scouts, cubs, guides and brownies attached to the parish, and among those who watched were a number of visitors from neighbouring Roman Catholic churches. Also present was the architect, Mr Wilfred C. Mangan.

Building of the new church started early in the year and by now its general shape and style are clearly revealed. It is expected that the church will be ready for use in September.

During the service the archbishop placed cement ready for the Latin-inscribed foundation stone and watched it being lowered into position.

With the aid of loudspeakers Dr Godfrey was afterwards able to address the people outside the church as well as those inside. He gave some detail about the new building and announced that at present about £17,000 had been raised by the parish towards the total cost.

As reported earlier in the year, the whole of the estimated cost has to be found by the church. Although a loan is obtainable from the diocese, no grant will be forthcoming.

The archbishop spoke encouragingly about the financial aspect. "People are co-operating well with their priests in order to meet the needs" he commented. "The Mothers' Guild alone have promised to raise £500. we hope that benefactors will come forward and that, as always, our good



people will show the generosity towards the building of a house of God."

#### NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAMME

With this Newsletter you will find a copy of our Calendar for 2002. This is printed on bright yellow paper so that you will easily find it! Please stick it on your notice board, fridge or in the loo so that you won't forget it.

We are still working out details of the conducted walks for next year. Colin Barratt has promised to show us round New Southgate and John Heathfield has offered to host a tour of Whetstone. We will let you know nearer the time when these, and other tours, will take place. The walks will, as usual, be on Sundays at 2pm - an ideal time to walk off the Sunday lunch!

#### LOVE IN THE RAIN

We came across this postcard and thought you would like to see it. It has to be said that it is in somewhat dubious taste, with its inference that two people obviously madly in love and oblivious to the weather should be sent to a lunatic asylum. The term Colney Hatch, of course, became synonymous with mental illness, and was one of the reasons why the name of the local station was changed to New Southgate.





## STRANGE COINCIDENCE

by David Berguer

Quite by chance, I came across this news item in the 14 Jan 1927 issue of Finchley Press, which I found very disturbing:

### "Fatal Motor Cycle Crash in Colney Hatch Lane

A verdict of death by misadventure was returned at the inquest held at Friern Barnet Council Offices on Saturday concerning the death of Fredk. William Foreman, aged 27, of 24 Cromwell-road, Muswell Hill. Foreman was involved in a motor cycle crash at Colney Hatch-lane on Sunday December 5th, and died in Finchley Memorial Hospital on Wednesday of last week.

Jesse Herbert Foreman, carpenter and joiner, of 24 Cromwell-road, identified the deceased as his son, who was a steam wagon stoker. He had ridden a motor cycle for some two or three years off and on. On the day of the accident he left home about 2.45pm and witness heard later there had been an accident.

Thomas Richard Guy, of 24 Cromwell-road, journeyman carpenter, said he was riding on the machine with Fredk. Foreman on the day of the accident. They reached Colney Hatch-lane from Muswell Hill Broadway. Everything went well until he felt a sudden bump. He did not remember hitting the lamp post. George Henry Constable, of Coniston-road, Muswell Hill, stated that about 2.45 pm he was

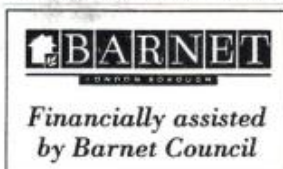
driving a car along Colney Hatch-lane in the direction of the Orange Tree. The deceased and his companion had passed witness, who at the time was travelling about 20mph. There was a police control on the road owing to the road being up. Traffic slowed up because of that. After leaving the control the road went downhill. Deceased continued in front of the witness, who at that time was doing 25mph. He estimated the speed of the deceased was 30-35mph.

Continuing, witness said he saw the broken lamp post. It had broken a few feet from the base. It looked as though Foreman had hit the lamp post with his body. Witness thought that in going round the bend Foreman must have misjudged the distance and gone across the road. There were three bad bends on the road. P.C. Gillet said he was informed of the accident by another motorist about 3 o'clock. When he arrived Guy was standing on the pavement. Foreman had been removed to hospital. The hand brake of the motor cycle and the grips were broken the head lamp and the petrol tank were damaged, but the machine could be driven away.

The Coroner found that the cause of death was the fracture due to running into a lamp post whilst riding a motor cycle."

The reason why I found this report disturbing? I live at 24 Cromwell Road.

Friern Barnet & District  
Local History Society



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