

From Long Lane to Dollis Valley: Points of Interest

Finchley Central Station

Finchley and Hendon station was opened in 1867 by the Edgware, Highgate and London Railway, which became later Finchley (Church End) station and finally, in 1940, Finchley Central station.

Claigmar Gardens

This road is named from the Claigmar Vineyards in Long Lane (as was Vines Avenue), long buried under suburbia, but begun by the Kay family in 1874. By the turn of the 19th century it extended 7 hectares.

Victoria Park

Much of the park was originally part of Cobley's Farm, where Charles Dickens wrote part of Martin Chuzzlewit. In 1887 Henry Stephens proposed converting the area to a park to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, but it was not opened until 1902, a year after Queen Victoria's death.

Long Lane

Long Lane is an ancient road running from Church End to East Finchley. Originally known as Ferrous Lane, it took its present name in about 1719. Roughly half way along its route is Squires Lane, which runs from the manor house to the High Road, the traditional division between East Finchley and Church End.

Long Lane Pasture

The Pasture is a delightful meadow, purchased for public recreation in 1912. It was neglected for many years and recently threatened by a housing development. Now under the management of the Long Lane Pasture Trust volunteers are working here to restore the site to benefit its wildlife and the local community.

The Avenue

The lane known as The Avenue is derived from a line of trees planted by Elizabeth King whose husband was lord of the manor in the 1600s. It runs behind Avenue House, built in 1859, which was bought by the ink manufacturer, philanthropist and later MP Henry 'Inky' Stephens and left on his death to the people of Finchley in 1918, the grounds later becoming a public park.

Regents Park Road

Until the 1820s the only route north from Temple Fortune to Finchley was along a road called Ducksetters Lane (known as such by 1475). This ran close to the present Regents Park Road, and terminated where the junction with Gravel Hill is today. In 1826 an Act of Parliament permitted the construction of a new turnpike road between Marylebone and North Finchley which, in Church End, is now called Regents Park Road.

Finchley Church End Conservation Area

The Conservation Area includes the Edwardian shopping parades at the north of Hendon Lane, two schools, St-Mary-at-Finchley Church, and continues south-east to Avenue House and its grounds. King Edward Hall is a prominent Grade II listed building, built as a banqueting hall in 1911 and used as a temporary hospital in the First World War.

St-Mary-at-Finchley Church

Finchley's oldest church, it was established some time in the 12th century, and by 1356 was dedicated to St Mary. The building has been altered many times, and the oldest parts, the north wall and the tower, date from the reign of Henry VII. The organ, which dates from 1878, was from Henry Willis & Sons, the famous organ builders.

Dollis Valley Greenwalk

The full length of the Greenwalk is ten miles, mostly following the Dollis Brook (a tributary of the River Brent), linking green spaces along the Dollis Valley starting in Moat Mount, continuing through Mill Hill and Barnet and into Hampstead Heath. It is based on the Brookside Walk, built in the 1930s.

Lovers Walk

Lovers Walk (possibly "Love's Walk" originally) is an old thoroughfare which was never upgraded to become a road in its own right. It was first mentioned in 1800 as leading to Hendon from Nether Street but was probably always a minor lane or path.

Ballards Lane

This was an important medieval thoroughfare, named after the Ballard family who were living here in 1263. It was originally called Overstreet, contrasting it with Nether Street, which ran in parallel to the west. It did not always connect with the High Road: for many centuries it terminated near where Victoria Park is today. In 1756 a raised way was constructed from the end of Ballards Lane to the High Road, then the Great North Road, making North Finchley a junction.

Barry Blain

Sue Blain

15 August 2020