

East Finchley to New Southgate Walk: Additional information

Turpin's Oak

Near the entrance to St Pancras and Islington Cemetery, an ancient oak known as Turpin's Oak still survives in Oak Lane. This harks back to Finchley Common, originally the Bishop of London's hunting ground that became a large, desolate expanse and a haunt of highwaymen such as the notorious Dick Turpin (1705-39) until the area was enclosed in the 1820s.

The North Circular

Also known officially as the A406, the local section of the 25-mile long North Circular Road is one of the borough of Barnet's principal thoroughfares. Mainly constructed in the 1920's and 30's to connect new suburbs and industrial zones, the road links with the South Circular Road to offer an outer orbital route around central London. Today, the road is managed by [Transport for London](#).

Friern Barnet

Friern Barnet's origins extend back to when the area was part of a large forest covering much of the county of Middlesex. Indeed, the name itself suggests a link with trees, because 'Barnet' derives from the Saxon word 'baernet' that means 'a clearing in a forest made by burning'. The 'friern' part suggests a friary, an estate held by friars (or in French 'frères'), who were brothers of the holy Order of Knights of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. Using their manor house as a kind of hostel, the brothers provided hospitality and shelter for travellers.

There would have been many travellers., because by the 14th century Friern Barnet Lane was part of the Great North Road, a major route to the midlands and north of England. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th century, the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral came to own the manor, later passing it to the Elizabethan courtier and adventurer, Sir Walter Raleigh and on to the Bacon family.

Until the mid-19th century the local area remained predominantly rural in character. Located a mere 7 miles from Charing Cross, the pace of development accelerated



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with the advent of the railways. In 1851, the Great Northern Railway opened Colney Hatch station – today called New Southgate – and the surrounding suburb became heavily populated with a new type of Victorian resident – commuting clerks and their families. Colney Hatch Hospital was becoming a major source of local employment. Improving transport links thanks to electric trams and trolley buses further helped to develop the area from the early 1900's.

Farmland and other natural amenities were redeveloped as residential neighbourhoods, with a leading role after 1895 being played by Friern Barnet Urban District Council. The Town Hall designed by Sir John Brown and A. E. Henson dates from the early 1940's and features a fashionably Scandinavian minimalist style. The council was absorbed into the newly created London Borough of Barnet in 1965.

Fun fact!

'Colney Hatch' is Cockney rhyming slang for a 'match'.

Dr John Conolly

For more details about this pioneering psychiatrist, visit:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Conolly

<http://www.raseheritage.org.uk/doctor-john-conolly/>

Other useful links

[Islington & St. Pancras Cemetery](#)

[Islington Cemetery and Crematorium](#)

[World War 1 graves & walks](#)

[Coppetts Wood](#)

[St. Pancras Cemetery](#)

[Friern Barnet History](#)

