



Mr Andrew in the early 1900s, photo courtesy of Paresh Shah.

Andrew's Pharmacy

By Diana Cormack

There has been a pharmacy at 32 High Road and the corner of Baronsmere Road since the 1880s. CW Andrew owned the business there from 1904 – 1939, when he sold it to John Bolton. By that time Mr Andrew was approaching his eightieth birthday, but in our photograph he was a lot younger. Pharmacist Paresh Shah, who supplied the photo, believes that it was taken before the First World War.

In those days it was also a Post Office. As well as making out the writing on the shop front, eagle-eyed readers may be able to decipher the sign above the front door, which says "for money order, savings bank, parcel post, telegraph, insurance and annuity business". Andrew and Co business

hours were from 8am – 9pm, except for early closing at 5pm on Thursdays and on Sundays, when accessories only were supplied twice a day.

Mr Bolton, now in his nineties, still lives in East Finchley and must surely have a tale or two to tell about all the changes he has seen in the area.

Binnie Barnes and Black Bess

By Daphne Chamberlain

Shirley Hodson of Elm Gardens has supplied another piece of the Binnie Barnes story. Not only did the Hollywood star of the 1930s and 40s live in East Finchley, but she was said to be a regular at the Black Bess transport café (in the Hertford Road/ Bedford Road area of the High Road).

Shirley's late father, who was born in 1904, a year after Binnie, remembered her well. She was, he said, "A bit of a girl", and he wasn't commenting on her size.

His memories also confirm that she lived in Prospect Place with her mother. As she must have been at least a teenager when she frequented the Black Bess, they may well have moved here after the death of her father, William, – around 1917.

Down on the farm?

So was the Arthur Barnes listed in the street directories

of that time a relative, maybe a brother or an uncle? And did Binnie and her mum ever actually move to a Kentish farm after her father died, as her biographers maintain? Why does the official version of her life never mention Finchley?

Many thanks to Shirley Hodson for putting us further in the picture. If anyone else knows anything further, however slight, do let us know. Write, phone or e-mail, or just do what Shirley did, and drop a word in the ear of someone on *THE ARCHER* team. Help us rewrite history!

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