

Remembering Marks Gate and North Chadwell Heath

DAILY LIFE

Like all over Britain, everyday life in Marks Gate and North Chadwell Heath has changed dramatically since the 1960s. High street shops and local landmarks have come and gone over the years. Many men worked at the Plessey Factory in Ilford making electronics, until it closed in 1989.

PAMELA

"We used to have a larder and it had a marble shelf inside, so we never had fridges or freezers. But what we used to do, we used to put that food on that marble shelf and it used to keep. Then we had a coal bunker which was made of concrete and a little bit to take the coal out, 'cos you only used to have coal fires."



Hairdresser Robbie in the salon at Chadwell Heath Hospital, 1995.

The 62 bus has run the same route to Barking since 1957!

JOHN

"My dad was a trolley bus driver and I had an uncle also who was a bus conductor, and they was on the trolley buses running from Chadwell Heath to Ilford to Bow."

JOAN

"You had all proper shops then, what I call proper butchers and greengrocers."

CIARAN

"There was a fantastic like traditional toy shop called Meeks, it was like a Harry Potter sort of toy shop."

Mike with his newborn sister at 41 Blackbush Avenue, 1966.



Mike's Story

"If you were going to the shops on East Road, you used to say 'I am just going around the corner' (...) And if you were going to Chadwell Heath High Street, you were 'going up the top' as it were called. Some people called it 'up the top' and some people called it 'up the bottom'. So I suppose it depended on what way your house faced!"

ANGELA

"Padnall stores is just down the road. It was a little like cottage, elderly-worldly sort of cottage, and it was known locally as the Offy (...) It had an off license - he sold loads of stuff, you know, cards and sweets."

Mike's parents' wedding at Chadwell Heath Church of England High Road Parish Church, 1955.



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Eastside Community Heritage

An Eastside Community Heritage Exhibition

www.hidden-histories.org