

Memories on a Monday: Shopping Basket (part 1)

Monday 8 June 2020

Welcome to Memories on a Monday: Shopping Basket (part 1) - sharing our heritage from Bruce Castle Museum & Archive.

It's Monday. So, here's a film to kick-start the week from the BFI, aptly called [Monday Morning](#) (just click on the link) – a film made in 1958 which shows Crouch End waking up and setting about their day. The milkman, postman, schools, bus queues, and the extraordinary measures that went into hanging out the washing in blocks of flats, are all captured in this amateur film. The shopping basket - whether on wheels (and there seems to be quite a few types), wicker baskets, string bags, or little parcels tied up in string - is very much a focus for the film-maker as shoppers move about the shops and queue (yes *queue*, even then, but not socially distanced of course).

You can also watch this short trailer for the award-winning film [Seven Days a Week](#) by [Tal Amiran](#) made more recently in 2015, a touching portrait of the newspaper seller Paul Scott, someone who was a familiar sight on The Broadway in Crouch End. At the time of filming, for the previous 36 years, Paul had opened the paper stall he had inherited from his father at 4.40am, seven days a week, every week of the year.



There are a few more queues to be seen in this very short film from *British Pathe News*, made in 1948 and called [The Modern Housewife](#) (clearly a sign of those times). The woman doing her shopping in Crouch End is Mary Cannon of Crouch Hill. She is seen out and about with her young baby in a pram, selecting products

from her shopping list. Although the shop windows look very enticing with their displays, we have to remember that this was post-war and buying food with ration books was still the rule.

By comparison, see the attached (PDF) shopping list from before the War, written in 1937 before rationing.

You can also check out some much later memories of shopping in Crouch End, not far from the main shopping centre, at the Weston Park parade of shops during the 1960s, as remembered by [David Winskill of Hornsey Historical Society](#).

And here's a link again to the film by David 'Tec' Evans of Hornsey Historical Society too of [Crouch End Past and Present](#), which shows shops and views from different points in time in Crouch End.

The artist Eleanor Crow produced an exhibition of watercolours and a book of the same name in 2019 called [Shopfronts of London](#), which also included some local shopfronts in Haringey. Although we can't offer any paintings of shopfronts, instead below are some lovely photographic views from our collections at Bruce Castle of the shops and shopping parades in Crouch End:



This postcard dating from c.1900 says Broadway Parade – which is the parade of shops on the right of this view, built by developer John Cathles Hill. The other side of the road is known as Topsfield Parade, built by James Edmonson. The shops had opened between 1897- 99.

From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)



View of Topsfield and Broadway Parades, from the clocktower, c.1910
From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)



Crouch End, Broadway

May's Library, Post Office, Harringay.

The Broadway, Crouch End, c.1910
From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)



Similar view of the Broadway, Crouch End, looking towards the clocktower, c.1925, with a mix of independent shops but also now including some high street names such as Boots, the chemist
From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)



Park Road, Crouch End, c.1905, with shopkeepers and others looking on. The sign for J. Greenbaum who could undertake furniture repairs, can be seen clearly in the middle of the parade of shopfronts.

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Park Road in the 1920s, with the handcart of A. Gentle the fishmonger parked at the kerb. From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)



Postcard of Park Road, during the 1950s, with Sandy's furnishings on the corner.
From the collections of Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

Although many of the shops may have changed in Crouch End over the years (and some haven't, of course!), the personal customer service received in these shops was very much the focus then, and also true now. The shopfronts, the displays in windows, what you bought and the shopkeepers are the things we remember. Do you have notes or memories about shops in Crouch End - maybe your family was connected with shops shown in the photographs above, or perhaps a shopkeeper today has gone the extra mile for you during lockdown? If you do, then please do get in touch. We'd love to add extra details and more personal memories connecting to these wonderful images from our collections.

And that ends the post for today. Take care, keep well
Best wishes from us all at Bruce Castle

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