

then, not like today's buggies) and leave it in the left-luggage at Bushey Station. Sometimes they would charge me a few pence, sometimes not. Then I would get on the bus with the children and get the pushchair when I came back.

When we first moved to Oxhey, the Haydon Arms was a little Beer house, selling only beer. They had an outside lavatory for men, right opposite our house – a little wooden place. (I don't think women went into that pub). It used to be nick-named the Gardener's Arms because the men came to it from their allotments, with their wheelbarrows, with their vegetables in them. They would leave their barrows outside the pub, while they had a beer. George was the landlord then. Later they applied for a licence to sell spirits and wines. This could only be granted if they had inside lavatories for men and women. Some of the trees were cut down unnecessarily I think, it was a nice little country pub at one time.

There was always allotments at the back of us – the Paddock Road allotments and during the War, some of Attenborough's Fields were used as allotments. Even after the War, when I used to walk there with the children, we used to see some signs of things from the allotments - for many years there were horseradish plants which came up.

Oxhey Green used to be a rubbish dump – and I mean a rubbish dump! It was terrible, the smell in the summer, and the flies! It was some years before the Council flattened it all and made a Green.

My sons both went to school in Merryhill Road, until they were about eleven. They would walk across Attenborough's Fields, not together, as there was seven years between them, but you didn't have to worry about them in those days – it was quite safe.

There was a Coal Office at Bushey Station, where you could order your coal, and a Cooperage at the back, where they used to make barrels. And there was a W.H.Smith on the corner of Aidenham Road, where I used to get library books, for I think twopence a week.

I left Oxhey about ten years ago, and moved to Meadowcroft.