

# Barnet & Hadley Walk: Additional information

## Chipping Barnet

'Barnet' derives from the Saxon word 'baernet' that means 'a clearing in a forest made by burning'. 'Chipping' derives from the Old English word 'cēap' meaning trade or market and shows the importance to Barnet's historic development of the right to hold a market that was granted in 1199 and continues to this day.

Originally thickly forested in Saxon times, trees were cleared for timber, fuel and to create farmland meadows. Barnet does not appear in the Norman *Domesday Book*. The parishes of East Barnet and High (or Chipping) Barnet later belonged to the Abbot of St Albans until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

## Queen Elizabeth's School for Girls *(after audiotour part 1)*

As you move up Barnet Hill into High Street, on the opposite side of the road at the junction with Meadway stands Queen Elizabeth's School for Girls. Founded in 1888, it is thought to be the first girl's school in Hertfordshire. Queen Elizabeth II visited in 1957, making this the first state school to be visited by the young queen. Today, the school provides education for more than 1,100 pupils aged 11-18 years.

## Optional extension along Wood Street: Physic Well and whalebones *(after audiotour part 4)*

As an optional extension to your walk, if you wished to continue along Wood Street after what was previously Elizabeth Allen School, you would be heading towards the current site of Barnet Hospital and Wellhouse Lane. You may imagine that this evocatively-named lane will put you on the road to good health but it also leads to a 17<sup>th</sup> century [Physic Well](#) renovated in 2018 and occasionally open to visit. The 17<sup>th</sup> century diarist Samuel Pepys writes about drinking these supposedly health-giving chalybeate mineral waters. Next to the lane on Wood Street you would find too an unexpected landmark - a pair of jaw-bones from a Blue Whale that form an arch over the entrance to a residence set in parkland. The resident family were one-time owners of the local newspaper, the *Barnet Press*. The arch is thought to date from the 1860's and reminds us of the time when these enormous mammals were being hunted commercially.



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## Fun fact!

'Barnet (Fair)' is Cockney rhyming slang for 'hair'.

## Useful links

[Queen Elizabeth School for girls](#)

[St Mary the Virgin, Monken Hadley](#)

[Barnet Museum](#)

[Hadley Wood](#)

[Barnet Common and Physic Well](#)

[Frances Trollope](#)

[Wood Street whalebones](#)

[Pillar boxes](#)

[Christ Church Barnet](#)

[The London Loop \(walk\)](#)

[Dyrham Park Gateway and Trotters Bottom](#)

[Barnet Workhouses](#)

[Battle of Barnet](#)



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