

## HIGHGATE FROM OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

by Michael Hammerson

“This”, as the author states in his introduction, “is a personal selection [of photographs] . . . of Highgate as it was between around 1870 and 1930.” There are 180 views, all from the author’s own collection. The captions reflect his concern for the preservation of the historic beauty and architectural integrity of the streets and open spaces which are at risk today from insensitive destruction by commercially greedy developers and ineffective local government.

Many of the views are familiar but there are several never previously published, in particular an extraordinary photograph from 1870 of what we now call The Highgate Bowl, wooded and peacefully rural, with three horses calmly grazing. This is a typical example of what we are now in danger of losing to commercial development. There are several views of the High Street, easily recognisable even today, except for the people casually strolling in the middle of traffic-free roads.

The photographs are not exclusively of Highgate Village, but also include views of Archway Road, Highgate Station, Wood Lane and Highgate Woods. Because of the age of the original photographs some details are faint, but overall this is a priceless record of Highgate which reminds us of what we have lost and what may be lost to us again unless we are vigilant.

Highgate from Old Photographs is published by Amberley Publishing at £14.99 (ISBN 978-1-4456-1838-8) and may be obtained from Highgate Bookshop or from Michael Hammerson at 10a.

Ruth Hazeldine