

SHOPS

The Provision of Food and Services in the Village

Tape 1 – Herbie Winfield

Drapers and Haberdashers – London House Mr Sydney Heather at London House – travelled round Christmas Common with a Trojan van selling haberdashery. He was a tailor, drapery, shoes suits etc. The shop closed after the war. Mr Greenway moved the old post office (High Street) to the present post office. Mr Howell [before Greenway came in 1935] owned the shop[s?] and had the garage built. We had door to door deliveries – fishmonger with a horse-drawn cart.

Tape 2 – Edward & Beryl Justins

There were three grocers shops - Mr Poupart, Mr Greenway, Bennetts. Two Sweet shops – Merlin's Cottage, Mrs Clack had a shop and sold many things including gob-stoppers and liquorice. Thatchings (Mrs Cotterell). Also a shop at Hedges, where the Rosiers live now [Burrows Hill Cottage].

Bakers and grocers at Kings Pool House. And next to Shepherd's Hut.

Door to door deliveries – butcher on bike or van.

Tape 3 – Doreen Reason

Father kept a pig which was killed and salted for the winter. Hens for eating and eggs. Everyone had gardens for vegetables. Father would try and feed 7 on a shilling a week. Brothers would snare rabbits, shoot rooks and pigeons with airguns – breast good to eat. Occasionally, a pheasant was acquired.

Stores in Burbidges house with a bakery at the back. Greenways store next to garage.

Door to door – a muffin man called on Sundays.

Milk from dairy, Jersey cream collected from the Manor for 1/2d a quart. Drank some and replenished the difference from the stream on the homeward walk.

Tape 5 – Bill Stanbridge

Dairy – he worked there from 1960. Then owned by Mr Winfield who later sold it to the Smith brothers from Wantage.

There were 3 milk floats -

- 1 – run by Gerald Smith who delivered to the village.
- 2 – Bill delivered to RAF Benson and Benson.
- 3 - Miss Rate a postmistress from Watlington delivered to the Crowmarsh area. Not allowed to cross Wallingford Bridge as that was Jobs area.

Milk came in 1/3, 1/2 and 1 pint and 1 quart bottles. Milk delivered to dairy in churns, later tankers and bottled there –also facilities for cleaning, and sterilising bottles. Four kinds of milk – Channel Island or Gold Top, Silver top or pasteurised. Milk delivered house to house as it was not available in shops.

Also sold eggs from Allwrights chickens. Came on 2 1/2 dozen per tray and were sold from the tray. Cream was delivered to the dairy in 1 gallon drums and then put into cardboard cartons on the premises.

Delivered from 5 am not before – that was regulations. On Sundays the empties had to be collected on a second round as people had extra milk and here wouldn't be enough bottles for Monday. A second round was also done on Fridays and Saturdays for payment, nearly all in cash, very few cheques. Little problem collecting money.

Tape 6 – Marjorie Miners

Grocers store in Kings Pool House – Tommy Bennett. Old Post Office – Kilbys stores. Mr Greenway had it and he took over the old chapel and used it as a Grocery store. It had a high ceiling and was cold. Mr Greenway then lived at Kings Pool House, then Brownings and then moved to Lower End. A great village organiser. Chalklins had the Old Pottery.

Mr Sydney Heather lived in Old London House, he was a tailor and draper. The shop closed after the war. His son was– Tom Heather sold bread. [? – not supported by any other memory] A Hovis bakery next to the Shepherds Hut.

Door to door – Crudgingtons from Wallingford bought round fish weekly. Butcher from Benson. A woodman called.

Tape 7 – Doris Chamberlain

She started the meals on wheels service with Kathleen Whant.

Tape 8 – Cynthia Winfield

Dairies – The Manor, skimmed their own milk from Jersey cows to make butter. If you went along in the evening with your jug you could buy your milk more cheaply. Reg Winfield – on Clifford's site.

Drapers – Heathers. General Stores, Greenways. The Pottery –grocer. Bakery next to Shepherds Hut run by Mr Cutler.

All these shops were busy and made a good living. Fred Greenway introduced the postal service into the village. He benefited from the RAF NAAFI during the war and bought supplies from them. Milk delivered door to door.

A 'C' in the door indicated you wanted provisions delivered from Wallingford by horse and cart. Mr Cherrill kept his horse somewhere near present day Chaucer Court.

Meat served on Sundays. Cynthia's mother's family kept a pig which was slaughtered when fat and they kept chickens. This was quite common among village families. Pig fed scraps.

Tape 9 and Written 9a – Moira Calvert

Fred Greenway bought Mr Johnstone's shop – it was a miniature Fortnum & Masons.

Mr and Mrs Bennett's Grocery store, (now Kings Pool House which was modernised very nicely by Fred Greenway, one of his best efforts!)

Alongside it was another chapel which is now the Post Office and Store. Fred Greenway lived in the flat above it after he lost his first wife. Constance born in 1888..

Tom [Sydney?] Heather had a drapers shop and a Trojan van to deliver to the village and the area. Some of his stock were stockings, clothing and sanitary towels.

Moira tended to use Wallingford for shopping as they had a car, they also used the carrier service. Mr Cherrill ran a carrier business from The Mount area – put a 'C' on your door and he would call.

Mrs Clack had a sweet shop at Merlin's Cottage. She ran a super little shop in what is now Merlin Cottage. A wonderful selection of sweets to spend your pocket money on, all in large bottles - gobstoppers, sherbet dabs (my favorites) and long strings of liquorices, which my brother always bought to make garters before going back to school to supplement his tuck box allowance without being detected.'

Newspapers – the Oxford Times and Reading Mercury and a Wallingford Weekly [Wallingford Herald] paper that was distributed by Jenkins of St Mary's Street.

Tape 10 – Amy Reeves

Milkman was Sid Winfield cycled through village with the churns on the handlebars with a scoop to put the milk into the jugs. Delivered daily this way. Mr Keene lived in the Old Bakery next to the Hut and kept his

horse in their stables. In 1947 he walked his horse through the village in the snow with sacks of bread attached to the saddle.

Dairies – Reg Winfield's last one. Lived in bungalow where goats are now. They still kept the dairy even though it went to Elm Farm Dairies. Winfield Dairies - Reg Winfield. Not Winfield, no relation to Winfields. Sid Winfield came round with the milk. Reg Winfield, last one - lived in the bungalow (where goats are now – Winmill Farm on Eyres Lane). They still kept the dairy even though it went to Elm Farm Dairies.

The postal service was run by Fred Greenaway – twice daily delivery. Amy went to work there (in the shop) after her 2 years as a skivvy at the age of 16.

Ewelme was a telephone exchange pre-war and Mr Howell ran it.

Mrs Clack had a sweet shop at what is now Merlin Cottage.

Tape 11 – Bill Edwards

The Heather family had the Coach House and ran the haberdashers. Went on bicycle with a case selling haberdashery.

Pubs sold meat. [Reference to The Greyhound?]

Keene's bakers. Grocers – Mr and Mrs Howell had it before it became a garage. Then Mr Greenway.

The Clacks had a shop next to Thatchings called Merlin Cottage. It was a sweet shop and wheelwright. 'Hedges' [in Burrows Hill] was a sweet shop. The Pouparts were in the Pottery.

Bennetts the bakery at the Kings Pool. Pony used to be kept in a field behind the telephone box, and it was used to deliver the bread.

Tape 12 – Mr and Mrs Rowse

Greenways general stores next to the garage very good. He came round on Tuesdays, took the order and delivered it. Pouparts at the Old Pottery sold groceries and sweets.

There was a haberdashery where the Trust houses are along the bottom, at London House run by old Mr Heather [Sydney] Tommy's father.

Mr Cherrill had a horse and cart. If you put a 'C' notice outside your house he would call and get you anything you wanted from Wallingford. A vital link before motor transport.

Tape 13 – Marlene Edwards

Ironmongery and drapery in what is now the Coach House run by Mr and Mrs Heather but it was closed by 1952.

Sweet shop [Merlins] next to Thatchings in the blue and white house, but closed by 1952.

Tape 14 – Barrie Blakeley

In 1960's Johnstons next to garage was taken over by [Gateways] and then it was closed down when Gateways opened in Benson.

Tape 15 – Barbara Blakeley

Chalklins where the Pottery is now. Mrs Poupart lived in a part of the house, called Chalklins Stores. Children would get sweets there on their way home from school. Sold everything higgledy piggledy. Was about 6' 8" with a counter. Closed in the 1960's.

International Stores taken over by Gateways. The villagers tried to save the stores, even wrote to the MP. Closure of the store affected the village very much. Blakeleys house [Thatchings] half way down the High Street, and all day there was to-ing and fro-ing of people going for bread etc. That has gone. Hope Young lived at Thatchings and wrote many letters. Used to stand at the gate to get a passerby to post her letters. Couldn't do it now, no pedestrian traffic. No social intercourse. Changed the nature of the village noticeably. No focal point.

Tape 16 – Kath Baker

Greenways Stores in the High Street. He came in 1935. It then became S J Kilby's then it became the International. Kath worked there in the 1970's. Remembers decimalisation. Mr Greenway moved from the High Street to where the Post Office is now. He had a shop at Mr Burbidges and used the chapel as a store.

International Stores opened a supermarket at Benson on the assumption that everyone would go there, but there was no transport. When it closed it finished Ewelme, destroyed daily social intercourse.

Just left Mr Poupart at Chalklins where the Pottery is now.

Door to door deliveries – van driver would service RAF Benson, Cookley Green and Russells Water. Meat came from Benson or Watlington.

Tape 17 – George Cannon

In 1970 the International Stores was still open and the shop at the bottom of Burrows Hill was run by Chalklins – a general store. The schoolchildren went there to buy sweets during the lunch hour, but some parents were not happy about this so we stopped the practice and sold sweets in the school.

Present Post Office – run by Mr Collyer. All sold roughly the same things.

Milk had gone over to a big concern, got beyond Mr Winfield.

Tape 19 – Norah Harwood

Remembers Pouparts. During the war if he had dried fruit all his regular customers had the same amount.

Heathers Stores. PO at Greenways before the war. After the war it moved to present position. The International Stores took it over.

Dairy – Manor and Winfield dairies.

Meat - came from Benson as did fish and fruit on special delivery days.

Clothes - Browns of Watlington was a mans outfitters and allowed us to pay on credit. Ready made. Well used and very useful even during the war when we used coupons. Provided clothes for children too. Went to Wallingford for shoes for her twins but was only allowed one pair because of the war.

Tape 20 – Elizabeth Parkin

Shops – where the PO is was just a PO with a few gifts in 1967.

Greenways existed and the Old Pottery shop. However, both closed within a few weeks of each other.

Tape 22 – Lucy Tuckwell

Lucy's mother was very loyal to Mr Poupart, who was quite a character. She thinks he was a Huguenot, he certainly looked like one. He was an educated man, and had a boss-eye. He was very nice, a perfect gentleman. He brought round groceries on his bike (also did so when they were at Fifield). He was very polite. His wife was rather peculiar, but good hearted. She never stopped talking. He had looked after his step mother and waited till she died before he married.

John Burbidges present house was the village store and bakery, run by the Bennetts. They were a very nice family.

The shops were well patronised people didn't go into Wallingford shopping like they do now. The post office, Howells, was where the garage is now, and was also a general store. This was before Mr Greenway.

Dairy – some had skimmed milk from the Manor, they were the favoured few. The Tuckwells did as Mrs Tuckwell made butter in the dairy. They used it for puddings etc.

Keene's Bakery – Mr Keene would cook roast dinners for 2d for people without ovens on Sundays. [Next to Shepherds Hut].

Mr Richards (from Watlington) used to sell candles, paraffin etc. Mr Richards came every week. There was also Heathers shop at London Road cottages. This was mainly drapery and sold shoes, suits etc.

Tape 23 – Frank Godden

Mr Greenway grocer came in 1935. A butcher, Eastmans, used to call from Wallingford. Lesters called latterly.

Dairy – had it delivered from the dairy and put into a jug.

Used to shop in Benson a little, but there were many shops in Ewelme.

Tape 24 – Mick Gilbey

Heathers shop now the Old Coach House – drapers, clothing and sweets. had bulls eyes and aniseed balls. The children used to get a long straw, insert it through the shutters and suck out aniseed balls. Mr Poupart had a grocery shop at the present Pottery, sold the best oatmeal biscuits ever.

Village Shops - Hedges where Mrs Rosier lives in Burrows Hill was a sweet shop. The Pouparts had a grocery shop at present Pottery sold the best oatmeal biscuits ever. The Scout Hut was at the back of the shop. The Pouparts owned the land behind and the boys used to put targets up at the top of Burrows Hill and fire slug pellets at them.

Bennetts Shop - now the post office. The shop was next door - Mr Burbidge's - remembers biscuits in tins fixed to a rack. His brother Roy was the driver of the first delivery van in the village and used to deliver the groceries for Bennetts, and he believes was the first boy in Ewelme to hold a licence and drive around delivering.

Brown Brothers at Watlington came around. Also Butcher from Benson.

Tape 26 – Lydia Benson

Totally self-sufficient. Post office which was a bit run down and managed by Mr Collyer. International Shop in the High Street run by Mr Greenway. He had a very high standard of hygiene, quality cheeses, fresh bread. Most people did their weekly shop there and did not go to other towns or villages. Others came into Ewelme to shop there.

Tape 27 – Marilyn and Melissa Fletcher

Marylyn remembers Poupart shop in the 50s. Mr Chalklins shop at the Pottery was dark and dingy - small rooms crammed with things, mostly dry produce, paraffin etc. All the villagers used it. Greenway shop, Marylyn remembers going for her grandmother. Bought by the Johnsons who sold it to Pat Chandler who sold nick nacs and cards. The present post office run by Mr and Mrs Cruse, sold sweets and tobacco. Cheryl kept the bakery. Remembers the last of the village being self-sufficient.

Tape 28 – The Winfield Family

The girls remember Mrs Poupart at the Pottery and describe her as a lonely and very religious person and very friendly. Rachel had a friend who lived in one half of the house and saw Mrs Poupart regularly. At the time of the Pouparts, the shop and house were separate. Mr Poupart made pottery. Mrs Poupart ran the shop

and the house was separate. Once of the Mr Poupart died the house was knocked into one and the Campbell-Whites moved in. Judy feels in its renovation the house lost its character.

Judy remembers a baker from Simmons Bakers at Dorchester who delivered on a Friday even in the snow, in a van. No longer have milk delivered because Gerald their delivery man has now retired.

Tape 30 – Bob Quixley 1

The Pouparts ran the village shop at the bottom of Burrows Hill - an Aladdins Cave full of rubbish but it was all good stuff - sacks of rice and porridge oats, sweets, vegetables etc. Can recall going to buy a gallon of paraffin - which was a commodity which figures large in the supplies the family got through - needed for lighting and cooking in the 1930's. . Bob's mother cooked meals for 5 on a small paraffin stove on a stand table.

Tape 31 – Lizzie Winfield (Interviewed by George Cannon)

What about shops in the village?

Well, we did have a bakery..

They actually baked bread in the shop.

Where the Woodrows used to live...

So there were 2 bakeries. That's interesting because I have been going back to the old census returns and there were several people who baked bread and put themselves down as grocers and shoe makers.

Oh yes, we had Mr? Mr Garlick? No, he was a butcher, had a butchery at the back of the Greyhound.

A Butcher and inn keeper?

Yes there was a slaughter house there.

There were two dairies The Manor and Sydney Winfield. When Miss Quinn was at the Manor there was a dairy there.

Tape 35 – Eric Knowles, Wallace and Marjorie Miners

Wallace – I used to go to Cottesmore Farm at milking time and would come back sometimes when they had just milked and at that time the milk used to go through a cooler like a series of pipes with cold water in them. The cream was separated and you could help yourself to a mug of cold milk. Sometimes we used to help ourselves to the cream too.

Eric – I remember it was TT tested and had a silver top. If it was not it had a cardboard top with a hole in the centre. You could buy an ordinary bottle of Cottesmore milk which had still been TT tested cheaper than the silver top. When I was at the Lamb this farmer used to come in and have a glass of milk. I was puzzled – why does Mr Smith from Cottesmore have a glass of milk here. I didn't know it had a dollop of Scotch in it.

Wallace – The Manor had a herd of Jersey cows and we could make our own butter and cream. You could buy skimmed milk for 1d a pint. The baker here made a thing called Lardy cake – Mr Cutler that was.

Wallace – The Lamb's garden was like a smallholding – had geese, chickens and pigs.

Eric – during the war there was very little we were short of. Everything came to the door. Meat, fish, fruit – you grew your own vegetables. Laundry service from Wallingford. Eric – I used to keep and breed rabbits for the table. We had to leave in August 1943 so Wallace kept the rabbits in Saffron Close. I remember Granny Dymond speaking to Mr Hall to kill a rabbit for the pot. He brought it in and put it on the kitchen chair but it was only stunned and after a while it shook itself and got up. She wouldn't allow him to kill it after that.

Tape 41 – Herbie Harris

Pouparts Shop - called The Poplars but is now called The Old Pottery – Their headed notepaper had The Poplars on it. Pouparts had our ration books. Walter Poupart.

There was fir tree out the front. There was a lovely old Christmas tree up towards the School that has gone. Maybe the Trust cleared it.

File 46 - Derek Robinson

Village Baker - Next-door to the Shepherd Hut was the Village Bakery owned and run by Mr Charlie Cutler. Fresh bread or cakes could be purchased either over the counter or via Mr Cutler's delivery service. I can still remember bread still being warm when it was sliced. At that time sliced bread was new and convenient, but I remember conversations where villagers expressed their dislike of this, Charlie Cutler's Bread tasted much better. In later years I remember Mr Cherry taking on the village bakery, but as time rolled on, sadly it ceased to exist.

Village Grocery Shops and Post Office. - Mr Chalklin and his wife owned "Chalklin's" grocery shop which was almost opposite to us and very convenient. By comparison to modern standards perishable food was not always at its best when sold. Orders were taken over the counter; I will always remember Mrs Chalklin with a cigarette permanently in her mouth as she served and jotting down in pencil the price ready for the final totting up. In the early days I can remember my mother using the ration book for food items still in short supply after the war. Many of the villagers used paraffin to fuel their heaters and "Chalklin's" were the local supplier. In those days it's proximity to the Cloisters was important. Greenways Stores was a much larger grocery store but located halfway down the village. I remember this being run by Mr and Mrs Johnson - and standards were high. Even though RAF Benson had its NAAFI grocery shop, many of the RAF families would also shop at Greenways Stores. The village Post Office was located opposite Kings Pool. It also provided the village newspaper paper delivery and would stock stationary, toys and in Oct/Nov - fireworks. Indeed I remember purchasing with my pocket money virtually all of the Match Box series of toys from the Post Office and keeping them, as new, in their boxes - Match Box toys have now become collector's items - if I still had them today they would be worth a small fortune. Village shops all abided by strict opening times normally 08:00 to 17:00 with a one hour Lunch break and on Wednesday afternoon they would be closed. Shops would not be open on Sunday's, although in later years you could 'cycle to Benson village where the shop next door to the Farmers Man Inn [now a house] would be open. Even in large towns like Oxford it would be difficult to find shops open on Sunday.

Milk Round - Another incident involving me was with Mrs King's milk float. From my earliest memories Mrs King, who lived in the house next door to Frank Godden [of The Forge], delivered the Winfield Dairy milk to the school end of the village. The means of transport for delivery was a three-wheeled battery powered milk float, which was walked rather than driven. Walking whilst holding the steering handle, she could control the direction and speed of the single front wheel. Speed was dependent on how hard you squeezed the control lever. As youngsters this was fascinating, we all wanted to have a go. Mrs King was also a highly sociable lady and would have long conversations on her rounds and sometimes a cup of tea in customer's houses. Having spotted the ideal opportunity when Mrs King was in Mrs Hedges's house opposite Chalklin's Shop [now The Pottery], Colin and my brother Charles aged 7 or less had a quick squeeze on the handle moving the float forward a few feet. They then dared me to have a go (aged 6). Unfortunately I squeezed too hard and the float veered to the left and up against the wall of the house causing the float to lean to the right. Unfortunately some milk bottles fell and smashed as they hit the road. Mrs King rushed out but we had gone. She suspected who had done it - though I don't think I was top of the list. Thankfully apart from the spilt milk and glass there was no damage and Mrs King continued with her round.

Post Office - Mr and Mrs Harris lived in, and ran the village Post Office. I believe the extension at the back of the Post Office, which overlooks the Reading Room, was built for their son Michael who achieved notable qualifications and entered a career in aviation design. I delivered morning papers for the Harris's in the early 1960's, they encouraged me in my own career endeavours. They still ran the Post Office when I joined the RAF in April 1965 and I suspect they continued for a few years beyond. I know from conversation that the Harris's had originally come to Ewelme from the Gloucestershire/Cotswold direction. I can remember the Cruise's from my very early days as a child and remember them talking of Yorkshire. Something tells me they were in fact Yorkshire people - perhaps my mother had said. I cannot say with 100% certain that the Harris's replaced the Cruises. I do remember Mr Greenway having some involvement with the Post Office.

Interview 52 - Margaret Robins McCurley - Bennett's Shop, Kings Pool 1945-1947

So as well as working for Mr Benton, mum and dad had to run the shop. Mum's worse fears were realised! Not only being in the country away from family, she had to deal with a large decrepit house with no piped water, no gas or electric cooking facility and an earth closet halfway up the yard! They had to get familiar

with the shop right away. As rationing was still in force the paperwork was phenomenal. How dad managed to copy with this business and work as chauffeur/handyman amazes me now! Mum had to help a great deal. She served in the shop most of the time and cleaned the cottage for Mr Benton as well as looking after Christine [sister] and me and the house. There was no rest for mum and dad – we arrived at the weekend and the shop had to be opened on Monday. Everywhere needed a thorough cleaning – old stock destroyed – it had been very neglected.

It had a Baker's oven – obviously not used for some time but there were numerous sacks of flour and cake making packets that filled the whole space. When they were disturbed, hordes of mice ran out! All the outbuildings around the yard were also infested. They had also invaded the house. My poor mum was terrified. The lovely big kitchen had built in cupboards the length of the back wall which made a super larder. These also had to have a spring clean.

Having the shop helped our integration into village life. Dad had a small Morris van that he used to deliver groceries and paraffin oil to outlying customers. This paraffin was stored in one of the outhouses in a large tank. The room was fairly large, it had a lowered floor. One afternoon, Christine went missing. Mum and dad and I searching for her. We found her at last in the paraffin store. She had managed to turn on the tap. She had probably been there for at least twenty minutes so was now paddling up to her ankles in paraffin!

File 53 – Gill Owen Falconer

After school, if we had some money, we would go to **Poupart's shop** nearby and buy an oat cake and an Oxo cube (a great delicacy as there were no sweets) and sit on the bank and eat them.

File 56 – Philip Cleverley

The sweet shop(Chalklins) and the post office, I can't remember where our main shopping came from, but we would go in dad's car to Wallingford, we would also cycle there to swim, they had a pool by the river, and you could also swim in the river by the bridge.

File 57 – John Cleverley

Mr Cherry the baker, next to the Shepherds Hut, had a bicycle with a large basket on the front – he would use it to deliver bread. He also bicycled to cut men's hair.

File 58 – Aubrey Gilbey

Sweet shop at Merlin Cottage run by Mrs Annie Clack for big slabs of toffee, about 3 inches long and half an inch thick! Mrs Clack (second wife of builder Henry Clack died 1916) had her step grand daughter Winifred living with her (born 1915).

Aubrey's family lived in one of Brook Cottages in his early days. When he was about 11 or 12 he would go over the road to early to Greenways Stores at about 6.30 am – help Fred Greenway sort the papers and then do a paper round. He walked along the High Street and up to the Council Houses in Clay Lane as far as Mrs Bowles. Then the other end of the village up the Street, round Leavers Farm Cottages, The White House etc., the school and round. He went straight on into school. He got 1/6d a week and any vacancies were quickly grabbed by other boys. His friend Geoffrey Young lived at Cottesmore Farm – he did that end and the now demolished houses up to Benson outskirts. He was able to use the shop's delivery bike for his round. Had breakfast (porridge or bread and butter and maybe jam) before he left home, no school milk, but they did get Horlicks tablets.

Food at home - We would do toast on an open fire. My father kept two pigs, one to eat and one to sell so he could buy another two young ones. We always had a spot of bacon or ham in the larder and home cured lard. We used to do a chittling belt Mr Vaughan the butcher from Benson used to come with a metal bier and put the pig on it to slaughter by slitting its throat and letting the blood flow into a bowl. Done in the garden. Mum had a metal table and she would rub the joints with saltpetre and hang in the big larder. Covered the joints with brown paper so they wouldn't get dirty whilst they were hanging there. When you wanted some bacon rashers you went and cut them straight off the side.

Memoir 60 – Keith Wheatley

Mr Poupart had the grocery shop and was the Cub & Scout leader, he had an Austin Ruby, and we knew when he was coming because of the rattle from its fixed starting handle. It was mandatory to stand and salute him as he went by.

File 72 – Roger Kent

Jack Webb drove the delivery van for the Village store. I think it was called the International Stores, having been previously Greenway Stores, owned by Fred Greenway who then lived at a house called 'Brownings', situated across the ford.

The bakery next to the Shepherds Hut was a favourite place of mine, my parents were friends with the Cutlers that used to run it. After they moved to Upton, Mr Cherry and his family took over the business. It was my job to go and collect our bread and the smell of freshly baked bread that greeted me at the door was wonderful. As a toddler I had a very squeaky voice and Mr Cherry often said that he was going get his oil can and sort my voice out.

I suppose that for its size, Ewelme was well served in the 1950's for shops and businesses. Starting from the Shepherds Hut and going east, the Bakery, Frank Godden for bike parts and paraffin, International Stores, the garage for fuel and repairs, the Watercress hut, Post Office, Greyhound Inn and Chalklins shop at Burrows Hill. There was also a lady (Mrs Snell?) that lived opposite the Greyhound that charged Accumulators (Batteries in a glass jar).

Paper Round - From the age of eleven I undertook a morning paper round from the village post office for Mr Harris. Mr Greenway was running the post office in Clay Lane by then. I always cycled. My round started at The Forge, home of Frank Godden, it then continued down past the Shepherds Hut, up to the Views and then to Winmill farm. From there to Cottessmore Lane, Lower End and the Mrs Cooks cottage at Tidmarsh Lane, back up to the Mill House then up to the seven houses that were Green Lane back then. Just over 3 miles a day, 7 days a week. My pay was 7 shillings and sixpence a week when I started and the same when I finished four years later. During my last school year, I took over delivering the Oxford Mail in the evening from Richard Winfield, this was six evenings a week, a shorter round and generated 30 shillings a week. when he started his apprenticeship at Gurneys Garage in Benson.

We also travelled to college together when our attendance days coincided, we were both apprentice mechanics.

As a result of delivering papers around the village I had built up a good knowledge of who lived where. Sadly, some the houses I delivered to no longer remain. Together with my Saturday work I had enough money in my Post Office savings book to buy my first motorcycle when I reached sixteen.