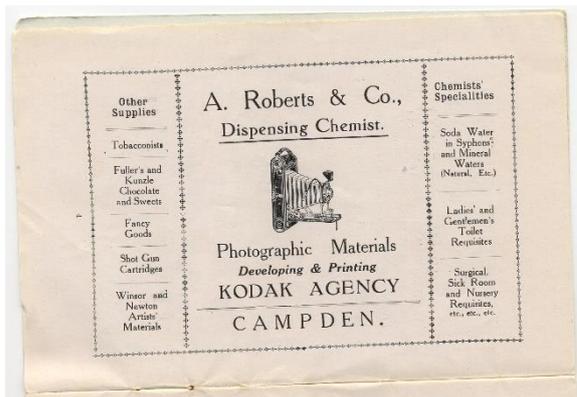


Where have all our little shops gone? Harry Bennett

60 years ago we had 7 bakers, Frank Hartley, ourselves, Harry Collett, Gabbs, Harold Walters, Tom Galloway and Tom Heritage. There were 3 recognised grocers, Coldicotts at the Kettle, Burton Stores on the corner of Church Street, and Morrey Stores, now Londis. And they all gave counter service, everything was bought loose, weighed to the customer's requirements, with no pre-packed groceries. And as well as the grocers, the bakers sold a few groceries on the side. There were 4 butchers, Tom Hopkins, Lewis Smith, Jack Coldicott and Gharley Ladbrook. There were 4 milkman, W.R.Haines, Dudley Haydon, Len Potter and Bill Keyte, and they all delivered twice daily. The milk wouldn't keep anyway if they didn't.



And there was a draper, Percy Prout who sold virtually everything, working clothes, boots, shoes etc. A fishmonger, Mrs Ellis, she also sold china ware and game and poultry. Three shoe repairers. Matt Williams, John Keen and Joe Hands. Joe Hands was a very skilled tradesman, he could make a pair of shoes from scratch. There were two saddlers, Charley Hibbert and Tom Ellison, there 50 were three blacksmiths working, Charley Withers. Tom Barnes and Tom Hayden. There were 2 watch and clock repairers, Jessie Taylor and Bill Warner. Taylor was also a photographer who advertised 200 different views of Campden on postcard, all produced by himself. Two cycle repairers, Tom Hooke and George Badham, Tom Hooke also sold torch batteries and spare parts for early radios and he set up a battery charging service for radios. George Badham could also repair antique furniture, a thing he was very good at.



There was one chemist, Haydon and Roberts, that was one firm, two newsagents, Tom Elsley, an ironmonger, he sold everything loose, nails by the sack, you just bought a pound of whatever you wanted. Pane of glass to mend a window, a piece of leather to mend your shoe, he'd got it.

Two gents hairdressers, Bill Becket and Bill Franklin, a greengrocer, again Becket, there wasn't a regular demand for a greengrocer because most people grew their own vegetables. A tailor Fred Symes who would make suits or anything you wanted, printer and stationer. Chamberlain and Sons, Corn and Seed merchant. Jack Home, he also had a taxi and a 26 seater bus which plied for hire. We had a basket maker, Harry Ellis, he employed four or five men.

Then there was the collection of little shops selling all sorts of oddments. Mrs Fairweather, Mrs Hobbs, Mrs Starkis, a few groceries, a few sweets a few cigarettes, any other odds and ends that came along. There was no tourist lines or anything like that, or antiques, there was no demand for them. George Badham had a few old bits of furniture in his window things he'd picked up at sales. Bread rationing during the war produced one or two funny things, when it was first introduced one lady told me it didn't affect her in the least, they only ate toast. Another said she was going to get a great big sack of flour in and make her own bread, I pointed out to her that it wouldn't keep it would go weevilly, oh she said that doesn't matter, you just pour boiling water over it and the weevils come to the top. I don't know that the hell you did with the flour after that but she must have known.

And one night old Teapot was sitting on the seat under the tree at the corner of Leysbourne, a tourist came along and said it's a nice old village, he said yes very nice sir yes, are there any places of interest here, yes sir says Teapot, there be seven of them, they don't open till seven on Sundays.