HIGH STREET
BUILDING BY BUILDING

A History of The High Street, Woking, Surrey

Trevor R Howard

HIGH STREET
BUILDING BY BUILDING

by

Trevor R Howard

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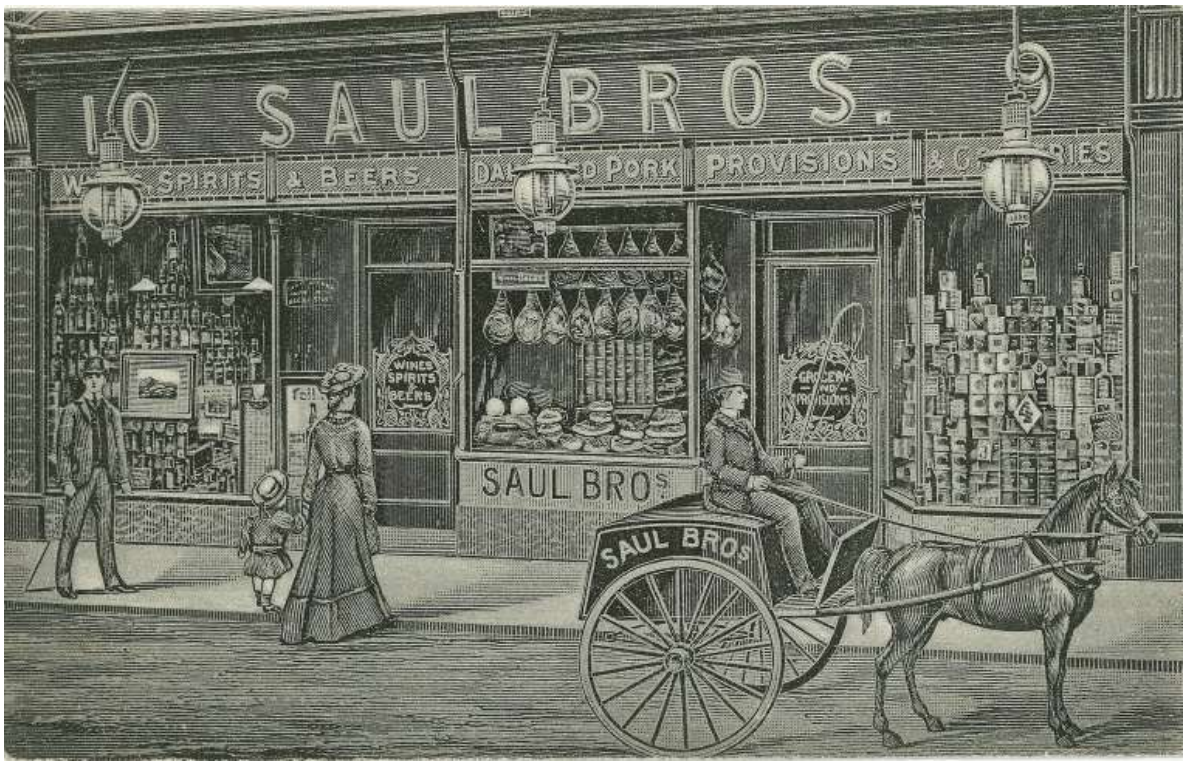

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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WOKING

ORIGINS

The Railway

The modern town of Woking in Surrey did not exist before the 1850s. When, in May 1838, the London to Southampton railway first opened, early passengers would have looked out of the train windows upon wide stretches of heathland. The railway station, originally named Woking Common, was built on the southern side of the line to serve the coaches from Guildford and Ripley which brought and collected the mail.

Figure 1. Station on Woking Common, October 1838

The Necropolis

In 1850, London had a problem; its ever-growing population was filling all of the church graveyards.

The London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company was formed and proposed a solution. A huge cemetery would be built some distance from London, where everybody (and every body) in the country would be buried.

An Act of Parliament was passed which authorised the purchase of common land within the parish of the village of Woking (now Old Woking). The plan drew considerable criticism. Many thought that the 2600 acres authorised to be purchased was far in excess of what would be needed and that the whole scheme was no more than land speculation.

A cemetery of 400 acres was set out (in that corner of the land purchased farthest from London and the station of Woking Common), as a first phase. This cemetery is now Brookwood Cemetery and still one of the largest in Europe.

Before the first phase was complete, the Necropolis Company was petitioning Parliament for a second Act which would allow them to sell off any surplus land for development.

Some of the first land sold was for institutions: The Woking Prison for Invalid Convicts, later to become Inkerman Barracks and the Surrey County Asylum for Pauper Lunatics, better known in more recent times as Brookwood Hospital.

The Company, however, had plans for a new town to be built around the station at Woking Common. It was the land sales policy of the Necropolis Company which ultimately saw the commercial centre of the new town grow up sandwiched between the railway and the Basingstoke Canal.

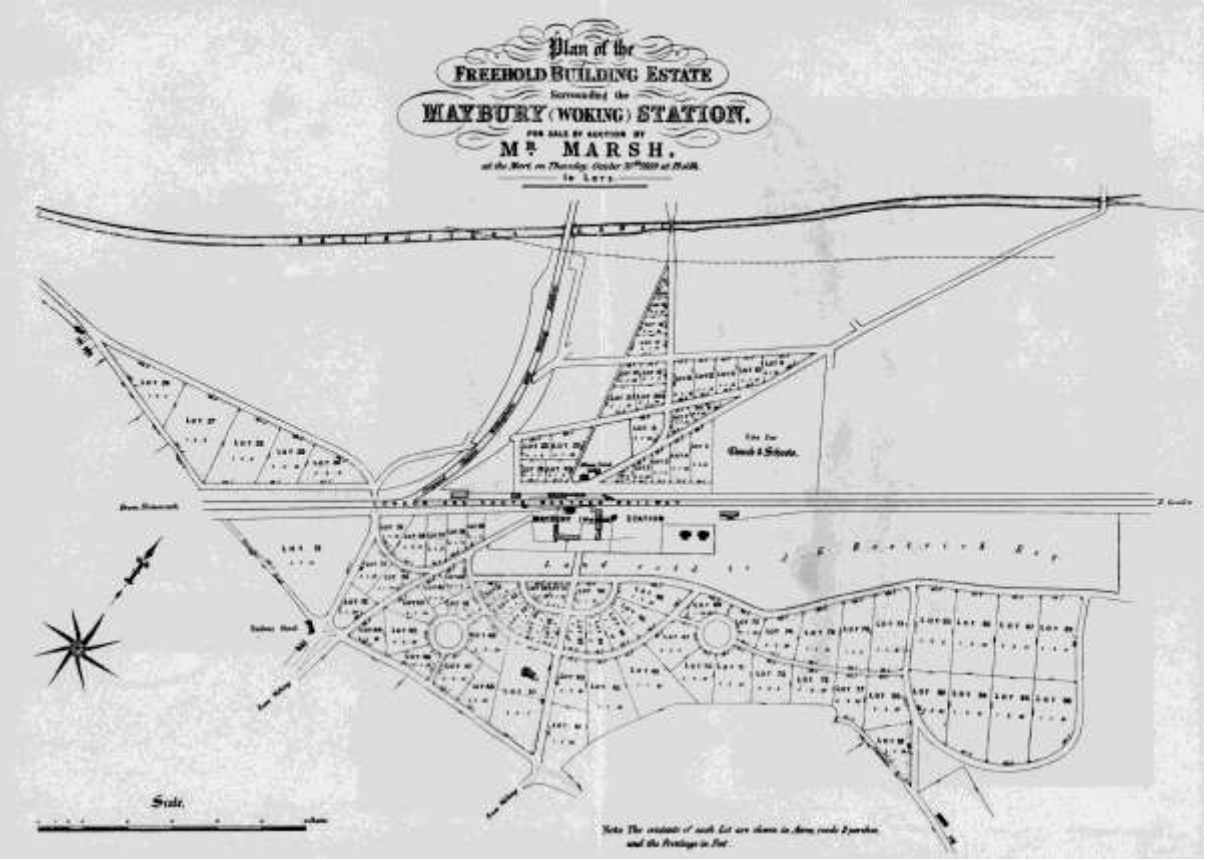


Figure 2. 1857 plan for land sales by the Necropolis Company

Their company architect, Henry Abraham, drew up a rough scheme which made no attempt to produce a sensible road network. It merely added to the existing tracks which had crossed the common, despite these having been cut and diverted by the canal and railway. North of the railway, the land was divided into small plots which were relatively attractive for commercial use, whereas south of the railway the plots were larger, allowing expensive

houses to be built where they had nice views across towards Guildford and the Hogs Back. There was of course no local authority at this time to oversee matters - the Woking Local Board not being established until 1893 and Surrey County Council only created in 1889.

HIGH STREET

Introduction

The first building to be built north of the railway was the Albion Hotel in 1856. This was followed by the development of a line of businesses along High Street. However, as High Street was bounded on one side by the railway, it never became the focus of the town. This fact however, has probably been instrumental in preventing the redevelopment that has gone on in the rest of the town centre; the majority of the Victorian buildings along the High Street survive to this day.

In October 1859, 31 plots of land were sold by a Mr. Marsh for sums from £100 to £200[1].

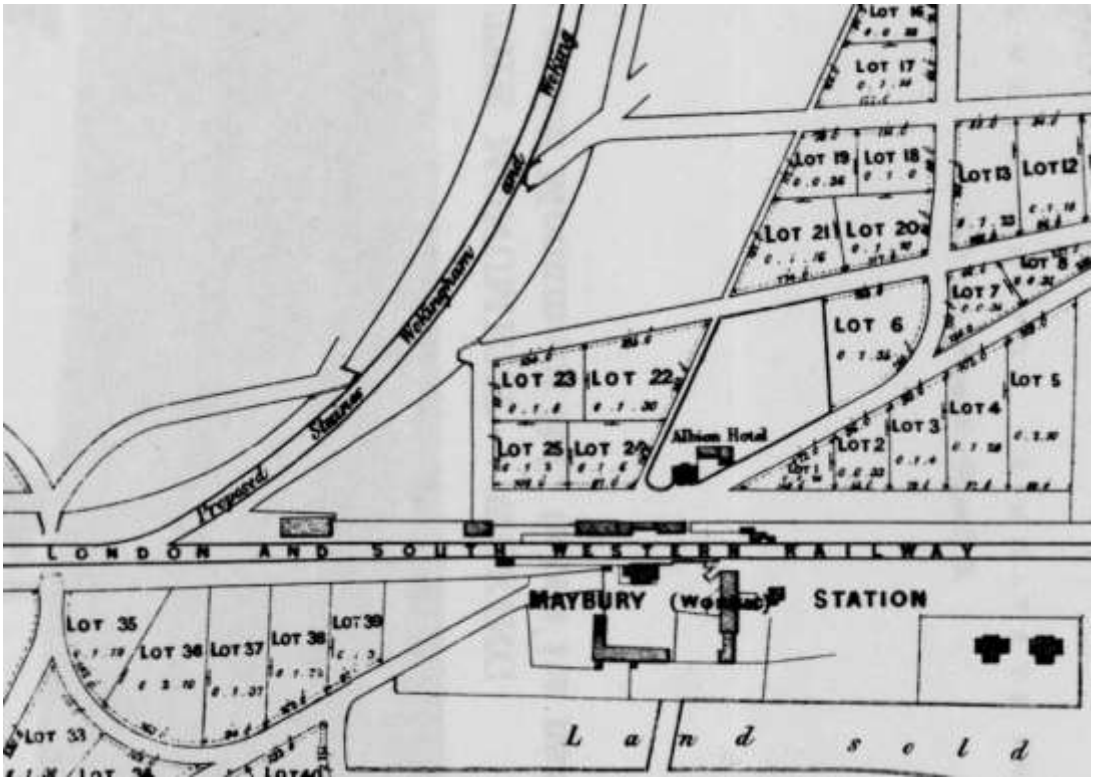


Figure 3. Extract from 1857 Necropolis plan

The 1857 land sales plan shows a proposed railway link to Staines and Wokingham. This would cut off the High Street's link to Commercial Way and Goldsworth Road. Sales were only planned as far as what would become Chapel Street (Lots 24 & 25). Thus, the bottom half of the High Street developed some 30 years after the half nearest the station.

[1] *The Building News* 28 October 1859

In order to provide a consistent reference throughout this work, the house numbers as of 1964/5 have been used. The 1965 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan was the first to show house numbers and they tie in with the 1964 Street Directory published by the *Woking News & Mail*.

Numbering

Originally, the Albion Hotel was given the address of 1, High Street. The other buildings were numbered from 2-13 down to Chapel Street. From about 1905, the Albion Hotel did not have a number, being referred to simply as Albion Hotel, High Street. The other buildings all reduced their numbers by one.

As no development was planned for the lower half of the High Street, James Harris, in about 1865, established a builder's yard and office where No.s 15-20 are today, but set back from the road (see page 42). No.s 21-26 were the first buildings built on the lower half of the High Street and were originally numbered 13-18. After No.s 13 & 14 were built around 1918, and until Harris's yard was closed and that section of the High Street infilled with buildings in the early 1930s, they were numbered 15-20.

Occupants

Because Woking was a new town, it is not surprising that the majority of the inhabitants were newcomers. People from all over the south of England saw the opportunity to buy land or property at cheap (or reasonable) prices and came to make a life for themselves. Of the twenty heads of household listed in the 1901 census, six were from elsewhere in Surrey and fourteen from outside of Surrey.

Chertsey, Surrey	2	Devon	1
Chobham, Surrey	1	Germany	1
Clapham, Surrey	1	Hampshire	4
Farnham, Surrey	1	Kent	1
York Town, Surrey	1	Middlesex	4
		Somerset	1
		Sussex	1
		Wiltshire	1

Table 1 Place of birth of heads of households in High Street (1901 census)

This work generally concentrates on the ground floors of the buildings, most of which were three or four stories high. In the early 1900s, some of the proprietors of smaller businesses lived over their shops. Others rented the upper floors to individuals or as office space.

The aim has been to produce a comprehensive chronology of occupants for each building. In many, if not most, cases this has not been possible.

- There are some gaps in the 1860-1890 period, due to the paucity and/or ambiguity of the surviving records. The Ordnance Survey produced 1:1,250 scale plans, surveyed in 1870 and 1895; Most of the initial development of Woking town centre took place almost entirely during the intervening period.
- During the first and second World Wars, maps and directories were not produced, partly because of the shortage of paper and partly due to the risk of information coming into the hands of enemy agents. Electoral registers were not maintained as there were no elections during the fighting.
- Street directories were not produced after 1980, being replaced by the much less useful (for the historian) yellow pages and other trade directories. These have in the main not been preserved by libraries and record offices. In turn these directories have been replaced by online directories which are constantly updated and do not provide a historical record. Coupled with the faster turn-over of businesses, there are almost certainly gaps or omissions in the 1990-2010 period.

IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

With the opening of Wolsey Walk in the 1970s and The Peacocks in the 1990s, the commercial centre of Woking has moved away from Chertsey Road and the upper part of the High Street. The High Street shops have seen a high turn-over of occupants.

HIGH STREET BUILDINGS

RAILWAY STATION

When the railway cut across Woking Common in 1838, the new town of Woking did not exist. The village of Woking (now Old Woking) was to the south. The station was built on the south side of the railway, mainly to receive mail, brought by horse-drawn waggons from Ripley and Guildford.

Figure 4. Woking Station 1913
The Broadway is on the right, running into High Street in the distance. The building on the extreme right, behind the tree, was a shelter for cab drivers.

As the town developed to the north of the railway, there was a need for an entrance on that side. There was, however, no space for a substantial building as the High Street and Maybury Road (now the Broadway) ran alongside.

Today, the station still has no substantial entrance on the town side.

Figure 5. Station entrance (town side) 1960s

Figure 6. Station Entrance 2016

The taxi rank was just beyond the circular 'No Waiting' sign which can be seen in Figure 5. Taxis would reverse up to the entrance to pick up fares.

ALBION HOTEL

There have been three incarnations of the Albion Hotel. The first (the first building to be built in new Woking, north of the railway) was built by Reuben John Percy in 1856-7. It was a square, three-storey, building, shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7. Original Albion Hotel

Reuben Percy was succeeded as proprietor of the hotel by John Woods in about 1888.

The hotel was demolished, in 1898, and replaced with a second, somewhat grander, hotel (Figure 8), designed by the architect Robert Clamp[2] and built by Alfred Augustus Gale[3]. The owners were the brewery, Friary, Holroyd & Healy. This building survived until the 1960s.

Figure 8. 2nd Albion Hotel c1910
The writing on the window to the right reads 'Good Accommodation for Cyclists'.

Early directories listed the address of the Albion Hotel as No. 1 High Street. from about 1910 it was just 'Albion Hotel, High Street' and the building previously known as 'No. 2' became No. 1.

[2] Robert Clamp had been the architect responsible for the enlargement of the Red House, two years earlier (*The Building News* 25 September 1896).
[3] *The Building News* 12 August 1898

The second hotel was demolished, in 1966, to be replaced with Albion House, a complex containing a new Albion Hotel (the entrance to which was in Church Path), offices and a parade of 5 shops facing onto High Street.

Figure 9. Albion House 1971

Early proprietors/managers of the Albion Hotel	
1856-1887	Reuben John Percy
1888	Edmund James Waters
1889-1907	John Woods
1908-1922	William Slater
1923-1927	F Wakeford
1928-1966	Frederick William Bannister

ALBION STABLES

The 1857 land sales plan (Figure 3) shows the Albion Hotel with a substantial amount of land, the gardens stretching down Chertsey Road more than halfway to the junction with Chobham Road. On part of this land, next to the hotel, were a number of outhouses including stables for the horses and carriages that the hotel operated. By 1915, most of this land had been sold for redevelopment, but the hotel kept its stables until motoring took over from horse-drawn traffic.

In 1914, the stables were being run as a separate business by Walter J Bulman & Son[4]; in 1921 they were described as 'motor cab proprietors'. Walter Bulman later opened the Hook Heath Garage at Star Hill.

Conway West, motor garage, took over the site in 1923. In 1927, they opened a showroom at No.s 23 and 24 High Street (see page 71). Within a year it was closed, as a showroom and service station was opened in larger premises at the junction of Guildford Road and Station Approach.

The garage at Albion Stables carried on until at least 1937 but is not listed in any post-war directories. At the outbreak of the Second World War, petrol was the first commodity to be rationed, as all petrol had to come from overseas. Then in 1942, petrol for private use was withdrawn completely. Conway almost certainly reduced his operation to just the main showroom.

[4] *Urban District Council of Woking General Rate Book 1914*, SHC 6198/9/77

No other commercial operations are listed in the hotel stables and yard before the demolition of the hotel in 1966.

Conway West

Conway West was born in Sutton Green, Woking, in 1890, the son of a blacksmith. In the 1911 census, aged 20, he was working as a cycle-repairer, employed by his older brother, William.

During the First World War, Conway served with the Royal Navy[5] and the Royal Air Force[6]. The 1918 *Kelly's Directory* lists Conway as a blacksmith, having presumably taken over from his father. By 1920, he had started the Conway Motor Engineering Works in Old Woking High Street – on the site that had previously been the White Horse Hotel.

The business expanded rapidly. In 1923, Conway took over the Garage at the Albion Stables, previously run by Walter Bulman. In 1927, he opened his showroom and service station at the junction of Guildford Road and Station Approach. In 1929, he was advertising coach trips to Windsor, the south coast, local events and circular drives.

Figure 10. Showroom and service station

CONWAY WEST MOTOR COACHES
WOKING

SUNDAY, JUNE 16th.
Bognor and Littlehampton ... 8.30 a.m. 4/0
Brighton and Worthing ... 8.30 a.m. 4/0
Southsea ... 8.30 a.m. 4/0
Windsor and Maidenhead ... 7.30 p.m. 2/6
Circular Drive (60 miles) ... 6.30 p.m. 2/0

MONDAY, JUNE 17th.
Southsea ... 8.30 a.m. 4/0
Brighton and Worthing ... 8.30 a.m. 4/0
Windsor ... 7.30 p.m. 2/6
Evening Drive ... 6.30 p.m. 1/6

TUESDAY, JUNE 18th.
Hindhead ... 7.30 p.m. 2/6
Evening Drive ... 6.30 p.m. 1/6

SATURDAY, JUNE 22nd.
Windsor Rams ... 4/0

SUNDAY, JUNE 23rd.
Brighton and Worthing ... 8.30 a.m. 4/0
Southsea ... 8.30 a.m. 4/0
Eastbourne ... 8.0 a.m. 5/0
Southend ... 8.0 a.m. 5/0

TUESDAY, JUNE 25th.
Eastbourne ... 8.0 a.m. 5/0
Southend ... 8.0 a.m. 5/0

THURSDAY, JUNE 27th.
Bournemouth ... 8.0 a.m. 10/0

BOOK NOW FOR ASCOT RACES
AND THE
ALDERSHOT MILITARY TATTOO.

BOOKING OFFICES:—
HEAD OFFICE: GUILDFORD ROAD, WOKING. 'Phone: 1202, 3 and 4.
Albion Garage; Old Woking Garage; Orra, Star Hill; Small, Cycle Depot, St. John's; Post Office, Brookwood; Post Office, Horsell; Red Lion Hotel, Horsell; West End Stores, Chobham; Gateway, West Byfleet; Post Office, Byfleet; Post Office, Pyrford; Mayfairy Hotel; Westfield Stores; Rutlandson, Blake's Post Office, Send; "Halfway House," Walton; Post Office, Walton (Edwards); Post Office, Oatlands Park; Marsh, Baker Street, Weybridge; Mains' Garage; Addlestone, Lewis, Window Street, Chertsey; Hodges, London Street, Chertsey; West, 19, Onslow Street, Guildford.
FOR TIMES OF STARTING ENQUIRE AT BOOKING OFFICES.

Figure 11. Advertisement for coach trips 1929

By 1939, Conway was living at Shaw's Farm, Horsell and was described as a Farmer and motor engineer.

Conway West died in 1949.

Albion House Shops

When Albion House was built in 1967/8, the office block was given the address of 1 Albion House. The parade of shops were Units 2-6.

The shops were closed, in 2017, when Albion House was refurbished as part of the Woking Gateway development. New occupants took up residence in 2020.

Unit 2 Albion House

Alec Bristow was born in Epsom in 1916. He served with the RAF during World War 2, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross for the Oslo raid on

[5] TNA: Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services; Class: ADM 188; Piece: 597 UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1848-1939

[6] TNA: Airmen's Records; Series Number: AIR 79 UK, Royal Air Force Airmen Records, 1918-1940

Gestapo HQ; he was a surviving escapee of the 'Great Escape' from Stalag Luft III.

He opened Alec Bristow Travel in Chertsey in 1963, eventually having five shops including two in Woking. One branch occupied 2 Albion House from 1968 until January 1995.

Figure 12. Alec Bristow Travel Ltd

Figure 13. Alec Bristow

Alec died in 1990 and, on 31st January 1995, the business was sold to Travel Professionals.

Since the 2017-20 refurbishment, the unit has been home to Space.

Occupants Unit 2	
1968-95	Alec Bristow Travel
1995-2003	Travel Professionals
2003-16	Lynch & Co., estate agents
2020-	Space

Unit 3 Albion House

The first occupants of Unit 3 were Willerby & Harding, trading as Willerby Tailoring. Willerby Tailoring was a London firm, which expanded its range of stores in the south-east, during the 1960s and 1970s.

Willerby & Harding closed in the early to mid-1980s. By 1995, Harlequin Cleaners had moved into Unit 3.

Harlequin were succeeded by Trumps, cleaners, who moved there from Chobham Road, in 2000/1.

Figure 14. Harlequin advertisement

Figure 15. Albion House shops 1999

Following the 2017-20 refurbishment, at time of writing, the unit is vacant.

Occupants Unit 3	
1968-82	Willerby & Harding, tailoring
1995-99	Harlequin Cleaners
2001-16	Trumps, cleaners
2020	*vacant*

Unit 4 Albion House

Albert Shortland opened his first boot shop in Woking, in 1927, at 44 Chertsey Road. By 1960, he had three shops in Woking and three others in Byfleet, West Byfleet and Cobham.

In 1968, Albert opened another shop in Unit 4 Albion House.

Victoria Wine (which had previously been in Unit 6) moved into Unit 4, in 1977.

Albert Shortland Ltd.

FOOTWEAR SPECIALISTS

Surgical Boot & Shoe Makers
Repair Service

4 Albion House, High St., Woking. Phone Woking 2553
151 Maybury Road, Woking. Phone Woking 60072
4 Station Approach, West Byfleet. Phone Byfleet 43577
90 High Road, Byfleet. Phone Byfleet 42948

Figure 16. Albert Shortland advertisement 1968

Off-licences were coming under increased pressure from supermarkets,

throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

In August 1998, the merger of the Whitbread-owned Thresher and the Allied Domecq-owned Victoria Wine created the First Quench Retailing company. Victoria Wine stores were subsequently rebranded as Thresher wine shops. On 29th October 2009, it was announced that First Quench Retailing had entered into administration. Two thirds of the stores never reopened.

Figure 17. Thresher 2008

The final occupant of Unit 4, before Albion House was closed for refurbishment in 2016, was Entertainment Exchange.

Following the 2017-2020 refurbishment, at time of writing, the unit is vacant.

Figure 18. Entertainment Exchange

Occupants Unit 4	
1968-76	Albert Shortland Ltd
1977-99	Victoria Wine
2000-09	Thresher Wine Shop
2010-16	Entertainment Exchange
2020-	*vacant*

Unit 5 Albion House

The first occupants of Unit 5 were Visionhire, the tv rental firm. They stayed for over twenty years, from 1968 to 1990.

From as early as 1995 until 2009, the Woking Hospice shop resided in Unit 5. It had previously been at No. 22 High Street.

Woking Hospice was followed, briefly, by an Army Careers office.

From 2014 until 2016 this unit was home to a Doddle office. Doddle offers an on-line shopping collection and returns service.

Figure 19. Woking Hospice 2008

Woking Hospice

Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and Wellbeing Care is a charity that cares for over 2,000 patients and their carers and families each year. It specialises in delivering holistic care for patients with progressive advanced conditions that are life limiting.

Woking Hospice opened at Hill View Road, Woking in 1996, after Rhod Lofting launched an appeal for a local hospice.

The Sam Beare Palliative Care Ward, which had opened in Weybridge Hospital in 1977, became a charity under the management of Woking Hospice in 2006 and, in 2014, the Woking and Sam Beare Hospices merged.

In May 2017 a new hospice building opened in Goldsworth Park.

Figure 20. Army Careers 2012

Figure 21. Doddle 2015

Following the 2017-20 refurbishment, the unit has been a Costa coffee shop.

Occupants Unit 5	
1968-90	Visionhire
1995-2009	Woking Hospice shop
2012	Army Careers
2014-16	Doddle
2020-	Costa, coffee

Unit 6 Albion House

In 1968, Victoria Wine opened a shop in Unit 6, operating there until 1978 when they moved into Unit 4 (see page 12).

Tyler & Co / Victoria Wine

Charles Thomas Tyler was born in Kennington in 1839. In 1861 he was a paper-maker at Newark Mills. When he married Elizabeth Manners in1865, he was living in Lambeth and was described as a publisher.

In about 1872, Charles moved to Send; in 1874 he described himself as 'gentleman' and in 1875 as 'brewer'. Charles then went into partnership with his brother-in-law, Henry Manners, as Wine and Spirits Merchants and Brewers' Agents, trading as C T Tyler & Co.[7] This partnership was dissolved on 1st June 1882[8], Henry Manners presumably withdrawing.

In 1894, Charles opened a shop in Chertsey Road, Woking. Following Charles's death in 1905, the firm was incorporated as a subsidiary of Friary, Holroyd & Healy's Breweries Ltd. Allied Breweries acquired Friary Meux Limited (as it then was), in 1961, and Tyler & Co. was merged with the Victoria Wine Company (which was owned by Allied).

The next occupant was the Albion Pharmacy, run by S C Troup. They stayed until 1990.

Figure 22. Albion entrance / pharmacy 1986

Figure 23. Rosemary 2008

The florists, Rosemary, moved in, in September 1991, and stayed until forced to leave by the 2017-20 refurbishment, since when, the unit has been home to Foxtons, estate agents.

Occupants Unit 6	
1968-77	Victoria Wine (Tyler's)
1978-90	Albion Pharmacy (S C Troup)
1991-2016	Rosemary, florists
2020-	Foxtons, estate agents

[7] 1881 England Census Class: RG11; Piece: 774; Folio: 20; Page: 34;

[8] *London Gazette* 6 June 1882

Figure 24. Albion House, August 2020

NO.S 1-12

In about 1865, William Wells began to erect a line of houses at the top of what is now the High Street. There were three pairs of semi-detached cottages (now No.s 1-7), and a terrace of four (now 8-12).

By the end of 1869, William had already decided to convert the houses into shops (see article in

Figure 25).

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS.—There are those who believe that the neighbourhood of the Railway Station will become, ere many years, covered with buildings, and that the erections now known as the town of Woking, will be designated the *old*, as distinguished from the new town of Woking to spring up at the station. Be this as it may, there are evidences of the rapid progress which is being made in the erection of dwellings in the locality. Within the last few months not fewer than 15 to 20 new houses have been commenced, and now it is intended by Mr. Wells, who has recently erected a pretty line of houses near the station, to convert them into shops. Mr. Peak, the architect, of Guildford, is employed, and he has received tenders for the doing of the alterations, which are to be commenced forthwith. Mr. Wells has determined to meet the more pressing wants of the district, by erecting in the first place shops for the businesses of a butcher and a draper. These will be followed by others. At present railway employés and others have to go to Guildford for meat and other articles of consumption.

Figure 25. Surrey Advertiser 22 January 1870

NO. 1

In 1865, No. 1 High Street (then designated No. 2) became new Woking's first Post Office; the postmaster was Jesse Mansell. In the 1871 census, his sons, Alfred, Jesse and William were employed as a messenger, postal assistant and telegraph clerk respectively.

By 1873, the post-office had moved to new premises (which it did several times before finding a permanent home in Chertsey Road in 1895). The building at that time was occupied by Edward Breakwell an ironmonger. At this time the shop had a smithy with two forges[9] (probably one or both of the tin huts seen in Figure 26.

Figure 26. No. 1 c1900

After about 15 years, Edward Breakwell moved to Farnborough, Hampshire. He was succeeded in 1887 by George William Wells, who ran the business for four years before moving to Croydon.

William Robert Skeet moved in and established his own ironmongery business, in 1891; he opened a second shop at 5 Chobham Road in 1905.

A Satisfied Customer is the Best Advertisement.

IF YOU BUY YOUR IRONMONGERY FROM

W. R. SKEIT, 2, HIGH STREET, WOKING.

YOU WILL BE SATISFIED.

Repairs to Household Utensils and all Metals.

Garden Tools a Speciality.

Reliable Lawn Mowers from 16/6 each.

Figure 27. 1905 Advert
(note misspelling of 'Skeet')

William Skeet was forced to move out of the High Street, in 1907. The lease was expiring and William was outbid at auction by the London, County & Westminster Bank, who bought the premises for £3,300. It was at about this time that he joined forces with Charles Job Fooks, and later with Hartley Davey Jeffes, to form the well-known Woking firm of Skeet, Fooks & Jeffes Ltd (later Skeet & Jeffes).

[9] *West Surrey Times* 1 April 1882

Figure 28. Skeet's shop August 1903
This photo clearly shows the extension to the building across the front garden

London, County & Westminster demolished the shop and built a new building for their Woking branch (the date 1908 can be seen in the stonework over the door – inset top-left in Figure 29). The bank went through a number of amalgamations and rebranding exercises but still occupies the building to this day.

Figure 29. NatWest Bank 2020

Following a merger with the National Provincial Bank in 1968, National Westminster Bank (as it then was) had three branches – one in Chertsey

Road and one in Commercial Road. These two were eventually closed and, in 1973, National Westminster Bank expanded the branch into No. 2 next door.

Occupants	
1865-71	Post Office (Jesse Mansell)
1873-86	Edward Breakwell, ironmonger
1887-91	George William Wells, ironmonger
1891-1907	William R Skeet, ironmonger
1908-17	London, County & Westminster Bank
1917-24	London, County Westminster & Parrs Bank
1924-68	Westminster Bank
1968-	National Westminster Bank (NatWest)

NO. 2

No. 2 High Street was built in about 1865, as a private dwelling. By 1871, it had been converted to a shop by building out over the front garden[10]. The first occupant was Edmund George Hunt – he and his wife had arrived in Woking in 1862 – who ran a grocery shop. By 1881, the shop had been taken over by Edward Baker and Edmund had moved into Chertsey Road.

In 1884 Edward Baker, described as grocer and baker, moved to No.s 9 & 10 which he occupied until 1890, when he moved to Frimley.

From February 1887, the shop was occupied by the dispensing chemist business of John Walter Hatherden Littleboy, who took over the business of Frank Cox[11] (see page 24). In 1910, John Littleboy moved abroad; he continued to have a stake in the property until 1929, his son (who had half shares) presumably looking after his interest.

From about 1910, Squire & Co. ran a chemist's shop in the building, which they rented from John Littleboy and his son. They still traded using Littleboy's name.

In 1930, Arthur Lloyd Davies, another chemist, who had had a shop in Chertsey Road for twenty years and previous to which he was assistant to John Littleboy, moved into the premises. Arthur died in 1936, but the business continued until 1972.

[10] *Surrey Advertiser* 22 January 1870

[11] *Surrey Advertiser* 26 February 1887

John Walter Hatherden Littleboy

John Walter Hatherden Littleboy was born in Ireland on 6th March 1867.

He came to England and, in 1879, married Kate Sayer in Norwich, Norfolk. They had a son, John Terence Littleboy, who was born in Rugby, Warwickshire in March 1881.

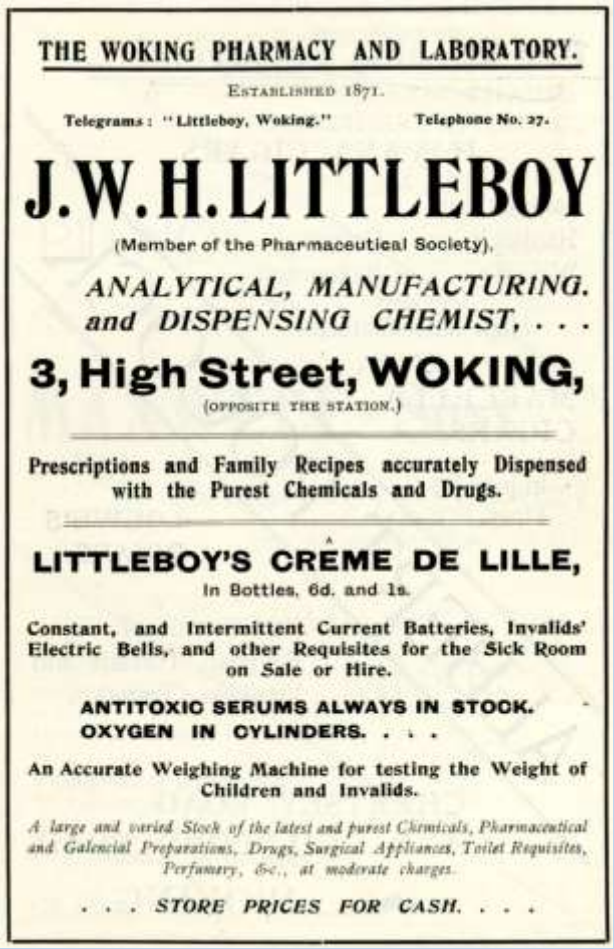
John and Kate moved to Woking, where they were living in 1887. Unfortunately, Kate died in September 1891.

John remarried a year later - to Florence Stedman. They too had a son, Vernon Hatherden Littleboy, born in 1895.

John seems to have abandoned his second wife as, in 1910, he married again, this time in British Columbia, Canada, to Sophia Grace Glenny. They also had a son, Jeffery Ian Littleboy in 1915. Florence died in Horsell in 1924.

The 1915 Surrey Electoral register shows that John had half shares in the property at 2 High Street, his eldest son, John Terence holding the other half. Under abode, John is shown as 'travelling abroad'.

By 1918, John and Sophia had moved to California; they were naturalized in 1927. John died there in 1940.


THE WOKING PHARMACY AND LABORATORY.

ESTABLISHED 1871.

Telegrams: "Littleboy, Woking." Telephone No. 27.

J.W.H.LITTLEBOY

(Member of the Pharmaceutical Society).

ANALYTICAL, MANUFACTURING. and DISPENSING CHEMIST, . . .

3, High Street, WOKING,

(OPPOSITE THE STATION.)

Prescriptions and Family Recipes accurately Dispensed with the Purest Chemicals and Drugs.

LITTLEBOY'S CRÈME DE LILLE,

In Bottles, 6d. and 1s.

Constant, and Intermittent Current Batteries, Invalids' Electric Bells, and other Requisites for the Sick Room on Sale or Hire.

ANTITOXIC SERUMS ALWAYS IN STOCK.
OXYGEN IN CYLINDERS. . . .

An Accurate Weighing Machine for testing the Weight of Children and Invalids.

A large and varied Stock of the latest and purest Chemicals, Pharmaceutical and Galencial Preparations, Drugs, Surgical Appliances, Toilet Requisites, Perfumery, &c., at moderate charges.

. . . STORE PRICES FOR CASH. . . .

Figure 30. 1905 Littleboy advertisement

In 1973, the National Westminster Bank, (who had been in occupation of No. 1 since 1908) closed their branches in Chertsey Road and Commercial Road[12] and expanded into No. 2.

Occupants of No. 2	
1868-76	Edmund George Hunt, grocer
1881-82	Edward Baker
1886-87	Frank Cox, chemist
1887-1910	John Walter Hatherden Littleboy, chemist
1911-1929	Squire & Co. Ltd, chemists
1930-72	Arthur Lloyd Davies, chemist
1973-	National Westminster Bank (NatWest)

[12] The branch in Chertsey Road was formerly the National Provincial Bank, with whom the Westminster Bank had merged in 1968; the branch in Commercial Road was the District Bank, then a subsidiary of the National Provincial.

Figure 31. No 2 2020

NO. 3

No. 3 High Street was built in the 1870s, sandwiched in the narrow space between No.s 2 and 4; on the 1871 OS Plan, there is just a small annex attached to No. 2. Until about 1905 (whilst the Albion Hotel was still known as No. 1), it was known as No. 3a.

The first known occupant of No. 3a was Ann Chandler (née Bolland), a widow, who is recorded in the 1881 census as a fruitress. The following year, Ann remarried and her sister, Sarah Millichap (née Bolland), took over the shop. In 1894/5 Sarah gave up the greengrocery and moved into Church Street.

Sparkes Cornelius Knight, who had his draper's shop at No.s 6-8, acquired No. 3a in 1895 and opened a ladies' and children's boot shop.

BOOTS. BOOTS. BOOTS.

S. C. KNIGHT,

HIGH ST., WOKING,

Begs to inform the public generally that the

LADIES' BOOT SHOP

AT

3a, HIGH STREET,

IS NOW OPEN

With the largest and best selected stock of

LADIES' & CHILDREN'S BOOTS

Ever offered to the public.

ALL NEW GOODS.
NEWEST AND BEST MAKE.
AT PRICES TO SUIT ALL.

DON'T FORGET THE ADDRESS:
3a, HIGH STREET.
LADIES' PRIVATE FITTING ROOM.

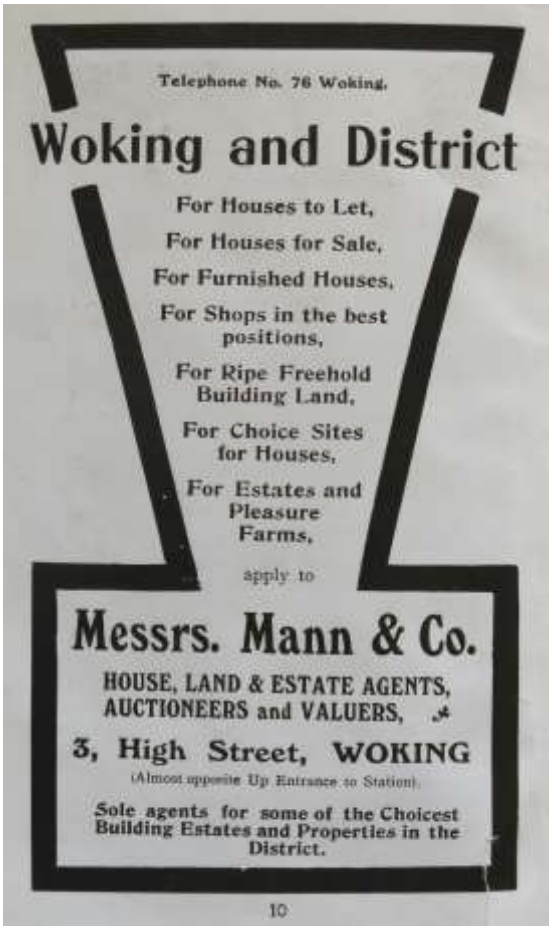
Figure 32. Knight advert November 1895

Figure 33. Mann & Co. c1950

The next recorded occupant of No. 3 was Mann & Co., estate agents. Frederick Charles Thomas Mann was born near Horsham, Sussex in 1872. He established Mann & Co. in 1891. He moved to Woking in about 1895 and opened a branch in the High Street in about 1908?

In 1968, Mann & Co. relocated into Commercial Road. The shop was briefly home to Chethams, solicitors, before the Lambeth Building Society moved in, in the mid-1970s.

The Lambeth Building Society was formed in 1852; it merged with the Portman Building Society in 2006, which was merged into the Nationwide Building Society the following year.


Telephone No. 76 Woking.

Woking and District

For Houses to Let,
For Houses for Sale,
For Furnished Houses,
For Shops in the best positions,
For Ripe Freehold Building Land,
For Choice Sites for Houses,
For Estates and Pleasure Farms,

apply to

Messrs. Mann & Co.

HOUSE, LAND & ESTATE AGENTS, AUCTIONEERS and VALUERS,

3, High Street, WOKING

(Almost opposite Up Entrance to Station).

Sole agents for some of the Choicest Building Estates and Properties in the District.

10

Figure 34. Mann & Co. advertisement

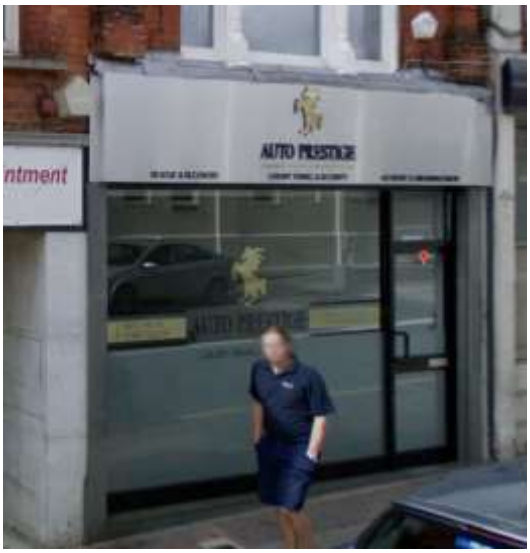


Figure 35. Auto Prestige 2008

Figure 36. Personnel Selection 2012

Auto Prestige Recovery & Rescue Limited was incorporated in October 2007; it was renamed Auto Prestige ResQ Limited in November. The company was dissolved in September 2009.

Since their move from No. 28 High Street, in 2012, the building has been home to Personnel Selection recruitment agency.

Occupants of No. 3a/3	
1881	Ann Chandler, fruitress
1883-94	Sarah E Millichap, greengrocer
1895-1904	S C Knight, ladies & children's shoes
1908-1968	Mann & Co., house & estate agents
1970-73	Chethams, solicitors
1977-2003	Lambeth Building Society
2007-09	Auto Prestige, recovery & rescue
2012-	Personnel Selection

Figure 37. No 3 2020

NO. 4

No.s 4 and 5 High Street were built in about 1867 as a pair of semi-detached cottages. By 1871 they had been converted into shops presumably by building out over the front gardens[13,14]. Initially it appears only the ground floors were extended (Figure 38), but later the upper floors were also extended and new facades built.

In the 1871 census, No. 4 was described as 'Eating House'; no other details are known.

[13] *Surrey Advertiser* 22 January 1870

[14] The 1871 OS plan shows No.s 4 to 10 as still retaining their front gardens. This plan was surveyed in 1870. The next OS map or plan to be produced was not surveyed until 1894. By this time all the cottages had been extended out to the High Street.

By 1875, William Jacobs, who had a chemist shop in Guildford High Street[15], had opened a branch in Woking[16]. The shop was managed by Arthur Althorp.

In 1881, the census records Arthur Althorp as resident, probably in the upstairs flat.

By 1888 Arthur had started his own business and was proprietor of the Woking Drug Store in Commercial Road. In that year, he first published his Woking Almanac and Directory.

Figure 38. Jacobs's shop 1878, Arthur Althorp in doorway

On 2nd February 1887, the Capital & Counties Bank opened a branch in No. 4 High Street. As business increased they expanded into No. 5.

WOKING.

BANKING FACILITIES.—We desire to call attention to the notification that the Capital and Counties Bank will, on and after the 2nd February, have a branch open here every week-day from 10 to 3 o'clock.

Figure 39. Announcement of bank

In 1914, Capital & Counties were taken over by Lloyds Bank, who subsequently occupied the building until 1967, when they moved into Commercial Road. The building then stood empty for a year before the Abbey National Building Society moved in.

Figure 40. Capital & Counties Bank c1900

[15] *1878 Post Office Directory* for Surrey

[16] *Surrey Advertiser* 15 May 1875

Figure 41. Lloyds Bank c1960

Figure 42. Abbey National c1965

In 1992 Abbey National moved their Woking branch into the newly-built Peacocks Centre.

For over ten years, the building was home to Office Angels, recruitment & employment agency; then, briefly to Adecco UK Ltd, another recruitment agency. Since 2008, it has been MacroCare, dental health.

Occupants of No. 4	
1871	'Eating house'
1875-82	William Jacobs, chemist (Arthur Althorp, mgr)
1885-86	Frank Cox, chemist
1887-1914	Capital & Counties Bank
1914-64	Lloyds Bank
1965	*vacant*
1966-92	Abbey National Building Society
1995-2005	Office Angels, recruitment & employment agency
2006	Adecco UK Ltd, recruitment & employment agency
2008-	MacroCare, dental health

Figure 43. No.s 4 & 5 2020

NO. 5

No.s 4 and 5 High Street were built in about 1867 as a pair of semi-detached cottages. By 1871 they had been converted into shops by building out over the front gardens.

In the 1871 census, No. 5 was occupied by William Major, a butcher. In 1866, William was in Fordingbridge, Hampshire and by 1881 had moved to Wiltshire, so we know he was not in Woking for long.

The 1878 *Post Office Directory for Surrey*, lists a Mrs Mary Ann Othen as a draper in Woking. As the High Street was the only street in Woking with commercial buildings at the time, she presumably was there. No. 5 is a likely possibility, although there are gaps in the records which make No.s 8, 9 and 10 possibilities (also 3a if it had been built by then).

In the 1881 census, Mary was living in Kingston upon Thames.

The 1881 census shows No. 5 as being vacant; it appears to have gone on to be vacant for some time as it does not appear in the valuation lists for 1882 or 1885[17].

From 1887 to 1892, the building was home to James Edward Rogers, tobacconist.

Following James Rogers's departure, the Capital & Counties Bank, presumably desiring more space as business increased, expanded into No. 5 from No. 4. After Lloyds Bank took over Capital & Counties in 1914, they seem to have reviewed and reversed this decision, moving out in 1919.

In 1920, William Davies, solicitor, took up residence, occupying the building for over forty years.

Occupants of No. 5	
1871	William Major, butcher
1877-78	Mrs Mary Ann Othen, draper ?
1881-85?	*vacant*
1887-92	James Edward Rogers, tobacconist
1893-1914	Capital & Counties Bank
1914-1919	Lloyds Bank
1920-64	William Davies, solicitor
1966-90	Abbey National Building Society
1995-2005	Office Angels
2006	Adecco UK Ltd
2008-	MacroCare, dental health

NO.s 6 & 7

Sparkes Cornelius Knight was born in Hartley Wintney, Hampshire in January 1847. By 1870, he had moved to Woking and was running a drapery store from the building which is now No.s 6 and 7.

In 1872, Sparkes married Mary Louisa, daughter of James Harris the builder.

[17] SHC 6198/13/1-2 *Guildford Union Valuation List for the Parish of Woking* 1882, 1885

Knight soon expanded his store into No. 8. He eventually had shops in Chertsey Road and Goldsworth Road, as well as the High Street. Knight also acquired No. 3 High Street in around 1900.

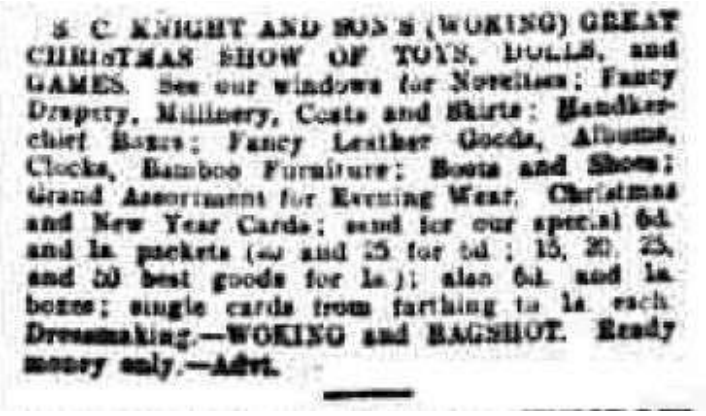

S. C. KNIGHT AND SON'S (WOKING) GREAT CHRISTMAS SHOW OF TOYS, DOLLS, and GAMES. See our windows for Novelties; Fancy Drapery, Millinery, Coats and Skirts; Handkerchief Boxes; Fancy Leather Goods, Albums, Clocks, Bamboo Furniture; Boots and Shoes; Grand Assortment for Evening Wear. Christmas and New Year Cards; send for our special 6d. and 1s. packets (40 and 25 for 6d.; 15, 20, 25, and 50 best goods for 1s.); also 6d. and 1s. boxes; single cards from farthing to 1s. each. Dressmaking.—WOKING and BAGSHOT. Ready money only.—Advt.

Figure 44. Knight advertisement xmas 1901

He does not seem to have spent much on advertising; his few early advertisements are quite simple (Figure 44). Knight's generosity, however, was well known. Every year on his birthday, Sparkes would distribute gifts and buns to the poor children of the neighbourhood. In 1913 it was reported that about 1,400 children (all under 10 years of age) received gifts and buns.[18] He would also lay on a dinner for all the staff (and their partners) after the annual stocktaking.

Figure 45. Children outside of Knight's High Street store
– probably on the occasion of his birthday

As well as his business activity, Knight was heavily involved in local politics; in 1909, Sparkes C Knight was chairman of the Woking Urban District Council. He died on 16 Apr 1918. His son, Harris Sparkes Knight, taking over the business.

[18] *West Surrey Times* 4 January 1913

From 1929, No.s 6-8 were taken over by Philip Milton Edwards, another draper and milliner.

Figure 46. Walbrook & Fine Furniture c1967

Figure 47. 1946 Edwards advertisement

In 1937, the shop was divided; Edwards continued to trade from No.s 6 & 7. The freehold of the shop was bought by Robinsons Ltd, who carried out alterations and renovations.[19] The original layout of the ground floor is shown in Figure 48.

[19] SHC: 8522/1/4 Correspondence with W H Robinson of 15/17 Chertsey Road, Woking, relating to alterations to premises at 6-7 High Street, Woking

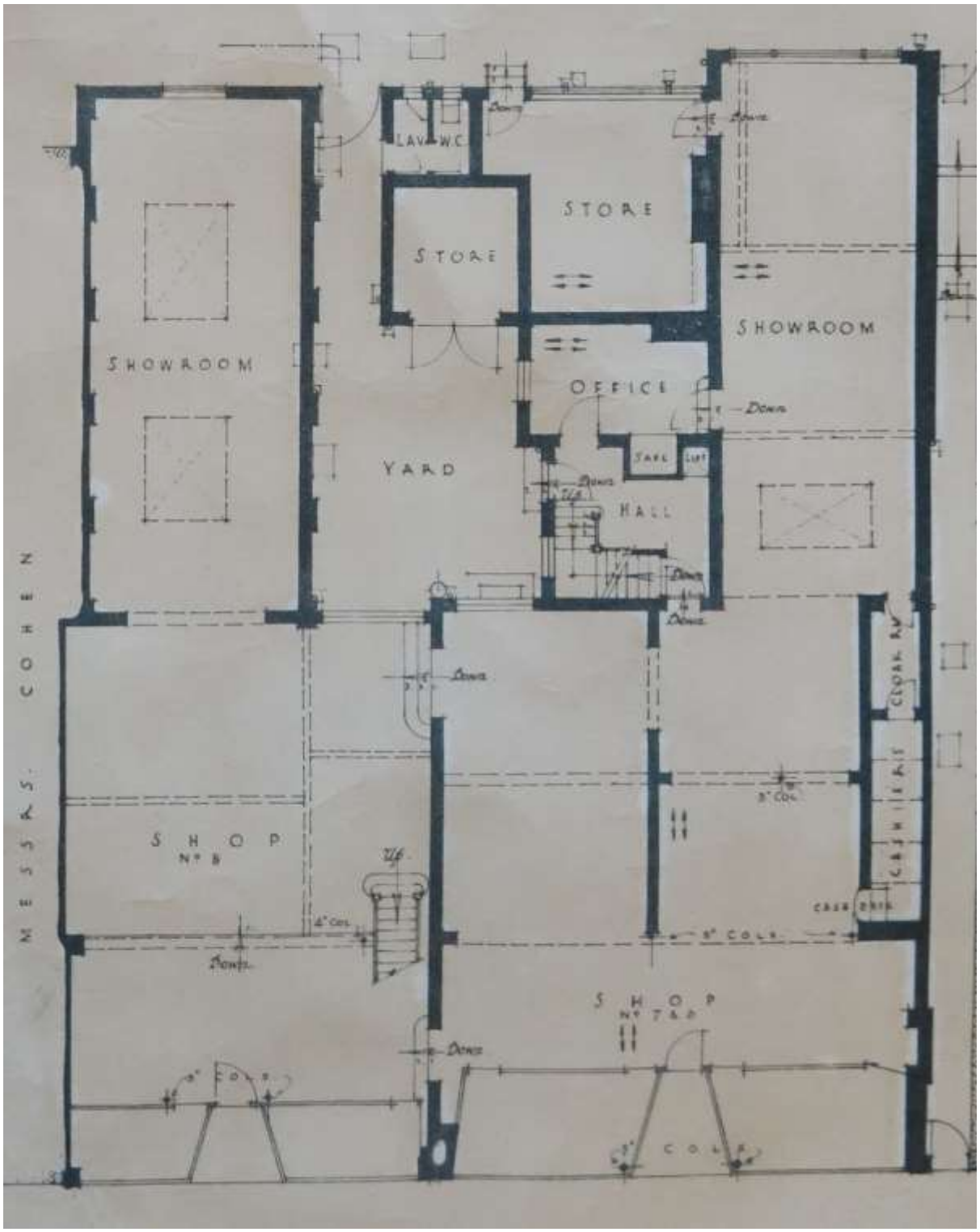


Figure 48. 1937 ground floor plan

After Edwards closed in 1965, the building was divided into two stores. Fine Furniture occupied No. 6 and Walbrook, butchers, moved into No. 7.

NO. 6

Following the division, in 1965, of No.s 6-7 into two stores, Fine Furniture Ltd moved into No. 6, occupying it for ten years.

In 1979, Comet electrical store moved in to No. 6, trading there until they moved to the Lion Retail Park, in 1993.

From 1995 until 2008, the Bukhara Indian restaurant occupied the site. This was the first of a number of dine-in and takeaway restaurants to occupy the shop.

Since 2014, the shop has been home to Poppadom Charlie's.

Figure 49. Royal Nepalese 2008

Figure 50. Kebabish Original 2012

Figure 51. Poppadom Charlie's 2015

Occupants of No. 6	
1870-1929	Sparkes Cornelius Knight, drapers, milliners & toy dealers
1929-65	Philip Milton Edwards, drapers
1967-77	Fine Furniture Ltd
1979-93	Comet, electricals
1994	*vacant*
1995-2008	Bukhara, Indian restaurant
2008	Royal Nepalese restaurant
2012-14	Kebabish Original
2014-	Poppadom Charlie's

Figure 52. No.s 6 & 7 2020

NO. 7

Following the closure of Edwards drapery store in 1965, No.s 6-7 was divided into two stores. Walbrook, butchers, moved into No. 7.

Walbrook stayed until 1979, when the fish & chips chain, Mr Cod, opened a branch in No. 7. This was the first of a number of dine-in and takeaway restaurants to occupy the shop (including Poppadom Charlies before they moved next door into No. 7).

Since 2017, the shop has been home to Spice & Grill.

Figure 53. Poppadom Charlies 2008

Figure 54. Lahore Masala 2012

Figure 55. Spice & Grill 2015

Occupants of No. 7	
1870-1929	Sparkes Cornelius Knight, drapers, milliners & toy dealers
1929-65	Philip Milton Edwards, drapers
1967-79	Walbrook, butchers (A Pearce)
1979-2003	Mr Cod
2008	Poppadom Charlies
2012	Lahore Masala
2017-	Spice & Grill

NO. 8

No. 8 High Street was built in about 1867. From 1868 to 1871 it was occupied by Jeremiah Collings, a carpenter. His daughter, Sarah Ann, was running a general store in the ground floor. Jeremiah had moved to St Johns, Woking, by 1877, and the store closed.

The building was taken over by Sparkes Cornelius Knight, whose drapery business expanded from No.s 6 & 7 and he occupied it until 1929 (see page 27).

In 1929, another draper, Philip Milton Edwards, took over Knight's store - No.s 6-8 (see above).

Figure 56. Colman's ladies wear c1967

In 1937, the shop was divided; Edwards continued to trade from No.s 6 & 7; No. 8 was taken over by R & S Colman (who already had their furnishings store in No.s 9 & 10 - see below) and became Colmans' ladies' wear department.

In 1969, Colman's was succeeded by Courts Furnishers (see page 37).

Since 2011, following years of vacancy[20], No. 8 has been a part of the Lighthouse (see page 37).

Occupants of No. 8	
1868-71	Jeremiah Collings, general stores
1881-1929	Sparkes Cornelius Knight, drapers, milliners & toy dealers
1929-37	Philip Milton Edwards, drapers
1937-68	Colman's, ladies' wear
1969-2004	Courts, furniture
2005-11	*vacant*
2011-	The Lighthouse

Figure 57. The Lighthouse 2020
The small building on the right is No. 8

NO.s 9 & 10

No.s 9 and 10 High Street were built in about 1870 as private houses. The 1871 census shows Joseph Barfoot, accountant, occupying No. 9[21] and

[20] In May 2005, developer Mr Arif Najib was refused planning permission to turn No.s 8-10 into a night club; a councillor stated "I share concerns that we are passing up an opportunity of using a site which has been vacant for a long time". [*Woking News & Mail* 2 June 2005]

[21] In fact, on the night of the census, Joseph was not present; only his wife Mary and their son and daughter. Joseph, oddly, was listed as being a lodger at No. 3 High Street.

Thomas Cruchley in No. 10. In 1881, they were occupied by William Cowling, carpenter & joiner and John A Percy, bricklayer, respectively.

By 1885, No.s 9 and 10 were occupied by George Frederick Saul's grocery store.

George Frederick Saul was born, illegitimately, in Camden Town in about 1854. His parents married six years later, but his father died in 1861 when George was seven.

George married in 1880 and in 1881 was living in Sunbury, Middlesex. He moved to Woking and opened a store at 2 Bon Marché in Commercial Road in about 1883. By 1885 he had opened a second store in the High Street.

The business was styled 'Saul Bros.' (Figure 58)[22] despite George being an only child, so perhaps it was named for George's two sons, George Frederick junior and Reginald Ernest.

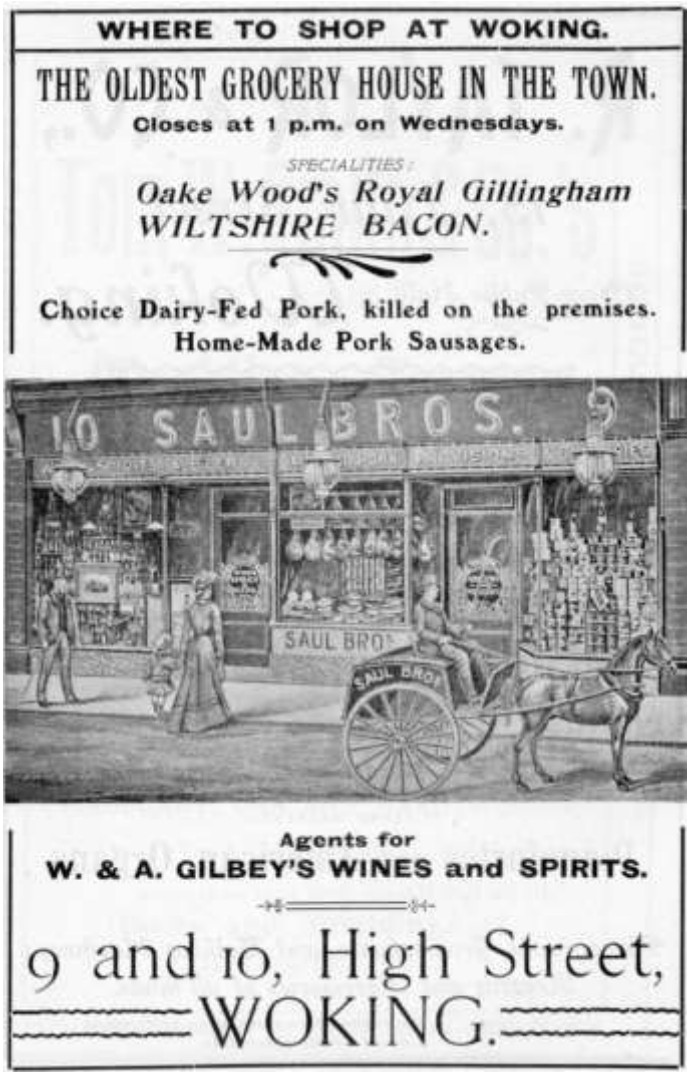


Figure 58. 1905 advert

In September 1886 George was found guilty of having 'unjust weights' for his scales and fined £2[23].

A third shop was opened in Chertsey Road in 1893 and the Commercial Road store was closed.

In about 1905, George Frederick Saul senior obtained the freehold for the High Street building, from the estate of William Wells of Guildford; shortly afterwards he retired, leasing the building out. He died in Aldershot in 1916.

[22] Also listed as 'Saul Bro.s' in Althorp's 1888 directory

[23] *West Surrey Times* 25 September 1886

In 1908, the store was taken over by Charles Burgess, a grocer in Godalming, who was looking to expand his chain of stores. He already had branches in Guildford, Farncombe, Hindhead, Liphook, Shottermill and Haslemere. In 1909 Woking and Liphook were the two branches to be agents for Gilbey's wines and spirits (Figure 59).

In about 1920, R & S Colman, second-hand furniture dealers and house furnishers, took over the store. Colman's traded from the premises for fifty years.

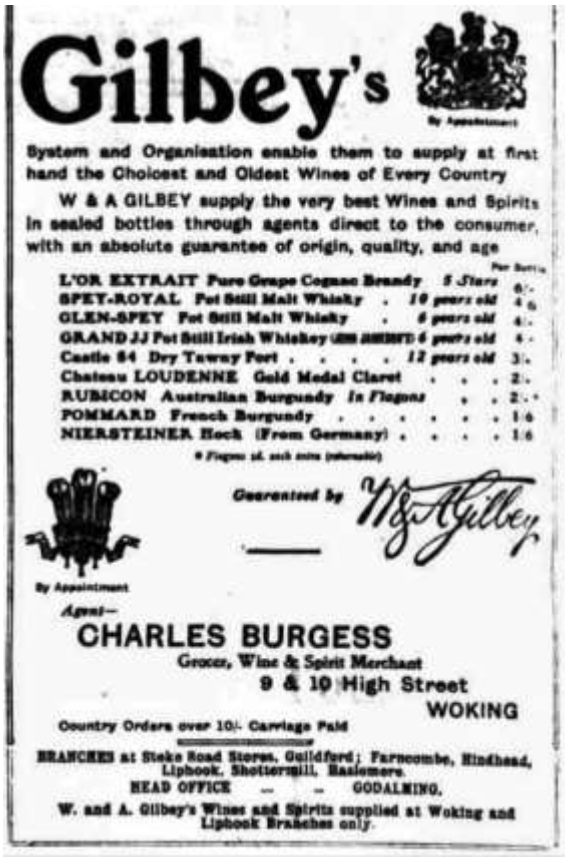


Figure 59. 1909 Gilbey's advert

Figure 60. 1931 Colman's advert

Figure 61. 1949 Colman's advert

Colmans was replaced by Courts who opened their store in June 1969 (one of more than 60 that they then had in the UK).

Figure 62. Courts advertisement 1969

Figure 63. Courts

In November 2004 the UK arm of Courts was put into the hands of administrators after banks called in loans of £280m.[24,25]

In 2011 a local church acquired the lease to the then derelict building. Seeing its potential, a vision was born to create a sanctuary in the centre of Woking with the sole purpose of serving and enhancing the surrounding community.

Through the generosity of volunteers, groups, and local businesses, the building was restored. Intending to 'serve as a bright beacon of love, support and kindness for the community', it was called The Lighthouse (Figure 57).

Occupants of No.s 9/10		
1870-71	Joseph Barfoot	Thomas Cruchley
1881	William Cowling	John A Percy
1883-86	Edward Baker, grocer	
1887-1907	George Frederick Saul 'Saul Brothers', grocers	
1908-15	Charles Burgess, grocer	
1918-19	Charles James Waghorn	
1921-68	R & S Colman, second-hand furniture stores, house furnishers	
1969-2004	Courts Brothers, furniture	
2005-11	*vacant*	
2011-	The Lighthouse	

[24] *The Guardian* 30 November 2004

[25] The Woking branch of Courts likely closed earlier than this: In May 2005, it was described as having 'been vacant for a long time'

NO.s 11-12

No.s 11 and 12 High Street are a semi-detached pair of cottages built in about 1867. They are unusual in that they were built facing onto Chapel Street. No. 12 is on the corner of High Street and Chapel Street, with No. 11 on its left. When converted into business use, No. 12 was given a doorway onto High Street.

Figure 64. No.s 11 & 12, 2020

The occupancy records for No.s 11 and 12 are sparse for the first 30 years. Also building numbers are not always given; whilst records are usually in building order, when walking down the High Street one would come to No. 12 on the corner before No. 11.

NO. 11

In the 1871 census, No. 11 is listed as being vacant. From 1878 to 1881, it was occupied by John Manwell, a printer, newsagent and bookseller. It is unclear whether the premises were used for his business or were purely residential.

Walter Howard opened a butcher's shop, in No. 11, in 1882. Walter was born in Essex; in 1875, he moved to Chobham and, in about 1880, he moved to live in Walton Road. In about 1887, Walter moved back to Essex. He was succeeded by Wenham Brothers, butchers, who had their shop here from 1888 until 1900; from 1890, they also had a shop in Chertsey Road.

In 1901, No.s 11 and 12 were bought by Crowley & Co., brewers of Alton, Hampshire. They rented out No. 11; in 1903 and 1904 it was occupied by Frank Hinton, an accountant.

Maud Allen, daughter of Guildford confectioner Arthur Allen, in 1905, became the first of a series of confectioners to occupy the shop. She was succeeded, in turn, by Miss Gertrude Sherlock (1913-28), Frederick Turner (1930-35) and Dorothy Finch (1936-39). The records do not show what happened in the war years, but it is likely that rationing prevented Dorothy Finch from continuing.

In the ten years immediately following the war, the shop was occupied by Evershed & Co., estate agents, auctioneers and valuers. The manager of the office was A H Cooke.

H M Nind, who had been running an off-licence in No. 12 since 1925 (see page 41), expanded into No. 11, in 1956. It was probably about this time that an extension was built to the side of No. 11, stretching down Chapel Street.

Figure 65. Evershed advertisement 1948

Between 1966 and the 1970s, the extension was extended again all the way to the junction with the rear service road. In about 1980, No.s 11 and 12 were taken over by KallKwik printing services. KallKwik rented out No. 11 to The Lifestyle Clinic, although they used the extension themselves.

Figure 66. KallKwik and The Lifestyle Clinic 2008

KallKwik were superseded by Headline, another design and printing firm, in 2010. In July 2017, Headline moved to new premises at Boundary Business Centre; in 2019/20, No. 11 was occupied by Local Tutor[26], a Woking-based firm providing tutors for 10-18 year-olds.

[26] Now in, Cleary Court, Church Street East

Occupants of No. 11	
1871	*vacant*
1878-81	John Manwell, bookseller
1882-86	Walter Howard, butcher
1888-1900	Wenham Brothers, butchers
1901	*vacant*
1903-04	Frank Hinton, accountant
1905-10	Maud Allen, confectioner
1913-28	Miss Gertrude Sherlock, confectioner
1930-35	Frederick John Turner, confectioner
1936-39	Dorothy Finch, confectioner
1944-54	Evershed & Co., estate agents, auctioneers
1956-76	Herbert Martin Nind, wines & spirits
1985-2009	KallKwik, printing (The Lifestyle Clinic)
2010-17	Headline, design & print
2019-20	Local Tutor

NO. 12

No. 12 High Street is one of a pair of semi-detached cottages (with No. 11) built in about 1867. The first occupant was William Abraham, in the 1871 census a nurseryman and horticultural auctioneer. The building then was purely residential. William's wife, Susannah, died in May 1878 and William moved to Christchurch, Hampshire soon afterwards. In 1881 the building was vacant.

Charles Parker White, banker's clerk, moved into No. 12, in 1888. He would later become manager of the Woking branch of Capital & Counties Bank.

In the late 1890's the building was converted to commercial use and Mrs Mary Weston had refreshment rooms there.

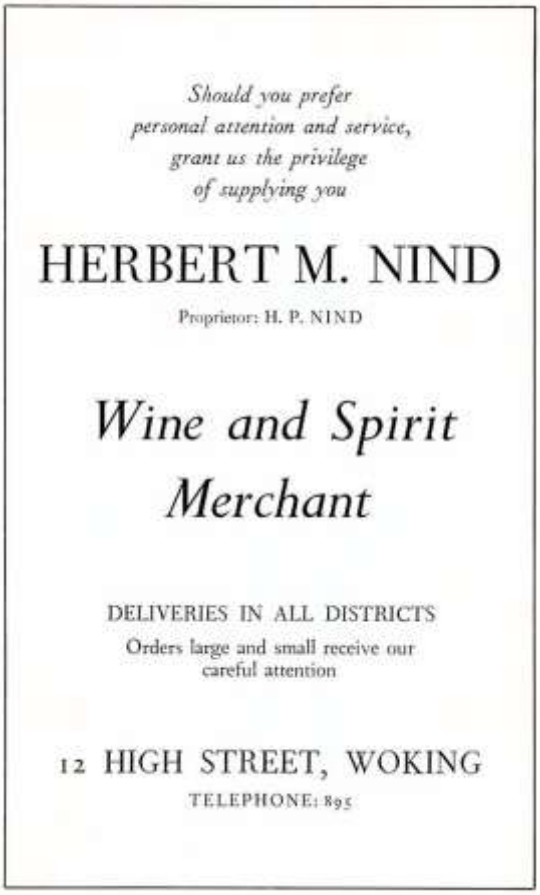
No.s 11 and 12 were bought by Crowley & Co., brewers of Alton, Hampshire, in 1901. They rented No. 11 out and established an off-licence sales shop in No. 12. Crowley & Co. was acquired by Watney, Combe, Reid & Co. Ltd in 1947.

From 1917 to 1924, Meredith Baker[27] had her millinery business in No. 12 (Crowley & Co. had presumably pulled out of or reduced off-licence sales during the war).

[27] Born Edith Emily Baker in 1889

No 12 was re-established as an off-licence, in 1925, by Herbert Martin Nind. Herbert had previously been a pub landlord in London, Essex and Northamptonshire.

Figure 67. Nind's store c1950



Should you prefer personal attention and service, grant us the privilege of supplying you

HERBERT M. NIND

Proprietor: H. P. NIND

Wine and Spirit Merchant

DELIVERIES IN ALL DISTRICTS

Orders large and small receive our careful attention

12 HIGH STREET, WOKING

TELEPHONE: 895

Figure 68. 1956 advert for H M Nind

Herbert died in 1945 and the business was taken on by his son, Harold. When Harold died, in 1967, the business was carried on for another twelve years before being closed in 1979.

From 1981 until 2006, No.s 11 and 12 were home to KallKwik printing. KallKwik were superseded by Headline, another design and printing firm, in 2010.

Figure 69. Headline 2016

In July 2017, Headline moved to new premises at 22 Boundary Business Centre, since when No. 12 has been vacant.

Occupants of No. 12	
1869-77	William Abraham
1888-1895	Charles Parker White
1899-1900	Mrs Mary Weston, Refreshment rooms
1901-17	Crowley & Co., wines & spirits
1917-24	Meredith Baker, milliner
1924-76	Herbert Martin Nind, wines & spirits
1985-2009	KallKwik, printing
2010-17	Headline, design & print
2017-	*Vacant*

NO.s 13-20

James Harris was born in Tisbury, Wiltshire in 1825. He trained as a mason and in 1861 was working for the Necropolis Company as a master mason.

Within five years, he had purchased about a half of an acre of land from the company and established a builder's yard where the current No.s 15-20 are located, stretching as far as Commercial Road (Figure 70). His land also included where No.s 21-24 were later built.

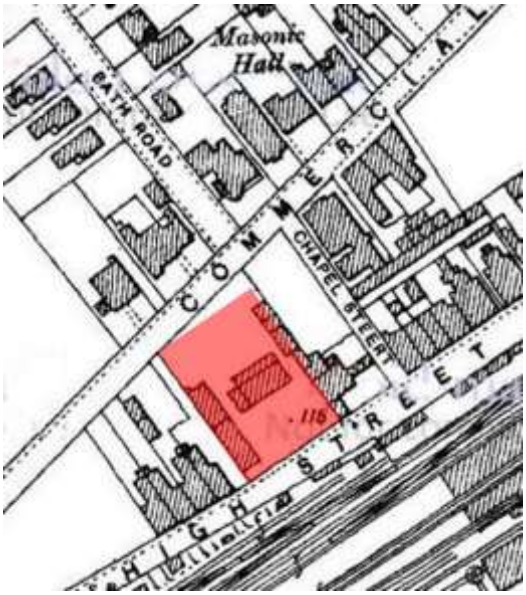


Figure 70. Location of builder's yard

The plot also contained a residence, where James and his family lived; this was the building located to the right of the plot, with a garden to the rear (where No.s 13 & 14 now are).

When James's granddaughter got married in 1913, she gave her address as 13 High Street.

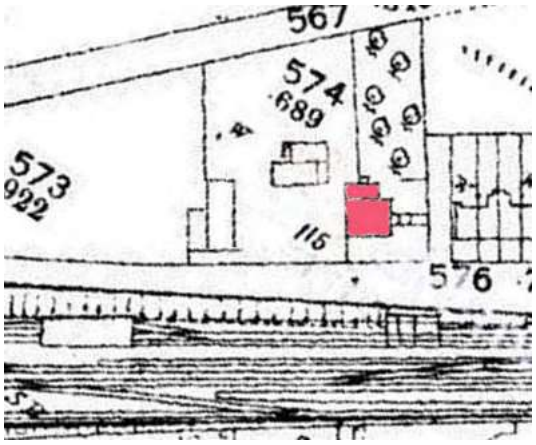


Figure 71. Location of James's house

James retired, in about 1885, and his son Richard James Harris took over the business[28]. Richard ran the business for some 35 years until about 1930.

[28] Richard James Harris built St Paul's Church, Maybury in 1884/5

Figure 72. High St entrance to yard, 1914

Figure 73. James's house, 1903

James Harris was responsible for many buildings built during the early development of Woking, including: the central hall of the Oriental Institute, Christ Church, the Baptist Chapel and the police station.

James also had a business as undertaker and monumental stonemason. Today, a funeral costs a little more than the £2 charged in 1896 (Figure 74).

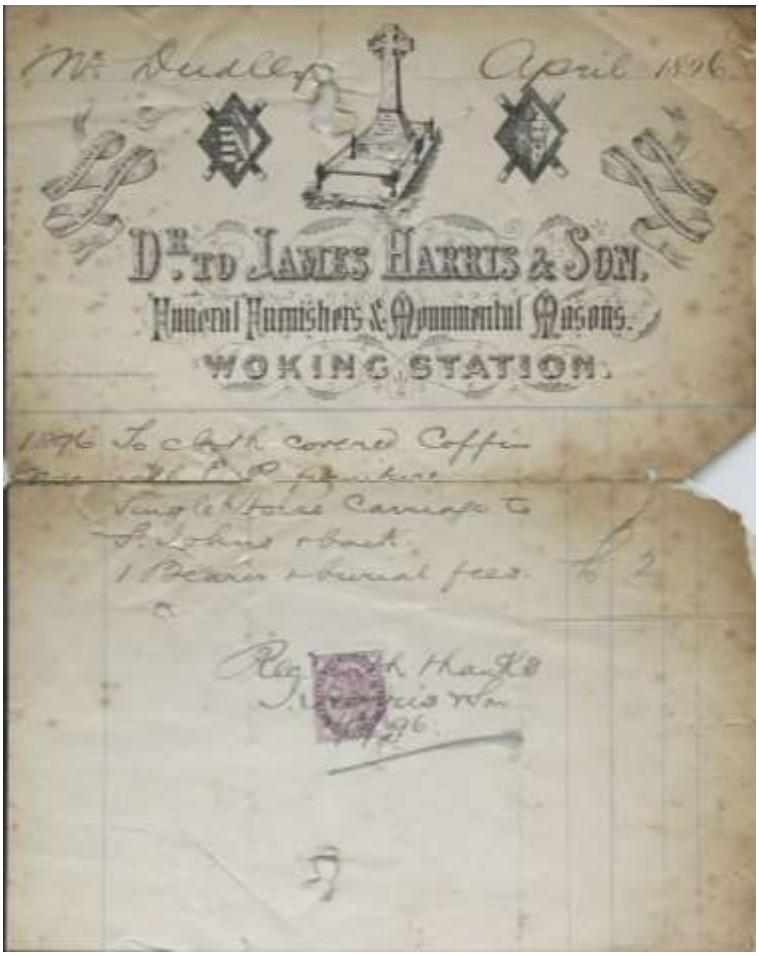


Figure 74. 1896 invoice/receipt for funeral charges

NO. 13

Hugh Harris was the son of Richard Harris and grandson of James Harris, who had a builder's yard where No.s 15-20 High Street now are (see page 42). In 1914, Richard Harris built No.s 13 and 14 and Hugh Harris opened his gentleman's outfitters shop in No. 13.

Figure 75. Hugh Harris c1950

Hugh Harris's son died during the Second World War and as the business could not be passed on, the shop was sold to Henry Martin in 1946, on the condition that the Hugh Harris name was kept. It was then first incorporated as Hugh Harris Tailors Limited. The firm was carried on until 2016.

In 2016, Ashworth & Bird, outfitters, opened a 'new designer fashion concept store' in No. 13. It closed the following year, moving into Commercial Way.

The store was then taken over, in December 2017, by The Hockey Museum (formerly the National Hockey Museum), which is open two days a week.

Figure 76. 2016 Ashworth & Bird

Figure 77. The Hockey Museum 2020

Occupants of No. 13	
1918-2016	Hugh Harris, outfitter & clothier
2016-17	Ashworth & Bird, outfitters
2017-	The Hockey Museum

NO. 14

In 1918, Richard Harris built No.s 13 and 14; his son, Hugh Harris, opened his outfitters shop in No. 13. Until autumn 1920, Richard Harris and his wife lived at No. 14.

No. 14 was then rented out to several short term tenants, with occasional periods of non-occupancy.

After the war, Edward Thomas Trotman, a radio dealer living in Bath Road, opened a shop in No. 14, from where the company traded for the next forty years.

Edward died in 1970, however the business was carried on in his name until about 1990; in 1982, the proprietor was J Lucas.

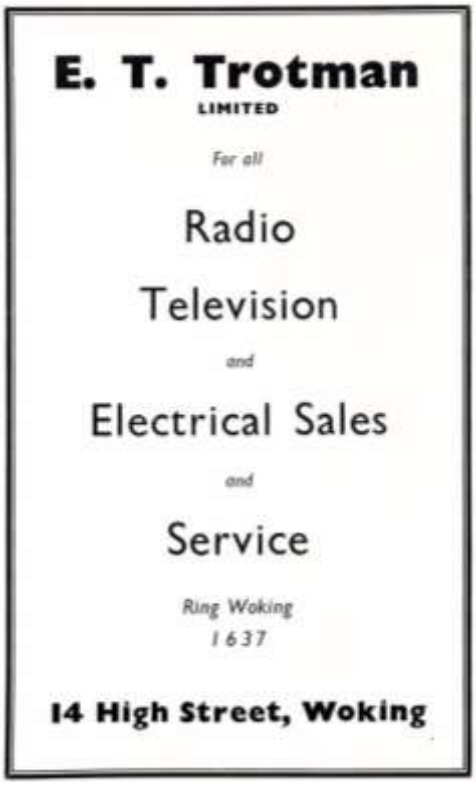


Figure 78. 1956 Trotman Ad

Figure 79. c1960 E T Trotman's

Since at least as early as 1995, No. 14 has been home to a succession of fast food outlets.

From 1995 to about 2010, Hippo Pizza was trading from the shop; in 2008, it was sharing the premises with Woking Wok (Figure 80).

In 2012 Farm Pizza was sharing the shop with Kebab Kingdom. Since 2014, Farm Pizza has been the sole occupier.

Figure 80. Woking Wok / Hippo Pizza 2008

Figure 81. Kebab Kingdom 2012

Figure 82. Farm Pizza 2015

Occupants of No. 14	
1918-20	Richard James Harris
1922-36	Hugh Harris, outfitter & clothier
1943	Standen & Co. Ltd - offices & warehouse
1947-90	Edward Thomas Trotman, Radio, television & electrical
1995-2009	Hippo Pizza
2012	Kebab Kingdom / Farm Pizza
2014-	Farm Pizza

NO.s 15-20

No.s 15-19 (as a block of five) were constructed, in 1933, all of brick, in the *art deco* style; No. 20 was extended and refaced in similar style.

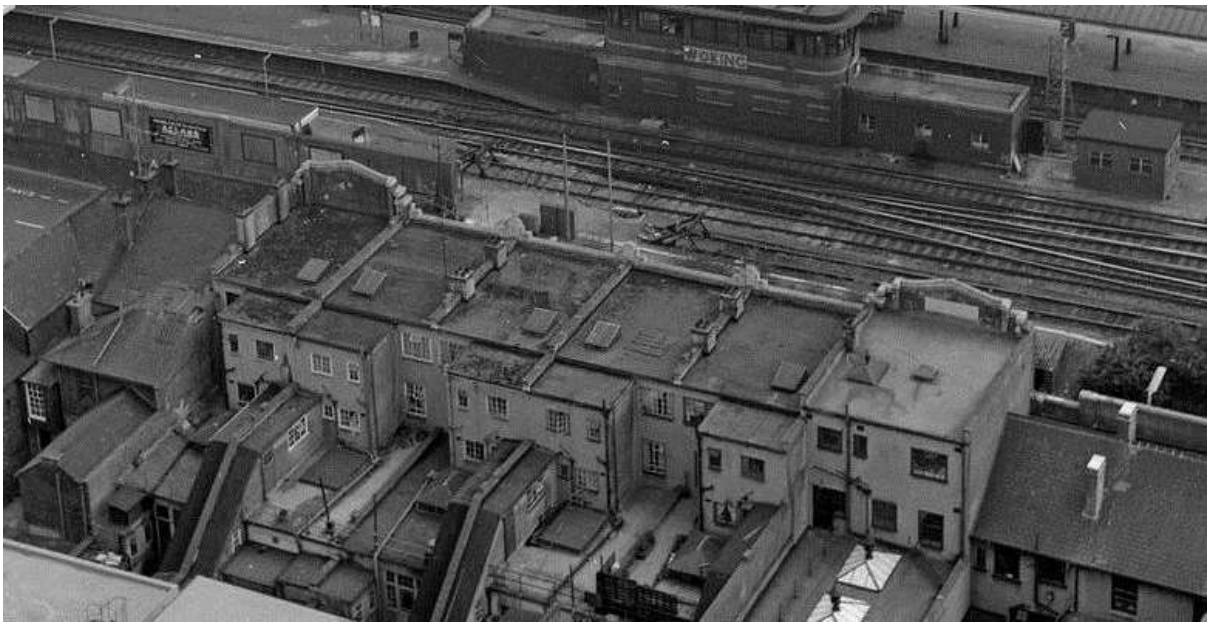


Figure 83. Rear of No.s 15-20 seen from the air c1980

NO. 15

No. 15 was built in 1933 (see page 42). The first occupant was Vincent Sexton, a butcher; from 1936 until about the end of World War II. He was succeeded by James S Pont (W Harrison (Ealing) Ltd), also butchers. Pont established his shop and almost immediately moved away, to south London, leaving managers to run the shop.

Figure 84. Pont's butcher's shop c1960

In 1952/3 the building was divided into two shops. Pont carried on trading from the right-hand (looking in) half of the store until the early 1970s. The other half was taken by S Atherton & Co., estate agents.

Pont was followed, in the late-1970s, by hairdressers, One Step Ahead who have been ever present since.

In contrast, the other half of the building has seen a varied succession of occupants.

Figure 85. One Step Ahead 2008

Figure 86. Vinyl Frontier

In 1995, a specialist record shop, Vinyl Frontier, opened up, trading for 10 years, before closing.

In 2005, Penny Kristian opened a store selling beauty products catering specifically for African-Caribbean Women. She later moved to Chobham Road, where the shop still trades.

Figure 87. Penny Kristian 2008

Figure 88. 2005 advertisement

Figure 89. Penny Kristian in her shop 2005

Since Penny Kristian left, the shop has been home to two African delicatessens (given the similarity of signage [Figure 90 & Figure 91], it may have been the same company under two names).

Figure 90. Afro Point 2014

Figure 91. Naija Corner 2017

Since 2019, the building has been occupied by the Asian grocery store MeiLan.

Occupants of No. 15		
1934	*vacant*	
1936-41	Vincent Sexton, butcher	
1945-52	James S Pont[29] (W Harrison (Ealing) Ltd), butchers	
1953-72	S Atherton & Co., estate agents	
1973-75		
1980-94		One Step Ahead
1995-2005	Vinyl Frontier, records	
2005-12	Penny Kristian	
2012-16	Afro Point	
2016-17	Naija Corner	
2019-	MeiLan, oriental groceries	

Figure 92. No 15 2020

[29] Birth, marriage and death all registered as Stanley James Pont

NO. 16

Figure 93. Currys c1965

No. 16 was built in 1933 (see page 42).

The first occupants were Currys, the electrical retailers, then advertising as cycle-makers, radio and sports dealers. They remained until 1976 when they moved into Chertsey Road. The shop can be seen on the rh side of Figure 93, with an illuminating sign below the upper-floor windows.

It then became home to the Italian restaurant, Sinuessa. The pizza chef was Nino Lanzetta who came to England from the Salerno Coast in the Amalfi region of Italy in 1976, to work in Sinuessa, which was owned by his brother-in-law Silvio.

The Sinuessa restaurant and Nino became legendary in the town because of Nino's public and entertaining displays of spinning dough to make pizza bases in front of the customers. While working there in 1980, Nino was asked to appear on Larry Grayson's Generation Game and demonstrate to contestants how to make a pizza professionally, including spinning the dough.

In 1995/6 Sinuessa rebranded as L'Aroma. L'Aroma closed, in 2019, in anticipation of relocating in response to redevelopment being carried out in Woking.

Figure 94. Nino Lanzetta 1984

Occupants of No. 16	
1934-76	Currys Ltd, cycle-makers, radio & sports dealers
1976-95	Sinuessa, Italian restaurant
1996-2019	L'Aroma, Italian restaurant

Figure 95. L'Aroma 2020

NO. 17

No. 17 was built in 1933 (see page 42). In 1934 it was listed as vacant, but by 1935 Isabel Smith had opened her wool shop, later known as Wools.

Figure 96. Wools 1983

Figure 97. Daisy Chain 2012

Wools was superseded by Daisy Chain Florists who occupied the building for over thirty years.

Briefly, in 2014/5, No. 17 was a Persian supermarket. It then had another brief spell as home to ASR Traders, who sold laptop computer and phone accessories.

Since 2017, it has been occupied by Ascox Outsourcing, recruitment.

Figure 98. Persian Supermarket 2014

Figure 99. ASR 2016

Occupants of No. 17	
1934	*vacant*
1935-83	Wool Shop (Isabel S Smith)
1987-2014	Daisy Chain, florists
2014-15	Persian Supermarket
2015-16	ASR Traders, computer accessories
2017-	Ascox Outsourcing, recruitment

Figure 100. No 17 2020

NO. 18

No. 18 was built in 1933 (see page 42). The first occupants were Alert Cleaners, who traded there for twenty years.

In 1953, the shop was taken over by the Farnham Carpet Cleaning Company. This company would collect your carpet, clean it and then deliver and refit it.

Figure 101. Farnham Carpets advertisement

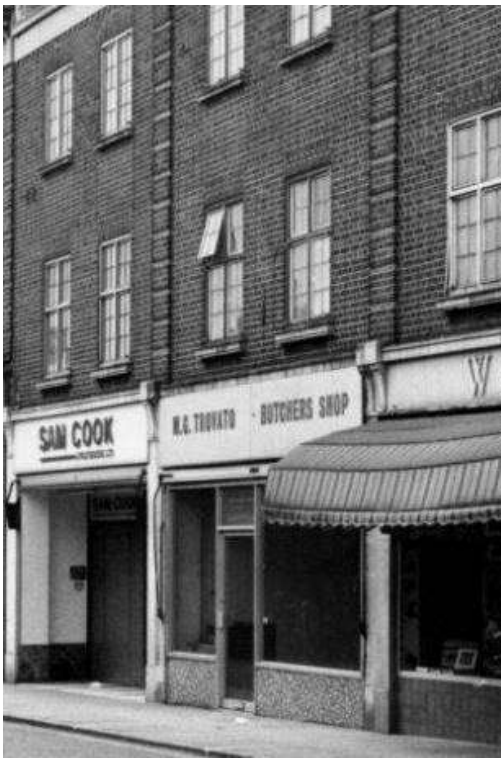


Figure 102. M G Trovato's shop

The company became carpet retailers and in 1977 moved into Wolsey Walk, in the new Wolsey Place shopping centre.

Michele Trovato was born in Italy in about 1925; he moved to England (possibly as a World War II POW). In 1955 he married Guiseppa De Vivo in Bedfordshire, where they had 4 children. In about 1968, they moved to Woking where Michele ran a delicatessen and butchery in Mabel Street. In 1980, he (or possibly one of his sons) opened a shop at 18 High Street.

No. 18, in the mid-1980s, became the Maharajah tandoori restaurant (incorporating the Ghandi takeaway), the first of a number of restaurants on the site.

The Maharajah was succeeded by the Thonburi, a Thai restaurant, in 1991. The Thonburi survived for fifteen years, before being replaced by Binaka (Figures Figure 103 and Figure 104).

Figure 103. Binaka 2008

Figure 104. Binaka advert 2005

Figure 105. Spice Lounge 2015

In about 2010, the Binaka was replaced with the Spice Lounge, yet another Indian restaurant.

The Spice Lounge closed in 2016. In 2017, The Marjorie Richardson Centre (which had previously been in No. 19 and briefly closed (see page 57)) reopened in both No.s 18 and 19, as The Junction.

Occupants of No. 18	
1933-53	Alert Cleaners
1953-76	Farnham Carpets
1980-83	Michele G Trovato, butcher
1987-90	Maharajah, tandoori restaurant (Ghandi takeaway)
1991-2005	Thonburi, Thai restaurant
2005-09	Binaka
2012-16	Spice Lounge
2017-	The Junction

Figure 106. No 18, The Junction 2020

NO. 19

No. 19 was built in 1933 (see page 42).

The first occupant was the Woking Fruit & Flower Stores, who traded there until 1959. They were followed by a branch of Sam Cook (fruiterers) Ltd, who occupied the building until the mid-1980s.

Figure 107. Sam Cook c1983

Marjorie Richardson moved to Brookwood, in 1920, with her parents, when she was five years old.

She qualified as an architect in 1935 and spent the next four years designing homes, some of which can still be seen in Oriental Road.

After a career break to raise a family, Mrs Richardson was elected, in 1957, to represent Knaphill and

Figure 108. Marjorie Richardson

Brookwood and served on the then Woking Urban District Council until 1966.

In 1986, the Marjorie Richardson Centre, a registered charity aimed at providing a warm and comfortable environment for the over-55s to meet in the town centre, was opened.

The Centre closed for a brief time; but, since 2017, the re-launched, volunteer-run café has been called The Junction.

Occupants of No. 19	
1934	*vacant*
1936-59	Woking Fruit & Flower Stores
1960-83	Sam Cook Ltd, fruiterers
1986-2016	Marjorie Richardson Centre
2017-	The Junction

Figure 109. No 19 2020

NO. 20

When James Harris purchased land from the Necropolis Company in about 1866 (see page 42), he established a builder's yard but also built a dwelling

house for himself and a showroom for his monumental masonry business. The showroom was probably the building highlighted in red on the 1871 OS plan shown in Figure 110, where No. 20 is today.

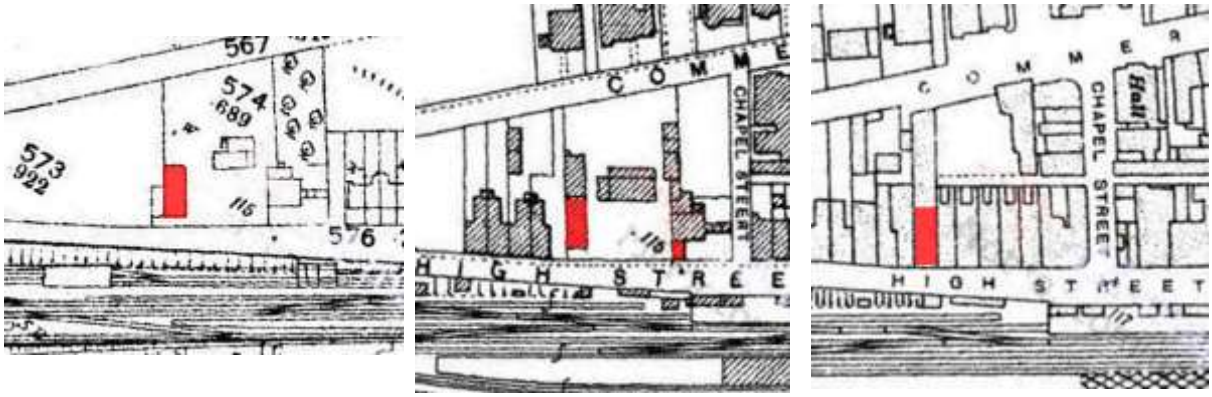
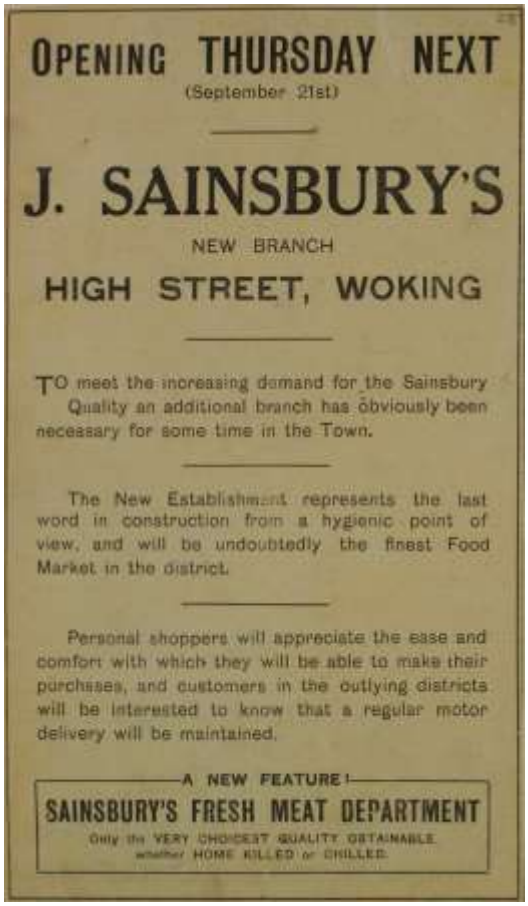


Figure 110. OS plans for 1871, 1896 and 1936

In 1871, the building lay back slightly from the High Street and had an annex on its left side. When James's son, Richard, built No.s 21-24, this annex was demolished and a larger extension built to the rear (shown on the 1896 plan). When No.s 15-19 were built in 1933, it appears No. 20 was extended out to the road and given an *art deco* style façade in keeping with, but not identical to, No.s 15-19 (see Figure 111).

The first occupant of the 'new' No. 20 was J Sainsbury's supermarket.

Figure 111. J Sainsbury's store



OPENING THURSDAY NEXT
(September 21st)

J. SAINSBURY'S
NEW BRANCH
HIGH STREET, WOKING

TO meet the increasing demand for the Sainsbury Quality an additional branch has obviously been necessary for some time in the Town.

The New Establishment represents the last word in construction from a hygienic point of view, and will be undoubtedly the finest Food Market in the district.

Personal shoppers will appreciate the ease and comfort with which they will be able to make their purchases, and customers in the outlying districts will be interested to know that a regular motor delivery will be maintained.

A NEW FEATURE!
SAINSBURY'S FRESH MEAT DEPARTMENT
Only the VERY CHOICEST QUALITY OBTAINABLE whether HOME KILLED or CHILLED.

Figure 112. Announcement of new store 1933

Figure 113. Typical J Sainsbury's interior layout (Guildford)

Sainsbury's shop was a landmark in the High Street for forty years. In 1973, Sainsbury's closed the store and moved into the large self-service supermarket in Wolsey Walk, that they still occupy today.

By 1981, Prima, furniture and kitchen retailers, had taken up occupation. They were there for the next ten years.

Figure 114. Prima advertisement 1990

Figure 115. Prima c1983

From 1996 until 2008, No. 20 was home to Alexander Ramage Associates, solicitors specializing in trade mark, design right and domain name protection.

Catalyst is a non-profit organisation working with people who are dealing with issues stemming from drug and alcohol misuse and mental health. They have been in No. 20 (known as the Xchange) since 2012.

Occupants of No. 20	
1933-73	J Sainsbury
1981-91	Prima Furniture
1995	*Vacant*
1996-2008	Alexander Ramage Associates, solicitors
2012-	Xchange (Catalyst)

Figure 116. No 20 in 2020

NO. 20A

No. 20A was built in about 1934, filling in the gap between the newly-built No. 20 and No. 21. An *art deco* façade was built across the three bays of No. 21 and two bays of 20A giving the appearance of a single building.

The first occupant, in 1934, was Albert Shortland, boot manufacturer. Albert opened his first boot shop in Woking, in 1927, at 44 Chertsey Road. In 1968, he opened another shop in Unit 4 Albion House.

Harry Lavender Hutchinson opened his tobacconist's shop in 1935. After he died in 1952, the business was continued by his sons, George and Harry. The business closed around the time of George's death in 1974.

The next known occupants were Nathan's Travel, in 1981, and Corona Travel, from 1982 until the late 1990s.

Figure 117. H L Hutchinson & Sons

Corona Travel was superseded by a branch of the Guildford-based firm of solicitors, The Castle Partnership, who were present for about five years.

Figure 118. Castle Partnership 2012

Figure 119. Nails 2014

In 2014, High Street Nails opened, trading as 'Nails' (according to the board in Figure 119). As of 2020, the name of the shop is 'Nail'.

Occupants of No. 20A	
1934	Albert Shortland, boot manufacturer
1935-72	Harry Lavender Hutchinson, tobacconist
1981	Nathan's Travel
1982-2003	Corona Travel
2008-12	Castle Partnership, solicitors
2014-	Nails / Nail

Figure 120. 20A - Nail 2020

NO.s 21-24

No.s 21-24 High Street were built in about 1892. They were initially owned by James Harris so it is likely that he or (more likely) his son, Richard, built them.

NO. 21

Claude de Neuville was born in Clapham in 1860. In 1891 he was living in Cowley, Oxfordshire; his daughter Ida Millicent was born in Woking in 1893, so he must have moved to Woking in around 1892.

From 1893, Claude was running his hairdressing business from the premises of 21 (then No. 13) High Street.

DE NEUVILLE AND CO.,
COURT HAIRDRESSERS,
MANUFACTURING PERFUMERS
AND SPECIALISTS IN HAIR.

Orders for Goods or Attendance respectfully solicited. Distance no object.
WOKING TOILET CLUB AND BATHS,
HIGH STREET, WOKING.

Figure 121. 1895 advertisement

Figure 122. de Neuville's hairdressing salon

In 1913, Claude's eldest son, Rousseau Claude de Neuville, married the girl next door – Edith Annie Harris, daughter of Richard James Harris (see page 42). Rousseau (together with his brother Leon) would later take over the business from his father. Their sons, Richard Pierre and Roger Leon de Neuville would in turn take over from them. 'Maison de Neuville' occupied the same premises for more than 80 years.

Claude de Neuville was also an accomplished artist and photographer. A pen and ink sketch of St John's College, Oxford was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1893[30].

Until 1918, the building had the address 13 High Street. After No.s 13 (for many years Hugh Harris) and 14 were built, it became 15 High Street. Following the building in 1933 of No.s 15-20, it took the address it retains today of 21 High Street.

[30] The Oxford Magazine of January 29th, in referring to an etching by Mr. Claude de Neuville, says that the "Magdalen Tower is deservedly the best-known bit of Oxford; it is the favourite of artists of all kinds, whether painters, etchers, or photographers. We quite agree with this, and hope Mr. de Neuville may succeed in giving us something out of the common. His pen-and-ink drawings of Oxford are, if anything, too careful and affected, but nevertheless dainty and refined."

Figure 123. Maison de Neuville advertisements from 1905 and 1956

After de Neuville closed in the late 1970s, Sydney Bailey opened a schools outfitters which survived for just a few years; in 1990, Eric Thomas Ltd also had a schools outfitters in the store.

The first of a long line of restaurants, Piranhas, opened in 1996. This was followed, in 2004, by the short-lived La Rustica – noted for its colourful murals on the walls.

Figure 124. Murals adorning La Rustica

La Rustica was followed, in quick succession, by Gurkha Hut (Nepalese), Namaste (Nepalese & Indian), Global Spice and Karahi Spice (Indian, vegetarian).

Figure 125. Gurkha Hat advert

Figure 126. Namaste 2008

Figure 127. Karahi Spice 2012

Figure 128. Steakout 2014

Since 2014, No. 21 has been a steakhouse; firstly Steakout and, since 2016, Cattle.

Figure 129. No 21 2020

Occupants of No. 21	
1893-1976	Maison de Neuville, court hairdresser, perruquier & posticheur[31]
1981-82	Sydney Bailey, schools outfitter
1990	Eric Thomas Ltd, schools outfitter
1995	*Vacant*
1996-2003	Piranhas
2004	La Rustica, Italian restaurant
2005	Gurkha Hat, Nepalese restaurant
2008-09	Namaste, Nepalese & Indian cocktail bar and restaurant
2009-10	Global Spice
2012	Karahi Spice, Vegetarian restaurant
2014-16	Steakout, steakhouse
2016-	Cattle, steakhouse

NO. 22

No. 22 High Street was built in about 1892. It was originally No. 14; in about 1911, it was renumbered as No. 16. Then, after No.s 15-20 were built in 1933, it became No. 22.

Figure 130. No. 16 in 1914

Figure 131. R Pain advertisement 1908

[31] Perruquier – a person who makes, dresses, or sells wigs; Posticheur – a maker of wigs

The first occupants, Richard Pain & Sons, plumbers and sanitary engineers, traded out of No. 22 from the early 1890s until the mid-1930s. Figure 130 shows the shop in 1914; a large, decorative, wrought-iron, sign hanger protrudes from the façade, although the sign itself is missing.

Briefly, before the war (in around 1935/6), Frederick Pullinger opened a branch of his bakery and confectionery business here.

Probably from some time in 1939, the building was taken over by the Ministry of Labour & National Service. The Ministry occupied the building until 1953.

In 1954, Isabel Craig, ladies fashions, opened. Isabel Craig traded here for more than twenty years.

Figure 132. Ministry of Labour & National Service

Woking Hospice opened a charity shop at 22 High Street in 1986. This later moved to Unit 5 in Albion House (see page 13) – probably in 1990, when the menswear shop, Kiki (run by A Kiki Kyriacou), moved in.

Bairstow Eves, estate agents were the next occupants. Bairstow Eves were established in 1899, but are now a trading name of Countrywide.

Bairstow Eves were succeeded by The Letting Centre, in 2008, which still occupies the premises.

Figure 133. Bairstow Eves 2008

Occupants of No. 22	
1894-1934	Richard Pain & Sons, plumbers
1935-37	Frederick Pullinger, baker
1948-53	Ministry of Labour & National Service (Men)
1954-1978	Isabel Craig, ladies' fashions, lingerie
1986	Woking Hospice Shop

1990-95	Kiki, menswear
2005-08	Bairstow Eves, estate agents
2008-	The Letting Centre

Figure 134. No 22 2020

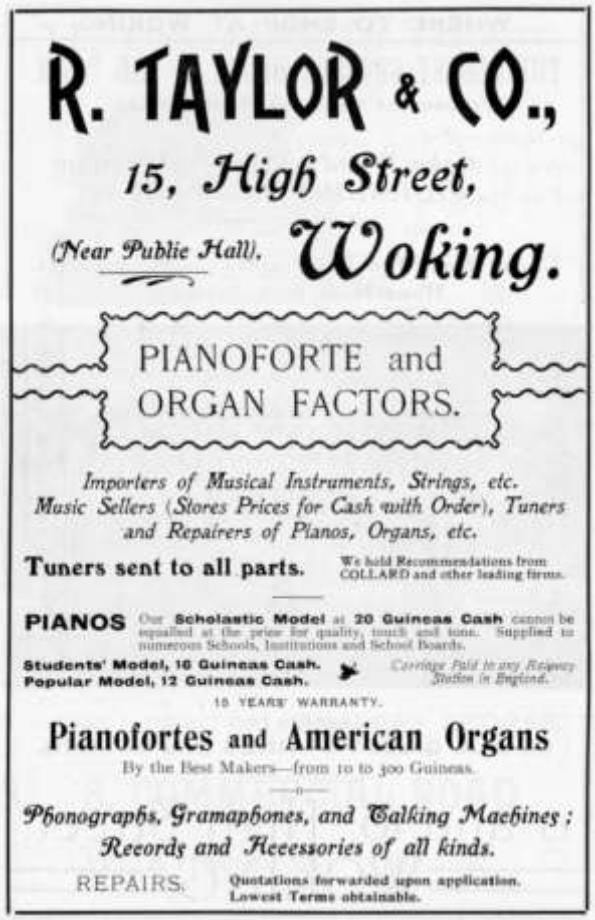
NO. 23

No. 23 High Street (originally No. 15) was built in about 1892. In about 1911, it was renumbered as No. 17. Then after No.s 15-20 were built in 1933 it became No. 23.

The first occupants were Ralph Taylor & Co., from 1895 until about 1930.

Ralph Taylor was born in Ashmansworth, Hampshire in 1857. He moved to Woking sometime in the 1880s. In the 1891 census, he is recorded as living in Commercial Road and was a 'music seller and teacher of music'. By 1894 he had moved into No. 15 High Street and had a business selling musical instruments.

Figure 135. R Taylor & Co. 1914



R. TAYLOR & CO.,

15, High Street,

(Near Public Hall). Woking.

PIANOFORTE and ORGAN FACTORS.

Importers of Musical Instruments, Strings, etc.
Music Sellers (Stores Prices for Cash with Order), Tuners and Repairers of Pianos, Organs, etc.

Tuners sent to all parts. We hold Recommendations from COLLARD and other leading firms.

PIANOS Our Scholastic Model at 20 Guineas Cash cannot be equalled at the price for quality, touch and tone. Supplied to numerous Schools, Institutions and School Boards.

Students' Model, 16 Guineas Cash.
Popular Model, 12 Guineas Cash.

Carriage Paid to any Railway Station in England.

15 YEARS' WARRANTY.

Pianofortes and American Organs

By the Best Makers—from 10 to 300 Guineas.

Phonographs, Gramaphones, and Talking Machines; Records and Accessories of all kinds.

REPAIRS. Quotations forwarded upon application. Lowest Terms obtainable.

Figure 136. R Taylor & Co. advertisement

Ralph Taylor retired in 1926. The shop (along with No. 24) was briefly taken over by Conway West motors (see page 8) for use as a showroom.

For most of the next thirty years, No. 23 was a café. In 1932-34, it was occupied by a café called 'Meg'. The proprietor of the café was a Miss Muriel Evelyn Garrod; in 1939, she was described as 'living on private means'.

From 1934 until 1940, there was a brief interlude when No. 23 was a florist's shop, run by Leonard Henry Spencer. He had to close down in 1940, however, due to 'staffing problems'[32].

In 1941, Blends Ltd, coffee blenders, had opened in No. 24. In about 1942, they opened a café in No. 23. By 1949, it had become the Mandarin Café, which was renamed the Medina Café in 1957; it carried on until 1961.

S H Cox & Son, who already had a shop at 28 Chertsey Road, opened a second shop in No. 23 High Street, in 1962. Stanley Henry Cox and his family lived at Guernsey Farm, Horsell. The business closed in about 1980.

The Sweat Shop, sports goods retailer, was the next occupant - from 1984 until about 2012, when they moved into Commercial Way.

[32] *Surrey Advertiser* 1941

The RSPCA opened a charity shop in No. 23 in 2014, which closed a couple of years later.

In 2017, the shop was home to Agency First Associates, a recruitment agency specialising in the fields of catering and industrial placements. It has however been vacant since 2018.

Figure 137. The Sweat Shop 2008

Figure 138. RSPCA 2014

Figure 139. No 23 2020

Occupants of No. 23	
1895-1926	Ralph Taylor & Co., music & pianoforte dealers
1927-28	Conway West Motors
1931	Mrs Eleanor Ada May
1932-34	Meg, café (M E Garrett)
1934-41	Spencer's, florists (Leonard Henry Spencer)
1942-48	Blends' café
1949-61	Mandarin Café
1962-77	Stanley H Cox & Son, fruiterers
1981	Gellhorn & Co.
1984-2011	The Sweat Shop

2014-16	RSPCA
2017	Agency First Associates
2018-20	*vacant*

NO. 24

No. 24 High Street (originally No. 16) was built in about 1892. In about 1911, it was renumbered as No. 18. Then after No.s 15-20 were built in 1933 became No. 24.

The first known occupant was William Holdaway, tobacconist, previously the proprietor of the Burford Bridge Hotel. William was in Woking until 1902 and died in Portsmouth in 1903, aged 87; it is likely the tobacconist shop was run by his second wife, Emma, who was 38 years younger than him.

From 1904 to 1907, a tobacconists and newsagents was run by Alfred Manning Bailey, before he moved to Merton.

In 1911, John William Hodgson moved to Woking from Yorkshire and opened a newsagents in No. 18. John Hodgson's shop is shown in Figure 140 – one of the posters has the headline 'River Revels Inquest'[33].

Figure 140. Hodgson's shop July 1914

John Hodgson retired in 1927. The shop (along with No. 23) was briefly taken over by Conway West motors for use as a showroom.

Hodgson, like several newsagents at the time, published a number of postcards of local scenes.

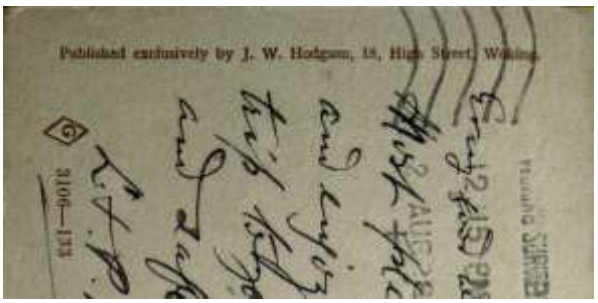


Figure 141. Postcard

Alice Grant was a dress-maker in Dorking, Surrey. She opened a shop, in 1929, at then No. 18 High Street, Woking. The managers of the shop were Malcolm and Ena Moncrieff. The shop closed in 1935. It was then, very briefly, The Dog Shop.

[33] On the night of 2/3 July 1914, Sir Denis Anson Bar^t jumped overboard (presumably for a swim) during a midnight pleasure cruise on the River Thames. He got into difficulties and a bandsman named Mitchell jumped in to assist. Both were drowned.

Arthur Gordon Nathan was born in London in 1902. In 1936-38 he was trading, as a costumier, from 24 High Street, under the name 'Leytons'. At the same time he was also trading in Chertsey Road as 'Arthurs'. On 21st September 1938 he filed for bankruptcy in Guildford court.[34] In his examination, he blamed his failure partly on the electrification of the railway line to Woking which allowed easier access to larger shopping centres.[35]

In 1939, Douglas Lack, tea & coffee merchant, was in residence. Blends Ltd, coffee blenders, opened in No. 24, in 1941; they later opened a café in No. 23.

In the 1950s, Blends Ltd was succeeded by Cawardine Ltd, also coffee blenders. Cawardine's shop was a feature of the High Street for over thirty years; it was notable for the aroma which came from the coffee-roasting machine in the shop window.

Hugh Harris (see page 42) ran their suit hiring service from No. 24, from 1990 until 1995.

Since 1996, the shop has been occupied by Office People Recruitment (OPR) resourcing specialists – a Woking-based recruitment agency, supplying temporary and permanent office-based staff.

Occupants of No. 24	
1895-1902	William Holdaway, tobacconist
1904-08	Alfred Manning Bailey, newsagent, etc
1911-27	John W Hodgson, newsagent, etc
1927-28	Conway West Motors
1929-35	Alice Grant, furrier
1935	The Dog Shop
1936-38	Leytons, costumier
1939	Douglas Lack, tea & coffee merchant
1941-51	Blends Ltd, coffee
1957-89?	Cawardine Ltd, coffee blenders
1990-95	Hugh Harris, suit hire
1996-	Office People Recruitment (OPR), resourcing specialists

[34] *London Gazette* 27 September 1938

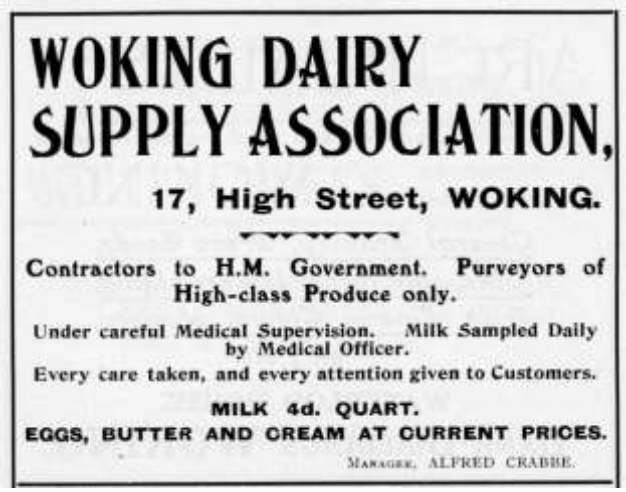
[35] *Surrey Advertiser* 4 January 1939

Figure 142. No 24 2020

NO. 25

No. 25 High Street (originally No. 17) was built in about 1895. In about 1911, it was renumbered as No. 19. Then, after No.s 15-20 were built in 1933, it became No. 25.

For its first 60 years, No. 25 was home to a dairy retail business. The first occupant was the Woking Dairy Supply Association, also advertised as the Aldershot & Woking Dairy Supply Association.


WOKING DAIRY SUPPLY ASSOCIATION,

17, High Street, WOKING.

Contractors to H.M. Government. Purveyors of High-class Produce only.

Under careful Medical Supervision. Milk Sampled Daily by Medical Officer.

Every care taken, and every attention given to Customers.

MILK 4d. QUART.

EGGS, BUTTER AND CREAM AT CURRENT PRICES.

MANAGER, ALFRED CRABBE.

Figure 143. 1905 advertisement

In around 1910, the shop was taken over by Jesse Trigg & Son of Park Farm Dairy. Jesse Trigg was born in Liss, Hampshire in 1854, the son of a dairy farmer. He moved to Walton-on-Thames in 1890, where he ran Ashley Park Farm.

Figure 144. J Trigg's Stand at 1927 Trade Exhibition

Figure 145. 1934 advertisement

In the 1920s, Trigg merged with Arthur J Renshaw & Sons, whose Kingsway Farm Dairy was established, in 1870, in Goldsworth Road.

Renshaw & Trigg seem to have been a subsidiary of a number of conglomerates as small local dairies combined throughout the nineteen-thirties and forties; in 1953 they were part of Home Counties Dairies, itself a part of United Dairies[36].

Renshaw & Trigg went into voluntary receivership in 1954[37]. United Dairies merged with the Guildford-based company of Cow & Gate, in 1959, to form Unigate.

[36] During World War I, there were dire shortages of men, horses and vehicles, hampering any business which was reliant on the timely distribution of its products, such as a dairy company. United Dairies was formed in 1915 when Wiltshire United Dairies, Metropolitan and Great Western Dairies, and the Dairy Supply Company merged in an attempt to pool their resources and keep their companies operating until the end of the war

[37] *London Gazette* 25 June 1954 & 22 April 1955

West Surrey Central Dairy Company (Cow & Gate)

After the death, in 1882, of Guildford grocer Charles Gates, his two sons Charles Arthur and Leonard took over the running of the shop, which held the local distribution franchise for Gilbey's wines and spirits, and also sold beer.

When, in 1885, the brothers were persuaded to join the temperance movement, they poured their entire stock into the gutters of Guildford High Street. Left with no livelihood, they converted their now empty shop into a dairy, trading under the name of the West Surrey Dairy. Using a milk separator, they bought milk from local farmers, and after extracting the cream and whey, sold the skim back to the farmers for pig feed.

In 1888, three more of the Gates family joined the business, which led to the formal registration of the company under the name of the West Surrey Central Dairy Company Limited. From this base the company expanded quickly, buying creameries in the milk producing West Country of (mainly Somerset and Dorset). The company was renamed Cow & Gate, after their early logo.

Mander Brothers was a Wolverhampton company founded in 1773. In the 19th century, the firm became the number one manufacturers of varnishes and paints in the British Empire. Manders Paints occupied No. 25 from c1960 to c1980.

Since c1980, No. 25 has been divided into two trading units. The left-hand side (next door to No. 26) has housed Child & Co., estate agents and the Berean Bookshop, a Christian resource outlet.

The right-hand side (next to No. 24) became home to Mecca Bookmakers. In 1988, Grand Metropolitan, owners of Mecca, bought William Hill and merged the two brands under the William Hill name.

Figure 146. Berean bookshop and Private shop 2008

Later, No. 25 became Woking's only (to date) sex shop - a Private Shop - from 2006[38] to 2010 [sat rather incongruously next to the Berean Christian Bookshop]. It is currently home to Grey Oriental Foods.

[38] *Surrey Live* website, 27 April 2006

Occupants of No. 25		
1899-05	Woking Dairy Supply Association	
1911-27	Jesse Trigg & Son, Park Farm Dairy	
1931-57	United Dairies (Renshaw & Trigg)	
1963-74	Manders Paints	
1983-88	Mecca Bookmakers	Child & Co., estate agents
1988-95	William Hill, bookmakers	
1995-2000		
2002-05		Berean Bookshop (closed since 2002?)
2006-10	Private Shop	
2013-	Grey Oriental Foods	

Figure 147. No 25 2020

NO. 26

No. 26 High Street (originally No. 18) was built in about 1900. In about 1911, it was renumbered as No. 20. Then after No.s 15-20 were built in 1933 it became No. 26.

From 1901, the building was used as William Schuth's photographic studio.

Wilhelm 'William' Michael Schuth was German, being born in Bonn in 1871. He came to England in around 1890. In 1891 he was working for George Emberson, photographer, in Chertsey. In April that year he married George's daughter, Elizabeth.

After some years, working in London, William and his family arrived in Woking in 1900/1.

William ran his studio from No. 20 High Street for about 15 years. His father, Peter, died in 1913 and William seems to have retired shortly afterwards – being German, he would have found life difficult with the advent of the first world war[39].

At the end of the war, the studio was trading as 'Emberson & Sons'; Elizabeth's eldest sister, Emma, was then the resident photographer. In 1923, Emma moved the studio into Church Path, by the junction with Chobham Road.

Figure 149. Schuth carte-de-visit reverse

Figure 148. Emma Emberson 1859-1934

[39] It is likely that William (and possibly also Elizabeth) were interned. The British government was initially reluctant to impose widespread internment in the United Kingdom during the First World War, choosing instead to restrict the activities of nationals of enemy nations residing in the UK and interning only those suspected of being a threat to national security. Public anti-German sentiment peaked with the sinking of the RMS Lusitania on 7 May 1915, and the subsequent rioting forced the government to implement a general program of internment.

Figure 150. Woking Trades Exhibition October 1927

The 1921 rate book shows the shop, still owned by William Schuth, occupied by 'Miss Emberson', then altered to read 'S Schuth' – William's son, Seigfried.

Briefly, from 1924-25, Albert Shortland had a boot shop in No. 26.

In 1927, the shop became home to Raé Bertina, a firm of milliners and costumiers. In October that year, they exhibited at the Woking Trades Exhibition.

They were in residence until 1958.

Succeeding Raé Bertina, was Peter Millett & Sons. Peter Millett opened his shop selling camping equipment and outdoor clothing in about 1960.

Millett's traded until the early 1980s. By 1985, they had been succeeded by Cheapjacks. By the mid-1990s, they were gone.

Since 2002, No. 26 has been home to Manners, estate and letting agents.

Figure 151. Millett's c1975

Occupants of No. 26	
1901-13	William Schuth, photography
1918-23	Emberson & Sons, photographers
1924-25	Albert Shortland
1927-58	Raé Bertina, milliner & costumier
1963-83	Peter Millett & Sons
1985-90	Cheapjacks
2003-	Manners, estate agents

Figure 152. Cheapjacks 1986

Figure 153. No 26 2020

NO. 28 – PEARL ASSURANCE HOUSE

Pearl Assurance House was built in 1953, at the bottom of the High Street, abutting both the High Street and Commercial Road, by the Pearl Assurance Company. The ground floor was divided into two and the right-hand half had the address of 28 High Street[40].

Figure 154. Hugh Harris (Children's) Advert 1960

By 1958, Hugh Harris had opened a second store in No. 28 which was a children's outfitters, specializing in school uniforms.

In 1964, Hugh Harris was succeeded by Hardys – another children's outfitters (seen in Figure 155).

In about 1985, Hardy's was replaced by March & Stacey, curtains and soft furnishings retailer. They were succeeded, in about 1995, by March Selection, recruitment agency.

Personnel Selection moved into No. 28, from Church Path, in 2008. In 2011, they moved again, to No. 3 High Street.

Since 2013, No. 28 has been home to Stephen Bishop, gentlemen's suit hire and tailoring.

[40] No. 27 High Street appears never to have existed.

Figure 155. Pearl Assurance House c1975

Figure 156. Personnel Selection 2008

Figure 157. No 28, 2020

Occupants of 28 High Street	
1958-64	Hugh Harris, children's outfitters
1964-82	Hardys, children's outfitters
1986-91	March & Stacey, curtains
1996-2003	March Personnel
2008-11	Personnel Selection
2013-	Stephen Bishop, suiting

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

British Newspaper Archive

Flowers by Rosemary

Iain Wakeford https://www.wokinghistory.org/

J Sainsbury Archive

London Metropolitan Archives

National Archives, Kew

Surrey History Centre

1:2500 Ordnance Survey Plans for 1871, 1896, 1914, 1935, 1965 and 1976 have been used extensively

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