

Branston Shops and Other Businesses Through the Ages

Sleaford Road

Galbraiths – hardware and DIY store – demolished and land developed for housing.

Moor Lodge Hotel – Owned by the Downey family initially, later a number of different owners but eventually demolished and developed for housing.

Branston Filling Station – In 1940s was owned by Jack Herbert. Johnny Gelsthorpe would garage/park some of his buses there, and also Frank Millns would garage his carrier van there. Noel Black later took over ownership of the Filling Station after Jack Herbert. Current owners are W.L. Hunt & Sons.

Speed's Shop – run by Tom and Edie Speed – Grocery and confectionary – followed by Whitelams in 1980s

Martins Shop – run by Ted Martin – Grocer and newsagent during the 1940s and 50s, followed by Woods sometime during the 1960s.

High Street

Applewhite's Shop – Run by Aggie who lived there with her parents from 1940s. Contained the Post Office and run as General Store. During this period Aggie's father ran a tailoring business at the shop. Joyce Northey (nee Vasey) worked there on a postal round from age of 14 to 18 years covering Branston village, Branston Booths and the fen. She arrived back at the office one day and had to turn around and go back to the Booths to deliver a telegram. Mills and Boon books were available at Aggie's. She retired circa 1965. A number of persons followed in Aggie's footsteps namely, Brian Stancer, Bell, Booles, King, Robinson, Di & Ezra Nadasen.

Co-op Stores – Prior to the First World War these premises were known as Marshalls Shop and this is where Maud Marshall was employed. Co-op took over from 1920 to 1973 as a general store, grocery and drapery with Ethel Waby in charge of the drapery. Other employees were Marjorie Booles, Renee Reeson, and Joyce Northey who worked on grocery from 1968 to 1990. There was also a butchery department. Branch Managers were Mr Corney, Mr Brown, Mr Houseman. After the Co-op moved to new premises on Station Road the old shop was taken over by Bryn Wilkinson as an electrical shop. After ten years Galbraiths Hardware took over until they moved to Sleaford Road. Dave Cousins son then took over for a short time, then it became the Alliance and Leicester Building Society and then it became the office for Fairhurst Accounting.

Fish & Chip Shop – Open during part of WW2, and was run by a man from Bardney. It was located in the bottom of the yard where Frank Taylor, a butcher, lived and ran a small pig farm; this was just opposite the cemetery. The site was redeveloped for modern housing circa 2000.

W.E. Young (Branston) Ltd. – Bakers & Confectioners, Grocers, Hardware etc. Located on the corner of High Street and Church Road – The Bake house was at the rear on Church Road. Post Office was also located in the shop over a period of time in 1940s/50s. When Mr Young retired the business was taken over by his son in law Don Robinson and his wife Nora. Don supplied the food for the cricket teams and it was all prepared by the young girls. The same young girls used to help with the Xmas post. The business was later taken over by Longmates who after a time sold out to Shillitos and they in turn sold it to Trevor Yates, Domestic Appliances, in 1972. He remained there until 2000 and then sold it to McCamps for a music shop.

Lintins Butchers Shop = Located on the corner of High Street and Church Road opposite corner to W.E. Young. Premise built in 1901 for proprietor Teddy Lintin who at various times employed Bill Marfleet, Malcolm Jones and Derek Woodcock. He also owned the slaughterhouse further down the High Street opposite the Home Guard Club. It was later demolished and is now a car park for the Home Guard Club. When Lintin retired the shop was taken over by a butcher named Arthur Merryshaw. It was later taken over by Mellors and turned into a grocery and clothing shop.

Claricoates Shop – Just below Lintins, owned by Sid and Elsie Claricoates. This was eventually taken over by Sims, followed by Audrey Skidmore selling clothes and wool, and then a Mrs Dauber selling antiques.

Ben Keal's Shoe Repair Shop – Located between the end of The Terrace and the Waggon & Horses Public house. Later this small shop was taken over by Bob Kettleborough and known as Bits and Bobs Shop.

Waggon & Horses Public House –For many years the licensee was Mrs Bedford who was ably assisted by Jack Hanson. In 1959/60 the old public house was demolished and the present one was erected on the site. A number of licensees followed, namely Fred and Pat Twigg, Frank and Mavis Holman, Pete and Pat Pearson, Roy and Maggie Townhill. The current landlord is Andrew (Andy) Neall and Helen who now provide dining and bed and breakfast facilities.

Plough Public House - On the opposite side of the road. Jack Drayton was the licensee for 48 years. Other licensees followed him, the last three being a Mr Dauber, followed by Chester Hammond who eventually left to take over a pub in Lincoln. The last licensee was Lol Horner and his wife Mabel. Pub was later demolished for road improvements.

Sheepwash Car Park

Branston Café – Located on the car park. This building was originally created to house the village library but when the library was transferred to The Academy some 16/17 years ago it remained empty for a time before being brought back to life as a café. Two different proprietors ran the business until approximately five years ago when the present owner Helen Burkett took over, since when it has become a very popular venue.

Lincoln Road

Howarth's Cottage – Located on the bend at rear of Plough Pub... Sold cakes and sweets. Later demolished for road improvements.

Hebden's Butchers Shop – Located near Howarth's cottage. Later occupied by Hilary's Hairdressing Shop. Eventually demolished for road improvements, as was Tan Wyles house. Tan had a new bungalow built at the rear.

Sparrows Shop – A place where accumulators used to power radios could be charged up.

Hairdressing Salon – Located in a small wooden hut. Proprietor was Gwen Taylor.

Percy Ormond's Car Repair Shop – Located just after the Reading Room. He carried out paint spraying and bodywork repairs. Prior to his acquisition of the premises it was a rifle range, and prior to that, sometime after the First World War, it was a fish and chip shop run by a Mr Fincham. He closed it down after the beginning of the Second World War. Ray Graves used to deliver orders to regular customers.

Coffee Shop – Located in house near the old village water pump.

Pearson's Joinery Business – Wheelwright & Coffin Maker. Premises later became Doug Arden's Garage, and now it is known as Andy's Mastercraft Garage.

Chaloner's Business Premises – Horse Collar and Harness Maker. Also supplier of pedal cycles and spares, plus hardware items. Premises were something of an emporium. After many years of trading the business closed in 1939/40. Front of shop was then bricked up and became part of the residential property, after which a building at the rear was used for the repair of cycles and the charging of accumulator batteries. This also closed some years later.

Pearson's Blacksmith Forge and Shop – This was located opposite the joinery business. New house and garage built in the yard by John Barker in the 1960s/1970s and a hairdressing business was carried out at this location which was run by Julie Barker and Jennifer Yates.

Jessops Shop – Usually known as Ma Jessops – Located just beyond the blacksmiths premises. It was a small shop selling groceries and confectionary. Later taken over by someone named Benns and then later by Winstanley.

Silver Street

Small Café – This was situated in one of the row of cottages next to the war memorial it was opened during the Second World War mainly for the benefit of military personnel and closed before the end of the war.

Westwood's Shop – Situated at the far end of Silver Street and owned by Jack and Nancy Westwood. They were there for many years from 1940s to 1960s. Prior to Jack and Nancy taking it over it was owned by a man named Redford. As well as a general store it was also an Off Licence so it was very popular. Many young people gathered there to purchase crisps and soft drinks etc. and to stand around and talk. When Jack and Nancy vacated the shop it was taken over by Woodman's, then Booles, and finally by Gadds who supplied fitted kitchens. It is now closed.

Church Road

Blacksmith's Forge – Facing church hall car park. No further details but owner may have been a man named Jessie Liversedge.

Newsagents Shop – Run by Dorothy Bines in 1960s/70s.

Hilary's Hair Salon – Run by Hilary Wroblewski (nee Footit) from 1971 to 1996. This later became Joy's Bridal Shop.

Station Road

Fish & Chip Shop - near the junction of the crossroads. It is still trading. This stone building has had a colourful history for it has been used for many purposes, as well as being left empty at various times. It was once used as a pig sty, then possibly Willoughby's Newsagent shop, also a previous fish & chip shop run by Les O'Meara, and a gent's hairdressing business. There may have been other uses.

Stuart Wallace - Electrical Shop. This is a newly built shop located on the corner of Station Road and Curtois Close.

Co-operative Store - A new purpose built store opened when the High Street store was vacated. It has a very interesting mosaic on the outside wall which depicts the history of the Co-op. This was created by Branston History Group members and enthusiastic volunteers.

Pacey's Shop – Grocery shop located at 61 Station Road. Owned by Kate Pacey and husband Bob from 1939 to 1952. The telephone number for the shop was Branston 210 and because few people had a telephone at that time Mrs Pacey allowed members of the public to use it. Bob had a hair dressing business in a shed at the back of the shop. In 1952 the shop was taken over by Mr & Mrs Collins who ran it until 1964. It was then sold to Mr and Mrs Ringer who continued the business until 1966 when it closed and reverted to just a domestic property.

Mrs Clark – This lady resided in a bungalow on Station Road and carried out dressmaking and she also ran a library from her front room. Exact address and date not known.

Hillside Approach

Reedman's Garage and house - Vehicle repairs carried out here. Frank Harrison, Haulage Contractor, garaged his lorry at this location. Later Jack Taylor took over the garage. Later it became a grocery shop run by Allisons, followed by a succession of different people, namely a Mr Newbert, Wades, Carline, and Everett. A Mrs Keal worked in the shop for many years. Premises have since been turned into flats.

Other Businesses Not Highlighted

Mr Kemp, Coal Merchant, of Church Road.
Mr Rowe, Butcher of Heighington, visited Branston customers.
Frank Harrison, Painter and Decorator.
Mr Hill (Fishy), Fresh fish deliveries.
Fish & Chip van visited from Bardney
Jack Taylor. Farmer.
Dick Taylor, Farmer
Patrick Dean, Farmer
Nelstrop, Farmer.
Tinsley, Farmer.
Geoff Brown, Farmer,
Co-op Farms.
Forman Bros. Haulage.
Arthur Barker, Builder.