

SHOPS PART TWO

Continuing the survey of Brigstock's old shops, we begin again at Mr Tony Bell's shop in the High Street, once the Angel Inn.

Through the big doors in about 1920 Mrs Gray kept a grocer's shop and a teashop. She is remembered as a rather stately little lady who wore black silk and specially made bonnets.

Next door, No 28, was a dressmaking establishment where the Misses Bessie and Pem Mace made clothes in the latest fashion. Before this it had been kept by their father as a carpenter's shop.

No 26 High Street was where Mrs Bligh sold hats from Halls in Market Street, Kettering. The hats could be kept on approval for one week.

The house now occupied by Mrs Buckerfield, next door to the Three Cocks, used to be a hairdressers in the twenties when a haircut for a lady was 6d and hot curling tongs were used sometimes, I have been told, resulting in burnt ears. During WW2 the house was used as a doctor's surgery.

The present craft shop on the corner of Benefield Road was, at the end of the century, a grocer's and baker's shop run by Austin Richards. The bake house was just around the corner from the shop, on Benefield Road, and the ovens are still there. When in operation it baked buns, bread and Sunday dinners. Austin Richards was in charge of the bake house until about 1930 when Fred Brown took over and then Mr Robinson was the last baker on this site. The premises were then bought by Mr George Bowden who converted the bake house into a house, and the shop into a general store and newsagent. He left in about 1958 and it was then bought by Mr and Mrs Langley who remained there until 1978.

The next house along was kept by Mr Collier as a grocer's and haberdashery. He sold dress materials and bed ticking. His photograph hangs in the Chapel schoolroom. In 1918 the shop had become a hairdresser's and by 1964 was being used as a store for Mr Smith's garage. On May 4th 1972 it was gutted by fire but it has now been restored as a private house.

The house where Mr George Sturgess now lives had a tailor operating in the back in about 1900, while the front room housed a hairdressing establishment until 1910. Mr Jack Bailey's father and grandfather were both tailors here. During WW1 Mrs Ross kept a sweet shop here.

Set back from the High Street, Du Cros, now the home of Mr and Mrs Pickering, was once an undertaker's premises one relic of which remains the saw pit at the top of the garden.

From around the turn of the century until about 1920 Fred Johnson and his son Raymond were wheelwrights and blacksmiths there. At one time thirty or forty horses might be seen lined up along Stable Hill awaiting shoeing. The whole of

