

Memories of High Street South by Cllr Doug Gregory

Waking as I remember it in my youth over 50 years ago, starting from Coopers the Bakers on the junction of Shoebury Road and New Road where you could buy a large loaf of bread for 41/2d.

Crossing St Johns Road to Meads Grocers (today three cottages) then walking past St Nicholas Church Hall and down the left hand side of the High Street, you would have seen Millers Fish Shop, Mr. Self's Butchers (which is now empty) and the Anchor Inn.

The Doctor's Surgery and Dispensary in a large red brick house was next door to the Inn (now three houses). The Memorial Hall was a wooden army hut, unlike the modern building that you see today. Goodman's Seed Chandler and Ironmongers and French's cycle Display Shed followed (now Goodmans).

The Mission Hall and Salvation Army were next, followed by Marshes the Butchers which was then Benefield's Butchers. By the entrance to Lion Fields was Mr. Mile's Snobs (Shoe Repairers) at number 63.

Following the Red Lion Public House at 79 was Miss Addy's Sweet Shop. Wiggins the Gentleman's Hairdresser at 83 and Miss Finch's Drapers (the Off Licence) were next. The White Hart Public House was followed by Vickery's Motor Repair Yard (Bell House), next to the Cosy Cafe.

Crouchmans Avenue entrance was Mr Cripp's, Bakers Shop which also sold ice-cream. Alps Forge and cycle shop was at 125 (now Car Repairers). Norris Hair-dressers was at 137, with Baker's Plumbers and R. Baker Ladies Hairdressers in what is now the bungalow behind 141.

Then came the Post Office which also sold knitting wool. Garnham's Greengrocery and Hard-ware Store was at 195 (now empty). The Methodist Chapel was followed by Webbs the Butchers which has been demolished. Number 231 was Griggs the Greengrocers and 237 Mrs. Bush's Sweets and Grocery Store (both now houses). After the Exhibition inn there was Burgess the Bakers our final shop (house number 245).