

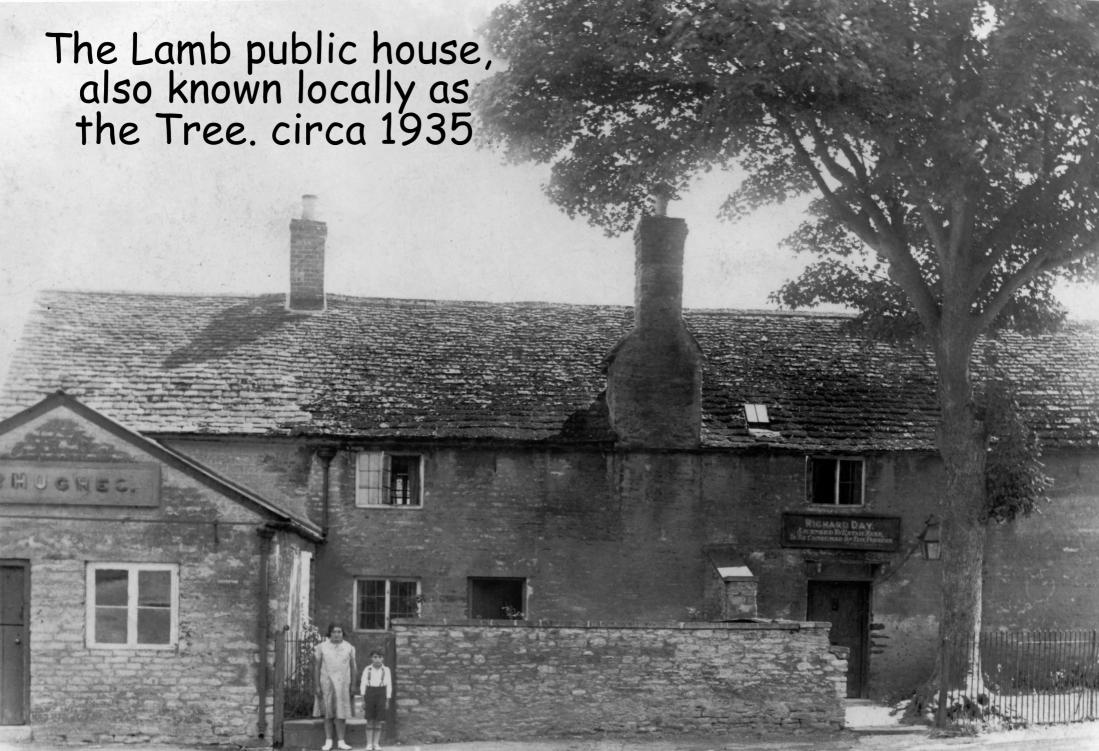




MARKET PLACE AND CHEAPSIDE, BAMPTON, OXON





















The Stores

This shop served the people of Bampton for over 200 years

From early in the 19th Century, until the turn of the 20th Century, it was Holloways Printers, locally known as the Bampton Stamp Office

Early in the 20th Century it became a village shop, selling groceries, sweets, tobacco and in later years, pet supplies

It was looked after by a succession of shopkeepers until its closure in 2010















Few questions – put to Janet Newman

• Do you know what the part that is now Bojangles and the Community shop was used for?

When my mother (Vera Elward née Tanner) was a child the ovens were at the back of the shop which was also the living accommodation. In the 1920s she, and many others, used to take the Sunday roast to be cooked in the baker's ovens. She thinks the separate building may have been where the bakers did the mixing. In the late 1940s there was a fire in the main building and all the men who were in The George and Dragon ran to help. My dad went in the shop door and through into the corridor where he saw a man through the smoke at the end of it, he called to him, reassured him that he would get him out. The man didn't move so my dad went toward him telling the ma to come to him but still the man didn't move. My dad moved quickly forward to grab him and walked straight into the mirror at the end of the corridor! — he had been talking to his own reflection through the smoke. It could have been after that that the ovens were moved to the separate building. I remember them being there because we used to stop for a 'warm' on the way to school.

In the 1950s the part where the Community shop now is, was the living accommodation – that is where the front door was.

• Did Constables ever sell their own bread sliced and wrapped? I was wondering if they had a slicing and wrapping machine where the two shops now stand

Constables never sold sliced bread in the early part of the C20th. They did towards the end because people wanted to make packed lunches. David Rose had a Saturday job delivering and he also worked the sliced bread wrapping machine.

• What was the name of the lady who drove their delivery van? Her son married Julie Till; I think he was an HGV driver and he, Julie and son went to live in America

Freddie Constable (always known to us as Freddie Bun) did the deliveries for Bampton and Sid Constable (Patrick's dad) did the outlying villages

• Do you know the year Constables closed? My mother came to live with us in 1979 and it was still open then, because those photos of the ovens in the database were taken by my mother. Somewhere I have the originals and negatives. When mother lent them to you for the exhibition in 1985 you had them copied and it's scans of those copies that are in our database. One day I'll find her negatives and put a better copy in the database.

I can't remember when Constables closed but it became a sort of Patisserie before the Solicitors. I don't think I had any photos copied for the exhibition. All photos were original and all the captions handwritten because I didn't have a computer in those days! If your mum's photos were copied, it was more likely to have been done by Roy Barrett who did all the copying for the Archive in the early days.

It would be very worthwhile to talk to Patrick Constable because he has all the Constable family photos and knows everything about the family history. He gave me photocopies of photographs but they were very poor quality.

There was a Baker's Cottage next door to where Mary Farmer lived in Broad Street where Constables provided accommodation for their baker. Past bakers were: Kenny East (now lives in Bowling Green Close); Tony Allum whose mother ewas the last landlady of the The Lamb; Bob Allison whose mother-in-law, Mrs Craddock, was a Constable.

Since Janet answered my questions, Kenny East has died.















BAMPTON: TWO OR THREE OF THE OLDER SHOPS SHOW SOME PRETTY FEATURES, LIKE THOSE WH TWO MODEST BOWS HAVE KEPT THEIR /ERE ORIGINAL GLAZING AND, AGAINST THE ADJOIN -ING HOUSE, TO THE LEFT, A PENTISE SUPPO ON POSTS PROTECTS CUSTOMERS FROM /RTED THE RAIN.

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RIGHTMOVE - Have reported that 70% of its advertised properties have been on their website for in excess of 12 months.

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CONCLUSION

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MARKET SQUARE - looking B.

The tall three-storeyed building in the centre of the photograph housed the Bampton Commercial Academy in the early years of this century. The owner was a remarkable character popularly known as Alfie Bryant. In addition to caring for his school he was also an insurance agent, but these were not the least of his activities. He appears to have had a finger in the pie in every organisation in the village ... On the right of the photograph is the shop belonging to the London Cash Drapery Stores. It closed down after the First World War, and became Bampton's first garage. The shop front was removed to reveal the two pillars which are so familiar today







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POSTAL SERVICES

Mrs. Reynolds has been Post Mistress at Bampton since 1926. During this time the volume of work at the Post Office has increased beyond recognition. Where she used to issue about £10 weekly to pensio ers at 5/- per head, she now pays out over £1,000 per week under 11 categories of pensions and benefits.

Equally the sale in insurance stamps has risen in number and value, a man's unemployment insurance was 1/8 per week. now it is 27/-.

Postal orders up to the value of £1 were not very much used, now they are bought to the value of £400 per week, and may be had up to £5.

The Savings Bank accounts which have been opened through Bampton Post Office number 3462.



The volume of mail handled has also increased enormously, swelled by circulars, football pool coupons and mail order clubs, yet only 4 postmen and women are employed where 3 were necessary in the old days. They still use bicycles to cover their districts of Lew, Aston and Weald.



























MARKET SQUARE - North Side

The cottage on the extreme left of the top photograph became the Lamb Inn between the wars, but was demolished after the war to make way for the garage showroom. Separated from the Lamb by a yard was the butcher's shop kept by Charley Robinson. By all accounts he was inoffensive enough, but his wife Matilda was a 'regular Tartar! Coarse and raucous, she took an active part in the Rough Music incident of 1900, and was one of the twenty-two defendants who appeared before the Witney magistrates.

Next door to the shop was the Bell Inn. In 1923 it was converted into the W.I.Hall. The inn is not completely forgotten. The narrow lane behind the Hall is still called 'Back of the Bell by the older folk.

Adjoining the inn were two cottages, in one of which old Mrs. Ward used to sell fried fish on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The cottages were demolished after the 1914-18 War to make way for the War Memorial.



















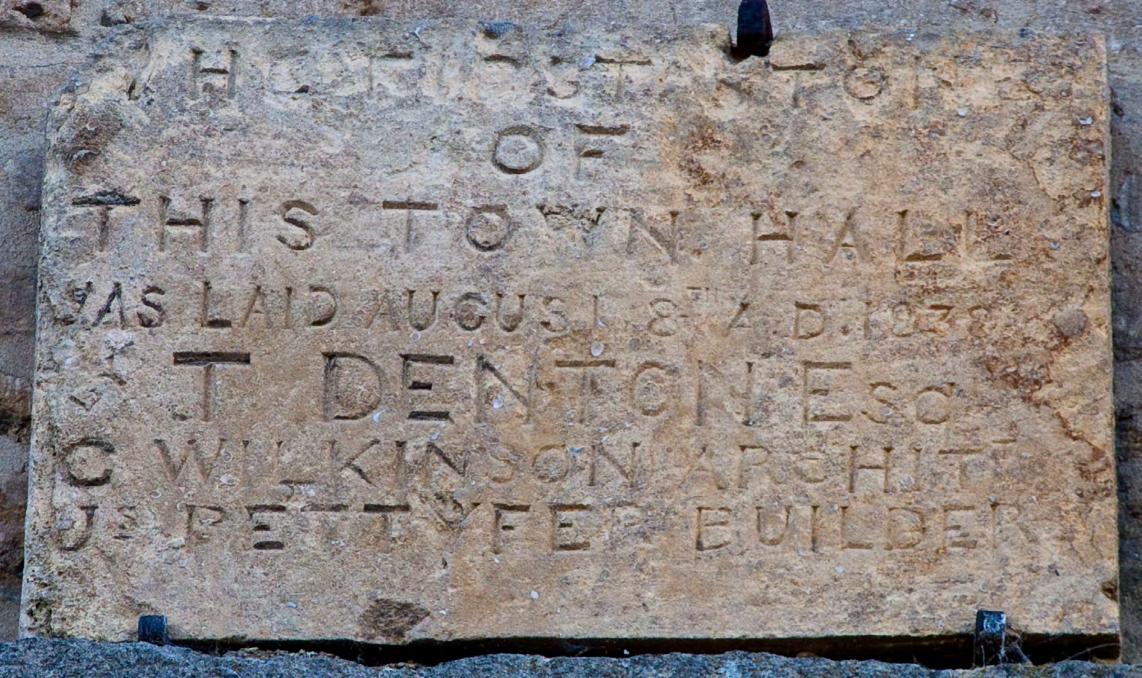












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