

Where have all of the shops gone?

"WHERE have all our neighbours gone? Gone to the supermarket everyone!" said a local newspaper report in October — "Two developers suffered another defeat at St Austell as town centre and green belt defenders rejected their multi-million pound food store schemes."

Late last year two town councils, Wadebridge and St Austell, vigorously opposed plans for out-of-town trading developments, by so doing protecting town centre businesses, and stemming the present trend for shoppers to travel by car to supermarkets placed at some distance from their homes.

The degree to which shopping within the neighbourhood has changed to travelling to do shopping, can be seen by the comparison made below of the traders in St Dennis before the war and the town's businesses today.

The first list was compiled by Alan Wilson, of St Dennis for Community Storyteller Mike Dunstan.

ST DENNIS

TRADERS c.1939:

Boscawen Public House. Commercial Inn. Richard and Mitchell, Fruiters. Mr. Crawle, Bus Operator. Fred Stephens, Farmer and Milkman. Dave Yelland, Garage Owner. Dr. Manson, Surgery. Richard Yelland, Butcher. Sylvie Kestle, Baker. Bert Trethewy, Grocer. Claude Grose, Builder. Arnold Kestle, Baker and Coach Operator. Tom Marcom, Jeweller and Newsagent. Will Pollard, Coalman. H. Estlick, Chemist. F C Elgar, Cinema Owner and Photographer. Tom Varcoe, Outfitter. George Varcoe, Blacksmith. Olive Taylor, Grocer. Whiskers Trudgeon, Hairdresser and Chip Shop. Jones, Shoemaker. Jim Osborne,

Grocer. Eli Nance, Hardware, Grocers and Carpenter. Claude Odgers, Packman. Clifford Kent, Packman. Will Kellow, Butcher. Monty Lobb, Chip Shop. Wilf Jenkins, Post Office. Sadler Kellaway, General Stores and Chip Shop. Vealls, Baker. Edgar Coombe, Gentleman's Hairdresser. Cyril Strongman, Boot Repairer and Barclays Bank. Arthur Gregor, Gents Outfitters and Radios. Richard Hooper, General Stores and Corn Merchant. J & R Harris, Grocers. Ray Stribley, Pork Butcher and Postman. Charlie Coombe, Boot Repairer. George Bullock, Carpenter. John Trudgeon, Organ Builder. Trudgeon, Watchmaker. Lilly Buckingham, Grocers. Will Yelland, Butcher. Mrs. Rabey, Cycle Shop. Robbie Hore, General Stores. AJ Strongman, Fruiter. R. Currah, General Stores and Sweetshop. F. Stoneman, Sweets, Cigarettes etc. PR Burnett, Butcher. Joe Thomas, Coalman. Sam Honey, Egg Collector. Co-op

Wholesales. Bert Kent, Coal Merchant. Sam Pedlar, Stone Mason. Tucker and Grigg, Cycle Dealer. Marsh Kessell, Boot Repairer. Fred Lobb, Builder. Captain Hill, Coalman and Lorry Hire. Percy Snell, Pork Butcher. Miller and Moffat, Garage and Car Hire. John Trudgeon, Butcher. R Grigg, Farmer and Milkman.

Children from St. Dennis County Primary School have made the following list of present businesses in the town.

Hendra Bakeries. Juliff's Newsagents. D&G Stores. St. Dennis Pharmacy. Pyramid Garage. Gumow's Fish and Chips. Nance's Furnishing. Spar Shop. St. Dennis Post Office. Kay's Fish and Chips. Rachel's Hairdressers. Pete's Groceries. Sally's Hairdressers. Phil's Butchers. Wellington Rd. Stores. Kessell's Garage. Metherall's Garage. Penwyn Garage. Matthew's Auto Repairs. Boscawen Hotel. Commercial Hotel. Liz's Dairy. Lloyd's bank.

Out of a total of 116 pupils, two children's parents shop in Truro, five children's parents shop in St Dennis; the rest do their weekly shopping in St Austell.

St Austell's Asda has car parking spaces for over 700 cars; if every space is used on a Saturday, for an hour's shopping, approximately 6,300 cars would use the car park during the day, each having made a journey of some distance, (eg 10 miles from St. Dennis).

A rough indication of the kind of atmospheric pollution all these shoppers cause can be assessed by using the following statement:

"The average car produces 2.7 kgs of hydrocarbons for every 10 gallons of petrol used - these cause photochemical smog and nitrogen oxides linked with respiratory illnesses" — Green magazine.

What is left in the village or town when all the neighbours have gone off to the supermarket? **An empty centre?...Just the road out?**



Where have all the shoppers gone?... Two empty shops in Fore Street, St Dennis.

Photo: Harry Barrett, St Dennis