

# St.Dennis Shops and Traders

by Reginald Rabey

## St.Dennis Shops and Traders

1930's to 1960's

Originally Drafted

in

1993/1994

by

**Reginald Rabey**

Article prepared exclusively for the  
St.Dennis Village Website

By  
Studio9KC

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## Foreword

In 1994 Mr. Alan Wilson compiled a very comprehensive list of traders that existed in St. Dennis circa 1939, and the list, entitled "Where have all of the shops gone", was printed in the local Cornish Guardian newspaper. Mr. Wilson's list forms a very important social history record. With permission from a member of Mr. Wilson's family the newspaper article now appears on the St. Dennis Village Website and can be viewed by using the following link.

[Where have all of the shops gone](#)

Whilst recently looking through some bits and pieces of my family memorabilia I came across some notes jotted down by my late Dad, Mr. Reginald Rabey, about shops and traders that were in St. Dennis from the 1930's to the 1960's. The pieces of paper that the notes were hand written on have the dates 1993 and 1994 on them so I am not sure exactly when the notes were written. My Dad's notes mention some of traders in Mr. Wilson's list as they relate to the same era. This additional information about shops and traders will add to the existing social history of the village provided by Mr. Wilson.

In the following piece I have typed out the information from my Dad's handwritten notes and this is shown in black text, then added my own notes in orange text to clarify where the buildings mentioned were, or if the building still exists, what that building is used for now.

The article is not a complete list of every trader in the village. If anyone can add to the information below please e-mail me via the St. Dennis Village Website and I will include it as an addendum with credit to whoever supplies the information.

Known omissions are :-

Metherell's garage in Trelavour Road

Mr. Taylors gent's hairdresser located behind his house in the lower Fore Street

Estlick's Chemist in the lower Fore Street

Barclays Bank building across the street from Estlick's chemist

The shop below the Barclays bank building.

Boscawen Hotel

Grigg's cycle shop in Hendra Road

In the article below the numbers before each shop or trader relates to their location on the accompanying map of St. Dennis village

Trevor Rabey – June 2021

# St.Dennis Shops and Traders

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1930's to 1960's

By

Reginald Rabey

## Trelavour Square

### 1) The Top Pub

Mr.Thomas (1920's 1930's)

Mr.Best (1930's onward)

Mr. and Mrs.John Kellow

Mr.John Keast (until 1988 approx)

The "Top Pub" is currently known as "The Commercial Inn". An article about the pub's history has kindly been written by Mrs.Diane Osborne (née Kellow) especially for the St.Dennis Village Website and can be viewed by using the following link. [Commercial Inn](#)

### 2) The corner shop in the square – Frank Yelland

An article about Yelland's Shop has kindly been written by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Yelland's daughter Maureen, especially for the St.Dennis Village Website, and can be viewed by using the following link. [Yelland's Shop](#)

## Trelavour

### 3) Across the road from Trelavour Square was Burnett's butchers shop.

Mr.Percy Burnett ran the shop and it was later taken over by his son Ralph.

An article about Burnett's butchers has been written by Mr.John Pearn whose father worked as a butcher for the Burnett family. The article can be viewed on the St.Dennis Village Website by using the following link.

[Burnett's Butchers](#)

The building has now been converted into flats.

4) Next to the butcher shop was a small building that was once a fish and chip shop. It was later used by St.Dennis Football club as changing rooms. Much later it opened for a while as a greengrocers.

This building is now a private dwelling.

5) Across the street and along from Yelland's shop was a grocery shop run by Mr. Stuart Hore. The shop was later run by Mr. Peter Trebilcock as a grocery shop. He also did men's hairdressing.

This shop still exists as a grocery shop and is run by Colin and Di.

6) On the opposite side of the street to Hore's / Trebilcock's shop was a small building that used to be Estlick's chemist. Later used by Mr. Raymond White as a music shop then by Mr. Trebilcock as a wool shop.

This building has since been demolished and is used as a parking area for a private dwelling.

7) Next along on the same side as Hore's/Trebilcock's was a cycle shop run by Jim Rabey from the 1920's to the 1950's. Since the cycle shop closed in the 1950's it has been a ladies outfitters, a launderette and a ladies hairdressers.

There is further information about the cycle shop on the St. Dennis Village Website written by myself and can be viewed by using the following link. [Rabey's Cycle Shop](#)

This building is now a private dwelling.

8) Next along in the 1920's and 1930's was Rabey's second cycle shop. This was later a grocery and fruit shop run by Mrs. Pope until 1986 when it closed.

An article about Pope's Shop has kindly been written by Mr. and Mrs. Pope's son Adrian, especially for the St. Dennis Village Website, and can be viewed by using the following link. [Pope's Shop](#)

This building is now a private dwelling

9) Further along up on the bank was a sweet shop run by Mrs. Buckingham. The shop closed for a few years and was then re-opened by farmer Mugford as a gent's hairdresser. Later it was run by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Metherell.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Metherell ran the shop selling groceries and also wool. Frank Metherell opened a gent's hairdresser's shop in a new building next to the shop. The main shop was later run by Leslie and Daphne Best as a grocery shop.

## **Trelavour Road**

10) At the bottom of Trelavour Road was a small boot and shoe repair shop run by George Coombe. Later it was run by Claude Bunt until he moved to a different building in the village.

An article about Mr.Claude Bunt's shop has kindly been written by Mr. Claude Bunt's son Graham, especially for the St.Dennis Village Website, and can be viewed by using the following link. [Mr.Claude Bunt's Shop](#)

The site of the boot and shoe repair shop is now where a garage has been built for a private dwelling.

**11)** On the opposite side in Trelavour Road was a carpenter's shop run by Mr. George Bullock. It was later run by his son Tom Bullock until he retired in 1988. Later it was run by Mr.Stan Metherell as a saw sharpening shop.

This building has since been converted to private dwellings as flats.

**12)** Metherell's garage was an omission in my dad's article

### **Fore Street to Hendra Corner**

**13)** There were two shops just below the infant school but both of these shops have now gone. On the left hand side going down the Fore Street was a general store run by Mr.Harris. This later became Mr.Strongman's fruit shop and later again it was run as a fruit and grocery shop by Mr. and Mrs.Walker who eventually retired and the shop closed.

This building is now a private dwelling.

**14)** The second shop, which was directly opposite, was a general store for a number of years and run by Mr.Allen. The shop closed for a while and was re-opened by Mr. and Mrs.Bell as a grocery shop. After Mr.Bell passed away the shop closed again. Later it was opened by Allen's of Whitemoor, as a car spare parts shop, but not for very long. The shop closed for good and is being made into flats.

Whilst looking through some family memorabilia I came across a clothes brush with the following written on the brush :- "L.G.Hooper Ltd Supply Stores St.Dennis" I did not know where in the village this store was and it was not mentioned by my dad in his account. I placed a photo of the brush on the St.Dennis Village Website asking if anyone had any information about the store. I had a response back from Mr.and Mrs.John Pearn, Mrs.Maureen Barnard, Mr.Adrian Wilson, Mr.Ken Rickard and Mrs Josie Penhaligon each providing similar information. It seems the shop mentioned above was run by the Hooper family, whose name is on the clothes brush, and a daughter of the Hoopers married an Allen from Newquay and so the shop became Allen's shop. Currently this building is still private dwellings as flats.

**15)** Further down the Fore Street on the right was Mr.Gregor's tailors and electrical shop. Mr.Gregor's son John took over the shop and ran it until John passed away. The shop closed and is now a private house.

This building is still a private dwelling.

**16)** Across the street and down a little further was Cyril Strongman's cobblers shop which was tucked away behind his house.

The cobbler's shop closed probably in the early 1960's.

**17)** The next shop down on the opposite side of the street was a barber's shop in the 1920's and 1930's. The shop closed and was later re-opened as a ladies hairdresser. It is still a ladies hairdresser.

The shop is still run as a ladies hairdresser.

**18)** Across the street from the hairdresser's and run for a long time was Veall's bakery and shop. This business was later run again for a long time by their sons until it closed.

This building is now a private dwelling.

**19)** Next down on the same side was a cycle shop run by Mr.Kelloway for a very long time. After Mr.Kelloway passed away it was run by Mr. and Mrs.Oscar Dunstan selling sweets, cigarettes and cycle parts. After Mr.Dunstan passed away Mrs. Dunstan carried on with the shop for a while then it was closed. It later opened for a short time as a video hire shop.

This building is now a private dwelling

**20)** Across the street was the Post Office where Mr.Jenkin was the postmaster for a long time. When Mr.Jenkin retired Mr.Raymond Bunt took over the business and was the postmaster. Later Mr.Bunt's son Robert took over as postmaster.

The post office closed in 2015 and the premises re-opened as a funeral director's office run by Robert Bunt and his sons.

**21)** Just below the post office on the same side of the street is "Kay's" fish and chip shop. This was first started by Jim Rundle. It was then taken over by Bert Stephens and then by Mr.Francis Ellis. After Mr.Ellis it was run by Kay Martyn.

This is still a fish and chip shop and retains the name "Kay's" above the door.

**22)** Across the road from Kay's is Nance's furniture and carpet shop which was originally run by Mr. Richard (Dick) Nance's father. Dick Nance later passed the running of the shop to his son John.

Nance's closed around 2008 and the old providence chapel that was used as Nance's carpet shop was converted into a private dwelling. The main furniture shop was demolished and modern private dwellings were built on the site.

**23)** Below Nance's on the same side of the road was a fish and chip shop run by Mr.Trudgeon. Later it was run by Mr.Francis Ellis.

After Mr.Francis Ellis passed away it continued as a fish and chip shop but it is now a kebab shop.

**24)** Further down the street on the same side was a general food shop in the hands of Mrs.Taylor. She ran the shop up until the 1940's. It changed hands a few times after that and became "London House" a ladies clothes shop.

In the 1960's this was a fish and chip shop café run by the Roseby family.This is now a private dwelling.

**25)** Further down on the same side was a gent's tailor shop which was later run by Mr.Cyril Miller as a radio repair shop. His wife also sold wool. Later part of the building was run by Mr.Claude Bunt selling fishing tackle and it was also used as a Bank.

An article about Miller's shop has kindly been written by Mr. Cyril Miller's son George, especially for the St.Dennis Village Website, and can be viewed by using the following link. [Miller's Shop](#)

This building is now a private dwelling.

**26)** Across the street was the "Plaza" cinema which was run by Mr.Elgar and had its own generator for lights and talking pictures. The Plaza closed in 1962 and a filling station was built on the site and later it was used for car sales.

The filling station known as "Pyramid Garage" occupied part of the site but also on the site was a private dwelling. Parts of the private dwelling building were used as a café and also as a doctor's surgery by Dr.Brady. This building is now a private dwelling known as "Pyramid House"and the filling station area was re-developed with private dwellings called "Robartes Court".

**27)** To the right of the Plaza and set back was a small building used for a while by Mr.Claude Bunt as a cobbler's shop.

This was demolished along with the Plaza cinema.

**28)** To the left of the Plaza cinema was Mr.Varcoe's blacksmith shop which was later taken over by his son Percy.

The blacksmith's shop and two adjacent houses were demolished in 2010 and private dwellings were built on the site.

**29)** Mr.Taylor the gents hairdresser was an omission in my dad's article

**30)** Further down on the same side of the street was the original picture house which was a wooden building with steps down to the entrance. It had an earth floor, hard seats, gas lights and a hand projector. Seat prices were 2d and 9d in old money.

I remember being told there were no toilets in the old picture house but children found that the earth floor was very absorbent.

**31)** The Barclays Bank building at the entrance to the playing field was an omission in my dad's article. This building is now a beauty parlour.

**32)** The shop below the Barclays Bank building was an omission in my dad's article. This is now a coffee shop called "Clays Kitchen" but has been :-

- A television and radio shop run by Mr. Tom Cornelius
- A second hand shop run by the Honeywell family
- A grocery shop and butchers shop  
Currently it is a café/tearoom called "Clays Kitchen"

**33)** The Boscawen Hotel was an omission in my dad's article

**34)** Estlick's chemist was an omission in my dad's article

**35)** Lower down the street on the opposite side was a shop run by Mr. Morcom who handed the business to his son Victor. It was later run as a paper shop by Mrs. Kent and then by Mr. and Mrs. Juleff.

This building is now a private dwelling.

**36)** Across the street was Hendra Bakery and was run by Mr. Beswetherick. It was later run by John Rowe.

This building now forms part of a private dwelling.

## **Hendra Road**

**37)** At the bottom of Hendra Road set back was a sweet shop run by Mr. Gordon Richards. The shop closed for a while and then it was re-opened by Mrs. Trethewey.

This shop was later run by Mr. Ted Coleman but eventually closed.

**38)** Griggs cycle shop was an omission in my dad's article.

**39)** Up the road on the same side was a butcher's shop run by Mr. "Dick" Yelland.



The butchers shop was later run by Mr.Davis and the building is now a private dwelling.

**40)** Up the road on the opposite side was a Western National bus garage. The garage was demolished.

Private dwellings were later built on the site of the garage.

**41)** On the opposite side of the road to the bus garage was a garage and petrol station run by Mr. D.Yelland

This garage is now closed and the site is used as private dwellings.

**42)** Near the top of Hendra Road was an old garage run by Mr.Crowle.

No information about where this garage was.

**43)** At the top of Hendra Road was a garage run by the Julian family. This is now called “Penwyn Garage” and is run by the Brokenshire family.

This garage and filling station is still run by the Brokenshire family.

## **Robartes Road**

**44)** Across from Nance’s in the Fore Street on the corner of Robartes Road was a grocery shop run by Mr. Jim Osborne who was known as “Jim Ham”. After Mr.Osborne passed away it was run by Mr.Roy Bennett. Later it was run by Mr.Allen, then by Mr.Blackham and now in the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Chapman.

**45)** Next door was a café and fish and chip shop that also sold sweets and cigarettes. The top room above this shop was a big room used for dancing classes.

**46)** Next along was a garage and radio service run by Mr.Cyril Miller. This business closed on this site and the building became the fire station.

The corner shop, café and the garage all owned by Mr. Jim Osborne

This corner shop is a “Spar” shop. The café part was at one stage used as a doctor’s surgery by Doctor Crabtree and Dr.Wilson. When a new fire station was built on Hendra Downs the old fire station was used by a search and rescue organisation.

**47)** Across the road from Mr.Osborne’s corner shop was Gordon Richards garage. They sold Esso petrol and did car repairs. Later run by his son Donald.

The garage was demolished along with the cinema and the Richards house that formed the sharp corner of Robartes Road and the lower Fore Street.

**48)** At the bottom of Robartes Road was a tin hut that was a boot and shoe repair shop run by Mr.Kessell.

**49)** Next door was another tin hut which was a cycle repair shop run by Mr.Tucker and Mr.Grigg. On this site is now Kessell's showroom and filling station. Below this was Kessell's garage.

Kessell's showroom was demolished and on the site now are private dwellings called Maple Close. Further down on the site of Kessell's garage there are now private dwellings called Greendale View.

## **Wellington Road**

**50)** Near the top of Wellington Road was the Co-op selling groceries from I think the 1920's to the 1960's. There was a drapery section in the shop and upstairs some furniture was on display. When the Co-op closed it was still run as a grocery shop.

These premises are now used as the offices and workshop for a company called GM Services.

**51)** Further down on the opposite side was Kent's coal yard.

An article about Kent's coal yard has kindly been written by Jonathan Kent, especially for the St.Dennis Village Website, and can be viewed by using the following link. [Kent's Coal Yard](#)

The coal yard closed in 1990 and 9 private dwellings were built on the site which is now called "Kent Close".

**52)** Further down again on the opposite side of Wellington Road was Bullen's carpenter shop. This has now closed.

This building now forms part of a private dwelling.

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