

A History of the Businesses in Cross Hills

This is reproduced with the kind permission of the Laycock family, for whom it was originally written. Mr Robert Laycock, grew up in Cross Hills, where his father took over a plumber's business in the Main Street, when he was three years of age. This account thus describes the village as it was, during most of the twentieth century. It should be noted however, that further changes have now taken place since this was written.

Walking down the south side of Colne Road from Glusburn School, the first shop was Mr. John Binns, butchers. Then going on past the allotments, there are two blocks of terrace houses which were built in the late 1930's. The bungalow comes next, which was built by Mr. Jack Smith in more recent years. At the bottom of the side road stands the new Evangelical Church, which was built very recently.

The first of the three large stone buildings, was a greengrocer's, occupied by Mr Hector Knowles, later by Mr Wilkinson (Wilk) Smith and his son Jack. The second building was the first Telephone Exchange, which then reverted back to a private house, after the larger Exchange was built on Wheatlands Lane. The third building was occupied by Mr Fred Day, for his business as plasterer's & concreters. He also had the land adjoining, as a builder's yard. After this is the Working Men's Club, which has been considerably extended over the years.

The next block were all houses up to Beech Street, apart from the Corner Shop. Dr Curry had one of these houses as his surgery. Now we have a television shop, which before that was Mr Andrew's, jewellers, a greengrocers, and a butchers. Before Mr Curtin, Mr Alan Hardcastle had the premises for his television, radio and electrical business, after moving from Prospect Street. Mr Fred Gresswell occupied the corner shop as a grocer for many years, later it became Cross Hills Handyman.

At the bottom end of Beech Street, on the other side, four terrace houses have recently been built. The land had previously been used as a slater's yard and warehouse, occupied by Mr A. Garnett. Later, during the Second World War, the Council took it over for the stocking of waste paper. The building was then known locally as 'The Dump'.

On the corner of Beech Street and Back Colne Road, Mr Billy Sugden had the premises as a grocer's shop. He used to deliver his goods around the district, by a horse drawn covered cart. On the corner of Beech Street and Main Street, was another grocer's shop, occupied by Miss Swire. Later Mr. Fred Barrett took the place over for his painting & decorating business and was there a considerable length of time. After this, Mr. Frank Baldwin took it over as a furniture shop. Now it is the Bella Napoli Restaurant, which has been extended further down Main Street.

Carrying on down Main Street, Mr Wilf Mitchell had his dental practice, next to the old St John's Sunday School. G.E. Carr of Skipton, had a bakery and provision branch shop which is now a bicycle shop, Riley Bros.

The Shopping Bag started business in one of these smaller premises before moving into the old Sunday School. This is now part of the SPAR supermarket concern. Previously, before the Shopping Bag took over the building, it had been used by Mr.

John Bannister as an organ works, which had broken away from Laycock & Bannister of Aire Street, Junction, Cross Hills.

The first shop after the Sunday School building was, Messrs. Dobson & Rowlandson, bakers & confectioners. This was taken over by Mr. Milton Smith's greengrocers, up to the war years, then for a short time it was a dairy shop selling cooked meats, cheeses etc. This was followed by Mr Sam Osbourne, who was a greengrocer.

The next shop was occupied by Mr Tyson as a ladies' outfitters, followed by Mrs Mewies and later by Mrs Hetty Smith, who also took over Mr Osbourne's shop to extend her business. The premises were later taken over by Cross Hills Electrical and are now selling ladies & gentlemen's wear.

Next door has always been a newsagents, Mr Hawkswell was first, followed by Mr Hanson, Mr Holt, Mr Summerscales and now Mr Latto. The next shop, past the railings, was a baker's & confectioner's, owned first by a Mrs Pickles, then Mr Rollison, followed by Mr Copley, then Mr Hardaker. After this it was taken over as a DHSS office.

The next shop was a butcher's, Mr Hy Stirk then Mr Copley, prior to moving next door into the bakery business, then Mr Peacock. The premises are now Messrs. Wilman & Lodge, Estate Agents.

The next shop was Mr R. Mewiss and later his son Percy, hairdressers and tobacconists, later occupied by Mr & Mrs Andrews, jewellers, before the building was taken over by the Yorkshire Bank, formerly the Yorkshire Penny Bank.

Down Holme Lane, the Flower Shop was Mr Mewiss' hairdressing salon in the early days before they moved into the Main Street. Following him, Miss Dorothy Towers had the premises as a ladies hairdressers which was possibly the first in Cross Hills. After the Second World War, Mr Hy Haupt carried on his photographic business up to being taken over by the present flower shop. Moving down Holme Lane, on the right hand side, we come to Gillian's, ladies hairdressers, which she took over from Eileen. Prior to this, it is a bit vague; Mrs Mallinson had it at one period as a ladies outfitter, as did others.

The bottom house in Ashville Terrace was occupied by Miss Frankland, the front room being used as a hat shop. Holmroyd Avenue was built just after the Great War, previously these were open fields to the Sutton Parish boundary.

Reversing our direction back up Holme Lane, on the east side were two open fields, one behind the other, known as Sturdy's fields, later taken over for South Craven School.

The second field on the Eastburn side, for many years was the home of the Kildwick Parish Cricket Club, also Sutton United Football Club, who at one period were members of the Bradford Amateur League.

The first field bordering on to Holme Lane was used annually for Glusburn Flower Show and Sports were held in the adjacent field. This was a major show for an area like South Craven and exhibitors came from far and wide. The flower and vegetable marquee stretched nearly the full length of the field. The outer perimeter was roped and staked out for the various running, hurdling and walking events. Here again competitors came from all over the country, as far away as London. In the first field

was a large fairground:- roundabouts, swings, flying chairs, cakewalk, coconut shies, shooting gallery, hoop la, roll a penny, darts etc. Also brandysnaps, hot potatoes and so forth were on sale.

The main contractors for the fairground were Messrs. Taylor Bros. of Longton, Staffordshire. They came for many years. At that time most traffic on the roads was horse drawn or hauled by steam. Taylor Bros. had two large steam engines named Busy Bee and King George V. These were fine engines in maroon and gold livery and were kept spotlessly clean. Most of the independent side show people, used horses. On arrival in Main Street, the local traffic had to stop, to allow the convoy to pull up on the opposite side of the road, to allow the engines to take the corner down Sutton Lane. The first engine towed two caravans and two wagons of equipment, stretching from the lane top to the Co-op. It was remarkable how they all followed round the corner without having to be unhitched. It was different going into the field, which had a narrow gateway and as there they had to unhitch and be taken in separately and sometimes winched by a steel hawser. These engines were equipped with winching drums.

Up Holme Lane, past the allotments, where now stands the Health Centre, comes Victoria Road end. Just along is the gentlemen's hairdressers, Enrico. Before that Mr Billy Cooper and earlier still his uncle, Mr Herbert Wilson. On the north side of Victoria Road, there used to be a small field up to the end of South View. It was used for the cattle brought to the butchers for slaughter. Above the field is a small back road, which gives access to the field, the old slaughter house and Mr Sturdy's butcher's shop. The cottage up the steps and the one up the passage do not seem any different.

Next up Holme Lane comes the opticians, then Bradford & Bingley Building Society which earlier still was Bingley Building Society. Mr Percy Thornton was the agent at that time and he had the new frontage built. At the back of this building is a narrow passage way with an iron gate, giving access to the back of Thornton's shop and the flat over the newer premises of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society. Messrs Thornton's Grocer's take up the corner of Holme Lane and Main Street. In my early days, Mr Percy and Mr Harold Thornton ran the business, then Mr Sam Whitaker and his wife, Joyce (nee Thornton) and today Mr Peter Whitaker and his wife. The smaller part of the shop, on the right of the entrance, was a stockroom with a wide warehouse door onto the Main Street. Immediately above, on the next floor, is a similar door in the top corner of which is a gantry arm which was swivelled out over the footpath. A hoisting rope was attached for unloading goods from flat delivery carts in the street. In those days, goods such as flour, peas, beans, rice, sago and others came in large bags and biscuits were in tin boxes. These goods and others were weighed out on the premises. Various jams, marmalades, a few sauces and pickles came in jars, as today. A certain amount of tinned fruit were available but not as many varieties as today. Also there were only a few tinned meats and fish, such as corned beef, salmon, sardines etc. No tinned soups as you made your own.

The next shop with two display windows, was Messrs G. Emmott & Son, jewellers and watchmakers, who later added the optician business. When Mr George retired, it was taken over by the Bradford & Bingley Building Society.

Next, the butchers, Mr W. Sturdy, who had the business for a considerable number of years. On his retirement, the business was taken over by Mr Oswald Brearly, later by Mr W. Ingham and now his son David. The cottage next door was occupied by Miss Alice Sturdy, the youngest daughter of Mr W. Sturdy. The previous occupiers were two sisters of Mr Sturdy.

Next by the Pelican Crossing, is the general ware shop. The first business there was run by Mrs Bedford, ladies & children's goods. Then it was taken over by Mr & Mrs Cowgill who were there until retiring. The property was then occupied by Messrs Philips of Skipton and the business was carried on by his relatives. Later the shop was turned into a café for a while, followed by the general discount store it is today.

The sweet shop comes next and this does not appear to have altered much since I lived next door. Mr & Mrs Hargreaves had the business for a very long time and after they retired the business changed hands several times.

Next was a plumber's run by Mr Harry Firth. My father took the business over when I was about 3 years old. We lived there for about seven years, then altered it and made it into a lock up shop, workshop and store. On retirement Messrs Gibson's next door took over the premises to extend their shop and living accommodation.

Next comes the Ginnel. This was built for access to the back of the last four premises which were originally built as back to back houses, probably these were some of the oldest in Cross Hills. Gibson's shop was originally Watkinson's Printers, who later built larger premises in Anderton Street, off Station Road. The shop was taken over by Mr Lewis Philip and modernised, selling similar goods as today.

Most of the buildings on the other side of the ginnel, excepting The National & Westminster Bank, are now Dixon Target (Dixon Stell's Printers etc.) The first portion was a large double fronted shop, Messrs. Petty's, dressmakers & tailoring. The room over the ginnel was the tailor's workshop. At one time the tailors climbed a Jacob's Ladder and went through a trap door from the ginnel below. Strangely the shop sold coffee as well. Petty's were later taken over by a firm called Reynards. Later the Co-op had a building, the part next to the ginnel as a shoe shop and the other part a drapery shop. Next came the original part of Dixon & Stell's, then a baker and confectioners, Messrs Rowland's, followed by another baker. The premises were then taken by Mr Charles Hargreaves for his pork butchery business (Charlie's Pies). Later the premises were absorbed by Dixon Target. The last building in the block was The National Provincial Bank which later changed to the National Westminster. The bit of spare land at the end of the block which bordered onto Hall Street and went back as far as the Conservative Club, before Dixon Target extended, held the Salvation Army building. In those days the Salvation Army were very active in Cross Hills. Later the building was used by a Mr Haggas for his tailoring business. This was only a single storey high and was built of semi – portable material. Some time later it was gutted by fire and never rebuilt.

Next along Hall Street comes the Conservative Club. The main entrance was originally in Hall Street but later altered to the side. Also one or two of the adjoining houses in South View were added. On the other side of the street, lower down but at the top end of Rhodesia Street, Messrs. Enoch Harrison & Sons had their builders yard, before moving to Cononley.

Coming back along Hall Street was Ernest Hanson's garage and motor engineers' business. Next came the Friendly Societies Hall – locally called the Town Hall. This building was quite large and plain looking. The lower part of the building was taken up with four or five houses at the front and the same number at the back. These were back to back houses with the bedrooms above. The hall itself was above these and had a fairly high ceiling with a ridge roof which gave it a commanding position in Cross Hills. The view from the roof ridge was remarkable. Access to the hall itself was by means of a railed stone staircase inside the building at the Main Street end there being a smaller one at the other end. In the early days Cross Hills had a choral union which would use the Town Hall and other functions would take place. With the coming of the cinema and access to the towns, the hall became less used. Dancing was held for a time, Bob(one shilling) Hops were tried and other dances. The problem was the sloping floor, down the slope you nearly flew over your partner, back up the other side you were puffing like an old tank engine, especially if your partner was on the heavy side! Later a few boxing contests were staged and that was it.

Before entering Main Street, there was still a bit of land left, before being made into the car park. On this was a fish & chip shop, a semi-portable wooden building which was there a long time. It changed hands a few times, the last person using it, was Mr Colonel Mosely, who later opened a business in Keighley. Occasionally, on the land remaining, a gentleman called Gender Wilson with his Pot Stall would arrive from somewhere in Lancashire. This was housed in a small marquee, lit up by paraffin flares, as there was no electricity then. People came from around the district partly to buy but also to enjoy his showmanship. The hall and houses were eventually pulled down. Some of the land adjoining Hanson's Garage was taken over by them to build a showroom and forecourt for the petrol pumps. When Mr Jack Leece retired, the buildings were divided up into smaller concerns, the remaining land having been used to form a car park.

In the past, the entrance and exit to the Main Street, was locally known as Gap End. The Hall was known as The Town Hall and the area around it the Town Hall Yard. Towards the street where the public conveniences are now, was a raised piece of land, on which stood a single storey, wooden building, entered from the Main Street by five or six steps. The only person I can remember using it, was Mr Wilson Cooper, who ran it as a general store. Mr Cooper was noteworthy for having a stall at the local fairground during Glusburn Flower Show.

The first of the stone built buildings was occupied by Craven's bakers and confectioners. They were there a very long time. Later the premises were converted to a double frontage and occupied by Messrs. Riley Bros. Cycles etc. who later moved up Main Street. After this the building was converted into Wheeler's Restaurant, with extra accommodation being built at the rear.

Mrs Barrett occupied one of the houses in the block and probably owned the whole block. This part was then converted into a Ladies Hairdressing Salon as it is today. The last in the block was a dwelling house prior to Mr Steve Perry setting up in business as a jeweller, selling watches, clocks etc.

The road at the end of the block, links the back arcas of the shops with the back of Holly Bank, which comes next. It was Dr Cantor's residence and surgery then he was followed by Dr Clynes and later Dr Renwick.

The building adjoining at the corner of Prospect Street was occupied by Mr Smith who carried on his gentlemen's tailoring business there. Later it became Cooper's Shoe Shop, which traded there for a long time. This was followed by Mr Knowles and his estate agency, now it is the Rocking Chair. There is one thing of note; Mr Alan Hardcastle pioneered and worked his Radio Relay system from the top building on the right hand side. The system mushroomed and he was covering Cross Hills, Glusburn and Sutton. This meant of course running his relay wires over ground, on house sides and on poles, similar to telephone wires.

At the bottom of Prospect Street and on the Main Road comes the Post Office. In my earlier days, this shop dealt in household furnishings such as curtains, blinds, linoleums and other floor coverings, sheets, bedding etc. The business was run by Mr. Mrs J. Spencer. The building had a distinctive name 'Manchester House'. Later Mr Spencer incorporated the Post Office, owing to its closure in Station Road. Later the household goods side of the business was discarded and the premises became as today, under the present occupiers.

Main Street has now changed to Keighley Road. Fieldhead Drive comes next. These semi-detached houses were built in the 1930's. The land was a small field which was occasionally occupied by fairgrounds and circuses. At the low end of Fieldhead Drive, the two detached houses would be built in the 1800's. The first one, was for years, the Wesleyan Church Manse but after the amalgamation of the two churches, this was sold off.

Now comes the narrow lane between the last house and the Old White Bear Inn. This feeds the back of the inn and Prospect Farm. The lane carries on, giving access to a few fields.

Ye Olde White Bear would be a very important place in the old coaching days, as it stood on the main Keighley to Skipton Road, the section of road from Junction to Kildwick bridge was built later. Consequently the traffic would come into the low end of Cross Hills and down Station Road as we know it, but in those days, being before the railway, it was called Kildwick Road. Adjacent to the inn and next to the lane, the building would probably have been used for stabling below, with a hayloft above, fed by an outside stairway. In more recent years, Mr Cawthorne used the upstairs room for selling second hand goods etc. On the other side of the main road was another similar building, with outside stone steps which would also probably have been used for stabling. This was more or less a derelict building and was used for a time by the local council, for storing the road cleaner's equipment but this was pulled down when the White Bear Estate was built.

The house adjoining the Old White Bear on the Junction side, has been there all my lifetime. Next comes a more modern detached house at the top of the Bear Hill, with its garden terminating with the access road feeding Aire Crescent, the top of Aire Street, Jessamine Place and Ravensville. The Aire Crescent Estate lies between the Old White Bear and Prospect Farm. New dwellings have been built on Jessamine Place.

Along Keighley Road from the Bear Hill, the long terrace row is Ashgrove, with the newsagents and sweet shop on the corner. On the opposite corner Mr Alan Horsefall had his butcher's shop, followed by Mr Raw. The remaining row of houses terminate with the bottom of Aire Street and are known as North View. From the Cross Hills

end of Aire Street, on the right hand side, are a few houses, then the large building that was built for Laycock & Banister's organ building business, which moved there from West Closes Farm, Glusburn. This was a moderately high building, even so a section of the first floor was cut away, to get height for the erection of large organs.

Around the Second World War years, they vacated the building for smaller premises lower down Aire Street, behind the bottom row of houses. Messrs. James Woodrow & Son took over the building for extra warehousing. Later Airedale Foods Ltd., acquired it and used it for a number of years.

Next comes the Catholic Church. Then a few houses, one of which was used by Mr L. Baines and his wife as a café, catering for transport drivers, business travellers, local tradesmen etc. On the corner of Aire Street and Keighley Road, the premises are now an antique shop. The land behind Aire Street and Keighley Road and bordering Holme Beck is taken up by Clayton Hall poultry farm. In my earlier days this was run by Mr Arthur Snowden.

Crossing the road by the Dalesway hotel, formerly the Junction hotel, and then crossing the Skipton/ Kildwick Road are Hargreaves and Mill streets, at the end of which stands a textile weaving mill, formerly Messrs. J. Woodrow & Son, now Woodrow Universal, manufacturers of various fabrics.

Along towards Kildwick Bridge comes Ashfield Farm, occupied by Mr Brian Kidd and formerly by Mr A. Boothman. Immediately after the railway crossing comes Hard Ings Lane. At the main road end was Redman & Smith's standard shed, textile manufacturers, but later the premises were taken by Webb's Poultry and they have just recently vacated the place. There are a few houses down the lane and also Pott's Transport made their headquarters there.

Further down the lane, there used to be a foundry which did various cast iron work. At the far end comes the Knackery, which deals in the disposal of diseased animals etc.

Further along Skipton Road, we come to the roundabout near Kildwick Bridge. The triangular piece of land between Skipton Road, the level crossing, Kildwick Road and the railway bridge, was mainly occupied by Kildwick Parish Gas Company. Hield Bros. Worsted Manufacturers had a factory near the station bridge. Next comes St Andrew's Terrace and at the far end, Smith's Joinery Works, later taken over by the Ondura Tyre Firm and after that by Waterhouse's Light Engineers. Going back along Kildwick Road to the railway bridge, on the right hand side is Oak Head Terrace, built in the early thirties, then Willowgarth Avenue built at a much later date.

After the Gas Works closed down, Smith Bros. agricultural engineers, established their business on the Skipton Road side. They had previously moved from Keighley, owing to Keighley Corporation extending the bus station. Now a number of other firms have premises on the remaining land.

By the signal box, the railway had a siding which fed a loading bay for cattle and also a branch line ran into the gas works. The coal trucks were hauled into the works by steel hauser and by a winding machine. Kildwick Parish Gas Company was quite a big concern; they made the gas and distributed it to Cross Hills, Glusburn, Cowling, Sutton, Eastburn, Steeton, Kildwick, Farnhill, Cononley and Bradley.

Going along Skipton Road towards the Junction and through the railway crossing, is the original Station Master's house. After this is the old station lane which follows the side of the goods yard, as far as Station Road, by the passenger station.

Adjoining the Station Master's house came the railway offices, then the covered warehouse with unloading bays for transshipping the various smaller goods from the covered trucks to the horse drawn drays. These were heavy, solid built wagons, each drawn by two shire horses. Three of the drivers were; Mr Steve Balmer, Mr Ike Wright and Mr Johnnie Greenwood. The wagons generally came into Cross Hills via the Junction, as Station Road was on the steep side. The rest of the goods yard was taken up by coal trucks. The local coal merchants loaded the coal from the various wagons onto their own carts etc. Some of the coal was shovelled into high sided carts, some was bagged into 1 cwt bags and carried on flat carts. On leaving the Goods Yard, the various wagons would be checked off at the weighbridge.

The Passenger Station, with its ticket and parcels office, was situated at the end of the bridge on the Cross Hills side. Various waiting rooms and so on, were built on each platform, some having coal fires burning in cold weather.

You could travel to Morecambe and back on a Saturday night for two shillings and sixpence, with a free ticket into the Winter Gardens. It makes you think the old days were not too bad.

Now continuing on the Skipton Road from the railway crossing to the Junction Hotel, now Dalesway, on the roadside, Brown Bank Terrace was built around the 1930's. Next comes an older house and behind this is Cote House. After this there is the garage and filling station. This was Messrs. Dawson & Stows, who were in business there for a large number of years. Then comes the Junction Hotel, which takes its name from the branching of the Skipton Road from Colne Road. Originally Keighley to Skipton traffic had to come into Cross Hills and down Station Road, possibly called Kildwick Road before the railway was built. Between the garage and the hotel, was a narrow slip road joining the two main roads, on the hotel side there were some cottages and stabling for four horses. These buildings were later pulled down to form a car park and later still to form the new road junction.

Going up along the Keighley Road, is Elmore Terrace, then the tennis courts, behind which is the bowling green which was formed much earlier. Next the White Bear housing estate. This was open farmland down to the old station lane. One farm house and buildings stood roughly in the centre of this area. A public footpath ran through the land from near the Old White Bear into old Station Lane.

Continuing along the Main Road is Fieldhead and adjoining it, Holly House. Mr Malcolm Whitaker took over the building, more recently living there and using part of it for his home furnishing business, before moving to Brigg Mount. Mr John W. Bell had Holly House for his electrical business for a time.

After the access road to the back of the houses, the first building was occupied for a long time by Mr W. Newbould, gardeners and seedsmen, who also used a considerable number of the Cross Hills allotments. During the Second World War, they also cultivated a large area of Cononley Fields. Later the building was taken over by Mr Simons for his antiques and trading business and for a time his wife did ladies hairdressing.

Further along the row of cottages, was the Post Office – this was before my time. The last house along the row prior to the fisheries, was occupied by Mr Dean who had his dental practice there.

Next comes the block of buildings, starting with the fisheries and to the top of Station Road, proceeding down to the access road to the back area of the premises. In my early days this area, all belonged to Mr Jack Greenwood. He was a plasterer and concreter. Mr Arthur Greenwood ran the fisheries at that time. The shop was split in two; the entrance being in the centre. There were the fish and chip pans on the right side and a small supper room on the left, where you could enjoy your meal on a marble topped counter with cast iron legs. Chips were one penny, a cross which was chips and peas, two pence and fish and chips, three pence. Later Mr Josh Barker took the premises over and his daughter and son in law ran it for a considerable time. After the war, Mr Percy Heaton and his wife, took it over, together with the rest of the block.

Next to the fisheries comes Mr Heaton's house and on the corner is a ladies hairdresser - before it was occupied by Halifax Building Society for a long time. Around the last building into Station Road is a narrow strip of causeway, then a much wider level causeway terminating in a few steps. Standing back off the flat area are the fronts of two cottages. Originally the whole of the flat area was covered by a flat roof supported by a number of pillars. Over each pillar on top of the flat roof, were various embellishments.

All this gave it a Mediterranean flavour. Next before the gap by the steps, came the wooden hut. In my early days, Mr W. Brooks had it, for selling sheet music and giving piano lessons. Later Mr Baldwin used it for his shoe repairing business. The Scouts owned it at one time also.

Entering the back area and facing Station Road was the joiner's shop. This has been recently pulled down, but the building was all wood, which was purchased second hand from Steeton, where it had been used as a school. It certainly had a good life. Mr G. Laycock, my uncle, was the first joiner to have his business there, employing three or four men. On his retirement, Mr T. Hutchinson took over the business, followed by Mr Tom Armstrong, later followed by Messrs. Brewster and lastly by Mr R. Webster. One of the smaller stone buildings in this area, was used for preparing fish and potatoes for the fisheries.

Next down the road came Mr Joe Bowker, pork butcher, followed by Mr Loughenbury and later Mr Frank Stirk. Afterwards this changed from being a pork butchers to a greengrocer by Mr Wild who later used it for his taxi business.

The next shop was occupied by Mr Joe Greenwood as a draper and general clothier. He also did door to door salesmanship around the district. Next in the block, was Mr Dennison's baker's and confectioner's. Much later the shop was taken by Mr Frank Baldwin for his footwear and shoe repairing business but now it is the Ecology Building Society. After the short row of terrace houses is Newby Street, which gives access to the back of Station Road. At the top end of the road is Messrs. J.W. Brown, cloth finishers. Next, turning off to the right, is Anderton Street which consists of four or five houses and at the bottom of which is a cul-de-sac with Messrs. H. Cockshot & Co. Ltd., stockists of industrial fasteners, This building was erected around 70 years ago, by Watsons Printers, after vacating their much smaller

premises in Cross Hills Main Street. After the war, Mr Cockshot took over the premises. Further along Back Station Road, comes another short street called Sandylands, then Station Grove. The access road, now returns back to Station road by the end of the old cinema.

Carrying on down the right hand side of Station Road from Newby Street, the shop on the corner, used to be Crossley's Sweet Shop. At one time, it was a furniture shop. These last few years, Mrs Hargreaves has used the shop for her drapery business. After the shop are two stone built terrace houses, then three newer houses, which were built on land used by Messrs. Barritts, builders, this area extending almost to the start of the next row of houses. Messrs. Barritts were also monumental masons, doing a considerable amount of stone dressing and letter engraving. Having a lot of heavy stone slabs to move around, they made use of the two three - legged derrick cranes to help the work along.

Next was a wooden single storey building occupied by Mr Joe Crossley. He was a saddler and worked in leather goods, as there were still plenty of horses at that time. Then came the premises used by Mr Wilcock, for his painting and decorating business. The last house, before the Picture House, was occupied by Mr Birdsall for his jewellery and watchmaking business.

The Picture House played a major part in the social and indoor entertainment life of Cross Hills and local villages. At that time, Messrs. Ezra Laycock ran a bus service from Cowling to the railway station and Messrs. Cowgill ran a service from Lothersdale. These were convenient for the cinema as well. During the week, there was one full show per night and on Saturdays, there were two shows in the evening and one matinee in the afternoon. Each performance started with a newsreel, then a two part serial, followed by the full length picture and lastly a two part comic. These were the days of Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, the Keystone Kops etc. The programme was changed twice a week. Cross Hills was a very busy place on Saturday nights, particularly between the two shows, when people were leaving the first showing or arriving for the second. Sweet and tobacconist shops, together with newsagents, were open until 10pm or later. The two fish and chip shops, also had a busy time.

The pictures in those early days were black and white silent films. These were accompanied by a pianist who had to be very versatile. Later came sound or 'talkies' which put pianists out of a job and then colour came. Later with radio and television arriving, the Picture House closed down and the premises are now occupied by Messrs. Hanson's Furnishers.

Across the road, adjoining the station buildings, are the three houses built before the Second World War. The one nearest the railway, was occupied by Mr Alan Riley, as a sweet and tobacconist shop, he was followed later by Mr Harold Hudson. Next was a baby and children's outfitters occupied by Miss Spencer and the third one, was the Keighley & Craven Building Society, up to the time of their amalgamation with the National and Provincial. All three are now dwelling houses. Carrying on up Station Road, just before the footpath and Cononley Fields, the bungalows standing back from the road, are much more recent.

Next Ross's Filling Station. The house is the only part that goes back to my early days. This was built by Mr Arthur Peel and one of his daughters carried out dressmaking there.

St Andrew's Church Hall comes next. This was built after the war with the idea of giving a better link for Cross Hills people with the church at Kildwick. After a number of years this was discontinued; the premises now being used for business purposes.

Passing the next block of terrace houses is Bank Road, which is a cul-de-sac feeding a few private houses. On the corner of Bank Road and Station Road, the building used to house the Post Office. The postmistress was Miss Langhorn and on her retirement, the office was moved to its present position. This is now used as a Guest House.

The building on the corner of Station Road and Park Road, was occupied by Dr Cockcroft, later by Dr Sheard and it is now an Old People's Home.

On the corner of Park Road, formerly known as Lothersdale Road and Back Lane, is Barclays Bank, previously Martin's Bank. The Freemason's Society use some of the premises for their meetings.

The area after the Bank building, known as Brigg Mount was originally a farm yard with access both from Main Street and Park Road. The building now houses a few businesses, Kay Jay Print, Mr M Whitaker, home furnishings and so forth.

The first shop on Main Street was Mr Dixon's greengrocers, later taken by Mrs Fortune who already had the shop next door for ladies outfitting. Next door was Mr John Dawson, who had a music shop selling sheet music, gramophones and records, later radio and television and general electrical goods and services. Much later the business was taken over by Vallances and latterly by Mr Knowles, as an estate agency.

The next premises were occupied originally by the Independent Order of Oddfellows, for a long time. The building was eventually taken over by Mr Dawson. The last building in the row is a bit obscure but Mr Hy Gott of Cowling, had it for a few years as a butcher's shop. More recently the shop was a florists and also a ladies outfitters. The small row of buildings, going back to the Main Street, known as East Keltus, were back to back houses. For some time now one of them has been occupied as a Turf Accountants.

The building on the corner, for a long time was occupied by Mr Lancelot Taylor who used the basement for his greengrocery business. Now up the steps is a café, the basement having been used by a number of small businesses. After this was the Chemist, Mr J.W. Bracewell. This was run by the Bracewell family for a long time. In more recent years, it was taken over by Mr & Mrs Berridge.

Now the Co-op and car park area. The ground here rises from the Main Street and falls again to Park Road. Going up the right of the Co-op, the street carried on through the area called Milligan Fields into Park Road. On the left of the Co-op, Parker Street, carried through North Street to Park Road. Both the two through streets, were linked together by a short street about at the end of the present Co-op building,

forming a letter H. The Co-op was a tall building, consisting of two storeys and a basement. As it took two house widths, it had two shop windows, with the steps and entrance in the centre. The Co-op would have acquired roughly half the block they decided to modernise. The basement was done away with and the ground floor formed at street level. This made a good sized shop area and a fine frontage.

As time went on, more and more of the back to back houses were purchased, as they were condemned. Holmroyd and Burnroyd Avenues were built, to house these tenants and others. The top storey of the Co-op building was formed into the Co-op Hall, where meetings, concerts and dances were held. More recently this was all pulled down and the new supermarket built.

On the north side of the H area leading down to Park Road, in the central area bordered by Milligan Fields and North Street, were back to back houses, except at the top, which at an earlier date, had been altered to form the Liberal Club.

Also at the bottom of the block, stood the Spiritualist Church. All this property, except the church building, was demolished. The houses on the left hand side of North Street still stand, as they are through houses. The houses on the right hand side of Milligan Fields were pulled down, as they backed onto the old barn of Brigg Mount. A long time ago, a Mr Harris lived in the bottom house, this had a basement which he used as a small shop selling sweets and so forth.

Back along the Main Street, Messrs.R.H.Greenwood & Sons, painters, decorators and furnishers, come next. The building at the top of the street was the paint shop and more recently this has been used as a furniture showroom. The open area between the buildings, was used to store ladders, planks, hand carts and so on.

Next was Riley's, bakers and confectioners. This business was originally Mr John Whitaker's, who was aided by his son and daughter. Later he moved to Skipton High Street and formed a chocolate business, which had previously started in Cross Hills, in a small way. On their move to Skipton, Mr Alan Riley acquired the business and he had it for a number of years.

Next comes the block fronted by the Forget-me-Not shop and next door the Britannia Building Society, formerly the National and Provincial. Mr B. H. Wilson owned the whole block, which would have originally been back to back houses. The business was ironmongery, sheet metal work and agricultural and dairy equipment. Later his two sons joined him and the name was changed to B.H.Wilson & Sons. Their business sales on the farming side, covered a large area of the Dales and North East Lancashire. A number of dairy utensils were made in the sheet metal shop. One of their main lines was hay making machinery, which was horse drawn at that time. Also they supplied new and repaired old machines. After the war, the business was taken over by another firm and more recently closed down. The rest of the main building was turned into flats. The sheet metal business at the rear, is the only part of the old business remaining. Mr Ronnie Smith, who had worked there all his life, took this over.

Next the block bordering onto St Peter's Church entrance gates. The houses up the short street were single entrance. The building at the bottom of the street is occupied by accountants. At one time Mr Fitzgerald had the basement as a greengrocers and lived in the flat above. Later most of the houses were used as an ice cream factory,

which later became a Washeteria. Next comes Mr Douglas, greengrocer. Originally this was the Gas Office for a number of years.

St Peter's Church was originally the Ebenezer United Methodist Church, after the amalgamation with St John's Methodist Church. The building was eventually modernised, the top half being demolished, re-roofed and the interior refurbished, making a very fine church. More recently the Sunday School was altered, in this case the outer structure was left as it was and the interior was almost all refurbished, apart from the kitchen and the toilets.

On the right hand side of Church Street, connecting the Church area with Park Road, are two cottages. Below these and fronting onto Park Road, stood the Corn Mill and Mr Dick Riley's Bicycle Shop. When the area was cleared, the bicycle shop moved onto Main Street, now known as Riley Bros. On this land a few houses have been built. On the other side of Church Street, a long time ago, a Mr Rankin occupied one of the houses. He specialised in making meat and potato pies. These were a meal on their own, and if you went at dinner time, the pies were piping hot. You were also given a jug of hot gravy, if you took your own jug.

Turning left at the bottom of Church Street into Park Road, comes a small block of buildings – the far end one, used to be a grocer's shop. The adjoining building was a small printing works. At the top of the yard area coming next was originally Mr Mosley's basket works. Here 'skeps' were made for the various mills across the district. The 'skeps' were quite large and mounted on castors or wheels. Other basket work would also be carried out. Later when the business ceased, the premises were taken over by the Craven Water Board. After this the place was acquired by Mr Maurice Bell, who turned it into the present joiner's shop.

Next along Park Road comes Campbell Street, feeding York Street on the left and James and Thomas Streets on the right. On the small area of land above Thomas Street, there is an old stable and cart shed. This was used for a long time by Mr Cyril Clough for his greengrocery business. More recently the building was used by Mr Popay as a small engineering shop for a short while.

Back to the Main Street, the single building beyond the entrance to the church, was originally Mr F. Whitaker's shoe shop, followed by his son-in-law Mr Eddie Hollings. The building was later acquired by Skipton Building Society.

Past the small road leading to the back area, which was known as Bar Hill, is the single storey shop. This was originally occupied by Miss Kate Whitaker, selling drapery, wools, cottons and children's clothes. Later the business was taken over by Miss Edna Procter who was there for a considerable number of years. The business has changed hands a number of times since. Next along comes Exchange Buildings. The basement shop facing Main Street, was occupied for many years by Mr Jimmie Lee who sold sweets. He was totally blind but he knew where everything was - now it is a video shop.

Next the Public Library, which is built on the site of the original St John's Methodist Church. The house next to this was for the church caretaker. After this are the two cottages on the roadside. The one on the corner with Park Street was taken a few years ago by Mr Pedley, solicitor, who has recently moved his business.

Continuing along the Main Street and on the corner of Park Street, was the blacksmith's shop. Mr Will Spencer was the blacksmith for many years, followed by Mr Windle. Later the premises were taken over by Mr Alan Hardcastle for garaging purposes, for his business. Next up Park Street was a wheelwright's, then a few cottages. This whole area was demolished and grassed over as we know it today.

Riddiough's plumbers, is a business that has remained in the family, for a very long time. The shop next door was originally Mr Whiteoak's, later Mr Cyril Clough had his greengrocer's business there for a long time, followed by Mr Malcolm Cain. This became the Chinese Takeaway it is today.

The remaining shop on the corner with Ryland Street, was owned by a Mr Joe Jobling, who had it as a men's outfitters for a number of years although it is now a dental practice. On the other corner of Ryland Street and Main Street is the Pensioner's Association Building. This was originally occupied by Mr Harvey Smith, shoe repairer, followed by Mr Riley. Later the building was extended by the association. The second building along was a private dwelling house, a few years ago being adapted for ladies and gentlemen's hairdressing. The next building was occupied by Mr Pilling, who was a baker and confectioner until Dr Wilson acquired the premises for his surgery, followed by Dr Bahra. Around the corner, just along Wheatlands Lane, is the Telephone Exchange. This was built between the wars, as the earlier one had become too small and outdated.