

# SHOPS PAST AND PRESENT



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*This booklet has been prepared by Roger and Jenny Mallion as a permanent record of the "Shops Past and Present" exhibition held in Marden Library and Heritage Centre. Opened on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 by Beverley McGaw.*

## **Shops in Marden**

In 1938 Kelly's Directory listed 31 shops and businesses in Marden, excluding farmers, banks, fruit growers and carriers.

Included are the exotically named Misses Nowakowski's Tearooms and Pompadour (Madame Rene, proprietress) Ladies' Hairdresser.

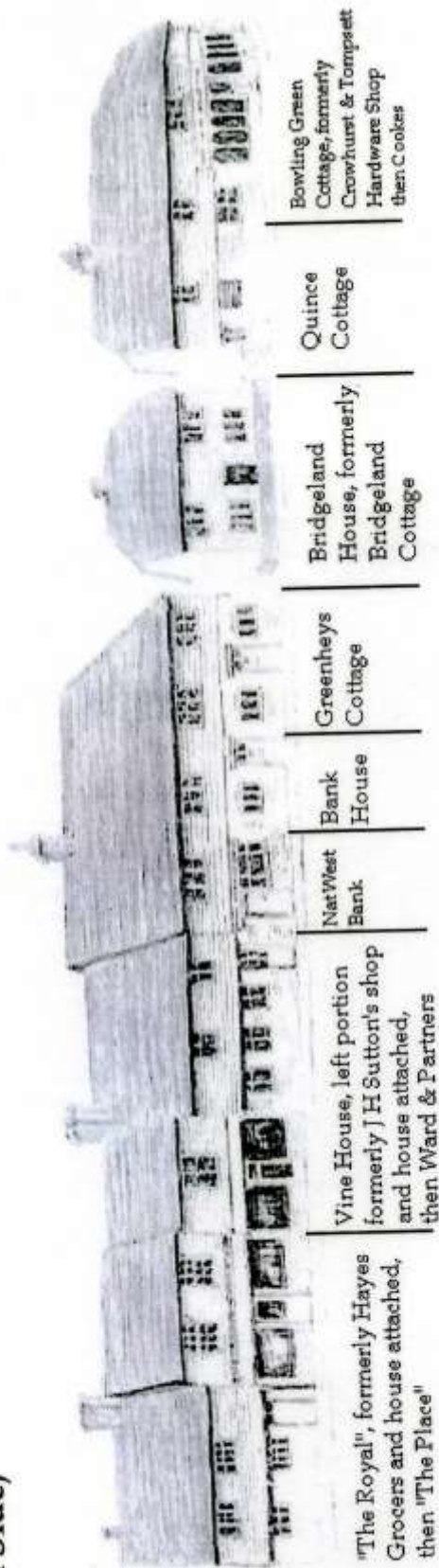
**IN THE BEGINNING** - The Marden Fair was inaugurated by King Edward I and held annually on 10<sup>th</sup> October from 1283 to 1885.



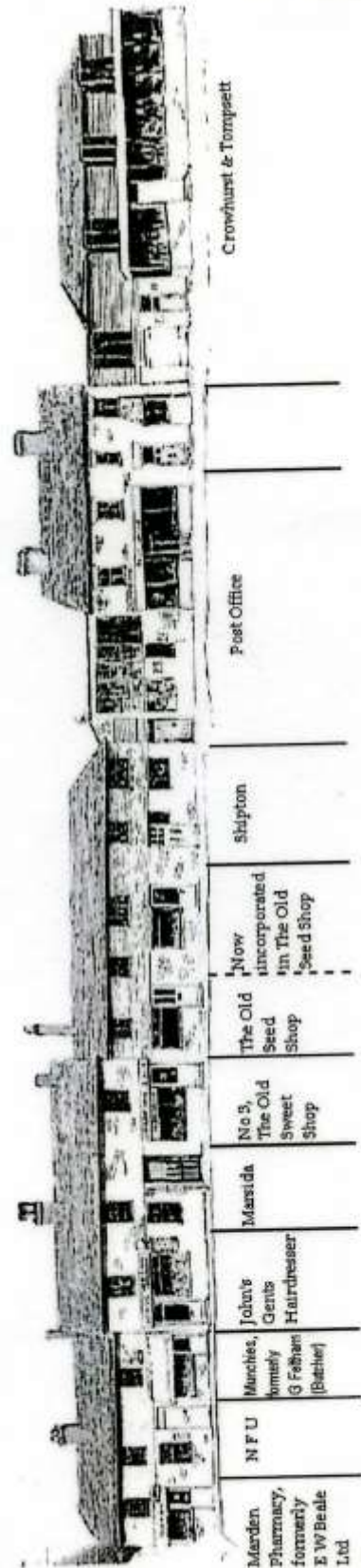


# High Street

## (North Side)



## (South Side)





## THE HIGH STREET

The shop on the left was a general store run by Bourne's who also ran the blacksmith's just behind it which became the site of Sutton's shop. On the right hand side was Johnson the Sadler, Hayes Shop, owned by William Walter Taylor then Wades the Butchers. The path was made of Bethersden marble slabs. Johnsons also sold fishing tackle – hooks were half a penny each.



## THE POST OFFICE

In 1832 Pigot's Directory states that the Post Office at Marden and Staplehurst offer the 'Penny Post to Maidstone from whence letters arrive every forenoon at ten and are despatched every afternoon at four'. There is no mention of any Postmaster.



In 1840 Pigot's mention William Jude as Postmaster, he is also described as a Grocer.

In 1859 Mary Ann Taylor, Grocer and Coal Merchant is the Postmaster. She is followed by Thomas Cornwell in 1862 who appears to have remained in the roll until about 1884 when Frederick Tippen took over. F.W. Tippen was established in 1874 as a Watch and Clock Maker but he appears to have run the Post Office until 1927 when his daughter Alice Tippen took over.

In 1945 Frank and Jessie wood bought the business from Alice Tippen. Jessie had previously worked in the Post Office with Alice. They ran the business until 1977 when John Pert took over the business.

In September 1993 the current Postmaster, Will Welby, bought the business.

During the period of about 175 years Marden has only had eight Postmasters.

## Wade's Butchers Shop



Wade's the Butcher's shop was in the Wade family from 1902 to 1947 and closed in 1971. The building is now Turnpike House. The photo shows George Finch, slaughterman and Harry Wade Jnr. in approx. 1906

### J. H. SUTTON

James Henry Sutton arrived in Marden from London about 1908 and almost immediately set himself up in business selling Home and Colonial tea from his bicycle. From this beginning he quickly established himself and became one of the leading village businessmen.

He originally rented the Seed Shop from Alice Tippen for his business premises, but as his business and success grew the family started to buy more land and property. The Seed Shop was eventually purchased in the early 1950s.

In the 1930s, James Sutton set himself up as an Agricultural Merchant and after his death in 1938 his son Arthur continued to develop the business and in the 1960s he took the decision to move into much larger premises to the left of the chemist.

John Sutton took over the business in 1974 but in 1990 the sad decision was taken to go into liquidation and the site was sold for residential development. Today only the oast house and the barn remain of the original premises and these have been converted into residential use



This photograph of the front of J.H. Sutton & Son's business premises at what is not "The Old Seed Shop" is unfortunately undated but as the young man in the entrance is Walter at about the age of 20 years the we could possibly be looking at 1926/27.

The board on the right of the door states that J. H. Sutton & Son are Agricultural Agents dealing in fertilisers, manures, fungicides, coir yarn, ropes and raffia. John remembers that many fertilisers were imported from Chili but that the Sulphate of Ammonia was acquired from the Gasworks at Tonbridge. The business also sold bonemeal, meat and bone straight phosphates, potash and later artificial fertilisers from the glue and chemical works on the Isle of Sheppey.

The window on the left contains coir yarn and tar, as well as sheep dip in many solutions and suspensions such as wettable powders and pastes. Another chemical compound seen in the window is Belumnite powder which was a popular proprietary dust used for spraying crops in the 1920s and 30s. Tanglefoot, a tree branding grease, fruit packing paper and greaseproof banding paper seem to be the seasonal promotions at the time this photograph was taken.

## SMALL GROCERS

Walter Maynard was one of seven grocers in the village in 1939. Maynards was named after F. R. (Roy) Maynard who was the son of Walter and carried the family business until his early death. Roy was Parish Clerk for a number of years and the naming of a street after him is in recognition of his work.

## SWEET SHOPS

John Pert remembered five sweet shops including **Bennet's** in Albion Road and **Dovey's** in the High Street that also sold tobacco. Mr Dovey was known for blowing on the scales when weighing out half an ounce of shag. He would often playfully snatch back the sweets at the last

minute when serving children. Mike Judd recalled that Alf Dovey was deaf but managed pretty well with his wife's assistance. She always called people 'Dear or Ducky'. This shop was always in trouble with the Hop Pickers; as well as being deaf Alf wasn't very brave either. There was one time a hop picker woman was swearing at him, she'd bought some powder and was trying to buy some cigarettes which were rationed. He said he hadn't got any, she bet he's got some under the counter saying "If I am not good enough to have your cigarettes, I'm not good enough to have your face powder". Cyril Collins said that if you bought a penny bar of Cadbury's chocolate they gave you a picture. He told us that he sent away and bought an album and that he still had that album.

There was also **Standen's** on the corner of Maidstone Road. Mrs. Standen used to give people a cup of tea so when she went out the back the children used to pinch a few sweets. She also had lodgers and housed two brothers, the Mags brothers from Wales who were working in the village when the new sewer was put in in the 1930s. They were big and brawny and always ready for a laugh or a fight, especially after a few pints on a Saturday evening.

Other sweet shops were **Hoad's** in Maidstone Road and **Whittles** who produced ice cream. Mr Whittle drove an Austin Seven and sold sweets and ice cream from the rear. When the hop pickers arrived in September a wire mesh was put over so they couldn't get their hands on the sweets.

## **WEST END STORES**

In 1915 Henry Rose established the business now known as the West End Stores by pushing a wooden structure on wheels from Howland Road to Goudhurst Road. On arrival in Goudhurst Road he stopped overnight meaning to continue the following day. Unfortunately, the next morning he discovered the structure had sunk into the mud and the axle was broken. He decided to stay where he was. The West End Stores had arrived.

The building remained until about 1977 when the new premises were built.

The current owners of "John's" shop are Pat and John Wilkins who took over the business in 1989 from Mr and Mrs Atkins.

## **OLDE PHARMACY HOUSE (Goudhurst Road)**

On 11<sup>th</sup> October 1898 a parcel of land with a frontage of some 60 feet was conveyed to William Young, a wheelwright, 'late of Capel but now of Marden'. In August of the following year he mortgaged the left-hand strip of this land (some 26 feet in width – where Olde Pharmacy House is now) to Emily Matilda Harnett, to build a cottage and wheelwright's shop. By August 1900 the cottage and shop had been completed.

In 1910, William Young, being in some financial difficulty, transferred the land to Mr Arthur Laurence (or Lawrence) another wheelwright. By August 1920 the property was described as 'formerly a wheelwrights but now a chemist's shop' in the name of Alfred Sargeant (or Sarjeant/Sergeant). Alfred died in May 1922; in January 1923 his widow Edith sold the property to Arthur Edward Verrall, a corn merchant of London Road, Maidstone.

It was originally registered as a chemist's and opticians in the name of Verrall Bros of West End but in 1927 it changed its name to C. E Verrall, MPS MICO. Cecil Edward Verrall was later to obtain the additional qualification, MISP. He was given the nickname "Chemmy" and he also had an outlet in a small shed next to Cornerways in the Maidstone Road, where medicines were left for later collection.



Conversion to residential use dates from about 1972 when Cecil Verrall retired and Ernie Beale brought the stock and used it to start the new pharmacy in its present position in the High Street, trading as E.W. Beale Ltd

**Pharmacy House**

*Marden Forum Magazine*

*Marden 23.*

**E. VERRALL, M.P.S., M.I.C.O.**  
**Chemist and Optician,**  
**MARDEN. KENT,**

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 Foods and Diets, Surgical, OPTICAL, Photographic, Cattle and  
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*Repairs Undertaken.*  
**SIGHT TESTED FREE.**

*Feb 1925*





### **STANLEY'S GARAGE**

Stanley Sons, the garage in Albion Road probably started trading in 1921 and grew gradually. Roy Stanley and his brother-in-law took over the business in 1947 after finishing their RAF Service.

The Exhibition was based upon the need to record Marden's long history and variety of Village Shops.

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