

Shops and trades in Farnhill and Kildwick in the 19th and 20th centuries

Introduction

These days, with the possible exception of the mini-mart on the Kildwick roundabout, there are no local shops in Farnhill or Kildwick. However, many people can remember a time when it was possible to do quite a lot of your shopping locally and will mention a butcher's shop in Main Street, the old Co-op further down, Mosley's, and the Post Office.

The History Group has researched the retailers and the crafts-people in the two villages and have found that for over 100 years, between the mid-19th and the mid-20th century, almost all of life's needs were catered for.

In this period you could find people locally who could build you a house, paint and decorate it, and make your furniture; you could buy clothes, hats, and shoes; feed yourself well; and finally, when the time came, there would be people living just down the street who could make you a coffin dig your grave and carve a memorial on your gravestone. It was a truly self-contained community.

In this article we will provide further details of this community, looking at census returns, advertisements in local almanacs, and sale receipts. In two appendices we provide personal recollections: of life here in the 1930s and '40s; and of running one of the last shops in the village, in the early 1980s.

Census returns (1841 to 1921)

The first full UK census was taken in 1841 and they have been taken every 10 years since then, with the exception of 1941. The most recent census to have its data released was from 1921.

All census forms have required adults to record their employment at the time of the census. The responses provide an indication of the sort of lifestyle being lived.

The tables that follow show the numbers of craftsmen, clothiers, retailers and other tradesmen living in Farnhill and Kildwick – basically, how people were employed apart from those involved in farming or in the wool industry.

Because Farnhill and Kildwick are quite small, the numbers involved are also quite small with a high degree of variability.

It should also be noted that in some cases people may have been employed outside of the villages – in Crosshills, for example. The presence of a pharmacist probably being a case in point; there is no record of there ever being a pharmacist's shop.

Craftsmen

	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921
Joiners / cabinet makers / carpenters	2	7	5	9	16	7	11	9	6
Stone masons / wallers / builders / slater	3	6	1	4	7	13	9	15	6
Gardener	1	1	2	1	2	1	4	2	1
Plasterer / painter / decorator	1	1	-	-	2	4	10	1	3
Blacksmith / farrier	3	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	3
Plumber	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Monumental mason	-	-	-	2	4	2	4	3	-

It should come as no surprise to find the basic building trades, men working with stone and wood, are present in significant numbers throughout the period. Similarly with blacksmiths and farriers; probably working at the Smithy on Kildwick corner.

The constant presence of one or more Gardeners is perhaps surprising until you consider their likely full-time employment at Farnhill Hall or Kildwick Hall – although that doesn't rule out them doing a little bit of work for their neighbours on the side.

The absence of any plumbers at all prior to 1881 might indicate the lack of indoor water and sanitation prior to that date, although the numbers are too low to say anything definitive.

There must have been monumental masons working locally, St. Andrew's churchyard has many examples of their work. It's possible that they simply recorded their occupation as "mason".

Clothiers

	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921
Dress maker	4	5	6	6	1	7	4	3	2
Tailor	3	2	4	3	3	3	-	-	3
Boot / shoe / clog maker & repairer	4	3	3	2	1	2	2	3	3
Milliner / bonnet maker	-	2	1	2	-	-	1	-	1
Corset maker	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Everyone needs clothes and shoes, and the almost constant presence of dress-makers, tailors and cobblers testifies to that.

Presumably when there was no one plying their trade locally, people went further afield for their head-gear and under-garments.

Retailers

	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921
Coal merchant (domestic & commercial)	1	3	5	5	6	7	6	8	4
Grocer / general store keeper	4	4	3	2	3	8	8	8	5
Post office operator	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	1	1
Butcher	3	-	2	-	-	-	3	1	5
Bread baker	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	4
Fishmonger	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	2
Bacon factor	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tea dealer	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Milk dealer	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	2
Oat-bread maker	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
Confectioner	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2
Greengrocer / fruiterer	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Yeast dealer	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Stationer / newspaper shop	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Pharmacy	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Poultry farmer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-

It seems that even in the middle of the nineteenth century there were a range of retailers in the two villages. Not surprisingly there were coal merchants and grocers operating throughout the period covered by the censuses.

Other outlets seem to be more erratic but these comings and goings can, in many cases, be explained quite easily:

- It seems likely that meat, poultry and milk would have been sourced by individual households directly from local farms until specialist shops and dealers started to become a fixed feature.
- Bread, including oat-bread was probably made at home; the appearance of retail bakers perhaps indicating an increase in the numbers of women entering the workforce.
- The appearance of people working in a post office from 1871 onwards may reflect the opening of a post office in Kildwick.
- The disappearance of the newsagent's coincides with the move of the Post Office from its original location on Kirkgate to the Snowden's newsagents/stationers at Kildwick corner.

Others

	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921
Barber	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	2
Hairdresser	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	-
Draper	-	-	1	1	2	5	1	2	2
Clock & watch maker / repairer	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Sewing machine dealer	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ironmonger	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Basket maker	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1

Of course everyone needs to have their hair done – and curtains ! The basket- makers were probably skep-weavers working at or for woollen mills.

Business advertisements

1871 - Kildwick Almanac

JAMES MAWSON BARRETT,
JOINER & CABINET MAKER
KILDWICK.

All kinds of Furniture and Upholstery made to order.

Every description of Joiner's Work contracted for and executed with despatch.

1884 - Craven Trade Directory



PARKINSON & TOPHAM,
COAL AGENTS,
Wholesale Potato & English & Foreign Fruit Merchants

P. & T. ARE RECEIVING DAILY

Potatoes, English & Foreign Fruits, &c.

RABBITS BOUGHT IN LARGE QUANTITIES.

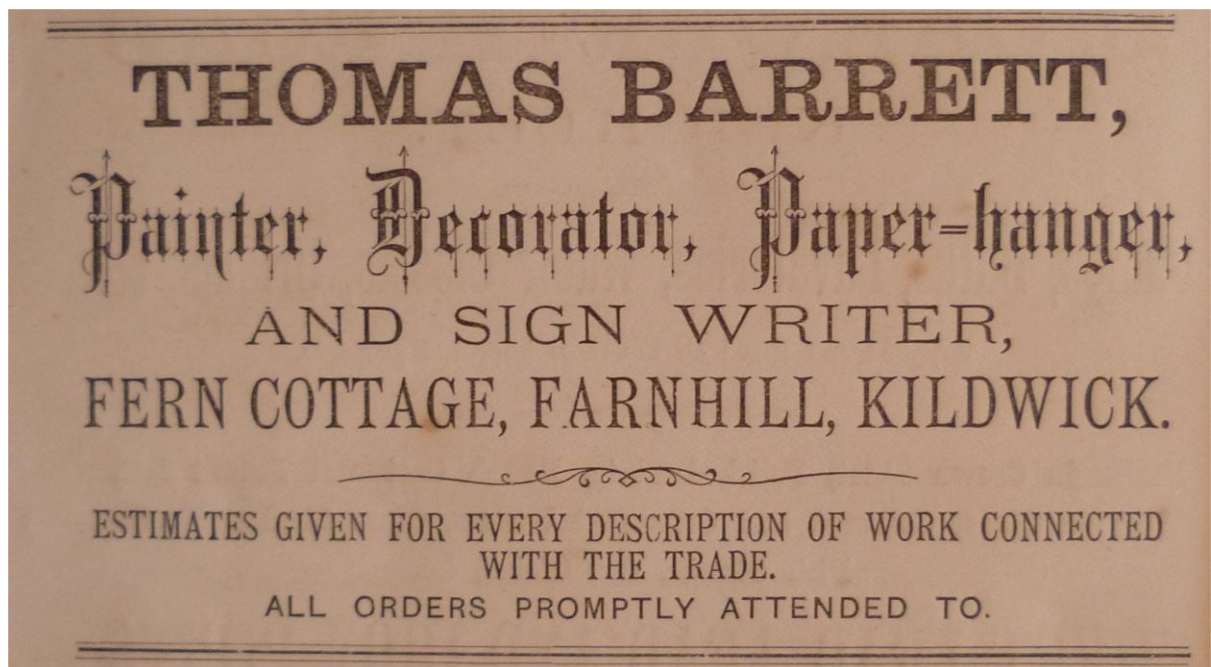
WHOLESALE & RETAIL RABBIT DEALERS.

WAREHOUSES:---

KILDWICK STATION, AND PROVIDENCE PLACE, SKIPTON.

61

An interesting range of products available from a single retailer.



THOMAS BARRETT,
Painter, Decorator, Paper-hanger,
AND SIGN WRITER,
FERN COTTAGE, FARNHILL, KILDWICK.

ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF WORK CONNECTED
WITH THE TRADE.

ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

THOMAS GREEN,
JOINER,
BUILDER,
Contractor, Cabinet Maker,
 GENERAL HOUSE FURNISHER, AND UNDERTAKER,
FARNHILL, KILDWICK.

Sewing Machine Cover Manufacturer
 TO THE TRADE.

Covers for all kinds of Machines made to order on the shortest notice.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE

Of every description, well made, of good design, and at reasonable prices.

BRASS AND IRON BEDSTEADS IN VARIOUS SIZES.

ALL KINDS OF JOINERY WORK DONE BY STEAM MACHINERY.

JOBGING WORK PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

French Polishing and Upholstering neatly executed.

ESTIMATES FURNISHED.

ESTABLISHED

MEMORIAL TOMB AND GRAVESTONE WORKS

1853.



TILLOTSON & SONS,
MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS,
KILDWICK.

Inscriptions or Carvings executed for the Trade. Monuments, Headstones, Tablets,
 Vases, &c., in Marble, Granite, or Stone.

CHOICE DESIGNS TO SELECT FROM.
ORDERS FOR TOMB RAILINGS, &c.

1899 & 1900 - Silsden & Cross Hills Almanack

Peter G. Baldwin,
 COAL MERCHANT,
 CARTING AGENT,
 Canal Wharfe, Kildwick.

Good House and Engine Coal at most reasonable terms.
 A Trial Solicited.
 Postal Address : KILDWICK, via Keighley.



Wm. Sugden,

COAL MERCHANT,

*Canal Wharfe and
Railway Station,*

KILDWICK.

W.S. begs to return thanks for past favours and
to announce that he can supply

**House and
Engine Coal**

at very reasonable prices.

Special Quotations for Trucks of House Coal.

Sole Agent for Newland Wallsend—quality unequalled

A continuance of public patronage respectfully
solicited. Orders promptly attended to.

Postal Address :— Kildwick, via Keighley

Heaton Mosley & Sons
 Family Grocers,
 Tea Dealers,
 Provision Merchants,
CHAPEL TERRACE,
FARNHILL.

Home-Fed Hams and Bacon.
 Farmers' Fresh Butter and Eggs.
 Dealer in Patent Medicines.
OUR MOTTO IS QUALITY.

= JOHN MOSLEY, =
 BOOT, SHOE AND CLOG MAKER,
MAIN STREET, FARNHILL.

Call and inspect my large new stock of Winter Boots and Shoes,
 in all the latest styles and leading designs.
ALL KINDS OF BOOTS AND SHOES MADE TO MEASURE.
 REPAIRS of all kinds neatly executed at most reasonable prices.
 Satisfaction Guaranteed.

The Mosley brothers ran a double-fronted shop in Farnhill Main Street: a grocers on one side, cobblers the other.

Thomas Dawson,
 Residence—Eastburn. *Kildwick Station,*

Begs respectfully to return thanks for past favours
 and to announce that he can supply

House & Engine Coal
 At very reasonable prices.

Special Quotations for Trucks of Coal. Sole Agent for Pope
 and Pearson, Ltd., West Riding, Silkstone, and Haigh
 Moor Collieries. Good Quality of H.M. Washed Nuts
 and Beans for Patent Ranges.

FEATHER BROS.,

*Painters, Paperhangers,
and General House
Decorators.*

A Choice Selection of PAPERS always in stock.
Varnishes, Brushes and Enamels in great variety.
Picture Framing a Speciality. Good Work Guaranteed.

Orders by Post promptly attended to.
Anaglypta, Lignomur and Lincrusta
Patterns on application.

*Harbour Works,
Farnhill, Kildwick.*

J. BIRTWHISTLE,

FAMILY GROCER and
PROVISION MERCHANT,

Newby Road, FARNHILL.

Home-Made Bread.

Finest Hams and Bacon.

ALBERT G. KITSON,

Joiner, Cabinet Maker, Undertaker,
and General House Furnisher,

Works—MAIN STREET. Residence—9, SOUTH VIEW, FARNHILL.

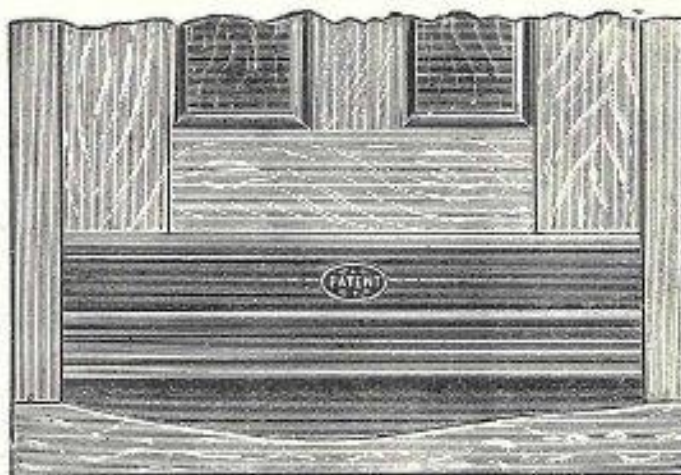
Sole Maker of

GREEN'S 

PATENT 

DRAUGHT 

EXCLUDER 



FRED EARNSHAW

(Late C. R. Snowden.)

POST OFFICE,
KILDWICK.

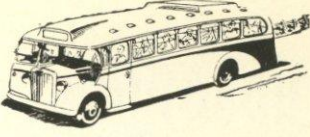
NEWSAGENT, STATIONER,
BOOKSELLER and TOBACCONIST.
PRINTING and ADVERTISING AGENT.
BOOKS and GAMES.

Wedding and Birthday Presents
in Great Variety.

1954 - Sutton Baptist Bazaar programme

CHARLES BARRITT STATION ROAD, CROSS HILLS <i>MONUMENTAL & STONEMASON</i> — ★ ★ — All types of memorials in stock. Renovations and Re-lettering. Estimates without obligation. “WE DO NOT CANVASS” — ★ ★ — <i>Member of the National Association of Monumental Masons</i> Established 1870 Tel: CROSS HILLS 2311	JOHN BARRITT All Kinds of Building work promptly and efficiently carried out. Property repairs quickly attended to. Building materials supplied. — 0 — Office: St. Andrews Terrace, Cross Hills. Telephone: Cross Hills 2235. Private Addresses: 4, Gibb St., Cowling. Rose Cottage, Farnhill. 26, St. Andrews Ter., Cross Hills. BUILDER & CONTRACTOR
---	---

For All Private
Party Outings
Consult . . .



ARNOLD BENSON TOURS
KILDWICK

TELEPHONE - - - CROSS HILLS 2336

Miscellany

**MILK FROM TUBERCULIN TESTED COWS
FARM BOTTLED
R. M. TENNANT**

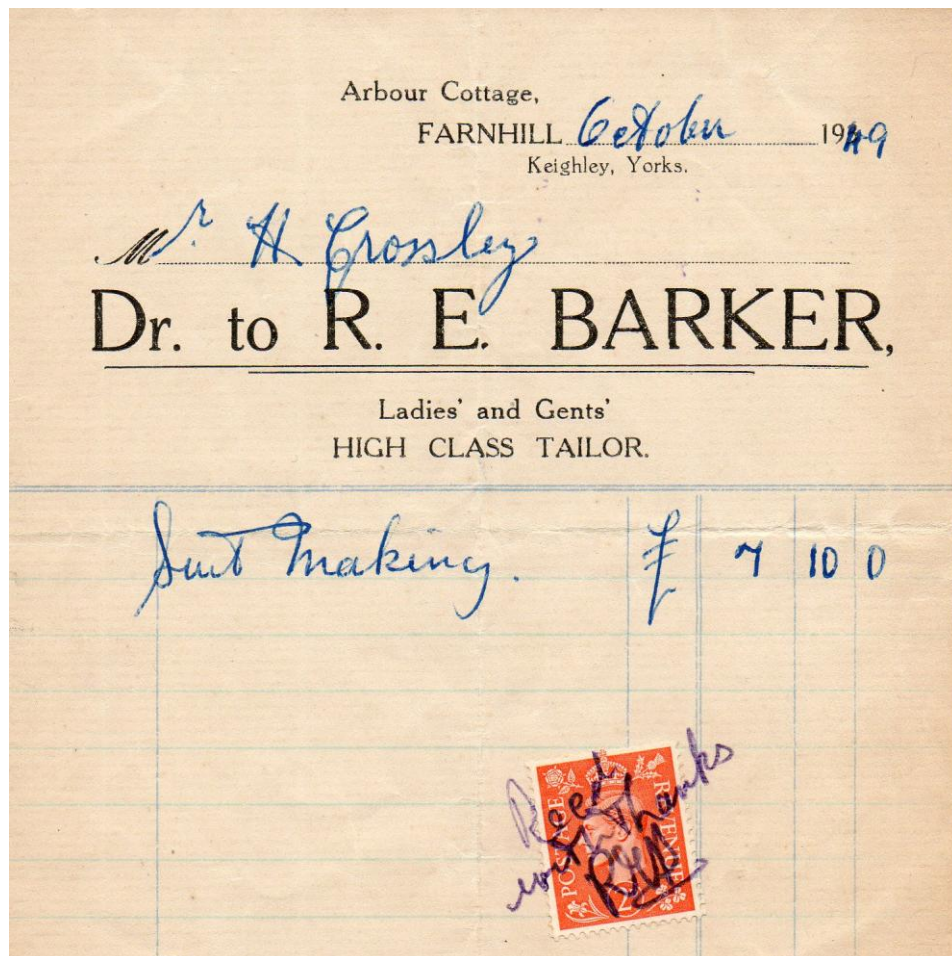


**OWLET HALL FARM
KILDWICK**
PLEASE RINSE & RETURN DAILY

The original Owlet Farm was demolished when the Kildwick-Keighley dual-carriageway was built in the 1980s. It has since been rebuilt.

Sale receipts

Further information about shops in Farnhill and Kildwick come from bills and receipts which have been donated to the History Group archive.



Harry Crossley had his wedding suit made by Rupert Edward Barker, who lived on the Arbour. Rupert had previously been apprenticed to Henry Price, of Silsden. Price started his first shop in the front room of his home in Silsden and went on to make his fortune providing quality tailoring at an affordable cost. Price's "Fifty Shilling Tailors" subsequently expanded to employ twelve thousand staff and have five hundred outlets.

Dr. S. THOMPSON & SON,
COAL MERCHANTS,
Kildwick Station.

M, *Feb 29 1964*
Gas man

Chara and Taxi Proprietors. Residence: 1, King Edward Street, Sutton-in-Craven. Tel. No.: Cross Hills, 135.

Please take notice that you are to receive herewith			Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.	Quality named below guaranteed.	Price	£	s.	d.
Tons	Cwts	Lbs. of Coal in								
Sacks, each containing	Cwts.									
Weight of Coal and Vehicle	...	...								
Tare Weight of Vehicle	...	...								
Nett Weight of Coal herewith delivered to purchaser	...	...								
Agents for										
Nostell Wragby Best										
Nostell Wragby Best Nuts										
Sny. Wallsend										
Snydate Wallsend Cobbles										
Whitwood Silkstone House Coal										
Silkstone Hards										
Hemsworth Wallsends										
Haigh Moor Washed Beans										
Carter										
Leading and Housing										

5 0 *G 3.* *10/1* *2 10 5*

Paid Cash
A. Thompson

Weight Ticket or Consignment Note on Delivery of Coal over Two Hundredweight.

Weights and Measures Act, 1889, Section 21, Schedule 3.

Where Coal is delivered by means of a vehicle, the seller must deliver or send by post or otherwise to the purchaser, or his agent, before any part of the Coal is unloaded, a ticket or note in this form.

Any seller of Coal who delivers a less quantity than is stated on this ticket or note is liable to a fine.

Any person attending on a vehicle used for the delivery of Coal, who has received a ticket or note for delivery to the purchaser, refuses or neglects to deliver it to the purchaser or his servant, is liable to a fine.

A bill from a coal merchant's based at Kildwick Station. By 1964 that would have been the Crosshills and Kildwick Station on Station Road.

EXCHANGE BUILDINGS,

Farnhill, 190

W B Hargreaves

t. of H. Mosley & Sons

ily Grocers, Drapers and Provision Merchants.

LICENSED TO SELL PATENT MEDICINES.

4 oz B Tea

8

1 lb Apples

2 1/2

2 Shelling

1

2 Sugar

4

2 Syrup

5

1-8 1/2

1 Butter

1 3

4 oranges

2

4 1/2 Coconuts

1 1/2

3 1/2 yeast

3

2 oil

3 1/2

Paul 3 9 1/2

A receipt from Mosley's grocery shop.

Tel. Cross Hills 32387

FARNHILL POST OFFICE
KEIGHLEY

5TH DEC 1972

MRS GREEN

A. & E. J. BROWN

Groceries and Off-Licence

Goods for Nov. £7 33

Received with
thanks
J.Bro

Farnhill Post Office. Presumably the one on Newby Road.

F. ASHWORTH
General Store
13 Main Street
FARNHILL
Telephone Crosshills 3134

GREEN.

Nov. 10th.
" 16th.
" 20th.
" 23rd.
" 30th.

1-16-6.
1-15-9½
2-16-9.
2-16-10.
2-10-5

£ 11-16-3½

Nov 7th
Nov. 25

1 6 7
18 7½

£14-1-6

PAID
FA

13 Main Street was formerly Mosleys' shop.

Tel. Crosshills 3141

2 Apr

1958

M.

Green

DR. TO

S. R. HODGSON

NEWSAGENT and STATIONER

**THE POST OFFICE,
KILDWICK,
KEIGHLEY, Yorks.**

Chocolates, Sweets Tobacco and Cigarettes, High Class China, etc.

Paper 16 Dec - 3 Feb				
8 weeks at 5/3	2	2	-	
10 Feb - 9 mch				
5 weeks at 5/5	1	7	1	
16 mch		5	9	
23 v 30 mch - 2 wks	6/6	13		
	4	7	10	
less 2 days (Xmas)	8		4	
	4	6	6	
		1	8	
PA	4	4	10	
Ch		6	6	
	4	11	4	

The shop on Kildwick Corner.

PROSPECT HOUSE FARM

KILDWICK 30th Sept 1967

NR. KEIGHLEY

C.W. HAGAR

FRESH FARM BOTTLED MILK

EGGS, CREAM and BUTTER

Mrs. Green Highcroft Farmhill.

To Milk delivered.					
Sept 9.	19 pbs @	11d.		17	5
16.	14 pbs @	11d.		12	10
23.	19 pbs @	11d.		17	5
30.	4 pbs @	11d.		3	8
2 doz eggs				8	-
3 cartons of cream.				7	-
			£ 3	6	4
Received with thanks					
Cheque £3-6-4.					
Anison Hagae.					
P.P. C.W. Hagae.					

K. IDESON JOINER

35 MAIN STREET, FARNHILL, Nr. KEIGHLEY, BD20 9BJ

Telephone CROSSHILLS 33620

VAT No. 287 3116 46

Mr. & Mrs. R. Green,

Sales Invoice No. 407

FARNHILL,
Keighley.

31st January, 1981.

To supply & fix shelving to kitchen units.				
14 sq. ft. $\frac{3}{4}$ " Blockboard	@	60p	8	40
12'0" - 2" x 1" Bearer	@	11p	1	32
1 hardwood carpet strip			1	00
Labour 2 hours @ £3.70			7	40
VAT @ 15%			18	12
			2	71
			£20	83

-2 FEB 1981

A bill from the late Ken Ideson.

INVOICE

G. L. RISHWORTH

Property Repairs, Alterations etc.

42 Main Street, High Farnhill, Nr. Keighley

Telephone Cross Hills 2874

Mr. R. Green,
High Croft,
Farnhill.

3.9.72.

By Supplying + Fixing
Glass.

£ 1 50.

Paid 21/10/72

A bill from Gerald Rishworth.



Telephone: XHILLS 2396

694

Months A/c

Aug - September

1947

M

rs Green High Broft

DR. TO J. BRACKEN

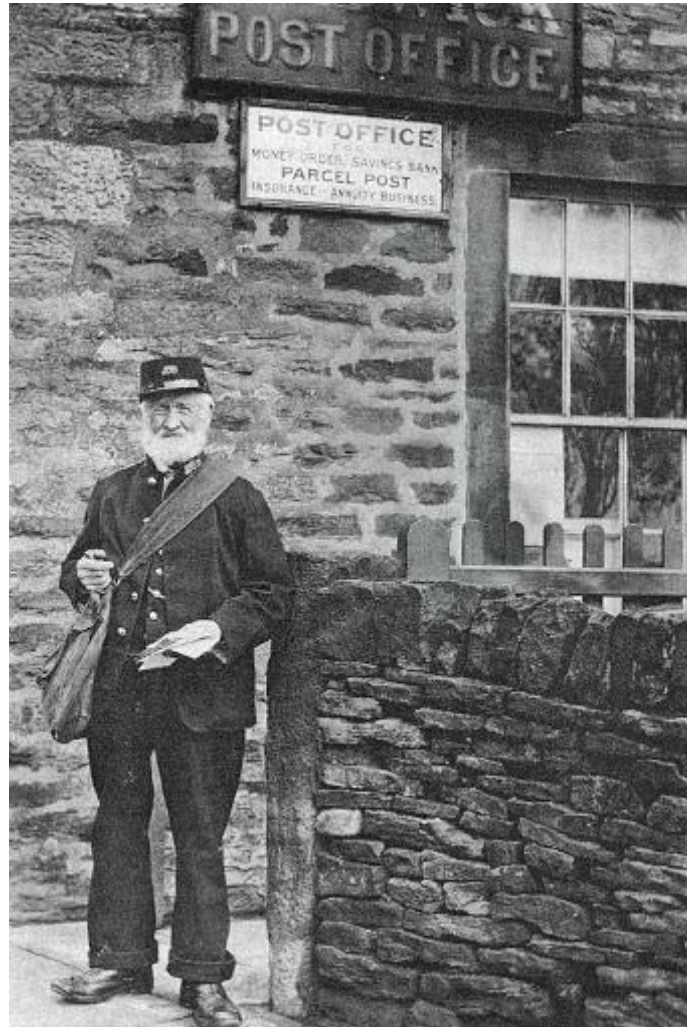
HIGH CLASS BUTCHER

33, MAIN STREET, FARNHILL, KEIGHLEY

To meat Supplied				
Week Ending 19 Aug				
	1-	7-	3	
26 Aug				
	2	13	0	✓
2 Sept.				
	1	15	4	✓
9 Sept				
	1	16	9	✓
16 Sept				
	1	9	6	✓
23 Sept.				
	2	1	4	✓
23/9/47				
	£	11-	3-	5

Bracken's butcher's shop; opposite the Institute.

Photographs



William Birch Holmes, stood outside the first Post Office, on Kirkgate.



The Post Office run by Cecil and Louisa Snowden, after it had moved to Kildwick Corner.



The third PO, on Newby Road, run by the Hilton family. Mr. Hilton continued to run the post office after the shop closed and it moved to the Institute building on Main Street.



An over-exposed photograph of the Post Office on Newby Road.



The Mosley brothers double-fronted shop is clearly visible on Farnhill Main Street. Note also the barbershop pole a little higher up.



Willie Watson was the barber; his wife, Nellie, sold sweets from the back room.



The 1953 Coronation parade passing Kitson's joinery workshop.



The former Co-Op building, now a private home, on Farnhill Main Street.

Personal recollections

Lawrence Blakesley

In about 2002 Lawrence Blakesley compiled a list of the shops he could remember in the village in the 1930s. Lawrence was born in Rotherham in 1926 and his family seem to have moved to Farnhill later in the same year; by 1939 they were living at 13 Hardings Houses.

MAIN ST.	FROM HIGH FARNHILL DOWN	EARLY 1930's
MR. & MRS. FRYER — SWEET SHOP		<u>COALMEN</u>
EDDIE GREEN — BUTCHER		MIKES WELLOCK
Willy Watson — Mens Barber		<u>WALTER SMITH</u> HORSE AND CART
MR. MOSELY — { SHOES SHOP Cobbler AND CLOG MAKER		EPHRAIM SHARPE CAME ROUND THE VILLAGE WITH A BASKET. SELLING MUFFINS AND <u>PIKELETS</u>
MRS. MOSELY — GENERAL STORES		
LIZZIE JACKSON — BAKERESS		
C. KITSON — JOINER & UNDERTAKER		WILLIE WARD FARMED AT THE OLD VILLAGE KILDWICK AND CAME ROUND WITH A CAN AND MEASURES, WITH MILK & HORSE AND MILK FEED
SAMMY HODNARTH — JAM MAKER		
J. STOTT — BARBER — THE ARBOR		
HARRY WHITAKER — COBBLER		
C. W. S - COOP. STORES		
THE FLETCHERS MILK (WEAVING)		
MR. SIMPSON — BUTCHER		MR. PAYER THE VILLAGE POLICEMAN LIVED IN KILDWICK
MR. & MRS FOX — Fish & Chip Shop		
MRS OLIVER - CONFECTIONERS		
MAUDE STEVENSON — Village STORE.		BLACKSMITH AT KILDWICK CORNER
NEWBY RD.		
MR. EGIL SNOWDEN — POST OFFICE.	<u>KILDWICK</u>	M. (da) Law Bakeress in Kildwick P.T.O.
— THE SHIP INN — BUILT WHEN THEY MADE THE CANAL.		

Gladys Crossley

Shops and Tradespeople in Kildwick and Farnhill 1930-35

As remembered by the late Gladys Crossley (nee Rishworth) who was born Hellifield House, High Farnhill in 1925.

Main Street Farnhill

Co-operative Store (no. 20)
Lizzie Jackson, Baker and Sweets (no 5?)
James Mosley, Draper (no. 13/15)
Johnny Mosley?, Cobblers and Shoe Shop (no. 17 ?)
Wm. Watson (known as Billy Barber) - Barber and Sweets (no.19)
William Mosley, Courier (no. 24)
E Green, Butcher (no. 33 ?)
Thos. Sugden, Painter (no.41)
James Willie Overend, (no.53)
Fryers, Sweet shop (no. 55)
Betty Laycock ?
Lister Rishworth, Milk/Butter (Hellifield House, no.77)
Nellie Rishworth (daughter of above), Dressmaker (Hellifield House, no.77)
Charlie Hill, Joiner (no.79)
E Kitson, Joiner ? (no.?)

The Arbour

Rupert Barker, Tailor, (Arbour Cottage)
"Jammy" Haworth, Jam manufacturer (Arbour House)
John Stott

Newby Road

Joe Roberts, Fish n Chips
Mrs Oliver, General Store and Sweets (no.17)
Maud Stephens, General, Sweets and Drapery (no.25)

Bucklar Hill

John Holmes - Milk

Mary Street

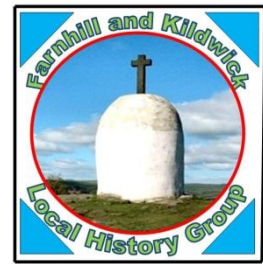
Ephraim Sharpe, Baker of Muffins & Crumpets (no. 4)
Bob Parker, Plumber (no ?)
? Marjorie Green, Hairdresser Mary Street

In Kildwick but serving Farnhill

Ada Holmes, Baker, St Andrews Close (old post office)
Ada Law
Coal from Sugdens (Hammonds), behind Byways and from Walter Smith, Priest Bank Road
Cecil Smith, Post Office & gifts, Main Road
Norman Shuttleworth, Pots and Pans
Blacksmith
C Hagar, milk
Windles Slaughter House, Red(mans) Lane

Appendix A – A busy village is much changed

The late Keith Bunnett, who grew up in Farnhill, wrote the following article. It was published in the Craven Herald a few years ago. It is an atmospheric recollection of his childhood in the village. Indulge in his descriptive journey, feel the vibrant life and characters that existed in our community. He raises a poignant observation at the end of the article about the village as it is today. Our thanks go to Marcel Bunnett for forwarding this piece to us.



During my recent annual return to the Craven district, which included several walks through Farnhill, I was surprised to see no one else walking - plenty of cars - but no sign of activity, a ghost town. How different to the village I was born into in 1927.

My early memories of village life were the gathering of local men on the bridge in the Thirties for the weekly walk down the canal bank to sign on the dole at Silsden labour exchange. No one had cars then - or giro's. But we did have shops.

Coming down the village we had the butchers, then Willie Barber's shop, which I hated because if I didn't sit still he would threaten me with Saturday morning school. Then came a shoe and clogs retail and repair shop, followed by Mosleys Emporium.

Down from here came Lizzie Jacksons-cakes bread and take your own plate for the best meat and potato pie and peas in Yorkshire.

Opposite was a joiner's shop, which during the war became Farnhill Aircraft Components. The noise of the drilling could be heard down the Main Street and the smell of the paint spray was at times a bit too much. However, when we saw the aeroplanes completed, Farnhill was doing its bit for the war effort.

A more pleasant smell came from the next business, 'Jammy' Howarth's premises. His jam making days, though it always smelt like strawberry, were a delight and a bonus for me because if I collected a dozen jars he would give me sixpence, half a penny each. This was my entree to Cross Hills picture house that night.

The fact that I could collect clean jars so easily locally shows that a large part of many diets had been the contents of the same. Not surprising, because money was scarce in the late Thirties, had it not been for the weekly jumble sales, many families would have been in trouble. I wonder how many know the meaning of poor today ?

Further down the street, we had the mill, the main employer and the noisiest, especially in the summer with the doors open. Opposite was the Co-operative, once the divi came to two shillings in the pound, a real help for many. On Newby Road we had a fish and chip shop, Mr's Oliver's grocery and Stephen's sweet shop.

So, with lorries delivering, people shopping, we had, at any time of the day, activity.

The people were very proud of their homes, in particular the entrance. Early morning, flags were swept, steps pumice stoned, not for them today's electronics to enter "Come in, stride over't step. I hope you've nowt on them shoes!"

But the centre of village life was the institute. Early in the war, the entrance was protected by a wall of sandbags but once inside everyone tried to forget the terrible things happening in the world outside and for a few hours had the support of others. Of course, the dreadful words inflation or counselling hadn't been invented.

Regretfully, families in the village did loose loved ones and the way they carried on with their lives was an inspiration to everyone and we should never forget the sacrifice given.

In 1941 started the never to be forgotten Saturday night dancing at the Institute. It is impossible to think now that people would walk from Sutton, Bradley, Silsden in the rain, snow and blackout to enjoy those nights and then walk home afterwards. Could they do it today ?

This was the start of my life in music, as I joined the Hallwood Players trio. Little did I think that I would be playing for the next 62 years all over the world, yet no one gig ever gave me more pleasure than those nights at the Institute. To see all those happy smiling faces on people starved of any other entertainment, the uncertainty of their lives, and the lads wondering where the next posting would take them-what an audience!. In those days we never saw any fights or trouble of any kind. It is another world today.

So you have a different village now. I do hope you Farnhillians have as much happiness as I had there. When I die my ashes are to be brought up to my favourite spot 'the Pinnacle' so, one way or another , I will be back next year.

Keith Bunnett

Keith died on November 9th 2018, in Bournemouth. His ashes were scattered near Farnhill Pinnacle.

Appendix B – Number 17 and 19 Newby Road

David Atkinson ran a small shop on the corner of Newby Road and Mary Street. It became the last shop in the village.

The building at the junction of Mary Street and Newby Road which is numbered 17 and 19 Newby Road, dates back to the 17 century.

Anecdotal evidence suggest that it was built around 1640 although the first written deed and conveyance is dated 1888.



It is registered on the local authority listed building register as a late 17th early 18th century property and the doorway (to number 15 see below), building style and window styles would certainly support this view.

The property originally combined what are now numbers 15, 17 and 19 Newby Road and which are structurally one building. Number 15 was sold off in 1921 to become a separate property The original entrance is now the entrance to number 15. This bears an inscription and at one time had a carved date-stone. There is an interesting story (entirely hearsay) about the date inscription above the door way of Number 15. The lady who lived in the house during the Second World War had apparently heard that all old houses would be destroyed if the war was lost. She therefore had the numerals of the date chiselled out.

An entrance to number 17 was added at a later time. Originally the entry to number 17 would have been via the main doorway into number 15 and subsequently through one of several interconnecting doorways which have since been filled in. (The original outlines both upstairs and downstairs are still visible under the plaster)

There is a very large inglenook fireplace in number 17 which may have been used for cooking as well as keeping the house warm. Above the fireplace is a huge chimney.

It is thought that number 19 would have originally housed animals or have been a farm store. This section of the building was later used for many years as a shop. Under a fireplace in number 19 an old "cartwheel" penny dating back to the 17th century was discovered. Apparently when fireplaces were built the builder would place a coin in the foundation to keep out the "evil" spirits and give the property good luck. The shop window facing Newby Road is still in place. The construction evidence suggests that at least part of number 19 may have been added to the original building at a later date.

It is thought that the remainder of the building was originally a farmhouse and that it pre-dates the canal although the first written deeds (dated 1888) identify it simply as three cottages.

Interestingly there is an old iron riding stirrup in the fireplace which was passed with the house by the previous owners. It was understood to have been a remnant from the Civil War.(Circa 1650) The story is that the occupants of the building were "Royalist" supporters although there is absolutely no historical evidence yet available for this.

There is a later extension building at the back of the original house which now forms the kitchen, bathroom, toilet and 3rd bedroom of 17 and 19 Newby Road. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this was originally used on the ground floor as a store room and on the upper floor to sell "proven" (Cattle and animal food".) The entrance to the upstairs is now visible from Mary Street. There would have been external steps to reach the door which is 3 or 4 feet above the ground level.

There is a covered well at the back of number 15 which would have been the farm water supply.

There are also the remains of two Victorian "Privvies" which would have served the dwellings.

There is both written and anecdotal evidence that the building had been used as a shop for many years. The deeds record that the building was sold in 1888 by a Thomas Green (joiner and builder) to a Mr Overend Davy (grocer). It appears from successive deed and title documents to have been used continuously as a shop at least until the most recent conveyance in 1981. At that point it was sold as a "Village Stores" and dwelling. The shop continued to operate until June 1982 when it was closed. It was at that time one of only two remaining shops in the village.

The current owners of the property ran the shop for a period of 15 months from its purchase in 1981 to its closure in 1982.

- At this time the shop was open from 8.00am until 6.00pm between Monday and Saturday and from 9.00am to 1.00pm on Sunday. Sunday morning was often the busiest time.
- Although very small the shop stocked a wide range of goods. Customers could buy anything from fresh vegetables to spring flowers (at the right time of year), to cooked meats, to a box of pins, to canned meats, to cereals, sugar, tea, coffee, eggs, bacon, sewing materials, even stationery. Some elderly customers did most of their weekly shop but the majority of customers bought single items, This was most apparent on a Sunday morning when some customers would buy an egg, a couple of rashers of bacon and a small tin of beans – obviously breakfast. A few elderly customers left an order which was delivered on an evening.
- Children in the village used the shop on their journey to and from school to buy sweets. The shop had a "Sweet Tray" from which children could choose a mixed bag of individual sweets.
- The shop made up an order of cooked bacon (and egg) sandwiches each morning for the men and women who worked at the local mill (Cossentines). People working in the village and sometimes holiday makers on the canal also bought sandwiches.
- From time to time, particularly during busy periods the shop supplied the local pub (The White Lion) with bread, sandwich fillings and other products.
- Until his death, one elderly customer used to walk down Mary Street each day to buy a packet of very strong "Capstan Full Strength" cigarettes. He would then sit in the shop for a while to regain his breath before the challenge of walking back up the street. There was a special chair for him. He could not be persuaded that his cigarettes were the cause of his being out of breath.

In June 1982 it proved necessary to close the shop. The reasons for its demise were both social and economic.

- The last two remaining shops in the village were both on Newby Road. The other shop occupied the premises which now comprise number 25 Newby Road. This was a much larger and more comprehensive and inclusive business. This shop contained the Post Office. It was the newsagents from which morning papers were delivered throughout the village. It was also an off-license able to sell beers, wines and spirits. It was considerably larger in volume and could therefore stock a greater range and quantity of goods. This shop provided strong competition. Any customer wanting only a few items would often use the excuse of having to go to the post office or newsagents to make their purchases. Why visit two shops when you could get all you needed in one. That said there was a fierce loyalty from some customers particularly the older residents.
- The 1980's saw the rise of the large supermarket chains and the development of shopping malls and out of town shopping experiences. The smaller shops were unable to compete with the prices offered by these large chains whose bulk purchasing power afforded a clear advantage. This was exacerbated by the Retail Price listings which small shopkeepers were supposed to follow. The price of goods from the wholesale suppliers who supplied small village shops were often greater than the retail prices charged by the large supermarkets. Indeed the last owners of the "village stores" often used to buy stock from the supermarkets (at a cheaper price than from the wholesale suppliers) , remove the price labels, add on a profit margin and advertise the goods for sale in the shop. The majority of customers only used the village shop for items which they had forgotten or of which they had suddenly run out.
- The advent of "best before" and "sell by" dates also had an impact on the purchasing potential of the smaller shopkeeper. Wholesalers tended to sell in large units but if the small shopkeeper bought his /her goods in large units, they had reached the sell by date before the shopkeeper was able to sell them. At that point they were unsaleable and the shopkeeper was out of pocket.
- Also at that time the demographics of the village and social conditions generally were changing. Historically many of the local residents who had used the shop were older residents who lived and worked locally and did not have access to their own transport. During the 80s this began to change. More younger people moved into the village. People tended to work further afield and shopped in the larger centres on their way to or from work or made special excursions to the "exciting" new shopping centres and supermarkets. All the large chains and supermarkets had moved to Sunday opening. Customers increasingly used the shop only if they had forgotten something.
- The takings were insufficient to merit the hours required to keep the shop open.