

## BARTON VILLAGES' SHOPS AND SERVICES 1903 – 1985

1903	1924	1945	1965	1985
Post Office	Post Office	Post Office	Post Office	Post Office, General Stores, Off-licence
5 General Stores	4 General Stores (1 with Off-licence)	4 General Stores (1 with Off-licence)	6 General Stores (1 with Off-licence)	
Off-licence				
2 Bakers	2 Bakers	Baker	Baker	
Butcher	Butcher	2 Butchers	Butcher	Butcher
Fishmonger	Fishmonger	Fish and Chips		
Corn merchant				
Miller	Miller			
Nurseryman				
Tailor	Tailor			
3 saddlers	Saddler	Saddler	Shoe shop	
Shoemaker		Shoe repairer		
2 Farriers	2 Farriers	Farrier	Farrier	Farrier
2 Wheelwrights (who were also Builders and Undertakers)	2 Wheelwrights (who were also Builders and Undertakers)	Wheelwright (who was also Builder and Undertaker)	Wheelwright (who was also Builder and Undertaker)	
6 other Builders (including a mason)	4 Builders	4 Builders	3 Builders	12 Builders
				Stone Walling Contractor
		Ironmonger	Ironmonger, petrol	
3 carriers	2 Carriers, coach	2 Garages, coaches	2 Garages, coaches	2 Garages
	Car repairer	Car repairer		Car Body Repairs
	3 Haulage Contractors	3 Haulage Contractors	3 Haulage Contractors	2 Haulage Contractors
Coal merchant	3 Coal merchants	3 Coal merchants	Coal merchant	Coal merchant
				Agricultural Machinery Dealer
				TV Engineer
	Cinema	Cinema (until 1963)	Steepletone (from 1965)	Automotive
				Hairdresser (from 1968)
3 pubs	3 pubs	2 pubs	2 pubs	2 pubs
				Sports and Social Club
Policeman	Policeman			
Herbalist				
3 Surgeries	2 Surgeries	Surgery	Surgery	
			Baby Clinic	

## SHOP CLOSURES 1970s, 1980s

Post Office, Kirby (taken over by Webbs stores, Worton Road)	67 North Street	1982
Bradshaw, shoes/wool	96 North Street	1982
Cox , general stores	17 North Street	1977
Pilling, general stores Pillings, bakery	48 South Street	mid 1970's late 1950's
Farley, general stores, off-license	6 Mill Lane	1980
Hall, sweets, some groceries	110 North Street	mid 1970's
Wyatt, general stores then Langley and afterwards Langford	37 Worton Road	1978
Webb, started 1965	25 Worton Road	
Butcher Allen Gardners, took over 1974	6 North Street	1974 1988
Ironmonger Greenslade Pratley ( K E Pratley took over )	on the site of 22/32 North Street	1971
Hairdressers re-opened under new management, Sep 1982	8 Enstone Road	May 1992
Jarvis coaches taken over by Heyfordian  garage, taken over by Winfield, now Divey	53 North Street	1971
Keeling, pottery	Elm Grove Farm	moved 1982
Prior	North Street	moved 1988
Dabster's	Worton Road	late 1970's ?

## POST OFFICE

1871	82 or 84 North Street	John Jepson
1881 – 1887	North Street East of butcher's	Benjamin Marsh
1891	53 North Street	Mrs. Mary Kirby (no relation to the other Kirby family)
1895 – 1932	21/23 North Street	William Grimsley, Mrs. Elizabeth Grimsley, Percival Grimsley, Mrs' Louisa Grimsley.
1932 – 1936	North Street brick building by 41	Mrs. Stockford, formerly, Mrs' Louisa Grimsley
1936 – 1951	67 North Street	George H. Kirby
1951 – 1982	67 North Street	Miss Ruth Kirby
1982 -	25 Worton Road	Ronald Webb

In the 1930's the Post Office was open on Sundays, 9 – 10.30 am. It also opened on Christmas Day.

### George H. Kirby

1910	Became Postman
1945	Presented with a testimonial after 35 years as Rural Postman for the Bartons, Worton, Sandford St. Martin and Ledwell.

### Ruth Kirby

1936	Joined her father in the Post Office when he became Postmaster, and after his death in 1951 became Postmistress.
1981	Awarded BEM for her services to the community.
1982	Post Office presentation for more than 31 years as Postmistress.

In 1851 there was a Postboy, Charles Hadland (aged 11) and a Postgirl.

In 1881 Sharwood Marsh was Letter Carrier

Later Post Men and Women include:

James Hurst	George Kirby	Ellen Probitts
Samuel Clack	Elsie Matthews	Susan Benfield
Reginald Carter	Margaret Hazell	Eric Groves
Doreen Gascoigne	Phyllis Steggalls	Dianne Jervis
Edward Bolton	Rose Brain	Sylvia Simson

1958 Postal delivery service transferred to Kidlington.

# **POST OFFICE**

North Street [21/23]

The Grimsley family ran the Post Office from 1895 until 1936. In 1920 Elizabeth Grimsley was Postmistress. Her son, Percival, became Postmaster in the mid 1920s and his wife Louisa ran the Post Office. In those days the Post Office opened on Christmas Day.

When a telegram came, Mrs. Grimsley would step outside and ring a bell. Boys raced to be the first to get there to take the telegram.

The Postmen were George H. Kirby and Samuel Clack.

After her husband's death, Louisa Grimsley married Tom Stockford. They lived further along North Street [41] and from 1933 to 1936 she ran the Post Office there – in the brick building near the road. In 1936 George H. Kirby took over the Post Office and it moved then to No. 67 and was there until 1982.

## **KIRBY & CO**

North Street [17/19]

The shop was run by Felix (always called Phil) Kirby, his wife, Marianne, and daughters, Winnie and Mona. There were groceries on one side of the shop and household goods on the other. Phil Kirby made and sold a fizzy drink, MONSTER, which cost 1d a pint and was very popular.

It was KIRBY & CO from 1908 until 1933.

Ruth Kirby remembers working there with her uncle:

“We started at 8 ‘o clock and worked until 7 at night, 9 o’ clock on Saturdays. We used to weigh up all the goods, sugar, lard, cheese etc. and cut up large bars of salt. In addition my cousins and I took it in turns to go and get orders covering a wide area on bicycles. We travelled around Sandford, Ledwell and the Wortons one week and Gaginwell, Radford and Kiddington the next. We also covered the village, Barton Abbey and the Lodge. The goods were delivered first by horse and cart and later by van.”

The house had been built by the Luing family and they had a grocery shop there from the 1830’s until 1900. Coleman had it until 1908. He then built a shop in front of the cottages on the other side of the road but was not there for long. Edward Cox took over the shop from Phil Kirby in 1933 and it was run by the Cox family until 1977. The building then became a private house and was afterwards divided into three houses.

## **T. BARRETT**

North Street [8]

Thomas Barrett had had a butcher’s shop since 1903 in the building where the butcher’s shop is today, and he lived in the house next door, [6]. In the 1920’s Charles Eaglestone was working in the shop with him and there was a slaughter house in the buildings (now gone) on the west side of the house.

In the early 1920’s Mildred Prior, Thomas Barrett’s daughter, joined him and the shop became Barrett & Prior.

**North Street [34]**

In the 1920’s Kate Parsons had the shop here. She and her husband, Walter, who was a builder, lived in the house and used the front part as a shop. She hurt her hand badly so they gave up the shop and moved further along North Street [to 79 and then to 45].

In 1926 Harry Allday took over the shop. His niece, Gladys Houghton, helped him and ran the shop after he died. It was ALLDAYS from 1926 to 1938.

Monica Hill then had the shop for a short time but after that the house was no longer used as a shop.

Gladys Houghton married William Hudson, and her sister Mary, who has also helped in the shop, married Aubrey West. Monica Hill was formerly Monica Ayres.

## **Farley's**

### **Mill Lane [6]**

Harry and Annie Farley had their shop and sold beer in the brick building by their house in Mill Lane. They came in 1912 and were running their business throughout the 1920's.

Their daughter, Florence, trained and worked as a teacher but after her father's death in 1935 she came to help her mother in the shop. She stayed and was still running the shop when she died in 1980.

The Farleys and the Kirbys both acted as collectors of money for hospital insurance. People would bring a few pence each week – in case they had to have hospital treatment.

## **Enstone Road [11/15]**

George Elkins had a fish shop here (the property belonged to Leslie Hastings). In 1925 the shop was sold to Frederick and Elizabeth Potter and they ran it as a general store.

The goodwill, fixtures and trade utensils of the trade and business of a Fishmonger and General Stores Keeper were sold to the Potters for £150.

The two buildings, now [11] and [15] were then joined together. [15] The shopkeepers lived here and had the shop in the front part (now gone). [11] was then two cottages. Their gardens (and privies) were on the opposite side of the road.

The Potters had the shop until 1931. It was then sold to Thomas Harris who ran a butcher's shop there until the late 1940's. The houses were separated in 1954.

## **DOCTORS**

Dr. G. Horatio Jones, later joined by Dr. Hodges. Surgeries on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Dr. Thomas W. Turner. Surgeries on Mondays and Fridays.

Dr. Jones held his surgery in the most easterly part of the three houses in North Street which was pulled down to make room for the road into Firs estate.

One house had a passage way in which people could wait.

At Dr Turner's surgery, held further along the road [53], people had to wait outside.

## CINEMA

The cinema was started in 1924 in a building transported from Kent and was run by Albert Constable. It was in North Street [98] and an engine at the back provided power. They were silent films in those days but there was sometimes a pianist to provide music.

The cinema provided entertainment for surrounding villages. Robert Jarvis ran coaches and the tickets included the cost of the cinema and the cost of transport.

In the 1930s there was a fish and chip shop almost next door [99] which was well supported by the cinema audiences.

In 1954, soon after the cinema had been taken over by James Smith, it had the first cinemascope showing in Oxfordshire, and it continued with 2 new programmes each week, until it closed in 1963.

Newspaper cutting, October 1954

Country Churchman Sept 1954

### Middle Barton Cinema

Forthcoming attractions for the month of September, 1954

All Programmes commence at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 2nd. 3 days.

Anne Crawford, Peggy Cummings in "STREET CORNER" (A) also "BONZO GOES TO COLLEGE" (A).

Monday 6th. 2 days.

Broderick Crawford, Claire Trevor in "STOP! YOU'RE KILLING ME" Color (A) also "GAMBLER AND THE LADY."

Thursday 9th. 3 days.

Ronald Shiner, Harry Fowler in "TOP OF THE FORM" (U) also "COLUMN SOUTH" (U).

Monday 13th. 2 days.

Joseph Cotton, Jean Peters in "NIAGARA" Technicolor (A) also "LET'S MAKE IT LEGAL" (A).

Thursday 16th. 3 days.

Jane Wyman, Ray Milland in "LET'S DO IT AGAIN" Technicolor (A) also "AMBUSH AT TOMAHAWK GAP" Technicolor (U)

Monday 20th. 2 days.

Randolph Scott, Pat Wymore in "THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN" Technicolor (U) "also THE SYSTEM."

Thursday 23rd. 3 days.

James Mason, Richard Burton in "THE DESERT RATS" also "EVERYTHING HAPPENS AT NIGHT."

Monday 27th. 2 days.

Bonar Colleano, Mary Castle in "EIGHT IRON MEN" also "MONTANA TERRITORY."

Thursday 30th. 3 days.

Tyrone Power in "MacDONALD OF THE MOUNTIES" Technicolor (A) also Richard Widmark in "NIGHT AND THE CITY" (A).



## CinemaScope has first Oxfordshire showing

**T**HE panoramic screen process of CinemaScope had its first Oxfordshire showing before an invited audience/last night at the tiny 206-seater Palace Cinema, Middle Barton—the smallest cinema in Europe to show it.

The proprietor, Mr. J. C. Smith, has invested over £2,000 in modernising the cinema, beginning in April by installing projectors which could show any system. He and his wife decided to convert to CinemaScope as soon as the film they wanted, "The Robe," and the special lenses needed became available.

That happened this month. The lenses were flown over from Holland and arrived on Thursday. Mr. Smith and his helpers spent all night putting up the new 16ft. by 7ft. screen, for which he made the frame himself.

A CinemaScope film occupies the whole screen, but for ordinary wide-screen presentation flaps can be folded over to mask part of it.

A projection system which

uses mirrors as well as lenses had to be installed to help meet the problems of projecting on to such a wide screen in so small a hall.

### ANAMORPHIC SYSTEM

The principle of the anamorphic system used in CinemaScope is that in filming one lens compresses a wide picture on to film of the normal width, while in projection another lens reverses the process.

A representative of 20th-Century Fox, originators of CinemaScope, who was present, said 650 British cinemas had installed the system.

He predicted that by next March over one-third of the 4,500 cinemas in this country would have it.

The first public performance is tonight.

D.E.G.

## **POLICEMAN**

There was a policeman living in the village, in North Street [71.]

Thomas Russell was Policeman at the beginning of the 1920s and then William Franklin held the job.

## **TRANSPORT**

At the beginning of the 1920s there were more horses than cars. By the end of the 1920s motor transport had taken over.

In the mid 1920s William Humphries and Robert Jarvis were both described as carriers and they would take orders for items to be bought in Oxford or Banbury (on approval).

William Humphries

1920 to Banbury Thursday  
to Oxford Saturday  
1924 to Banbury Thursday  
to Oxford Wednesday and Saturday  
1928 to Banbury Monday and Thursday  
to Oxford Wednesday and Saturday

Robert Jarvis

1924 to Banbury Thursday  
to Oxford Wednesday and Saturday  
1928 to Banbury Monday and Thursday  
to Oxford Wednesday and Saturday

William Humphries, with his horse and cart, was continuing the family business of carrier.

Robert Jarvis was setting up his business with motor vehicles and by 1939 was described as a motor omnibus proprietor.

His first vehicle was open and was used to carry all sorts of different things. When people were travelling in it benches were put in for them to sit on. By today's standards we would think the bus very uncomfortable, but the excitement then and the pleasure of a ride in this first bus were tremendous. People still talk about it and remember travelling in it to the Wembley exhibition in London in 1925. People also travelled up to the exhibition in their cars.

There had been cars earlier – Charles Boffin in his de Dion had taken part in the first London to Brighton race. Mrs Constable had been one of the first to have a car. (The back wheels had to be jacked up when it was started). Mildred Prior had a car and in the 1920s was using it to provide a taxi service.

Haulage and coal businesses were started in the 1920s by John and Gordon Mole, Walter Howe and Gilbert Newman. The Newman family are still in the transport business.

Frederick Price had built and was running Hopcrofts Holt garage and Alec Prince and Bert Farley mended bicycles.

Motor transport was making a great difference to village life by giving people more opportunities to go outside the village for work, entertainment and shopping.

William Humpries lived in Jacob's Yard [4].

Robert Jarvis lived in North Street [53] and set up the coach and garage business there – where the garage is today. The family had the garage until 1970, the coach business was taken over before that by Heyfordian.

Robert Jarvis and Aubrey West started a newspaper business in 1923 and Robert Jarvis continued with this until 1978. He used the building between [49] and [47], which is now a garage for the minibus.

In the 1920's this building was the one used by Alec Prince and Bert Farley for their bicycle repair work.

Christmas presents of chickens etc. were sent to a family in Middle Barton from relatives who lived the other side of Oxford. Their carrier took their presents to Oxford, William Humphries picked them up there, and they would be delivered here the same day.

## **BUILDERS**

Charles Boffin, Percival Grimsley, William Irons, Charles Marsh. Building work was also done by the wheelwrights and undertakers George Baker and Moses and Kenneth Castle.

## **WHEELWRIGHTS AND UNDERTAKERS**

George Baker had his workshop where the hairdresser is now [2 Woodway Road]. He was in his seventies and some of his work was now being done by the Castle family.

Kenneth Castle worked with his father and took over the business in 1924 when his father died. In 1920 they made their last wagon. There was a saw pit and smithy at their workshop which was on the opposite side of the road from The Fox.

They were undertakers and arranged the funerals for many of the village families. Kenneth Castle continued the undertaking business until 1965.

The workshop was replaced by houses in 1966 but Kenneth Castle did building work for about another 10 years and still, aged 91, makes model wagons that are exact copies of real wagons and have moving parts.

## **TAILOR**

George H. Kirby had taken over the tailoring business from his father in North Street [67]. He was also postman and he collected insurance contributions. These were now paid to the Oxfordshire & United Counties Friendly Society which had taken over in 1915 from the Barton Friendly Society.

## **BAKERS**

The Constable family were at Home Farm and had a bakery next to their house in South Street [47]. It was here that Mark Stockford baked bread and cooked Sunday dinners. He had a horse and cart and took bread round to other villages.

Tom Jeffries baked at the mill where Henry Harris was grinding corn.

## **FARRIERS**

In 1920 Arthur Gascoigne had just taken over from Joseph Jackman at the smithy in North Street near Jacob's Yard [garage of 110]. Frank Gascoigne bicycled to and fro each day from Helmdon to work there with his brother. By 1935, Frank Gascoigne had set up his business in Worton Road where, aged 85, he still works with his son Ron shoeing horses.

The other farrier was Dickie Jones further along North Street. He worked in the building next to Horseshoe Cottage [44/46].

## **SADDLER AND HARNESS MAKER**

Harry Bradshaw had been working with Thomas Jarvis at the shop in North Street [96] and took it over in 1920 after Thomas Jarvis died. Harry repaired saddles and harness and also repaired shoes. Later on, his son Fred did shoe repairs and had a shoe shop there until 1982.

## PUBS

At the beginning of the 1920's the pubs were owned by Hall's Brewery. By the end they had been sold to Ind Coope.

The Carpenters Arms looked much the same as it does today. The landlord was Tom Baker.

The Three Horseshoes was in North Street where nos. 22/32 are now. George hope was the landlord. It can be seen in two of the photographs of shops. It was next to Allday's shop and opposite the Post Office. By 1933 it had ceased to be a pub and there was an electrical shop there and then an ironmonger's until the building was demolished in 1971.

The Fox. The Gooding family was there in the 1920's. Percival and Julia Gooding took over the Fox in 1910. Julia Gooding with the help later on of her daughter and son-in-law, Winifred and Charles Gibbons, ran the pub until 1964 – a tenancy lasting through five reigns.

## PUBS

WOOLPACK. It seems likely that there was at one time a pub of this name in Pack Lane, Steeple Barton. There are two houses there now, on the hill towards the B. 4030 on the road from Steeple Barton.

1740's	Pub in Westcote Barton, possibly 14 Fox Lane.	
1753-1774	Pubs in Middle and Westcote Barton but no names given.	
1774-1784	Middle Barton	CROWN
1774-1775)		FLEUR DE LIS
1776-1783)	Middle Barton	no name
1784-1821)		FLEUR DE LIS (de Luce) became CARPENTERS ARMS
184?-1933	Middle Barton	THREE HORSESHOES
1788-1795	Westcote Barton	WHITE HORSE (Hennock House)
1796-1807	Westcote Barton	FLEUR DE LIS
1809-	Westcote Barton	FOX

The naming of pubs and licensees is not entirely straightforward so details of licences are given below from Victuallers Recognizances published from 1753-1821:

	Middle Barton		Westcote Barton	
1774-75	Flower d'Luce	J Bayliss		
1784-87	Fleur de Lis	T. Rymill	no name	W. Soden
1788-93	Fleur de Lis	T. Rymill	White Horse	W. Soden
1794-95	Fleur de Lis	S. Butler	White Horse	W. Soden
1796	Fleur de Lis	S. Butler	Fleur de Lis	W. Soden
1797	Fleur de Lis	W. Soden	Fleur de Lis	J. Butler

1798	Fleur de Lis	W. Soden	Fleur de Lis	J. Egelstone
1799	Fleur de Lis	W. Jordan	Fleur de Lis	W. Soden
1800	Fleur de Lis	W. Jordan		
1801	Fleur de Lis	W. Soden		
1802	Fleur de Lis	W. Soden	Fleur de Lis	R. Nicholls
1806-07	Fleur de Lis	J. Abraham	Fleur de Lis	R. Nicholls
1809-	Fleur de Lis	T. Gould	Fox	T. Chilton

1910-1964. THE FOX was run by one family, Mr. and Mrs. Gooding and their daughter, Mrs. Gibbons. When Mrs. Gooding gave up the licence in 1964, a newspaper report commented that her tenancy had lasted through 5 reigns and that when she moved into The Fox Mr. Asquith was Prime Minister and Winston Churchill a rising young Liberal.