

VILLAGE ECHOES

SPURWAYS

Do you ever suddenly remember something from your childhood but struggle with precise names so that it irritatingly plays on your mind? This is what happened to a gentleman who made an enquiry via our website, hoping we could help.

It concerned the building opposite St Mary's Church, on the corner of Church Road and Rope Walk, next to Lamberts. For many years it was a shop and was remembered from the 1960s as somewhere to buy general groceries and sweets. GS couldn't remember the name of the shop and the name of the 'lovely old lady who ran it and was open all hours'.

A few initial phone calls drew blanks until they in turn rang others for inspiration. Finally, the answer was found and GS was very happy and could stop racking his brain. However, in the course of searching quite an interesting history was revealed about this little shop.

An entry in the Goudhurst Millennium Book records that in 1970 Mr & Mrs Marcus Spurway gave up their general shop in Church Road. This was the answer GS wanted as they had been there during his early years. Living in the High Street he was allowed to pop around the corner for sweets without the danger of crossing the road. The next occupants of the building were Mr & Mrs Curd who re-opened it as an antique shop, calling it Old Saddlers. This was an acknowledgement of an even earlier shop run by Thomas Goodsell seen in the doorway of the picture below.



His business was Saddler and Harness Maker. A sign indicating Dibley Cycle works down Rope Walk was fixed to the corner of the shop. This illustration was in our archives together with one that also appears in the Goudhurst Coronation Book showing another previous owner, Howard Edgar Cowles

which, in 1937, was remembered as a confectioner's and tobacconist, see below where the chattering villagers had no fear of juggernauts knocking them down.



More remembrances from 1937 note that the Goodsells had arrived in about 1901 replacing David Southon's butcher's shop, which in turn replaced John Butler's fish and chip shop.

Thomas and Hannah Goodsell had been living in one of the Baker's Cottages in West Road, just up from the Bricklayers Arms. He had been born in Kilndown and was described as a manager of a saddlers but not yet moved to Church Road. Going back in time to the 1901 census the family of William Butler was in residence, he was described as a stockman on a farm. Presumably his son John eventually started the fish and chip business there. Ten years before, in 1891, Edward Davis and his family from Cardiff lived at 3 Church Road where he worked as a Saddler. It would seem that in 1881 the house was not yet a shop but occupied by the family of John Gower, an agricultural labourer, and an ancestor of the famous Kent and English cricketer.

Does anybody else remember the Spurways shop and the Christian name of that 'lovely old lady' who sold the children sweets?

Goudhurst & Kilndown Local History Society

www.goudhurstlocalhistory.org

From Marian Sargeant - Mrs Spurway wasn't always (a lovely old lady) She was a youngish lovely Mum when they moved here in the 50's. Three Children all now deceased. The older son was Tim's best man. Mrs Spurway was Eva. Mr Marcus Spurway was very involved with Scouts. You could book your E10 coach to London there or have parcels delivered from cash and carry.