



A Tour Through The Village, 80 Years Apart!



← This photo was taken around 1901 and shows a view of Church Street, looking towards the Market Place from the church gates. The house in the foreground was originally used as the school, until the new one opened in 1830.

To the left of the photo was No. 110 Bradford Road, an inn called the Three Horseshoes in the 1650's, later changed to the Hare and Hounds. At around the time of the photo, it changed to a blacksmiths called Hampton's Forge.



→ This photo, taken in 1981, shows almost the same view. The street has barely changed in the 80 years between the photos, apart from the road surface, and the addition of cars, and telegraph poles! The forge had by now become a private house.



← Back in 1901, looking from the Market Place back up towards the church.

The pub was run from 1911 to 1914 by Mr. Castleton and the house to the right of the pub would later be owned by Mr. Wills, who also ran the pub. Mr. Wills was a tailor who made livery and uniforms, some of which were used at Neston Park estate.

Just off the left side of the picture would be a greengrocer's shop, run by the Andrews family during this period.



← Taken in 1981, this photo shows the same view back up Church Street.

The pub would be run by Mr. Pearce by this time, who took over in 1961. The pub later became a residential house.

The shop was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Newman in 1968, who ran it with the assistance of Les Carpenter. The shop was also turned into a house.

→ Further down Bradford Road, in 1908, one of the village water pumps is visible in the centre of the photo. The village had 6 public pumps and the cottages to the right were named Pump Row.

In the distance is the Clock Tower, erected to commemorate the Diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria. The tower lists the Rolls of Honour for both world wars. Behind this is the Congregational chapel, built around 1790.

On the left of the photo, another inn, the Lion Inn, was around this time divided into 2 houses. Mr. Houkes ran a harness making business from one of them. The other half was occupied by Mr. Greenland, who had been employed by Mr. Hampton, but now ran his own forge in the village.



← By 1981, when this picture was taken, Mr. Houkes had sold the shop to Mrs. Barnett, who ran a newsagents. The pumps have been replaced by a mains water supply. A refrigeration business was run by Mr. and Mrs. Hayward around this time from a building to the right of the photo, a building used by Mr. Herbert Watts in the 1920's to house his vehicles. Herbert ran the first taxi in the village, and he and his brother George delivered bread and cakes from their father Eli's bakery further down the village.

Coronation Road is to the right also, where Mr. Lewin Sealy once ran a building firm, and Mr. Sheppard (another Hampton's employee) ran an undertaker's business.





← This picture, from 1908, shows the view along the road towards Bath. The house on the left, (No. 118), was the original turnpike house, discontinued around 1900. Further down the road, on the left, was the forge run by Mr. Greenland, which around this time, became a petrol station. The dip in the road is where the ford once stood, providing the village with one of its original names of Atford. "At" was from the Saxon Aetta-a man who once farmed the area around the 13th century. In the late 1800's, this name was changed to the name used today.



→ This view, from 1981, shows the garage owned by Mr. Greenland, now run by Mr. Schafer and his brother, having bought it in the early 1970's. The garage is still operating.

The buildings to the right of the road belong to Denley Farm, now the site of Neston Park Farm Shop.

In between these two parts of the village, during the early 20th century, would have been a Post office (No. 133 Bath Road) run by Mrs. Lewington which closed in 1940, and then became a butcher's shop (Mr. Ash) who also ran a fish and chip shop from here, and then became a hardware store. When this closed the house was returned to a private dwelling. Along the Bath Road a bit further, No. 59 was once a TV and electrical shop run by Mr. Len Jordan and his cousin George Watts, starting originally in a building near the bakery owned by George's dad Eli.

Next to here was a yard where Mr. Titt ran a carpenter's business. Here were made the pews for the church. On this site would later stand the Institute. Opened in 1914, it would be used for dances and a games room, as well as a communal bathing house, supervised by Mr. Jordan's mother, who lived at No. 60 Bath Road. The baths closed in 1963. The Institute still remains, although now referred to as the Village Hall.

At the bottom of the yard was a shoemaker's business run by Mr. Sleightholme. This building would, in 1973, become Hilary's Hair Salon, which remained for 42 years, until the owner retired. Mr. Sleightholme also ran a coach company, organizing day trips etc. Godwin's close was built in the late 1990's.



← This view, from 1900, shows Mr. Greenman's grocers shop, which he ran from 1897 to 1918.

Opposite is the New Inn, around this time run by Mr. Buckland. The building later became a dairy, run by Mr. Barker and also a shop run by Mrs. Bath until 1978.



← This picture was taken in 1981, and shows Mr. Greenman's shop now run by Mr. Marsden as a post office.

The pub opposite has by now been turned into a private house.



→ This view from 1901 looks at the same area from the other end of the village. The New Inn sign is still visible. The houses on the right of the picture housed a coal merchants run by Mr. Clark (No. 148 Bath Road) and also a greengrocer's, run by Mr. Brooks.



← This picture was taken in 1981. Mead Park has now been added to the landscape.

The house behind the pole, which in the above photo had dormer windows, was where Mr. Townsend lived, who ran an antique shop in his yard opposite.

The post office is not visible but would be found behind the building on the left of the picture.

→ This photo from 1901 looks back up Bath Road from the other end of the village.

The White Hart, an 18th century coaching inn, is just visible in the centre of the picture. Next to this was East Farm, a smallholding and coal merchants run by Mr. Adams and his sister about this time. This ceased trading in about 1930.

Fred Watts also ran a butcher's shop from this area during the early 1900's. This closed around 1930 and the land was sold for development.



→ This view, from 1981 and a bit further down the village, shows the Dowty engineering works. Beginning life in Chewton Mendip, where George and Arthur Thatcher developed the Mendip car, the firm moved to Atworth from Bristol and opened here in 1922. The company now produced aircraft components. Dowty bought the firm in 1951 and changed the name to Dowty Fuel Systems Ltd.

The factory was eventually demolished to make way for a housing development.



Further down the village, Mr. Hayward ran a building company from No. 23 Bath Road, which his son later took over. He and several others built the development of bungalows known locally as "Bungalow Town". The bakery once run by Eli Watts was at No. 43, Prospect Farm, later the site of a children's nursery. Next door to this was a Judo club. The original Jordan/Watts electrical business began in a building in what would become the car park.

At the junction with Purlpit is the Ebenezer Baptist church, built in 1860. This closed in 1979 and was converted to a house.

Almost at the end of the village is Fleetwood Rise, a cul-de-sac of houses which also contains Shell Court, an elderly resident's home. On the other side of the main road is Mount Pleasant, originally a development of about 30 houses, but extended in the late 20th century.

At the village boundary is Pye Corner. No. 2 originally housed Mr. Angell, who carried out milk deliveries in the village during the early 1900's.

With grateful thanks to Mr. J. Lambert for the use of his photographs