

F&DHS Heritage Shop Project 2017



3 High Street

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In 1919 no 3 High Street was acquired by James Anderson-Smith with the intention of creating an outfitter/drapers shop to expand his business based in Manchester and to provide employment for his brother-in-law William "Bill" Jones, a Boer war and WW1 veteran.

The building comprised of an end terrace farm building and a cottage. These were converted into an L-shaped shop with a large shop window at one side and the cottage window, used to display shoes, at the other. The shop doorway was, for many years, the original split stable door.

James had started his career in 1908 as a "Tally" draper, selling from door to door, often around the Frodsham area. The Frodsham shop specialised in good quality workwear and general clothing and had a good reputation. They delivered throughout the area, originally by horse and cart and later by a motor van, both driven by their employee, Johnny Chrimes. It was Johnny Chrimes' daughter Veida who donated the decorative wrought iron gates for the Girlguiding HQ Ship Street.



The delivery wagon with Bill Jones at the front and Johnny Chrimes by the wagon c.1920s (courtesy Nick Smith)

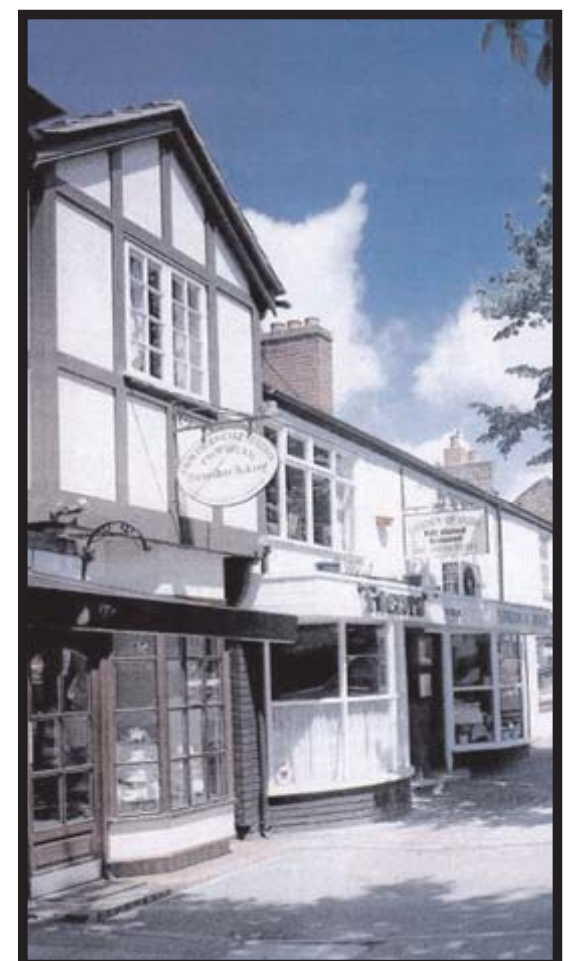


William "Bill" Jones 1919 (courtesy Nick Smith)

James died in 1924 and Bill continued in the shop until his death in 1953. His family describe Bill as "contrarywise", a man who enjoyed a good argument. But he was kind and compassionate and many people benefitted from his generosity.

The business closed in 1957 and the premises sold to Rhaney's bakery from Townfield Lane, who ran it as a confectioners and café for a few years.

It was later split into 2 shops as it is today. The Indian Garden has been there for years, while the other shop has had various uses. It has been "Instep" shoe shop with "The Threshold" café upstairs, a bookshop, "Treats" café, and a jeweller's. The Cake Studio was created as part of Devonshire Bakery, in the mid 1980s. It moved into no 3 in 2016 when the café was created inside the main shop.



The Cake Studio in the 1980s (courtesy Nick Smith)

Ad 1983

