

F&DHS Heritage Shop Project 2017



• 11-13 Church Street •

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Images courtesy of Cheshire Image Bank

Until the 1950s a row of cottages stood on this site.

The end cottage was a beerhouse known as "The Railway Inn". The story goes that train drivers and fireman had enough time to snatch a jug of ale whilst the train was at the station. Perhaps this was possible for goods trains etc but unlikely for passenger trains that only stopped briefly. The hatch through which the beer was supposed to have been passed can still be seen as you mount the steps at the side of the present shop.

The Whitby family ran the beerhouse until 1877 when George Rodgers took over. The license was not renewed in 1922 and "The Railway Inn" closed.

The building reverted to a family home, although the front room retained the wooden settles of the original tap room.



The Railway Inn

The cottage at the other end of the row was a small shop. In 1903 it was grandly called "Central Cycle Depot" and was where Tom Booth started selling bicycles before he opened his shop at 104 Main Street. In the 1930s the little shop was a newsagents belonging to James Catherall, who had another shop at 100 Main Street. Miss Winnie Chrimes was one of the ladies who served in the Church Street shop for many years and it was always known as "Chrimes".

The cottages were purchased by William (Billy) Worrall, a gents' outfitter, with the view to demolish them and build a new shop for his business. Worrall's started at 24 Church Street in the 1930s and was then at 9 Church Street. When demolition of the cottages began the family at "The Railway Inn" refused to leave. The operation could not be completed until 1958, when they eventually moved out.

Ad 1968

Mr Worrall built three new shops on the site. The Paperwell now occupies no 11 which was originally Latham's painter and decorators. Catterall's newsagents moved into no 13 and Billy Worrall occupied no 15. When Billy Worrall retired, Unsworth's "Fashion for all ages" moved into no 15.

In 1982 Hales moved their business from no 17a (Celebrations) into their present situation, no 15, and more recently Paperwell expanded into no 13.

Ad 1985



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