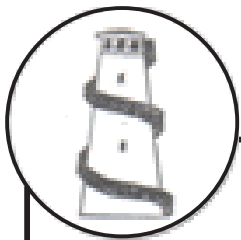


F&DHS Heritage Shop Project 2017



• 68 and 68a Main Street •

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Images courtesy of Cheshire Image Bank

A date stone of 1630 was found in the fabric of 68 Main Street during the renovations. The building was originally a small farm with a barn and land to the side and behind. There has been a butcher's shop on this site for most of the last 150 years.

Charles and Thomas Hebbert were the sons of Thomas Hebbert a gentleman of Over in Cheshire and his wife Sarah. Both parents died in the 1820 s leaving the two boys in the guardianship of their aunt, Elizabeth Lewis, a butcher in Frodsham. They became her apprentices and when they inherited they bought this small farm on Main Street, renting additional land from the Marquis of Cholmondeley. Thomas died in 1848 leaving Charles to start his own butcher's here in the 1850s. At this stage some of his land would have been taken for the building of the railway.

Charles died in 1876 leaving his son-in-law, John Edwin Bate, to run the business. John and his family moved to a farm in Sutton and by 1901 no 68 had been bought by George Ford. George was born in Pickmere but his parents had farmed in Newton by Frodsham for many years.

George had a butcher's shop on the other side of the road, where Devonshire Bakery now stands. No 68 was rented in 1901 by the butcher, Samuel Hancock who was keen to buy the property. However no 68 was in a better position, being on the shady side of the street. George moved his business here about 1906 and Hancock's moved to Church St. where the Nationwide Building Society is today.

When George Ford's daughter Mabel married Harold E "Bob" Coward, George, a farmer at heart, left them to run the business and bought a farm at Burtonwood, Warrington. This farm was compulsorily purchased for the American Airbase in WW2. Land was also taken from No 68 for Frodsham Secondary School, which opened in 1941.

There was a fully licenced slaughterhouse on site and in the late 1940s the barn, abutting Main Street, was demolished to make way for a small paddock. In 1975 the present shop, no 68A, was built on that site.

Sadly in the same year "Bob" Coward died leaving his sons to run the business. The old shop was first let to a catering business, before it opened as a delicatessen. When this closed in the late 1990s, Robert Coward decided to renovate the old building that had stood empty for a couple of years.

'Bob' Coward at the entrance to his shop,
no 68, c.1949 (courtesy Rob Coward)



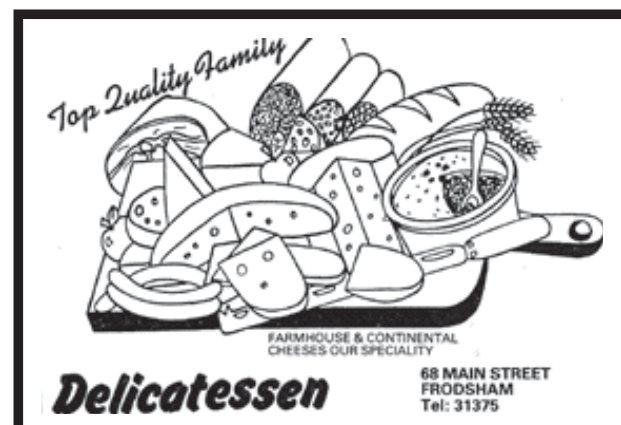
A thatched cruck-built property occupied the site
of the present shop until the late 1940s



With the support of Frodsham Forward and the skill of his workmen, the beautiful timber framed building was revealed. In 2004, "EVE" ladies' fashion, run by his elder daughter, opened in no 68. This was followed by "Caran D'Ache" of Tarporley, also a fashion shop.

In May 2017, Robert's younger daughter and husband opened a restaurant, "Next Door", at no 68. A facsimile of the 1630 date stone is on display as well as Robert's father's meat cleaver from 1879 which reflect the building's heritage.

The delicatessen in the old shop c. 1980s



Ad 1985