

F&DHS Heritage Shop Project 2017



1 High Street

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Images courtesy of Cheshire Image Bank

The age of this house is unknown but it is thought that it was built in the 1870s for John Priestner, whose family farmed Catton Hall. In 1873 he married Jane Lewis, widow of a Frodsham butcher, Edward Lewis. In 1881 he was a butcher and farmer of 35 acres and both his wife and step daughter, Annie, were listed as butchers. It appears that there was a slaughterhouse at the back of the yard.

The cellars and foundations of the house suggest that it was built on the site of an older building, perhaps belonging to Richard Gorst, shoe maker and father of Thomas Gorst, the draper. At the time of the Tithe Maps, c.1846, Richard Gorst was renting this plot and the field behind from the Marquis of Cholmondeley.

Annie, John Priestner's step daughter went on to marry Thomas Gorst's nephew, Joseph Gorst, who had a large draper's shop further up High Street. By 1901 John Priestner had retired and this shop was occupied by another butcher, George Ford, who later moved to 68 Main Street. George Ford's daughter married Harold E (Bob) Coward.

James Aitkin started manufacturing cycles in Frodsham in the early 1900s. By 1911 he had a garage here at 1 High Street. James was a motor engineer, ran taxis and supplied petrol from pumps near the entrance of the Bear's Paw.

Ad 1960



This postcard shows James Aitkin's Garage on the right

.. Mac's ..

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—take some home with you when passing

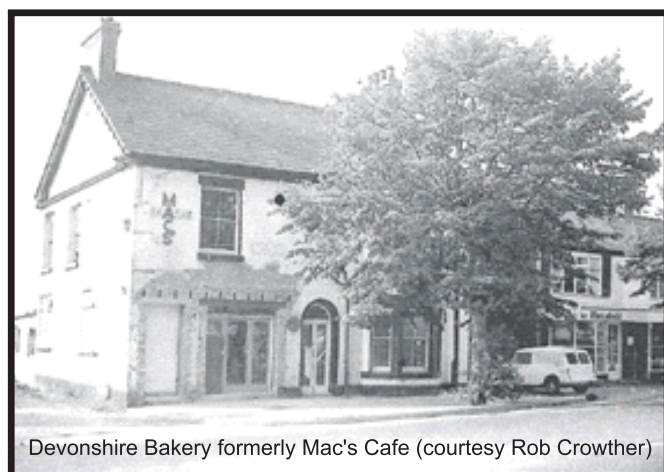
WEDDING CAKES, BIRTHDAY CAKES, ETC., ARE MADE
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MAC'S CAFE, 1 HIGH STREET, FRODSHAM
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In the 1940s an establishment opened here called Mac's Café. Before the M56 opened the road through Frodsham was very busy. The front of Mac's was more of a transport café with a better class dining room at the rear, decked out in tartan cloths and curtains. They even offered bed and breakfast and home-cooked cakes and pastries. Locals remember it, as a place where they hung out as teenagers.

In 1973 Devonshire Bakery moved their business from Runcorn to its present home, 1 High Street. The business had been established in Runcorn at the turn of the last century by Fred Crowther, the great grandfather of Robert Crowther, the present managing director. The name comes from an early site in Devonshire Square, Runcorn. They have since opened shops in Weaverham and Runcorn as well as the Cake Studio next door.

Ad 1985



Devonshire Bakery formerly Mac's Cafe (courtesy Rob Crowther)

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for Quality

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