

# F&DHS Heritage Shop Project 2017



• 17a, 17b & 19 Church Street •

2

Images courtesy of Cheshire Image Bank

These three shops were built in the 1970s on the site of an old smithy that dated back to at least 1834 when Pigot's Trade Directory listed John Burkhill as a blacksmith in Church Street. John was born in Kingsley in 1792 and was established as a master blacksmith in Frodsham by 1828. His son John, born in 1816, was a blacksmith in Kingsley.

The smithy was put up for auction in 1853. The advertisement in the Chester Chronicle 9th July 1853, reads, "*All that modern built dwelling house with Blacksmith's Shop, Hovel, Wheelwright's Shop, Shippon, Yard and Garden... within 120 yards of Frodsham First Class Station*". The outcome of the sale is not known but John Jnr left Kingsley and took over the business after his father's death in 1858 and remained there until his death in 1888.

The business then passed to Thomas Nield, from the long established family of smiths from Ince. He had been in Overton since 1871 but presumably moved to Church Street for its superior position near to the railway. It was a successful business and in 1901 he had four of his sons working for him. Thomas died in 1912 and the premises were sold in 1915 for £500.

Another son, Joseph, who lived in Sandfields, ran his own smithy on land at the rear of what is now Costa Coffee. When that plot was redeveloped in the 1950s, that smithy moved to a new site in Ship Street.

This smithy on Church Street became shop premises. From the early 1900s to the 1950/60s, Locketts ran a wet fish and greengrocers shop in the lock-up on the side while the main shop was a sweets and toy shop. Mrs Lockett's sister, Mrs Smith, ran this in the 1930s. It was later owned by the Limb family and finally by Melville Williams.

This building was demolished in 1970 and the three shops built in its stead have had many occupants over the years. Number 17a was the original "Hales" and later, in the 1980s, an interior design shop. "Celebrations" took over from another card shop in the late 1990s. Number 17b has been the office for Weaver Taxis and briefly a mobile phone shop before Tattoo moved there in 2011. Number 19 was Hood's Army and Navy stores for many years before Dandelion moved over from Main Street in 2006.

Church St smithy on the left - mid to late 19th century



Thomas Nield's Smithy 1906 – owner Thomas is third from right



c.1940s Smithy building converted to Sweet Shop



Ad 1985

*We specialise in work and leisure wear  
Wet weather garments, footwear and Wellingtons  
Camping etc, Ruck-sacks,  
Back Packs, Shoulder Bags and School Bags. Good selection of Ex-Nato Garments.*

*Owing to limited window space we are unable to display all our merchandise. Please come inside and our friendly staff will assist you*

**BARGAINS GALORE  
HOOD'S ARMY &  
NAVY STORES**

17b Church Street  
Frodsham, Cheshire  
Tel: Frodsham 31925