

West Dean Village History Trail

NUMBER 5 – THE VILLAGE SHOP

No 4

The shop was opened in 1871 by Thomas Edney. Later his daughters Phoebe, born 1860, and Caroline, born 1868, took over the running of the shop from him and it was to stay in the family for 70 years.

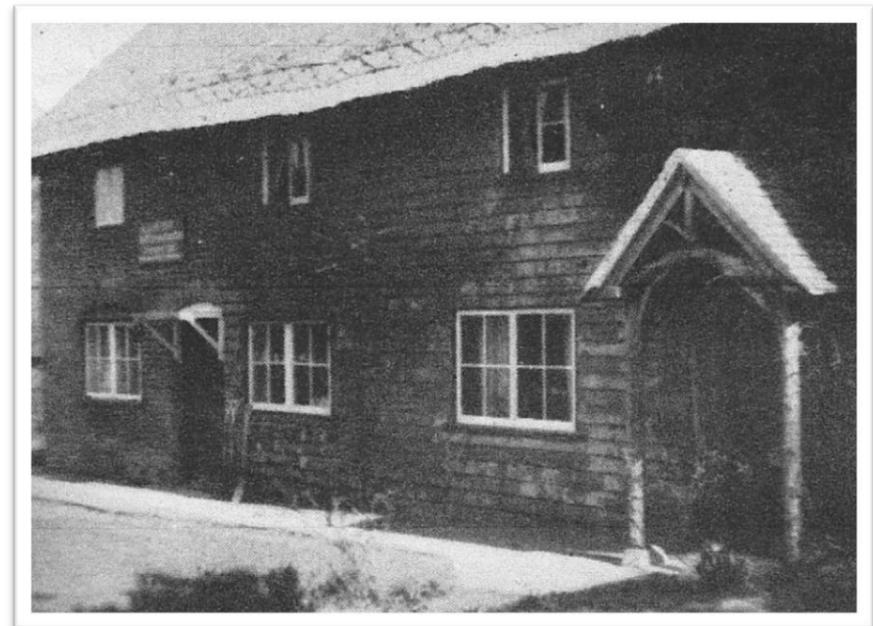
Caroline married John Street and he joined her at the shop. The 1911 census shows John Street as a grocer and farmer. Their children Alfred, aged 12, and their daughter Edna, aged 8, were living with them as was Kathleen Pearce, their fifteen year old housemaid and domestic

servant. Phoebe, by then aged 51, was visiting them at the date of the census.

Alfred's Street's life was to be short. He was killed just before the end of the First World War and is commemorated on the War Memorial in the churchyard. As was then the custom the church bells tolled to alert villagers to his death and his memorial service took place at the church on 3 November 1918.



THE VILLAGE SHOP PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1931 OR EARLIER

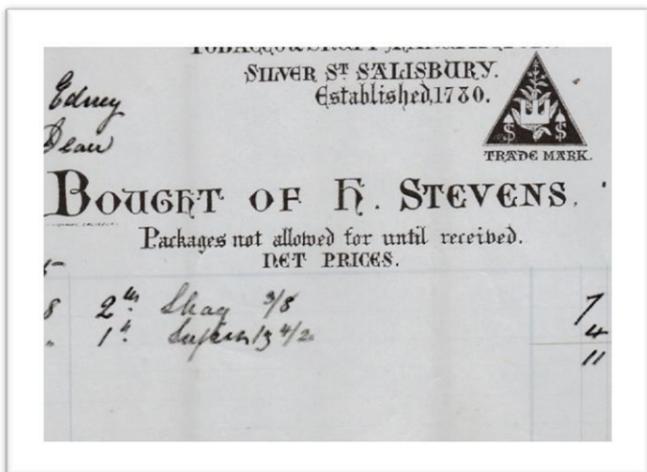


THE FRONT OF THE SHOP SHOWING
ENTRANCE AND NAME ABOVE

By the time of the Norman Court Estate sale in June 1945, Number 5, described in the catalogue as "The Village Stores with House attached", was let to Mr A E Budden at a rent of £40 a year. It was bought by the Buddens for £1500.

Mrs Edith Budden ran the shop until she decided to retire in about 1972 when she decided to close the shop to continue living there. Her choice of the time to retire is attributed variously to not wishing to cope with the change to decimal currency (15 February 1971) or the prospect of VAT (introduced 1973) or perhaps was a combination of the two.

The house is a listed building, once a pair, built in the 17th Century and extended in the 18th and 19th Centuries.



1880S INVOICES

