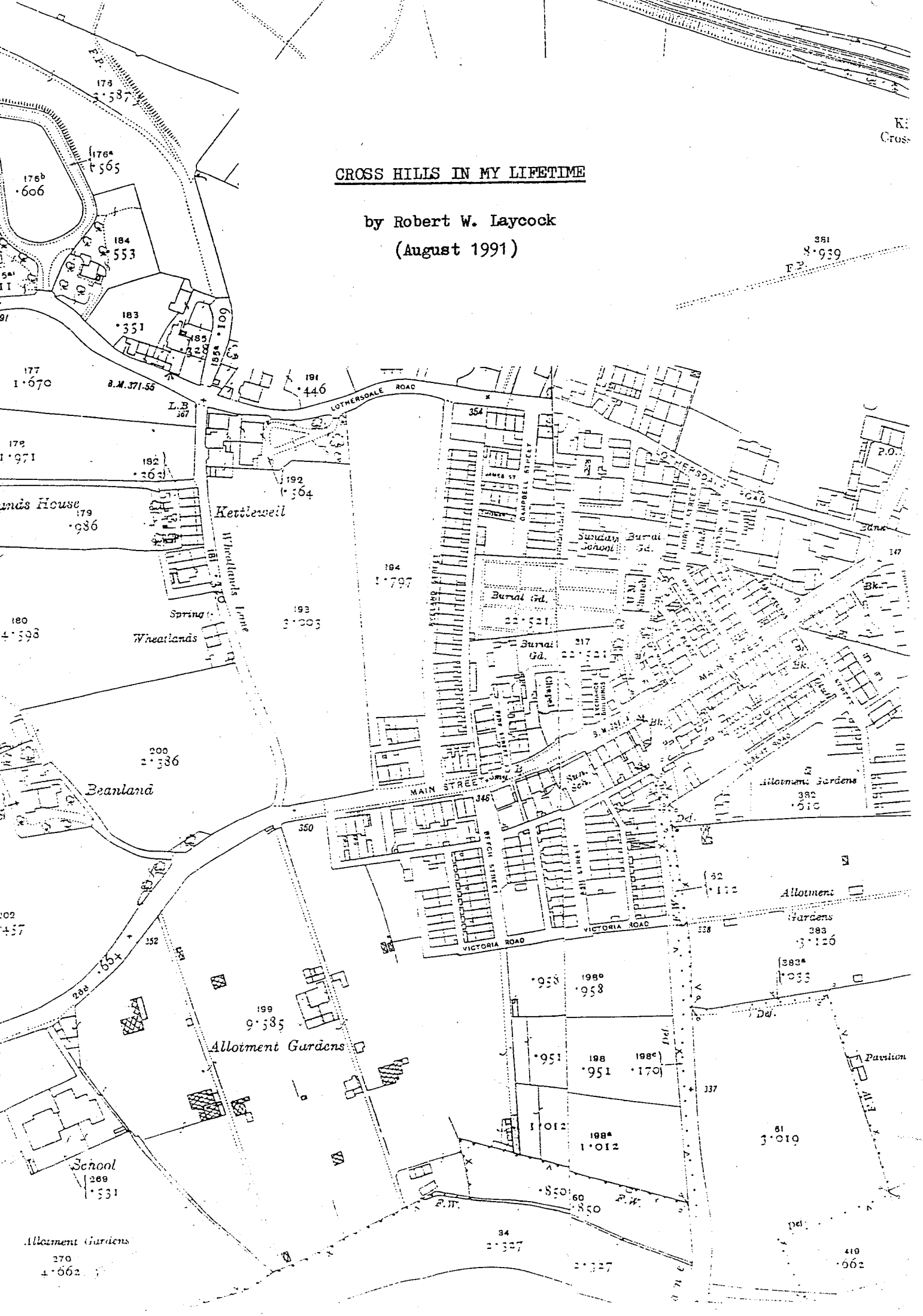


CROSS HILLS IN MY LIFETIME

by Robert W. Laycock

(August 1991)



This is a write up of Cross Hills Trade and Businesses,  
as I remember, through my lifetime.

Walking down the South side of Colne Road from Mr. John Binns, Butchers Glusburn, past the allotments, we come to two blocks of terrace houses (built in the late 1930's), the bungalow comes next built by Mr. Jack Smith in more recent years. At the bottom of the side road stands the new Evangelical Church built very recently.

The first of the three large stone buildings was a Greengrocer's occupied by Mr. Hector Knowles, later by Mr. Wilkinson (Wilk) Smith and his son Jack (above). The second building was the first Telephone Exchange, then reverting back to a private house after the larger Exchange was built on Wheatlands Lane. The third building was occupied by Mr. Fred Davy for his business as Plasterers & Concreters, also the land adjoining as a builder's yard.

Next the Working Men's Club which has been considerably extended over the years.

The next block were all houses up to Beech Street, apart from the Corner Shop. The last Dr. Curry had one as his Surgery. Now we have a Television Shop (before that Mr. Andrews, Jewellers), a Greengrocers (before Mr. Curtin Mr. Alan Hardcastle had the premises for his television, radio and electrical business after moving from Prospect Street). Mr. Fred Gresswell occupied the Corner Shop as Grocer for many years, later it became Crosshills Handyman.

At the bottom end of Beech Street on the other side, four terrace houses have recently been built. The land had previously been used as a Slater's Yard and Warehouse occupied by Mr. A. Garnet. Later, during the 2nd World War years, the Council took it over for the stocking of waste paper. The building was then known locally as "The Dump".

On the corner of Beech Street and Back Colne Road, Mr. Billy Sugden had the premises as a Grocer's Shop. He used to deliver his goods around the district by a horse drawn covered cart. On the corner of Beech Street and Main Street, the building was another Grocer's Shop occupied by Miss Swire. Later Mr. Fred Barrett took the place over for his Painting & Decorating business, and was there a considerable length of time. Later Mr. Frank Baldwin took it over as a Furniture Shop. Now, of course, it is the Bella Napoli Restaurant, which has been extended further down Main Street.

Carrying on down Main Street, Mr. Wilf Mitchell had his Dental Practice, next to the old St. John's Sunday School. G. E. Carr of Skipton had a Bakery and Provision Branch Shop (now a bicycle shop Riley Bros.)

The Shopping Bag started business in one of these smaller premises before moving into the old Sunday School. This is now part of the SPAR Supermarket concern. Previously, before The Shopping Bag took over the building, it had been used by Mr. John Bannister as an Organ Works who had broken away from Laycock & Bannister of Aire Street, Junction, Cross Hills.

The first shop after the Sunday School building was Mr. Milton Smith's Greengrocers, up to the war years, then for a short time a Dairy Shop selling cooked meats, cheeses etc., then followed by Mr. Sam Osbourne as a Greengrocer.

I should have mentioned a Messrs. Dobson & Rowlandson had the above shop as a Bakers & Confectioners business before Mr. Smith.

The next shop was occupied by Mr. Tyson as a Ladies Outfitters, followed by Mrs. Mewis and later by Mrs. Hetty Smith, who also took over Mr. Osbourne's shop to extend her Outfitting business. The premises were later taken over

by Crosshills Electrical and now selling Ladies and Gents Wear.

Next door has always been a newsagents as far back as I can remember.

Mr. Hawkswell first, followed by Mr. Hanson, Mr. Holt, Mr. Summerscales and now Mr. Latto. The next shop (past the railings) was a Bakers and Confectioners, a Mrs. Pickles, then Mr. Rollison, followed by Mr. Copley, then Mr. Hardaker, then taken over as the DHSS Office.

The next shop was a Butchers, Mr. Hy Stirk then Mr. Copley (prior to moving next door into the bakery business) then Mr. Peacock. The premises are now Messrs. Wilman & Lodge, Estate Agents.

The next shop was Mr. W. Mewiss and later his son, Percy, Hairdressers and Tobacconists, later occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Andrews, Jewellers, before the building was taken over by The Yorkshire Bank (previously The Yorkshire Penny Bank).

Down Holme Lane, the Flower Shop was Mr. Mewis's Hairdressing Salon in my early days (before moving to Main Street). Following him I believe Miss Dorothy Towers had the premises as a Ladies Hairdressers, possibly the first in Crosshills. After the Second World War, Mr. Hy Haupt carried on his Photographic Business up to the present Flower Shop. Moving down Holme Lane on the right hand side we come to Gillian's Ladies Hairdresser who took over from Eileen's in the same business. Prior to this it is a bit vague; Mrs. Mallinson had it at one period as a Ladies Outfitter and others in the same line of business.

The bottom house in Ashville Terrace was occupied by Miss Frankland, the front room used as a Hat Shop. Holmroyd Avenue was built just after the great war, previously open fields to the Sutton Parish Boundary.

Reversing our direction back up Holme Lane on the East side were two open fields, one behind the other, known as Sturdy's Fields, later taken over for South Craven School.

The second field on the Eastburn side for many years was the home of the Kildwick Parish Cricket Club, also Sutton United Football Club who at one period were members of the Bradford Amateur League.

The first field bordering onto Holme Lane was used annually for Glusburn Flower Show and Sports (in the second field). This was a major show for an area like South Craven. Exhibitors came from far and wide. The flower and vegetable marquee stretched nearly the length of the field. The second field held the sports and athletic events. The outer perimeter of the field being roped and staked out for the various running, hurdling and walking events. Here again competitors came from all over the country, as far away as London. Also in the first field there was a large fairground; roundabouts, swings, flying chairs, cakewalk, coconut shies, shooting gallery, hoop-la, roll a penny, darts, etc., also brandysnap, hot potatoes, etc.,

The main contractors of the fairground were Messrs. Taylor Bros. of Longton, Staffs. They came for years. At that time, of course, most traffic on the roads was horse drawn or hauled by steam. Taylor Bros. had two large steam traction engines named Busy Bee and King George V. These were fine engines in maroon and gold livery and kept spotlessly clean. Most of the independent side show people used horses. On arrival in Main Street, the local traffic had to stop to allow the convoy to pull up on the opposite side of the road to allow the engines to take the corner down Sutton Lane, the first engine towing two caravans and two wagons of equipment, stretching from the lane top to the Co-op. It was remarkable to me how they all followed round the corner without having to be unhitched. It was different into the field which had a narrow gateway, and as such they had to unhitch and be taken in separately, and sometimes winched by steel hawser. These engines were fit up with winching drums.

Up Holme Lane past the allotments, where now stands the Clinic, comes Victoria Road end. Just along is the Gents Hairdresser, Enrico. Before that Mr. W. (Billy) Cooper and earlier still his uncle Mr. Herbert Wilson. On the North side of Victoria Road opposite the hairdressers where the lock-up garages are was previously a small field up to the end of South View. It was used for various cattle brought in for slaughter. Above the field is a small back road, access to the field and the old slaughter house and Mr. Sturdy's (now Mr. D. Ingham's premises). The cottage up the steps and the one up the passage do not seem any different.

Next up HOLme Lane comes the Opticians. Before that Bradford & Bingley Building Society and earlier still as Bingley Building Society.

Mr. Percy Thornton as agent at that time had the new frontage built. At the back of this building is a narrow passage way with an iron gate giving access to the back of Thornton's Shop and the flat over the newer premises of Bradford & Bingley Building Society. Messrs. G. E. Thornton's Grocers take up the corner of Holme Lane and Main Street. In my early days Mr. Percy and Mr. Harold Thornton ran the business, then Mr. Sam Whitaker and his wife, Joyce (Mr. Harold's daughter) and today Mr. Peter Whitaker and his wife. The smaller part of the shop on the right of the entrance was a stock room with a wide warehouse door on to the Main Street, immediately above on the next floor is a similar door in the top corner of which is a gantry arm which was swivelled out over the footpath. A Hoisting rope was attached for unloading goods from flat delivery carts etc., in the street. In those days goods such as flour, peas, beans, rice, sago and others came in large bags. Biscuits etc., in tin boxes. These goods and others were weighed out on the premises. Various jams marmalades, a few sauces and pickles came already in jars and bottles as today. A certain amount of tinned fruits were available but not as many varieties as today. Also there were only a few tinned meats and fish, such as corned beef, salmon, sardines, etc. No tinned soups (you made your own).

The next shop with two display windows was Messrs. G. Emmott & Son, Jewellers and Watchmakers, and later adding the Optician business. When Mr. George retired it was taken over by the Bradford & Bingley Building Society.

Next the Butchers, Mr. W. Sturdy, who had the business for a considerable number of years. On his retirement the business was taken over by Mr. Oswald Brearly, later by Mr. W. Ingham, and now his son David. The cottage next door is occupied by Miss Alice Sturdy, the youngest daughter of Mr. W. Sturdy. The previous occupiers were two sisters of Mr. Sturdy.

Next, by the Pelican Crossing, is the general ware shop. As I remember the first business there was run by Mrs. Bedford, Ladies & Childrens Goods, then taken over by Mr. & Mrs. W. Cowgill who were there until retiring. The property was then taken over by Mrssrs. Philips of Skipton and the business carried on by his relatives. Later the shop was turned into a cafe for a while, followed by, as it is today.

The Sweet Shop comes next. This shop does not appear to have altered much since I lived next door (always sweets and tobacco). Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hargreaves had the business for a very long time. After their retirement the business changed hands a number of times to the present day.

Next door was a Plumber's business run by Mr. Harry Firth. My father took the business over (I was about 3 years old). We lived there for about seven years, then altered and made it into a lock up shop and workshop and store. On retirement from business Messrs. Gibson's next door took over the premises to extend their shop and living accommodation.

Next comes the ginnel. This was built for access to the back of the last four premises. I would like to point out also the four premises were originally built as back to back houses, probably some of the oldest in Crosshills.



I should have mentioned Gibson's shop was originally Watkinson's Printers, who later built larger premises in Anderton Street (off Station Road). The shop was taken over by Mr. Lewis Philip and modernised and selling similar goods as today.

Most of the buildings on the other side of the ginnel, excepting The National & Westminster Bank, are now Dixon Target. (Dixon Stell's Printers etc.) The first portion was a large double fronted shop, Messrs. Petty's Dressmakers & Tailoring. The room over the ginnel was the Tailor's Workshop. At one time the tailors climbed a Jacob's ladder and through a trap door from the ginnel below. Strangely the shop sold coffee as well. Petty's were later taken over by a firm called Reynards (I think). Later the Co-op had the building. The part next to the ginnel as a Shoe Shop and the other part a Drapery Shop. Next came the original part of Dixon & Stells, then a Bakers & Confectioners, Messrs. Rowlandson's followed by another Baker (I forget the name). The premises were then taken by Mr. Charles Hargreaves for his Pork Butchery business (Charlie's Pies). Later the premises were absorbed by Dixon Target. The last building in the block was The National Provincial Bank later changed to National Westminster. The bit of spare land at the end of the block and bordering on to Hall Street and going back as far as the Conservative Club and before Dixon Target extended, held the Salvation Army building. In those days the Salvation Army were very active in Crosshills. Later the building was used by a Mr. Haggas for his Tailoring Business. This building was only a single storey high and built of semi-portable material. Some time later I think it was gutted by fire and never re-built.

Next along Hall Street comes the Conservative Club. The main entrance was originally in Hall Street but later altered to the side. Also one or two of the adjoining houses in South View were added. On the other side of the street lower down at the top end of Rhodesia Street Messrs. Enoch Harrison & Sons had their Builder's Yard later moving to Cononley.

Coming back along Hall Street was Mr. Ernest Hanson's garage and Motor Engineers Business. Next came The Friendly Societies Hall - locally called The Town Hall. This building was quite large and very plain looking. The lower part of the building was taken up with four or five houses at the front and the same amount at the back. These were back-to-back houses and of course the bedrooms were above. The hall itself being above and fairly high ceilinged and the ridged roof above again gave it a commanding position in Crosshills. The view from the roof ridge was remarkable. I know because I have been there. Access to the hall itself was by means of a railed stone staircase inside the building at the Main Street end. I believe there was a smaller one at the other end.

As the hall was built for concerts etc., the room had a sloping floor with a stage at the Sutton end. I believe in the early days Crosshills had a Choral Union. They would use it and other functions would take place. With the coming of the cinema and easier access to the towns, the hall became less used. Dancing was tried for a time. Bob (one shilling) Hops were tried and other dances. The problem was the sloping floor, down the slope you nearly flew over your partner, back up the other side you were puffing like an old tank engine, especially if your partner was on the heavy side. Later a few boxing contests were staged and that was it.

Before entering Main Street, there was still a bit of land left before being part of the car park. On this was a Fish & Chip Shop, a semi-portable wood building. This was there a long time. It changed hands a few times. I think the last using it was Mr. Colonel Mosely, later opening in business in Keighley. Occasionally, on the land remaining, a gentleman called Gender Wilson with his Pot Stall would arrive from somewhere in Lancashire (I think). This was housed in a small marquee, lit up by parafin flares (no electricity then). People came from around the district partly to buy and enjoy his showmanship. The hall and houses were eventually pulled down. Some of the land adjoining Hanson's garage was taken over by them to build a showroom and forecourt for the petrol pumps. When Mr. Jack Leece retired, the buildings were divided up into smaller concerns. The rest of the land had been previously used to form the car park.

In my earlier days, the entrance and exit to Main Street was locally known as Gap End. The Hall was known as The Town Hall and the area of land around it The Town Hall Yard. Now into Main Street where the public conveniences are now, also the public telephone and salvage bins was a raised piece of land on which stood a single storey wood building, entered from the Main Street by five or six steps. The only person I can remember using it was Mr. Wilson Cooper as a General Store. Mr. Cooper was noteworthy by having a stall at the local fairground at Glusburn Flower Show.

I would like to mention here my wife and I went along to the local Gala the other day, in the same field (adjoining South Craven School). Later at home she gave me some brandysnap. I said "This is good. It reminds me of the brandysnap we used to get at the flower show long ago." I said I thought the suppliers were Wright's of Wakefield. I was not quite correct, it was Wright's of Brighouse printed on the bag, and established in 1850 I think. You can not beat some of the old firms.

The first of the stone built building was occupied by Craven's Bakers & Confectioners. They were there a very long time. Later the premises were converted to a double frontage and occupied by Messrs. Riley Bros. Cycles etc. (who later moved higher up Main Street). Later the building was converted into Wheeler's Restaurant (extra accommodation had been built at the rear).

Mrs. Barrett occupied one of the houses in the block and probably owned the block. This part of the block was then converted into a Ladies Hairdressing Salon as today. The last in the block was a dwelling house prior to Mr. Steve Perry setting up business as Jewellers, Watches, Clocks etc.

The road at the end of the block feeds the back areas, also the back of Holly Bank which comes next

My first recollections of Holly Bank was Dr. Cantor's residence and surgery.

He was followed by Dr. Clynes and later by Dr. Renwick.

The building adjoining at the corner of Prospect Street was occupied by Mr. Smith who carried on his Gent's Tailoring business there. Later the shop became Cooper's Shoe Shop who traded there for a long time. This was followed by Mr. Knowles and his Estate Agency etc., now The Rocking Chair. Prospect Street is more or less the same as in my earlier days. There is one thing of note; Mr. Alan Hardcastle pioneered and worked his radio relay system from the top building on the right hand side. The system mushroomed and he was covering Crosshills, Glusburn and Sutton. This meant of course running his relay wires overground (on house sides and on poles similar to telephones).

At the bottom of Prospect Street and on the main road comes the Post Office. In my earlier days this shop dealt in household furnishings such as curtains, blinds, linoleums and other floor coverings, sheets, bedding etc. The business was run by Mr. & Mrs. J. Spencer. The building had a distinctive name "Manchester House". Later Mr. Spencer incorporated the Post Office owing to its closure in Station Road. Later the household goods side of the business was discarded and the premises became as today under the present occupiers.

Main Street has now changed to Keighley Road. Fieldhead Drive comes next. These semi-detached houses were built in the 30's. The land was a small field which was occasionally occupied by fairgrounds or circuses (see what you miss today!) At the low end of Fieldhead Drive the two large detached houses would be built in the 1800's. The first one for years was the Wesleyan Church Manse. After the amalgamation of the two Methodist churches this was sold off.

Now comes the narrow lane between the last house and the Olde White Bear Inn. This feeds the back of the Inn and Prospect Farm. The lane carries on giving access to a few fields.

The Ye Olde White Bear would be a very important place in the old coaching days as it stood on the main Keighley to Skipton Road (the section of road from Junction to Kildwick Bridge was built later), consequently the traffic would come into the low end of Crosshills and down Station Road as we know it, but in those days, being no railway, it was called Kildwick Road. Adjacent to the Inn and next to the lane the building would probably be used for stabling below with a hay loft above fed by an outside stairway. In more recent years Mr. Cawthorne used the upstairs room selling second hand goods etc. On the other side of the main road was another similar building with outside stone steps which would probably be built for stabling purposes. This was more or less a derelict building and was used for a time by the local council for the road cleaner's equipment. This was pulled down when the White Bear Estate was built.

The house adjoining the Old White Bear on the Junction side has been there all my lifetime. Next comes a more modern detached house at the top of the Bear Hill with its garden terminating with the access road feeding Aire Crescent, the top of Aire Street, Jessamine Place and Ravensville. The Aire Crescent Estate lies between the Old White Bear and Prospect Farm. New dwellings have been built on Jessamine Place.

Along Keighley Road from the Bear Hill, the long terrace row is Ashgrove with the Newsagents and Sweet Shop on the corner. On the opposite corner Mr. Alan Horsefall had his Butcher's Shop, followed by Mr. Raw. The remaining row of houses terminating with the bottom of Aire Street as North View. From the Crosshills end of Aire Street on the right hand side are a few houses then the large building which was built for Laycock & Bannister's Organ Building Business, moving there from West Closes Farm, Glusburn. This was a moderately high building, even so a section of the first floor was cut away to get height for the erection of large organs.

Around the second World War years they vacated the building for smaller premises

lower down Aire Street behind the bottom row of houses. Messrs. James Woodrow & Son took over the building for extra warehousing. Later Airedale Foods Ltd., acquired it and used it for a number of years.

Next comes the Catholic Church. Then a few houses, one of which was used by Mr. L. Baines and his wife as a Cafe, catering for transport drivers, business travellers, local tradesmen etc. On the corner of Aire Street and Keighley Road the premises are now an Antique Shop. The land behind Aire Street and Keighley Road and bordering Holme Beck is taken up by Clayton Hall Poultry Farm. In my earlier days this was run by Mr. Arthur Snowden.

Crossing the road by The Dalesway Hotel, formerly The Junction Hotel, and then crossing the Skipton/Kildwick road are Hargreaves and Mill Streets, at the end of which stands a textile weaving mill, formerly Messrs. J. Woodrow & Son, now Woodrow Universal, manufacturers of various fabrics.

Along towards Kildwick Bridge comes Ashfield Farm occupied by Mr. Brian Kidd formerly by Mr. A. Boothman. Immediately after the railway crossing comes Hard Ings Lane. At the main road end was Redman & Smith's standard shed, textile manufacturers, later the premises were taken by Webb's Poultry and they have just recently vacated the place. There are a few houses down the lane, also Pott's Transport made their headquarters there.

Further down the lane there used to be a foundry which did various cast iron work. At the far end of the lane comes the Knackery which deals in the disposal of diseased animals etc.

Further along Skipton Road we come to the roundabout near Kildwick Bridge. The triangular piece of land between Skipton Road to the railway crossing and Kildwick Road and the railway bridge was mainly occupied by Kildwick Parish Gas Co. Hield Brothers Worsted Manufacturers had a factory near the station bridge. Next comes St. Andrew's Terrace and at the far end, Smith's Joinery Works, later

taken over by the Ondura Tyre Firm and later by Waterhouse's Light Engineers. Going back along Kildwick road to the railway bridge on the right hand side is Oak Head Terrace built in the early thirties, then Willow Garth Avenue built at a much later date.

After the Gas Works closed down Smith Bros. Agricultural Engineers established their business there on the Skipton Road side (they moved from Keighley owing to Keighley Corporation extending the Bus Station etc.). Now a number of other firms have premises on the remaining land.

By the Signal Box, the railway had a siding which fed a loading bay for cattle etc., also a branch line ran into the gas works. The coal trucks were hauled into the works by steel hauser by a winding engine. I should say here Kildwick Parish Gas Co., was quite a concern; they made the gas and distributed it to Crosshills, Glusburn, Cowling, Sutton, Eastburn, Steeton, Kildwick, Farnhill, Cononley and Bradley.

Going along Skipton Road towards Junction and through the railway crossing is the original station master's house, then the old station lane, following the side of the goods yard as far as Station Road by the Passenger Station.

Adjoining the Station Master's house came the Railway Offices then the covered warehouse with unloading bays for transhipping the various smaller goods from the covered trucks to the horse drawn drays. These were heavy, solid built wagons each drawn by two shire type horses. I knew three of the drivers; Mr. Steve Balmer, Mr. Ike Wright and Mr. Johnnie Greenwood. The wagons generally came up into Crosshills via the Junction as Station Road was on the steep side. The rest of the goods yard was taken up by the coal trucks. The local coal merchants unloaded the coal from the various wagons onto their own carts etc. Some of the coal being shovelled into high sided carts, some bagged into 1 cwt. bags and carried on flat carts. On leaving the Goods Yard the various carts and wagons would be checked off at the weighbridge.

Now the Passenger Station, the ticket and parcels office was situated at the end of the bridge on the Crosshills side. Various waiting rooms etc., were built on each platform, some having coal fires burning in cold weather.

I would like to mention here at one time you could travel to Morecambe and back on a Saturday night for two shillings and sixpence with a free ticket into The Winter Gardens. It makes you think, the old days were not too bad.

Now continuing on the Skipton Road from the railway crossing to the Junction Hotel (now Dalesway). On the roadside, Brown Bank Terrace was built around the 1930's. Next comes an older house and behind this is Cote House. Next we have the garage and filling station, this was Messrs. Dawson & Stows who were in business there for a large number of years. Then the Junction Hotel taking its name from the branching of the Skipton Road from the Colne Road. Originally Keighley to Skipton traffic had to come into Crosshills and down Station Road (possibly called Kildwick Road before the railway was built). Between the garage and the hotel was a narrow slip road joining the two main roads, on the hotel side of this were some cottages and I think stabling for four horses. These buildings were later pulled down to form a car park and later to form the new road junction.

Going up along Keighley Road is Elmore Terrace, then the Tennis Courts and behind which is the Bowling Green which was formed much earlier. Next the White Bear Housing Estate. This was, of course, open farmland down to the old station lane. One farm house and buildings stood roughly in the centre of this area (I forget the name of the farm). A public footpath ran through the land from near the White Bear into old Station Lane.

Continuing along the Main Road is Fieldhead and adjoining it Holly House. I forget who occupied Fieldhead in my earlier days. Mr. Malcolm Whitaker took over the building more recently living there and using part of it for his home furnishing business, before acquiring business premises in Brigg Mount.



I also forget the earlier occupants of Holly House, later Mr. John W. Bell had the building for his Electrical business for a time.

After the access road to the back of the houses, the first building was occupied for a long time by Mr. W. Newbould, Gardners and Seedsmen, who also used a considerable amount of the Crosshills Allotments. Also during the second world war cultivated a large area of Cononley Fields. Later the building was taken over by Mr. B. Simons for his Antiques and trading business and for a time his wife did Ladies Hairdressing.

Further along the row of cottages, one was the Post Office - this was before my time. The last house along the row prior to the Fisheries was occupied by Mr. Dean who had his Dental Practice there.

Next comes the block of buildings starting with the Fisheries and to the top of Station Road and proceeding down Station Road to, and including the access road to the back area of the premises. In my early days this area I believe all belonged to Mr. Jack Greenwood. He was a Plasterer and Concretor. Mr. Arthur Greenwood ran the Fisheries at that time. The shop at that time was split in two; the entrance being in the centre. The Fish and Chip pans on the right side and a small supper room on the left where you could enjoy your meal on a marble top table with cast iron legs. Chips one penny, a cross (chips and peas) two pence and fish and chips three pence. Later Mr. Josh Barker took the premises over and his daughter and son-in-law ran it for a considerable time. After the war Mr. Percy Heaton and his wife took it over, also the rest of the block. Next to the Fisheries comes Mr. Heaton's house and on the corner is a Ladies Hairdresser - before it was occupied by Halifax Building Society for along time. Around the last building into Station Road is a narrow strip of causeway, then a much wider level causeway terminating in a few steps. Standing back off the flat area are the fronts of two cottages. Originally the whole of the flat area was covered by a flat roof supported by a number of pillars. Over each pillar on top of the flat roof were various embellishments.

All this gave it a Mediterranean flavour. Next before the gap (by the steps) came the wood hut. In my early days Mr. W. Brooks had it for selling Sheet Music and giving piano lessons. Later Mr. Baldwin used it for his shoe repairing business. I think the Scouts had it at one time also.

Entering the back area and facing Station Road was the Joiner's Shop (recently pulled down). I would add here, this building which was all wood was purchased second hand from Steeton where it had been used as a school. It certainly had a good life. Mr. G. Laycock (my uncle) was the first joiner that I remember to have his business there, employing three or four men. On his retirement Mr. T. Hutchinson took over the business followed by Mr. Tom Armstrong, later followed by Messrs. Brewster and lastly by Mr. R. Webster.

One of the smaller stone buildings in this area was used for preparing fish and potatoes for the Fisheries.

Next down the road came Mr. Joe Bowker, Pork Butcher, followed by Mr. Loughenbury and later Mr. Frank Stirk. Later changing from pork butchery to Greengrocer by Mr. Wild and later he used this for his taxi business.

The next shop was occupied by Mr. Joe Greenwood as a Draper and General Clothier. He also did door to door salesmanship around the district. Next in the block was Mr. Dennison's, Bakers and Confectioners. Much later the shop was taken by Mr. Frank Baldwin for his Footware and Shoe Repairing Business. Now it is the Ecology Building Society. After the short row of terrace houses is Newby Street which gives access to the back of Station Road. At the top end of the road is Messrs. J. W. Brown, Cloth Finishers. Next, turning off to the right, is Anderton Street comprising four or five houses, and at the bottom which is a cul-de-sac, Messrs. H. Cockshot & Co. Ltd., Stockists of Industrial Fasteners, etc. This building was erected around 70 years ago by Watkinsons Printers after vacating their much smaller premises in Crosshills Main Street. After the war, Mr. Cockshot took over the premises. Further along Back Station Road comes another short street called Sandylands, and then Station Grove. The

access road now returns back to Station Road by the end of the old Cinema. Carrying on down the right hand side of Station Road from Newby Street, the shop on the corner used to be Crossley's Sweet Shop. At one time I have heard it was a furniture shop (I am not sure about this). This last few years, Mrs. Hargreaves has used the shop for her Drapery Business. After the shop are one or two stone built terrace houses, then three newer houses. The newer houses being built on land used by Messrs. Barritts, Builders, this area extending practically to the start of the next row of houses. Messrs. Barritts as well as Builders were Monumental Masons doing a considerable amount of stone dressing and letter engraving. Having a lot of heavy stone slabs to move around, they made use of the two three legged derrick cranes to help the work along.

Next along was a wooden single storey building occupied by Mr. Joe Crossley. He was a Saddler and worker in leather goods (still plenty of horses at that time). Now the row of terrace houses right up to the Picture House. One of these was used by Mr. Wilcock for his Painting and Decorating business. The last house up to the Picture House was occupied by Mr. Birdsall for his Jewellery and Watchmaking business.

Now the Picture House which played a major part in the social and indoor entertainment life of Crosshills and local villages. At that time, Messrs. Ezra Laycock ran a bus service from Cowling to the Railway Station. Also Messrs. Cowgill ran a service from Lothersdale. These were helpful for the Cinema as well. During the week one full show per night was shown; Saturday, two shows in the evening and a matinee in the afternoon. Each performance started with a news reel then a two part serial, then the full length picture, and lastly a two part comic. (These were the days of Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, the Keystone Kops etc.) The programme was changed twice a week. Crosshills was a very busy place on Saturday nights, particularly between the two shows, people leaving the first showing and people arriving for the second. Sweet and tobacco shops, also newsagents, were open until 10 pm or later. The two fish and chip

shops had a busy time.

The pictures in those early days were, of course, black and white silent films. These were accompanied by a pianist who had to be very versatile. Later came sound (talkies) which put pianists out of a job and then of course colour came. Later with radio and television arriving, the Picture House closed down (but they were good days) and the premises are now occupied by Messrs. Hanson's Furnishers.

Across the road, adjoining the station buildings, the three houses built before the second world war, the one nearest the railway was occupied by Mr. Alan Riley as a Sweets and Tobacconist Shop, he was followed later by Mr. Harold Hudson. Next was a Baby and Children's Outfitters occupied by Miss Spencer and the third one was the Keighley and Craven Building Society up to the time of their amalgamation with the National and Provincial. All three are now dwelling houses. Carrying on up Station Road, just before the footpath and Cononley Fields, the bungalows standing back from the road are much more recent.

next Ross' Filling Station. The house is the only part that goes back to my early days. This was built by Mr. Arthur Peel and one of his daughters carried out dressmaking there.

St. Andrew's Church Hall comes next. This was built after the war with the idea of giving a better link for Crosshills people with the Church at Kildwick. After a number of years this was discontinued; the premises now being used for business purposes.

Passing the next block of terrace houses is Bank Road which is a cul-de-sac feeding a few private houses. On the corner of Bank Road and Station Road, the building used to house the Post Office. The Postmistress was Miss Langhorn and on her retirement the office was moved to its present position. This is now used as a Guest House.

The building on the corner of Station Road and Park Road was occupied by Dr. Cockroft, later by Dr. Sheard and is now, of course, an Old People's Home.

On the corner of Park Road (formerly known as Lothersdale Road or Back Lane) is Barclay's Bank (previously Martin's Bank). The Free Masons Society use some of the premises for their meetings.

From the point I propose to take the north side of Main Street and Park Road more or less together.

The area after the bank building, known as Brigg Mount, I think would originally be a farm yard with access points from Main Street and Park Road (the main one now). The building houses a few businesses; Kay Jay Prints, Mr. M. Whitaker, Home Furnishings etc.

First of the shops on Main Street after the bank was Mr. Dixon's Greengrocers, later taken by Mrs. Fortune who already had the shop next door for her business of Ladies Outfitting. Next Mr. John E. Dawson which started as a Music Shop selling sheet music, gramophones and records and later radio and television and general electrical goods and services. Much later the business was taken over by Vallances. Later the premises were taken by Mr. Noon for his Rocking Chair Shop and latterly by Mr. Knowles, House Agency Business.

The next premises were occupied originally by the Independent Order of Oddfellows for a long time. The building was eventually taken over by Mr. Dawson. The last building in the row is a bit obscure but I do remember Mr. Hy Gott of Cowling had it for a few years as a Butcher's Shop. More recently the shop was a Florists, also a Ladies Outfitters. The small row of buildings back to the Main Street, known as East Keltus, were back to back houses. For some time now one of them has been occupied as a Turf Accountants.

The building on the corner for a long time was occupied by Mr. Launcelot Taylor using the basement for his Greengrocery Business. Now up the steps is a Cafe. The basement used by a number of small businesses.

Next the Chemist, Mr. J. W. Bracewell. This was run by the Bracewell family as far back as I can remember. In more recent years taken over by Berridge (Crosshills) Ltd.

Now the Co-op and car park area. As you will notice the ground here rises from the Main Street and falls again to Park Road. Going up the right of the Co-op the street carried on called Milligan Fields into Park Road. On the left of the Co-op, the street (Parker Street) carried through North Street to Park Road. Both the two through streets were linked together by a short street about the end of the present Co-op building forming a letter H.

The Co-op as I remember it was a tall building, two storeys and basement (similar to the cafe already mentioned). As it took two house widths, it had two shop windows with the steps and entrance in the centre. The Co-op would have acquired roughly half of the block they decided to modernise. The basement was done away with and the ground floor formed at street level. This made a good big shop area and a fine frontage.

As time went on more and more of the back to back houses were purchased (as these were condemned and Holmroyd and Burnroyd Avenues were being built to house the tenants and others). The top storey of the building was formed into the Co-op Hall where meetings, concerts and dances were held. More recently, of course, this was all pulled down and the new supermarket built.

On the North side of the H area leading down to Park Road the central area bordered by Milligan Fields and North Street were back to back houses excepting at the top which at an earlier date had been altered to form the Liberal Club.

Also at the bottom of the block stood the Spiritualist Church. All this property excepting the church building was demolished. The houses on the left hand side of North Street still stand as they are through houses. The houses on the right hand side of Milligan Fields (car park area) were pulled down as they backed onto the old barn in Brigg Mount mentioned earlier.

A long time ago a Mr. Harris lived in the bottom house. This had a basement which he used as a small shop selling sweets etc.

Now back to Main Street. Messrs. R. H. Greenwood & Sons, Painters, Decorators and Furnishings come next. In my earlier days the firm were mainly painters and decorators, adding floor coverings and curtaining as time went by and then adding furniture etc. The building at the top of the street was the paint shop and more recently used as a furniture showroom etc. The open area between the buildings was used to store ladders, planks, hand carts etc.

Next Riley's, Bakers and Confectioners. This business was originally Mr. John Whitaker's aided by his son and daughter, later moving to Skipton High Street and also forming their chocolate business which I think started here in Crosshills in a small way. In addition to baking etc., they did a good business in ice cream. On their move to Skipton Mr. Alan Riley acquired the business who had it for a considerable number of years before being taken over by the present occupiers.

Next comes the block fronted by the Forget Me Not shop and next door the Britannia Building Society (formerly the National and Provincial). In my early days my grandfather (on my mother's side) Mr. B. H. Wilson, had the whole block which originally would again have been back to back houses. The business was Ironmongery, Sheet Metal Work and Agricultural and Dairy Equipment. Later his two sons joined him and the name was changed to B. H. Wilson & Sons. Their business sales on the farming side covered a large area of the Dales and North East Lancashire. A number of dairy utensils were made in the sheet metal shop. One of their main lines was hay making machinery (horse

drawn at that time) supplying new and repairing old machines. After the war the business was taken over by another firm and more recently they closed down. The frontage as I mentioned previously. The rest of the main building was turned into flats. The Sheet Metal Shop at the rear is the only part of the old business remaining. Mr. Ronnie Smith who worked there all his life took this over on his own account.

Next the block bordering onto St. Peter's Church entrance gates. The houses up the short street were single entrance type again. The building at the bottom of the street is occupied by accountants etc. I believe at one time Mr. Fitzgerald had the basement as a Greengrocers and lived in the premises above. Later most of the houses were used as an ice cream factory, later becoming the Washeteria.

Next comes Mr. Douglas, Greengrocer. I think someone preceeded him. Originally this was the Gas Office for a large number of years.

St. Peter's Church was originally Ebenezer United Methodist Church, after the amalgamation with St. John's Methodist Church, the building was eventually modernised, the top half being demolished, re-roofed and the interior refurbished, making a very fine church. More recently the Sunday School was modernised, in this case the outer structure was left as it was, the interior was practically all refurbished apart from the kitchen and toilets.

On the right hand side of Church Street connecting the church area with Park Road are two cottages. Below these and fronting onto Park Road, stood the Corn Mill and Mr. Dick Riley's Bicycle Shop. When the area was cleared, the bicycle shop moved onto Main Street, now known as Riley Bros. On this land a few houses have been built. On the other side of Church Street a long time ago, a Mr. Rankin occupied one of the houses. He specialised in making meat and potato pies. These were a meal on their own, also if you went at dinner time the pies were piping hot. You were also given a **Jug of hot gravy** (if you **took your own Jug**).



Turning left at the bottom of Church Street into Park Road comes a small block of buildings - the far end one used to be a Grocer's Shop. The adjoining building was a small Printing Works. At the top of the yard area coming next was originally Mr. Mossley's Basket Works. Here 'skeys' were made for the various mills in the district. The 'skeys' were quite large and mounted on castors or axles and wheels. Other basket work would also be carried out. Later when the business ceased the premises were taken over by the Craven Water Board. Later the place was acquired by Mr. Maurice Bell who turned it into the present Joiner's Shop.

Next along Park Road comes Campbell Street feeding York Street on the left and James and Thomas Streets on the right. On the small area of land above Thomas Street there is an old stable and cart shed. This was used for a long time by Mr. Cyril Clough for his Greengrocery Business. More recently the building was used by Mr. Popay as a small Engineering Shop for a short while.

Back to the Main Street. The single building beyond the entrance to the church was originally Mr. F. Whitaker's Shoe Shop followed by his son-in-law, Mr. Eddie Hollings. The building was later acquired by the Skipton Building Society.

Past the small road leading to the back area (which we called Bar Hill) is the single storey shop. This was originally occupied by Miss Kate Whitaker selling Drapery, Wools, Cottons and Children's Clothes. Later the business was taken over by Miss Edna Proctor who was there a considerable number of years. The business has been taken over a number of times since. Next along comes Exchange Buildings. The basement shop facing Main Street was occupied for a lot of years by Mr. Jimmie Lee. He sold sweets. He was totally blind but he knew where everything was, now of course, it is the Video Shop.

Next the Public Library which is built on the site of the original St. John's Methodist Church. The house next to this was the church caretaker's house.

Next the two cottages on the roadside. The one on the corner with Park Street was taken a few years ago by Mr. Pedley, Solicitor, who has recently moved his business.

Continuing along Main Street and on the corner of Park Street was The Blacksmith's Shop. In my early days Mr. Will Spencer was the Blacksmith for a lot of years, he was followed by Mr. Windle. Later the premises were taken by Mr. Alan Hardcastle for garaging purposes for his business. Next up Park Street was a Wheelwright's, and then a few cottages. This whole area was demolished and grassed over as we know it today.

Next Mr. Riddiough's Plumbers etc. This business goes back to before my time, all the same family.

The shop next originally being Mr. Whiteoak's I believe. (I don't remember what trade). Later Mr. Cyril Clough had his Greengrocery Business there for a long time, followed by Mr. Malcolm Cain. This was later the Chinese Take Away as now.

The remaining shop on the corner with Ryeland Street is also a bit vague. I think Mr. Joe Jobling had it for a number of years as a Men's Outfitters. It is now the Dental Practice.

On the other corner of Ryeland Street and Main Street is the Pensioner's Association Building. This was originally occupied by Mr. Harvy Smith, Shoe Repairs, followed by Mr. Riley. Later the building was extended by the association. The second building along was a private dwelling house, a few years ago being adapted for Ladies and Gents Hairdressing.

The next building which again I am not sure about was occupied by Mr. Pilling carrying out his business of Baker & Confectioner. Later Dr. Wilson acquired

the premises for his Surgery, followed by Dr. Bahra.

Around the corner, just along Wheatlands Lane is the Telephone Exchange.

This was built between the two major wars as the earlier one was getting too small and outdated.

Robert W. Laycock  
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