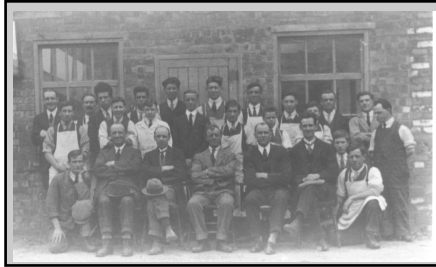


Gone but not Forgotten

Shipton's First Till Yard



Who are all these workers; are any of them still around with tales to tell ?

This article on another local building which has disappeared is based on oral history backed by a little documentary evidence. At the sale of the Shipton Court Estate in 1913, part of Lot 147 was the 'estate yard' where all the materials for the huge estate were stored and prepared. These were the traditional builders' stock of wood, stone, pipes, bricks, tiles, glass etc., but also the materials for making the 'new' concrete blocks. These blocks were used for the main building of the Oxon Cash Register Co. Ltd., set up on the site by Alf Baylis sometime after the First World War.

were sold to wholesalers who supplied shopfitters.

Breakaway



Many local men were employed but by 1923 they were not a happy with Alf Baylis and his style of management and some of the work-force broke away to create a new firm, The United Wood Working Co., eventually set up in Station Road. As the first firm had been built in an estate yard and both firms made tills they were known locally as 'till-yards'.

Both businesses continued trading until the United Wood Working Co. (Station Road) bought out the Oxon. Cash Register Co. Ltd. (Upper High Street) in the late 1920's and ran both premises until the end of the 1930's. The Upper High Street site was then bought by the Groves family but was requisitioned during the war and used for the storage of high quality motor cars from the Birmingham area.

Cinema arrives!

After the war some of the buildings on the site were used for breeding pigs and chickens and the main building was a cinema. This was operated by Mr. Alf Clarke who also ran 'The Wychwood Stores' at the top end of Shipton on the site of the garage of the present 'Sunnyside'.

The Wychwood Cinema had tip-up seats, 4 on one side of the gangway and 3 on the other. The programme was changed twice a week and had a main feature film, newsreel and supporting film, which was often a long-running serial. At that time cinema-going was very popular and queues sometimes formed at weekends. There were some problems for it was cold in the winter, animals could be present and there were breakages in the film, which caused delays in the programme.

- KELLYS DIRECTORY, 1928 TILL
 OXFORDSHIRE (Similar to entry of 1924)

OXFORDSHIRE. TRADES. CH1 445-

Telephone: "The Oxon, Shipton - Wychwood." Telephone: Shipton No. 8.

The Oxon Cash Register Co. Ltd.
 Manufacturers of Cash Registers and Gramophones TO THE TRADE.

Shipton - under - Wychwood, OXON.

The firm produced anything that could be made from wood for home, office or shop but mainly cash registers and tills, most of which

. These may also have been due to the late arrival of the films from Witney!

And now

However the cinema-going craze did not last forever and by the mid 1950's the premises were used for the painting and sign-writing on motor vehicles and by Pratt and Haynes Ltd., for the storage of agricultural products. Final-

ly, in 1980, all the buildings were knocked down for the erection of The Old Till House. In the post war period another till-yard was born when some workers from the United Wood Working Co. broke away to set up The Wychwood Manufacturing Co. in the late Alf Miles workshop in Ascott Road

John Rawlins

Crime Stoppers

Hello Again,

The subject I would like to write about today is "NUISANCE" AND HOW IT MAY AFFECT YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE. Youths on motorcycles or cars, folk hanging around making noise and dropping litter, are not a police priority, however I do know from first hand experience that this can cause anguish to people when it's persistent.

I have no magical cure, but I would advise against you taking matters into your own hands. Please contact me. I may be able to help to nip the matter in the bud, but if it continues I can get others to help. Please don't sit there stewing on it, let me know. If you want to remain anonymous just drop me a line at Carterton Police Station, without your details enclosed.

We have had a couple of offences locally involving bogus callers, particularly aimed at the elderly. Please let me know of anyone who is vulnerable, I will be more than willing to give them advice.

REMEMBER DO NOT let anyone into your house unless you know them, however sweet and genuine they may sound, there are baddies out there.

If you feel that a caller to your house is suspicious please help by taking down as much information as you can; a description of the person and any vehicle details. You may just save another person an unwarranted visit

If your area is not in a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and you would like details of how to get started please contact me.

During the warm weather REMEMBER to keep your ground floor windows closed and don't forget your first floor windows, particularly if you leave your house unoccupied during the day and at night.

P.C. Jon Badrick

Northern Area Switchboard: 01865 266000
Carterton Police Station: 01993 893951
(Monday to Friday, normal office hours)
Email: jonbadrick@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

