

... YIELDING PLACE TO NEW
The Market Square - a prequel

It befits the rather mysterious picture of Tucker's Stores in September's DN, that I should add, with Frank Steiner's consent, a few more owner/occupiers of the Stores and the house. Three of those who served us well in the past now sleep peacefully in our churchyard. They will be pleased that they have not been forgotten.

Mr Robert Tucker who gave the shop its name, is vividly remembered by Josie Stevens. On his shop counter lay a big pile of white paper squares which Mr. Tucker magically twisted into cones to fill with broken biscuits for any child who had a ha'penny to spend. (In 2003 Robert's granddaughter, Pat Colgrave, again gives excellent service to Deddingtonians from her Farmers' Market stall.) On his retirement before WW2 Robert sold the shop and house to Mr and Mrs. Boone who eventually left business and house to their son, Raymond. He, in turn, sold it after the war to Mr Ted Moseley.

On my arrival in 1958 and living outside the parish boundary, I was a stranger to the villagers only until I began to shop in Tucker's Stores. Shining old stone floor, shelves full of assorted goods, large leg of ham invitingly ready to be sliced by Ted who, in his white coat, wielded his razor-sharp knife like the best surgeon while customers engaged in friendly talk. In winter a huge Calor gas fire sputtered, its flickering flames lashing up every time the door opened. On his retirement Ted Moseley sold the business and house to Mr. Mervyn Wynne who in the late 1960s, I believe, completely modernised the shop and attracted friendly comment



Which year was this, and what was the occasion ?

by fixing a steel ring outside, under the notice, "Put Doggy Here". In spite of modernisation, he kept up full customer service with his staff, occasionally helped by his wife. He was a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and a formidable business man, very knowledgeable on many subjects. He gave George Palmer, Vicar of SS Peter & Paul, a Mezuzah (parchment inscribed with a religious text in a case and attached to the door-post of a Jewish house). The Vicar proudly displayed this on the door-post of the Vicarage. I also remember that the two younger Wynne daughters sang for a while in the Church Choir.

And so we move to Mr Cannell, fondly known as "The Colonel", and to Frank's excellent article in the September DN.

Ruth Johnson

Thank you, Ruth. Frank Steiner's brief was an overview of retail changes over the last decade or so, rather than over the last century. Ed



ugh White has been in striking form this summer. Playing both for Deddington and the Di