

A Tour of the Market Place Through Time

The butcher, the baker and the
candle maker...



Market Town Since 1277

- Originally markets were held in the Churchyard
- Bishop wanted them out!
- Charter granted to Sir John De Vaux, the Lord of the Manor of Hackford, by Edward I
- Annual Fair
- Weekly Market

Welcome to Historic
REEPHAM



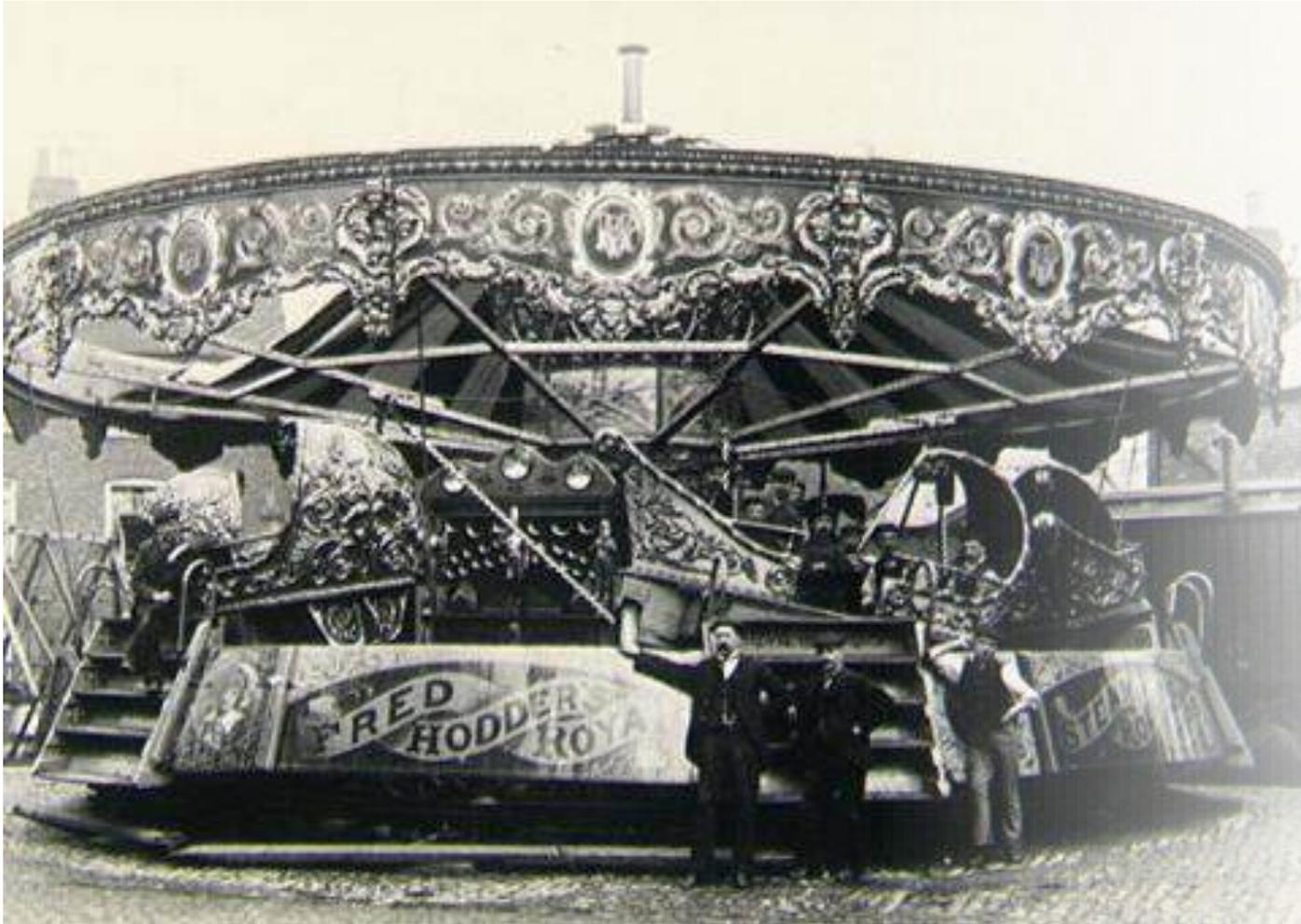
A Market Town since 1277

Please drive carefully

Annual Fair

- Held on the eve, day and morrow of Saint Peter and Paul Day
- 29th June
- Originally was stock fair – cattle, sheep, horses, etc
- Later became a funfair





Funfair Recollections

- Roundabouts, Coconut Shies, Shooting Galleries and Rock Sales
- All the vans drawn up side by side on the King's Arms Plain facing the road
- Came to a close at 11pm when "God Save the King" was played

Weekly Market Day

- Originally on a Saturday
- Wednesdays from at least the 1880s
- Animals and produce until Irelands Sale Yard established in 1877
- Sainsbury's van bought eggs from locals
- Busy day for our Market Place pubs...



The Sun

- Originally thatched
- Occupied the whole of the range down to Townsend Corner
- Stables across the road later converted to function room
- Also had large maltings on the corner of Back Street and School Road



The Sun

- During the 1920s the Landlord was Fred Watson
- In WW1, Fred's wife, Ellen, was known to the troops stationed here as "Ma"
- Fred's son Clifford and his wife Violet took over from him in 1922.
- Ran the pub until Violet's death in 1964





1950: Reepham Shopping Week



Reepham Shopping Week June 1950...

Organised by the Chamber of Trade & Commerce

- **Tuesday:** Grand Eve of Opening Dance
 - Reepham Band Hall
 - Gerald Amies & His Orchestra
 - Miss Reepham crowned in the interval (winner was Daphne Barrow)
- **Wednesday:** market day
 - Morning: Market
 - Afternoon: Grand Parade of horses and vehicles plus gathering of the North Norfolk Harriers
 - Evening: Massed Bands of Fakenham, Cawston and Reepham, then Open Air Dance in the market place
- **Thursday:** mammoth whist drive
- **Friday:** knock out bowls competition and darts contest

Who owns the Market Place?

- Lord of the Manor of Hackford from 1277 until 1930
 - Mrs Kate Eglington was the last Lord
- Sold the manorial rights to the Rural District Council, to be managed by the Parish Council
- Now owned by Reepham Town Council

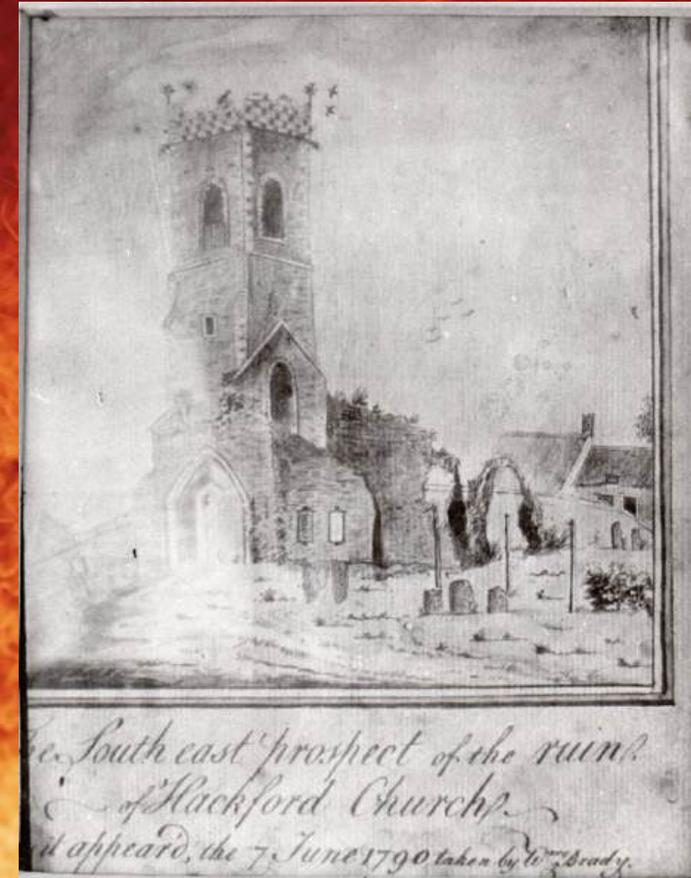
Surface of the Market Place

- Originally just rough gravel
- County Council added a tarmac surface in 1900s
- Signalled the end of funfairs
- Much resistance from Samuel Bircham and others



The Great Fire of Reepham

- 18 April 1543
- Destroyed most of the Market Place Buildings
- Also destroyed All Saints Church (but the tower didn't fall down until the 1790s)





17th Century Map

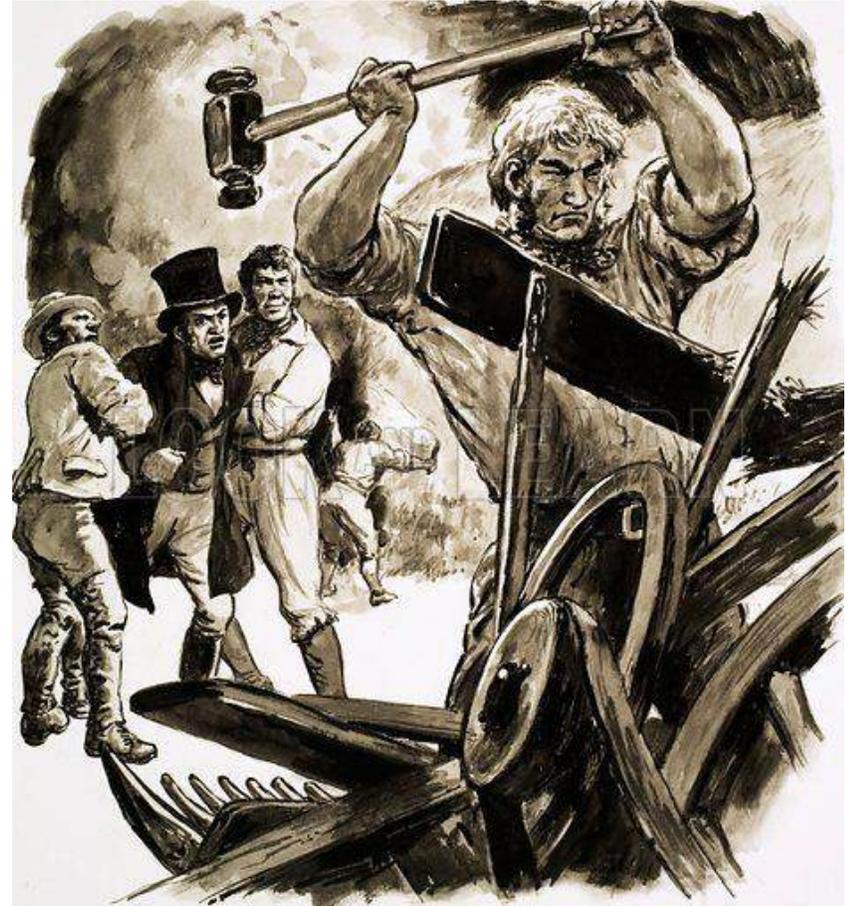
- 100 or so years after the Great Fire
- Few buildings in the market place
- Back Street was the original thoroughfare through town
- Chimneys shown in red – possible liability for “Hearth Tax”?
- Church roofs shown in green
- Market Cross building? Just an indication that it’s a market place or was there actually a building?

Today's buildings
mostly date from
the Georgian and
Victorian eras
(1700s and 1800s)



Swing Riots 1830/31

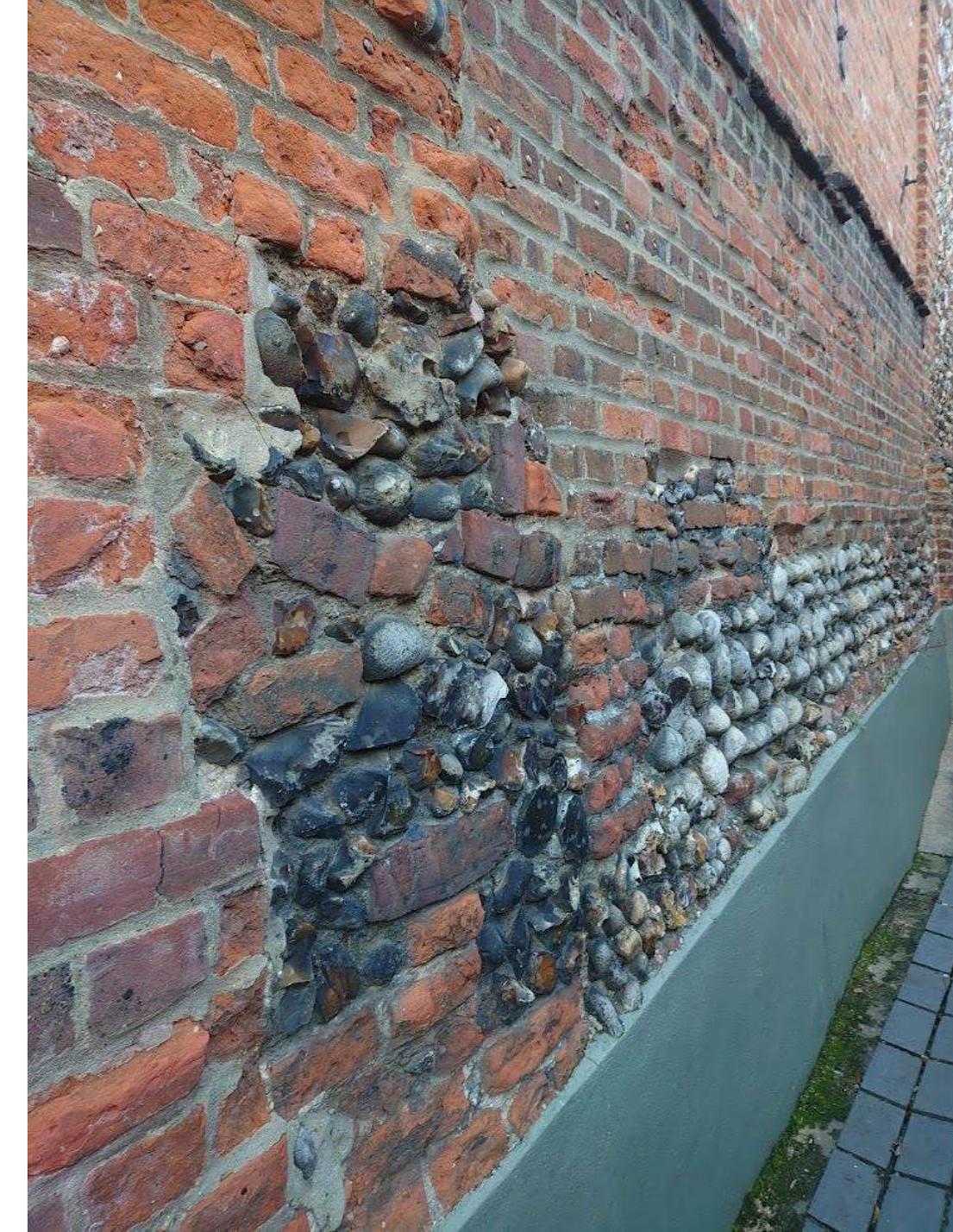
- Harsh Winter 1830 then poor harvest 1831 led to reduced wages
- Widespread rioting protesting about low agricultural wages, loss of common land and use of threshing machines
- Threatening letters sent by “Captain Swing” to rich farmers, magistrates and clergymen



Even in Reepham...

- Meeting in the King's Arms of magistrates, clergy and landowners to swear in special constables
- Crowd of labourers gathered outside
- Rev Collyer spoke to them from a window
- Apparently they dispersed peacefully...





The King's Arms

- 16th/17th Century Beginnings, perhaps partially demolished and rebuilt in 18th Century as Posting Inn
- Wall in Pudding Pie Alley may be a remnant of earlier building

REEPHAM MARKET PLACE, SOUTH.

The King's Arms

- Had a veranda out the front in late 19th Century
- Small bar from corner door until 1980s
- Eynsford Petty Sessions held there



King's Arms Hotel

- Hotel for Travelling Salesmen/Visitors
- Club Room above adjoining shop
 - Weekly Dancing Classes and Annual Dance
 - Still in use in the 1970s for Parties and Discos



Tithe Map 1844

- Red buildings indicate residential use
- Layout is pretty similar to today...

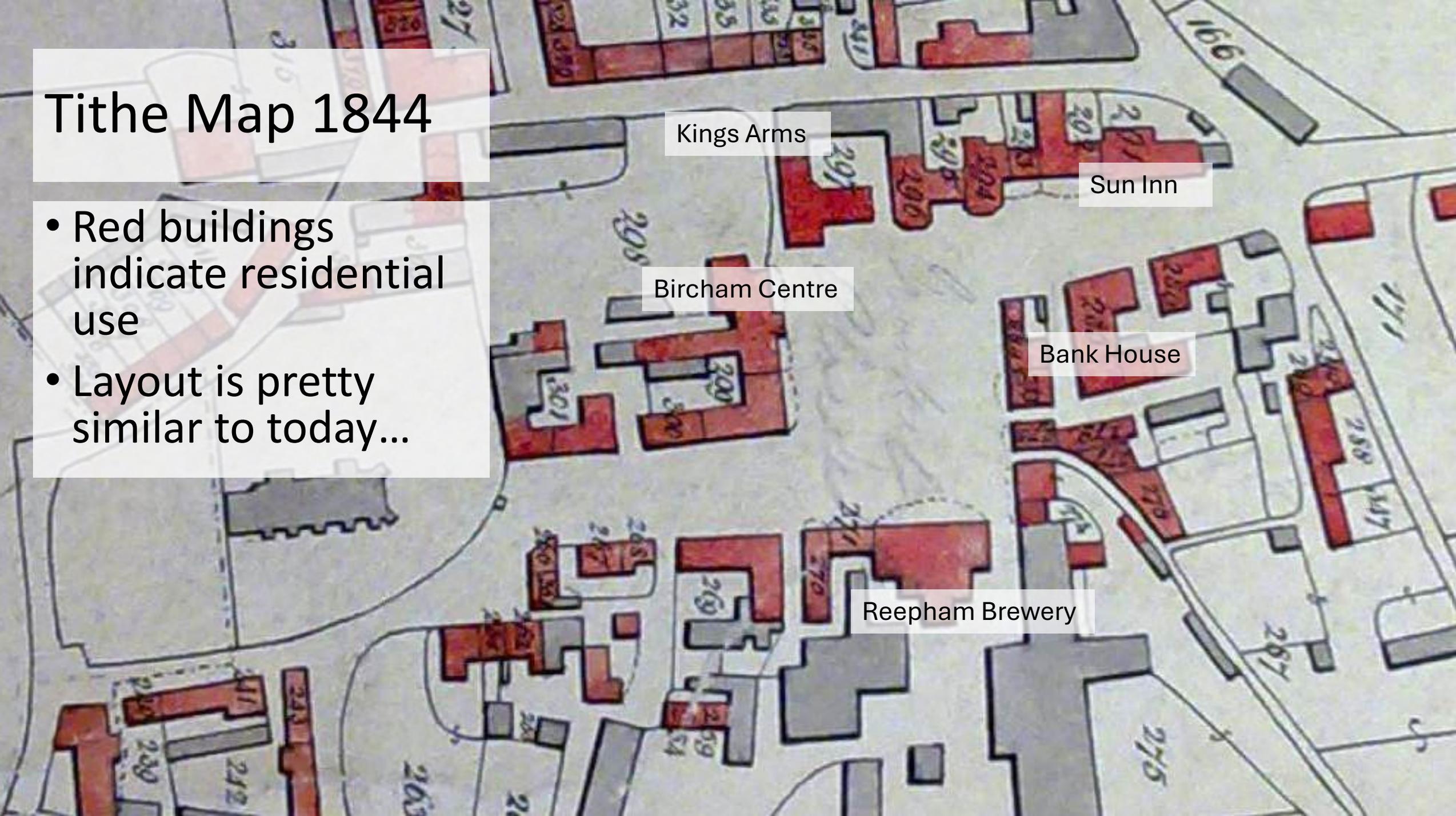
Kings Arms

Sun Inn

Bircham Centre

Bank House

Reepham Brewery



Changing Vistas

- Curious frontage to what is now Robertsons Butchers



But by early 1900s, the roofline had changed...



- Halls Saddlers occupied the building from 1890s
- Plans for change drawn up in early 1900s
- John Hall passed the business to his son, Bertie Hall
- Later became Attfield Butchers, before Mr Attfield passed the business to his former assistant, Brian Robertson.

Changing Vistas/2

- In 1905, smooth rendered front to what is now Diane's Pantry
- Austin Family Butcher Shop...
- At least 2 generations of Austins
- Also no dormer windows at this stage

MARKET PLACE REEPHAM

REEPHAM MARKET PLACE, WEST.



Another view...

Changing Vistas/2

- By 1920s, the “out-shut” is tiled...
- Still a butcher’s shop with Uttings Butchers in 1921.
- Later became a fish shop; Diane’s Pantry first run by Diane Turner in 1980s

West End of Market Place, Reepham. J 6080

The range of buildings now...



Great Houses: Hackford House

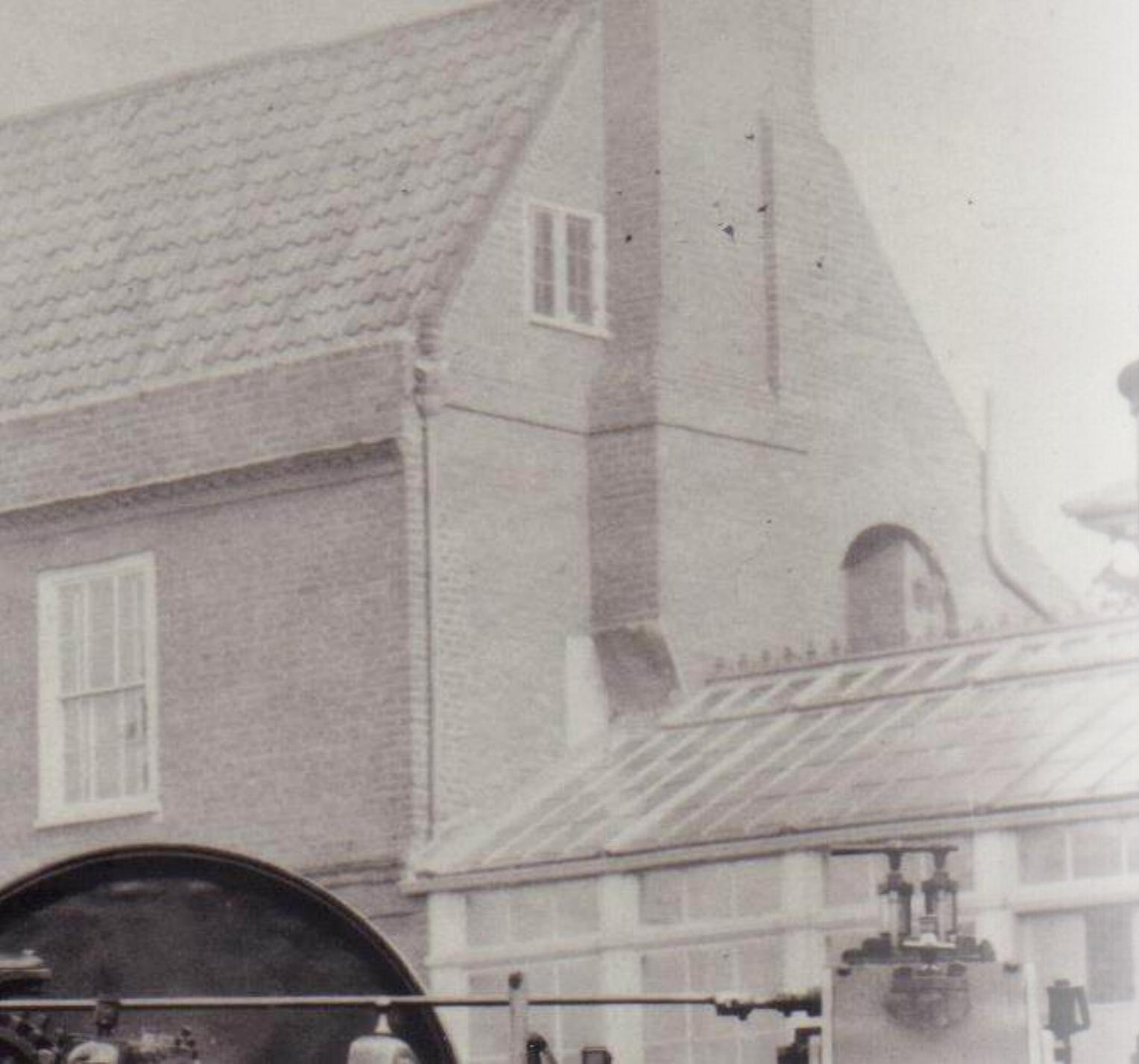
- Hackford Parish Vicarage
- Oldest part is Jacobean (1600s)
- Became private house
- Samuel Bircham bought it in 1910 from Misses Spencer
- It was occupied by the Bruce family – Agnes Bruce married Samuel's only son, Francis Richard Samuel Bircham
- The wedding was held in marquees in the Market Place



The Bircham Centre

- In 1919 Samuel Bircham donated part of it to Reepham as memorial to the fallen from WW1
- Left the remaining building to the town in his will when he died in 1923 in exchange for an annuity for Agnes
- We could do a whole presentation about this...





Great Houses: Brewery House

- The Brewery Owner's house
- Originally a Conservatory on the right of the house
- Brewery site sold in 1878/9

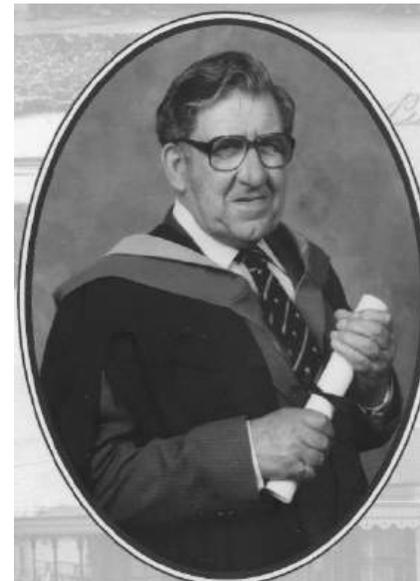
The Brewery House/Dial House

- By WW1, conservatory replaced with extension
- Samuel Bircham spent his time between here and London
- Stayed in the Bircham family until 1899
- Converted into a hotel in 1970s
- Norman and Mary Raynes were the first to run it
- Many changes over the years...



The Big 3...

- People who have chronicled their time in Reepham
- They've provided a priceless record
- Reepham Society formed early 1980s
- Precursor to Reepham Archive...



The Big 3: Harry Hawes

- Henry Edward Hawes...
- Born in a cottage on Church Hill in 1863
- Carpenter and Builder
- Lived in Veranda House (Dereham Road) and ran business in Sun Maltings
- “Harry Hawes Walk” – handwritten in notebooks
- Transcribed and annotated in 1949 by Tony Ivins and extracts used in a booklet by Kate Nightingale in 2003
- Died in 1957 aged 94



1886 aged 23



1955 aged 92

The Big 3: Marjorie Gibbs

- Born 1899
- Member of the Gibbs Family who ran an Ironmongers Shop
- Founder member of Reepham Society
- Shared many stories about her years in Reepham
- Died in 1992

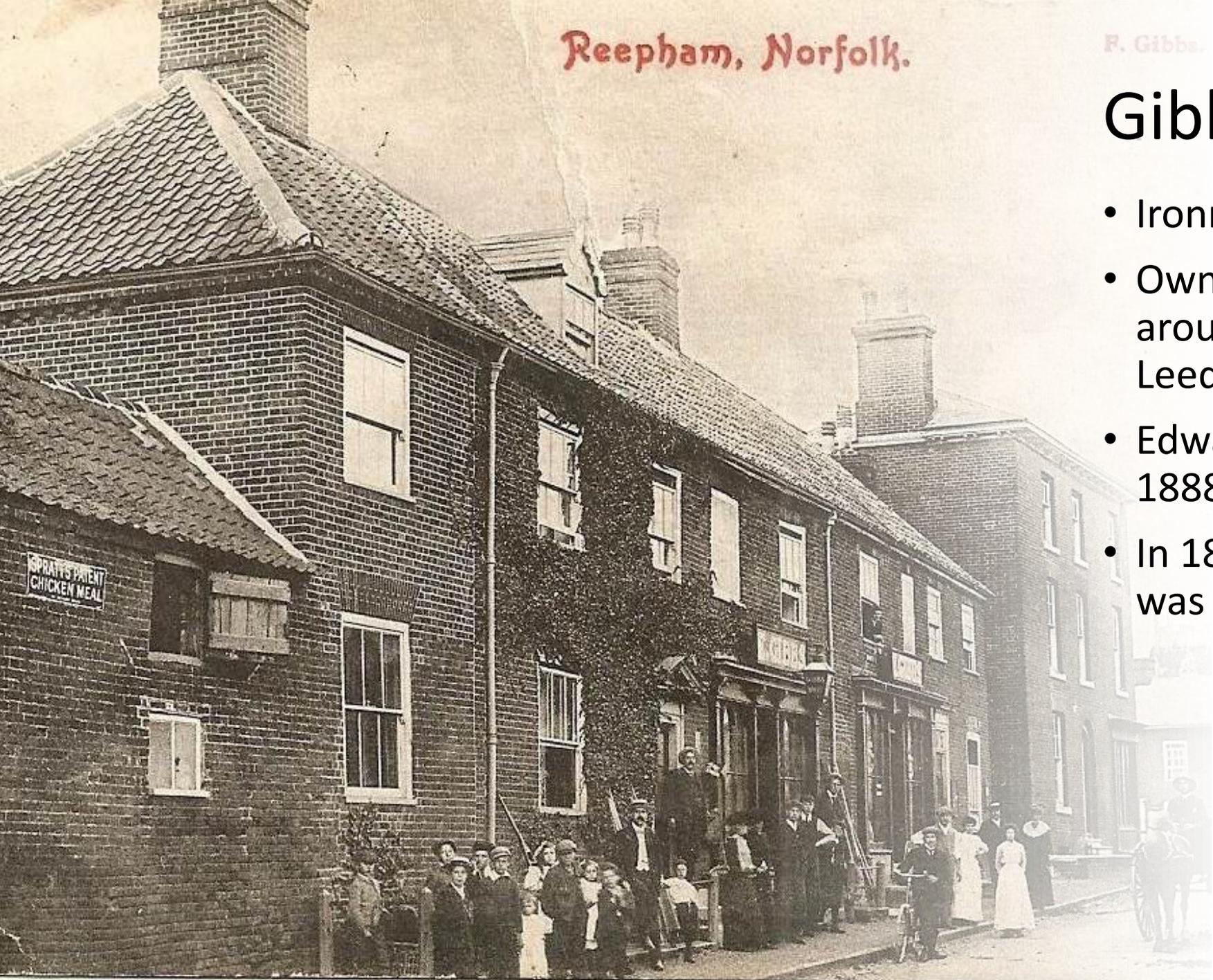


Reepham, Norfolk.

P. Gibbs.

Gibbs Shop

- Ironmongers since 1767
- Owned by William George around 1850 then S W & W Leeds in 1875
- Edward Gibbs bought it in 1888
- In 1890s, neighbouring shop was added



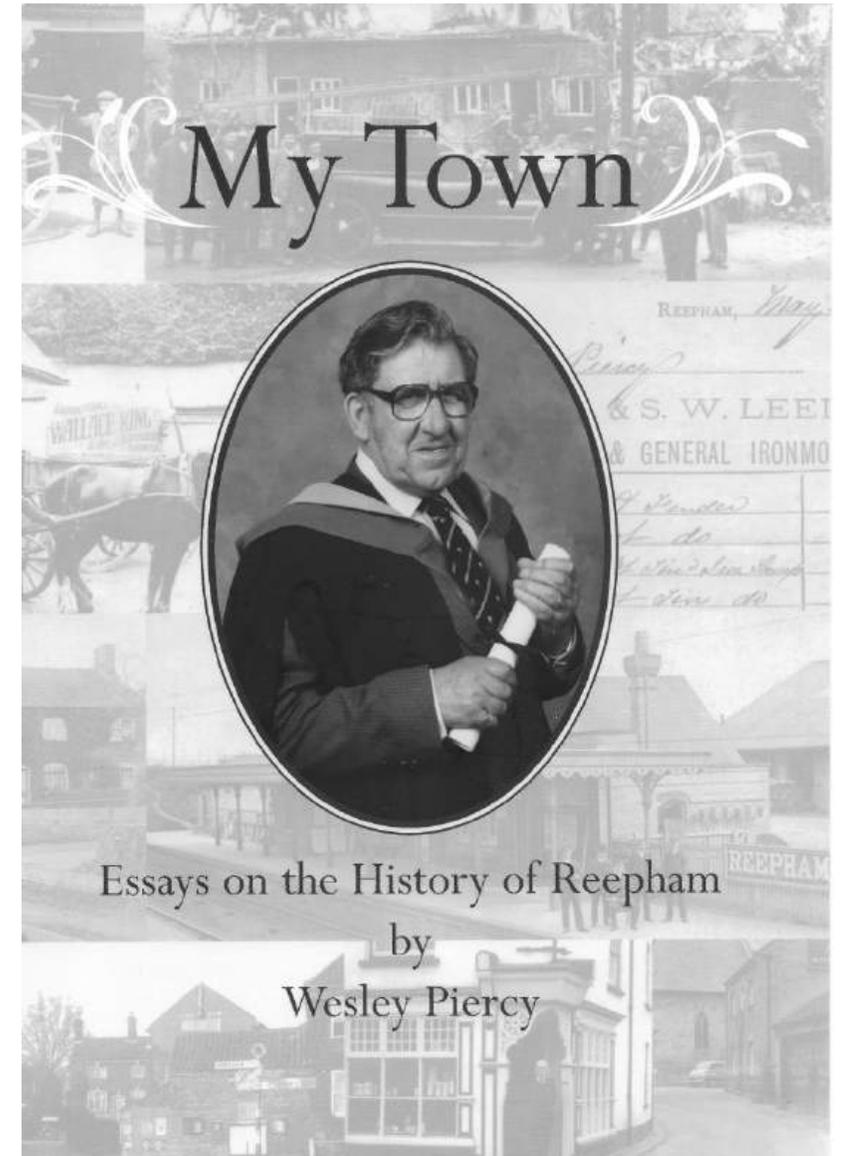


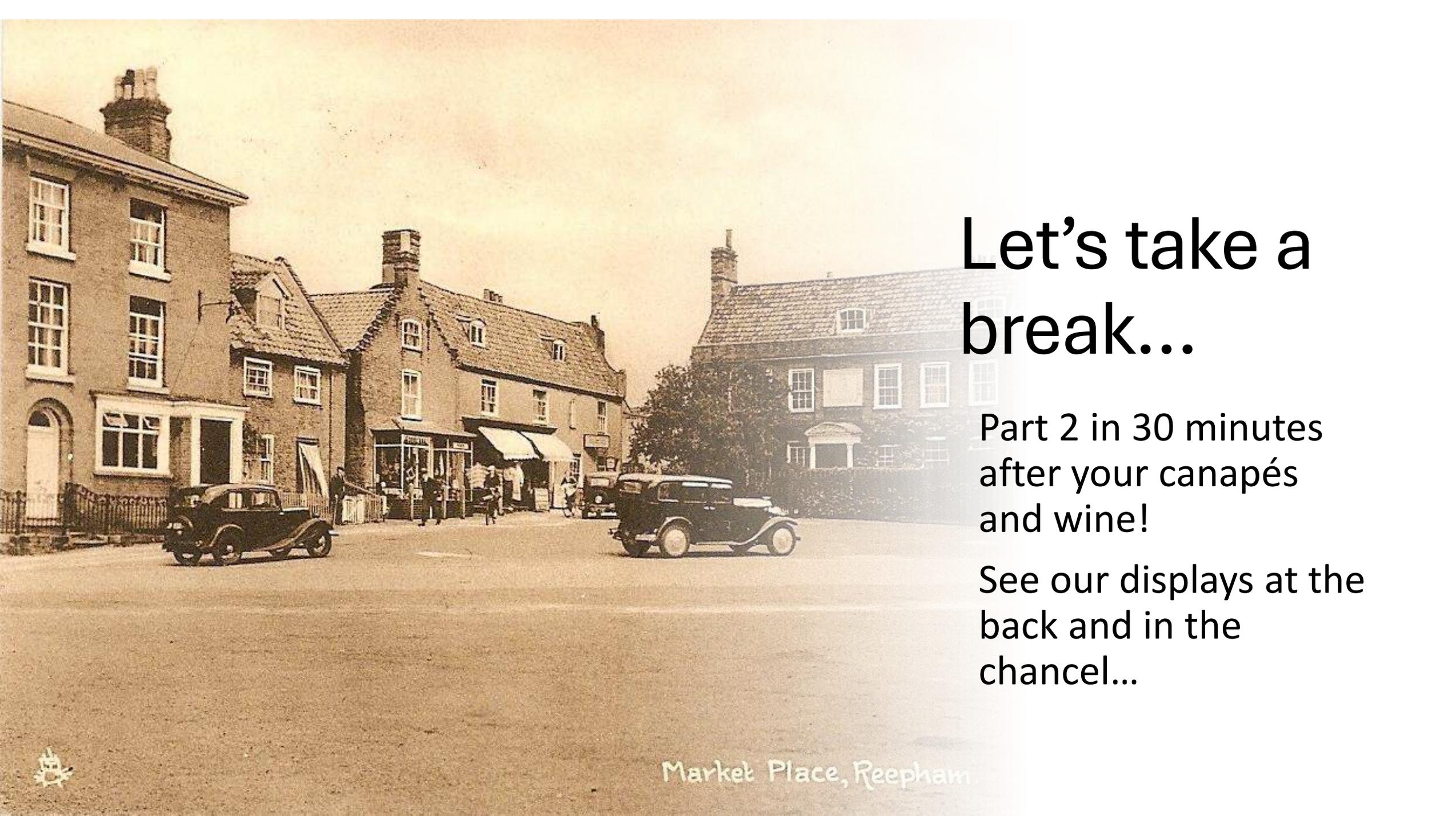
Gibbs Shop

- Open from 7.30 am to 7 pm and 9 pm on Saturdays
- Covered large space – lots of different sections
- Business passed to son, Edward Jnr, and daughter, Marjorie (who never married)
- Closed in 1967

The Big 3: Wesley Piercy

- Born 1917 in Reepham and lived here most of his life
- Served in WW2 including with Desert Rats
- Joined Eastern Electricity Board after the War
- On retirement, pursued interest in history through OU degree
- Wrote “My Town”





Let's take a break...

Part 2 in 30 minutes
after your canapés
and wine!

See our displays at the
back and in the
chancel...

Market Place, Reepham.



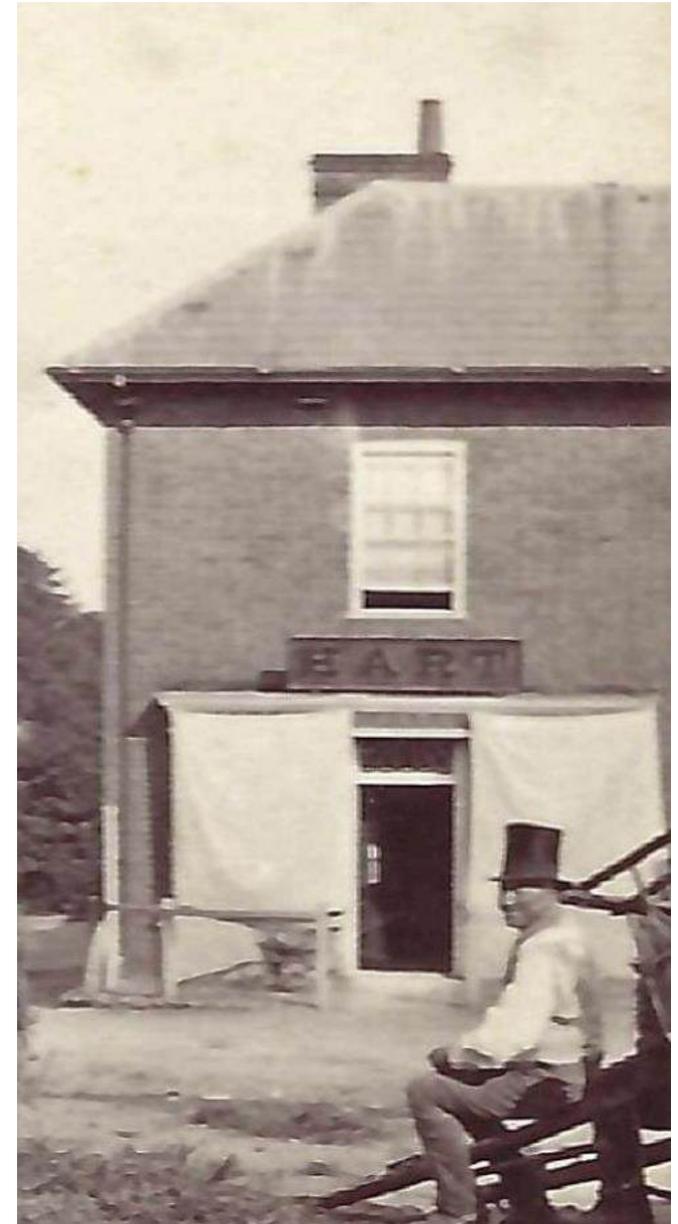
The Market Place late 1800s and early 1900s

- Information mostly from our Big 3
- No time to look at every building in detail!



Grocers (and Drapers)

- Apparently 7 Grocers in Reepham
- 3 in the Market Place
- Most Grocers seemed to be Drapers as well
- Let's start where Kings Opticians are now...
- In 1830s, Charles Gallant Hewke ran "Pigots"
- Barnes and Hart family from 1840s to the 1870s
- Sold then as two separate shops/houses



The Start of a Norfolk Story

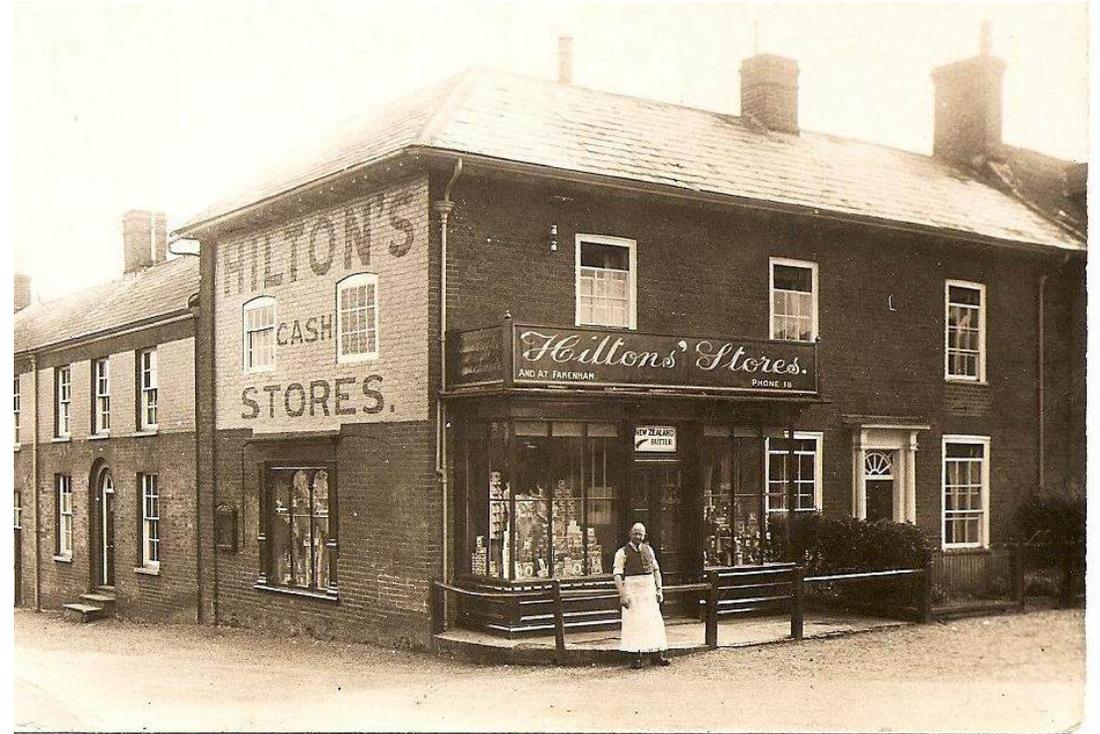
- Shop taken over by Alfred Roy in 1880s
- Moved from the other side of the Market Place
- Alfred is the father of Alfred and Arnold who started Roys of Wroxham
- Alfred had moved away from Reepham by 1891



H C Peck in 1890s



Hiltons in 1920s



Later it was Hardiments, then Booths, when it became a Mace shop, then Jones... In 1976 the shop only was sold to the Johnsons and became a clothes/woolshop run by Mrs Johnson

Fishers

- Where Norfolk Farm Shop is now
- Nathaniel Isaacs in 1851
- James Flint in 1861
- James Kirby in 1881
- Was where Alfred Roy started
- Mr Fisher had taken over by 1900
- He gave his name to Fisher's Alley
- Later The Chimes: antiques, tea room, B&B, pharmacy...



Riches House

- Grocery store – early records show John Grey as the shopkeeper
- Run by Mary Woods, a widow, from around 1893



Riches Stores

- Leonard Riches took over in 1906, and was succeeded by his son, Ben
- Described as a High-Class Grocer
- Mr & Mrs Harrison took over in 1971



Riches Stores

- Became the first self-service shop in Reepham (probably)
- Stephen Fry mentions it in his books
- Is the biscuit room haunted?



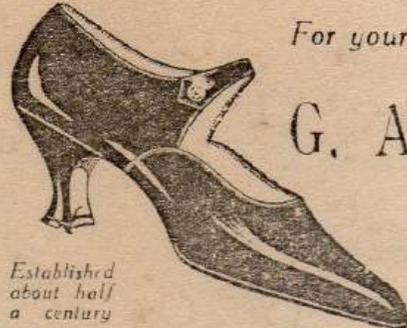
The Mystery Box

- Much speculation over the years...
- Suggestion is could be a blanket box for emergency use
- Perhaps more likely to be a box for shutters...



Boot and Shoemakers

- George Cocking, Shoe & Boot Maker
 - In Melton House (Bay Tree Interiors)
- Previously William Allen (1876) who called it “The Golden Boot”
- Others in town at different times:
 - John Boon for a while in the row of cottages that is now the Post Office
 - Tom Coe in the shop under the King’s Arms clubroom



For your next pair of Boots or Shoes see

G. A. COCKING

Hand Sewn
Boot & Shoe Maker
and Leather Seller.

Established about half a century

Large Assortment of Boots, Shoes and Leggings by all the leading makers

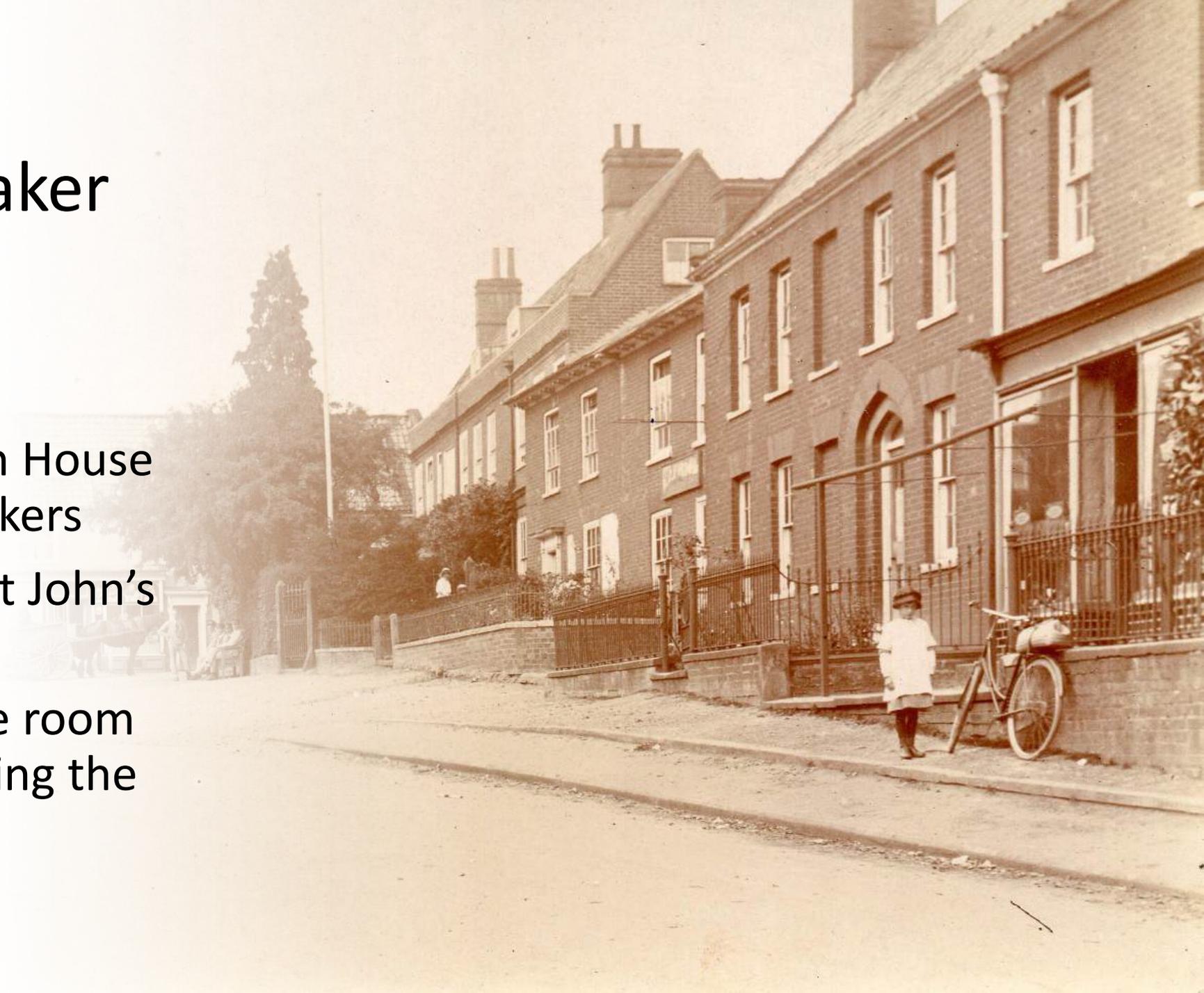
HAND SEWN WORK A SPECIALITY.

All Repairs Promptly and Neatly Executed—only Best Leather used.

MARKET PLACE, REEPHAM,

The Candle Maker

- George St John
- Melton and Carlton House before the shoemakers
- Gave his name to St John's Alley
- Front room and the room above used for drying the candles



Tailors

- Albert Valentine King, Tailor – by 1921
- Corner of current Post Office
- Still run by his widow Katherine and son William in 1939
- Followed by Henry M Pratt
- “The Little Shop with the Big Stock”
- Other Reepham tailors through the years included William Pask on Townsend Corner, Mr Hill beside Diane’s Pantry, and James Hawes in Church Plain



Reepham Post Office: a 4-part story...

- Important for Reepham's status
- Has been in 4 different sites over the years



The Post Office: Part 1...

- In 1850s could be found in The Blue House
- Amelia Sands was the Postmistress
- Customers didn't go inside
- Knocked on wooden hatch and waited...
- Evidence inside and out today



The Blue House

- Not always blue! Painted after 1950
- In around 1820, was called Levuka House
 - Named after a city in Fiji
 - Seafarer who travelled there was left money by an aunt and bought it
- One previous occupant, Mrs Hatley(?) lived there around 1949 but ground floor occupied by a dentist
- Basement floor has access into Back Street





The Blue House

- Occupied by long term Reepham residents June and Russell Betts from around 1955 to 1985
- They hid a time capsule in a corner at the base of a wall
- Included 3-page letter telling what they knew about the house and life in Reepham at that time
- The current owner has put it back to be found by future generations
- Covenant: can't sell sweets!

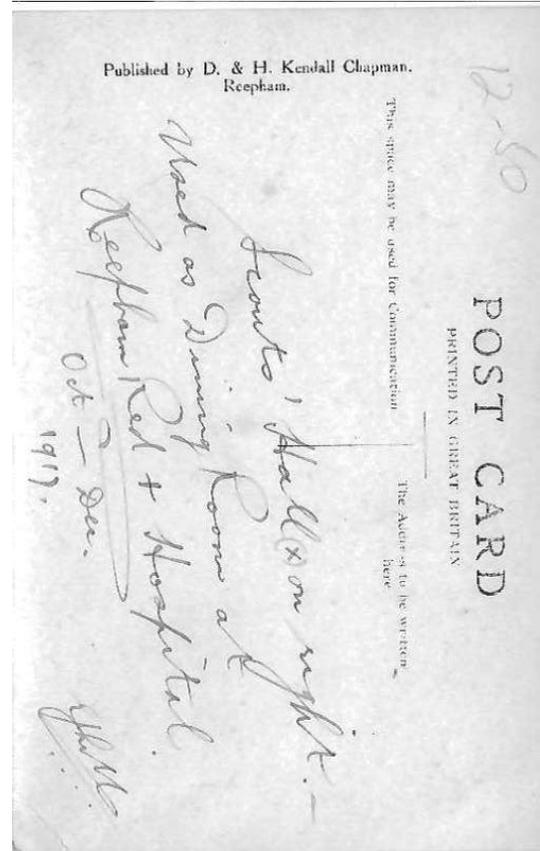
The Post Office: Part 2 and 3...

- Rudd family ran it in early 1900s
- Moved to Bevan House on Dereham Road for a while
- Then back to the Market Place into Iona House
- This is the building that is currently the Barber on the Square...



The Post Office: Part 3...

- D Kendall Chapman became Postmaster – he was related to the Rudds
- Also sold sweets, cards and gifts
- Involved in lots of things
 - Scouts
 - Parish Council
 - Pierrot Group
 - Sunday School
 - Publishing postcards
- He later gave up the post office side but kept the shop





The Telephone Came to Reepham

- First telephone exchange was in Ivy House
- Mrs Hester Wilton was in charge
- Later moved over the road to the house now known as “The Old Telephone Exchange”
- 8 Subscribers in 1915
- Rose to more than 50 in 1936

The Post Office: Part 4

- Moved to its current location in the years to follow
- E Bushell in the 1950s
- Mr Brinded after that
- C D Jones in 1969
- Harry Hawes was born in one of the cottages in this row in 1863



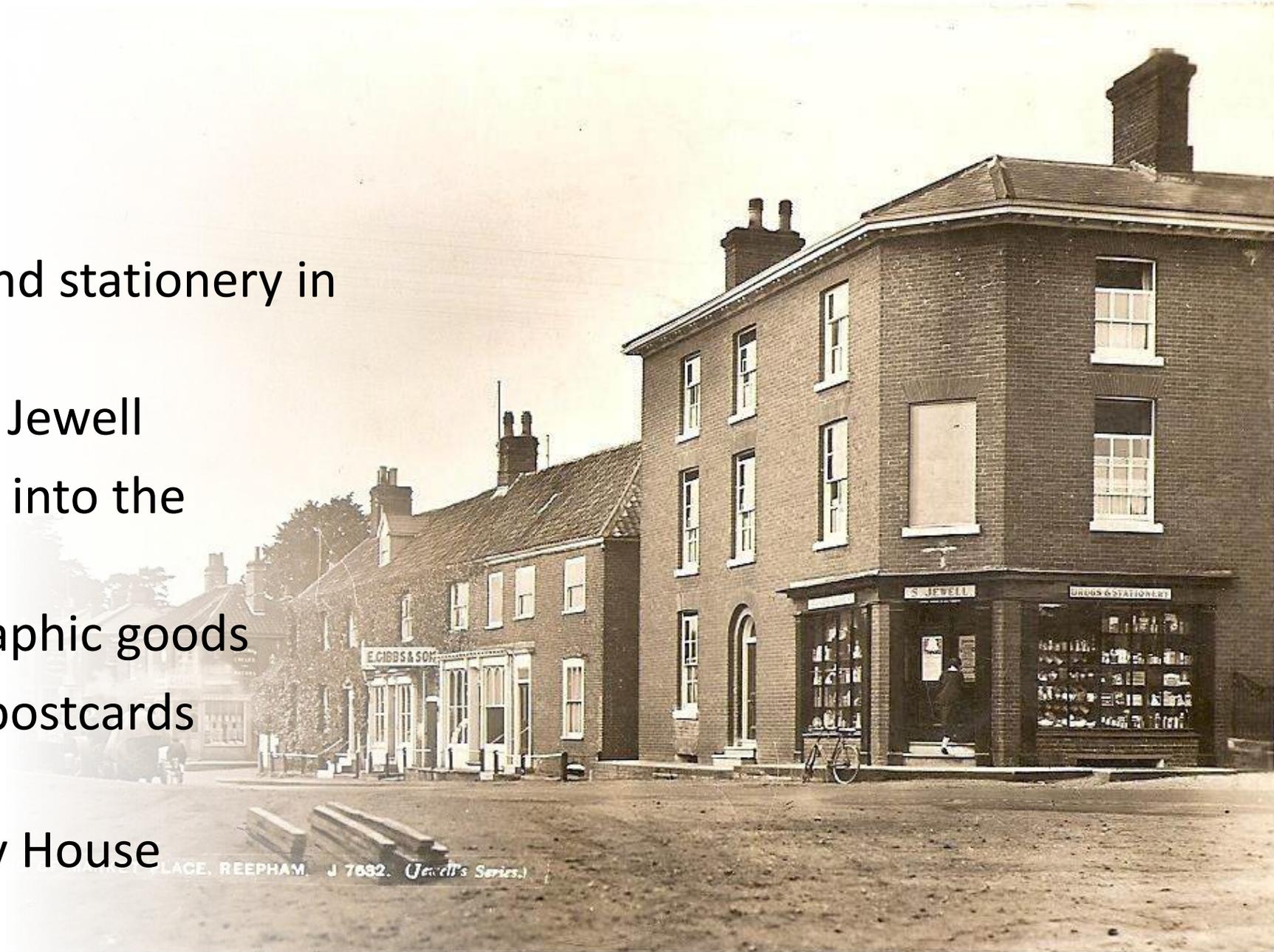


Bank House

- Built 1840s
- Originally a shop between 2 houses – door on each side
- Corner shop door – a Reepham thing!
- Cripps Chemists in the 1870s
- Followed by Benjamin Priest and Stoners

Bank House

- Jewells Druggist and stationery in 1920s
- Edward and Sarah Jewell
- That's Sarah going into the shop...
- Also sold photographic goods
- Created series of postcards "Jewell's Series"
- Later moved to Ivy House



LACE, REEPHAM. J 7692. (Jewell's Series.)



Bank House – the houses

- Gurneys Bank's opened a Reepham Branch in the house on the Market Place side. Gurney's merged into Barclays in 1896
- Also a solicitor's office, and a reading room
- Caretaker lived in the basement and slept on the top floor
- The other house, on the road to Townsend Corner, was mostly residential



Bank House

- Barclays Bank had moved into the corner property by the 1930s
- 1st and 2nd Floor was Bank Flat
- Barclays moved next door in 1991
- Major changes by The Original Cottage Company in 2014



The Bakery

- The Old Bakery next door to the Dial House
- Previously two properties
- Bakery at the rear
- 1830s: run by James Davidson
- 1870s: run by Alexander Ormiston

Fords Bakery

- Fords from at least 1900s to 1960s
- William Ford moved here from Devon
- Married twice – in total 6 children
- Business carried on by Walter and Richard
- Children would get mini loaf with the family's bread delivery
- Meat Pies were legendary!
- Teas on Market Day



Ford Family

- This Primary School photo apparently includes the younger Ford children
- But there's some confusion about who's who...
- Elsie married and moved to Hampshire. She called her home "Reepham House"
- Walter apparently became an excellent bellringer!



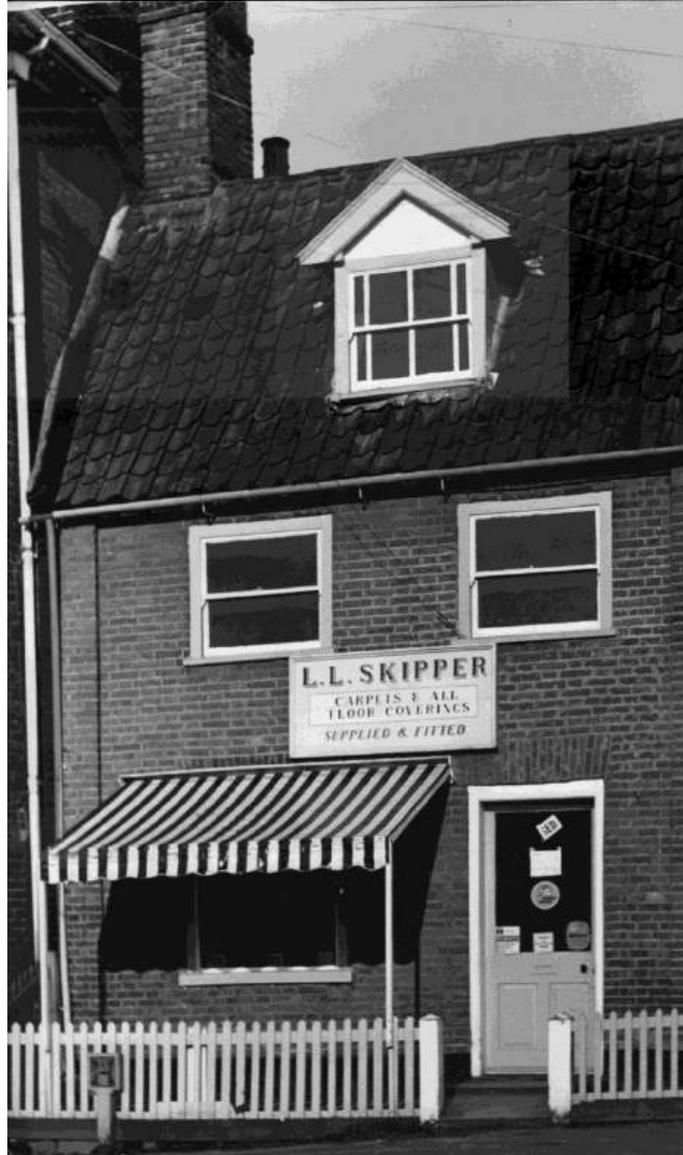
Clockmaking

- Did you know that clocks and watches were made in Reepham?
- John Symonds 1734-1815
- “Lived at the sign of the Dial”...
- Clockmaker to Parson Woodforde
- Succeeded by James Shreeve Woolmer in 1814
- Mr Woolmer wound the church clock every evening



The Cottage

- Messrs Symonds and Woolmer were in the cottage next to Bank House
- Also Robert Barber, Watchmaker
- Later became Skippers Carpets
- Was Barclays Bank in 1991, then HSBC in 2000
- Site of the famous Reepham Ramraid in 2012
- Now Motts Pharmacy



HORAS NON NUMERO NISI SERENAS



Time has swept
on...

“I do not count the
hours except for
the serene ones”

Or: I only count the
happy hours

We're all part of
Reepham's story

How far back
can you go?

Reepham, West from St. Michael's Tower



Reepham Archive



- Valuable source of local records and images
- Can you add to the story of Reepham?
- Pop in on the first Wednesday or Saturday mornings of the month...

