

With grateful thanks to Carol Dix for the following information and reminiscences:

Carol married her husband, Bob, in January 1963 & they had hoped to return to their new home, Knoyle House, on the road to Wotton in the village, on return from their honeymoon but the British weather changed all that for them. Many will recall the heavy snowfall of 1963 & as a result the solid fuel boiler & all the pipes in their house were completely frozen & they had to spend the first 3 months of their married life living with Carol's parents in Kingswood!

Some of you may remember the hairdressing salon, Knoyle Hair Fashions, owned by Carol & Bob which stood where Southwold House, home of Elaine & Steve Orchard, is now built. Many ladies of the village went to Carol for their weekly 'shampoo & set' & children, now with families of their own, can remember visiting the salon for their trims. This was a thriving village business for 10 years from the late 1960's.

The service offered by the hairdressing salon was typical of the many businesses which relied on local villages for their livelihood. Carol can remember the many visiting tradesmen who made regular weekly & daily visits to the village & the two shops & the two village centre pubs which were all open in the 1960's.

When we first came to North Nibley in 1963 both the Black Horse, run by Mr & Mrs King, & the White Hart, owned by Pete Waterson, were well supported village pubs. We also had two shops, the village shop as today but operating from a wooden hut owned by the Smiths who lived in Dursley & the Post Office in The Street run by Mr & Mrs Westlake. The village shop stocked almost everything you required, I had an order book where I listed what I needed each week & this order was delivered to our door. There were no trips to the supermarket.

Our milk came from Mr Chamberlain at Church Farm & was delivered by Gilbert Hale.

If we couldn't buy what we wanted at the two village shops we could also buy things from lots of tradesmen who visited the village:

Coates of Hillesley, the baker.

The butcher from Cam, who came twice a week & sold meat from the back of his van.

Hignells of Kingswood, who sold, amongst other things, paraffin, washing powder & clothes pegs.

The 'pop man' from Berkeley who sold bottled fizzy drinks & collected your empties.

There was also the occasional visit by the local knife grinder.

We had a delivery from the postman both in the morning & the afternoon.

Next door to us was the police house with a small police station to one side. The village 'bobby' did his beat on foot around the village 2 or 3 times a day.