

Transcription of a 5-page handwritten document by Roy Burn, c 1980.

Shopping in the new Richmond Village Shopping Centre is a real pleasure, with friendly shopkeepers and staff offering a very friendly personal service within spacious shops of pleasing architecture. The area is well catered for with car-parking facilities which are accessible from four entrances.

The Richmond Village title associates the area with the suburb of Richmond. The name of North Avon also identifies some businesses in the area. There was a trend towards the area being known as North Avon after the first Post Office opened in 1937. This could not be called Richmond Post Office because there was already a Richmond Post Office in the Nelson district.

Some of the older shops in the area were the large brick building still operating at the corner of Avalon St and Stanmore Rd and the three on the east side of Stanmore Rd, opposite Richmond Village as it is now. All these shops have been operating as various businesses over many years now.

The first-mentioned building contained butcher by the name of Farrow, later to be taken over by Eric McPherson, who later shifted to the lone-standing shop in North Avon Rd opposite Stanmore Rd and still operating as a butcher.

After Eric McPherson, the Stanmore Rd shop became a book shop; in latter years it was occupied by a second-hand shop and now operates as a greengrocer. The adjoining shop was the original North Avon Post Office.

The writer's memories of the corner shop were when it was a Self-Help with a large mural of an elephant and rider painted in bright colours, the symbol of Self-Help Tea. This painting covered the full wall area, and, as a boy, many hours were spent using this as a volley board or trying to hit or throw a tennis ball up on to the roof, with complete disregard for the ball marks on the painting. Who could have ever envisaged that this building would have become the delightful restaurant which now occupies this corner site.

The shops on the east side for many years were occupied by the Daphne Cake Kitchen with a few changes of owners, and by John Stubberfield, watchmaker and jeweller, who lived in the house at the rear, still standing today.

A further shop was built on the end of the unit which opened as a fruit-&-vege business but did not survive for a lengthy period and then became a paint shop. These three shops, still operating, have seen many alterations and many tenants come and go.

I sometimes wonder how many people recall when the Woods pie factory was in Forth St behind an old brick house which is still standing today. We are fortunate to have the North Avon Post Office situated where it is today. This was due to some hard negotiating between the shopkeepers of the area and the Chief post Office, to stop the new office being built on a reserved site on the east side of Stanmore Rd opposite Bruce St.

After successful stalling negotiations there was the problem of finding an alternative site. Here negotiations were started between the shopkeepers and Dave Harries, who many will remember as the local blacksmith, a well-known identity to many people for many years. Although Dave was getting on in years and semi-retired, he was reluctant to leave what had been his lifestyle for so long. His adjacent wooden house stood right out on the street frontage.

Eventually, through friendly negotiations and Dave's thoughtfulness and consideration for the advancement of the area, he decided to negotiate with the Post Office. The new North Avon Post

Office was opened on Monday Nov, 3rd, 1969, exactly eleven years to the official opening of the Richmond Village Shopping Centre.

The site now occupied by Richmond Electrical and formerly a dry-cleaners, was originally a footwear repairer by the name of Corkery and taken over about 1928 by Albert Burn. This long-established family business is still operated by Roy Burn as North Avon Shoe Store Ltd.

Richmond Electrical and Horgan's Hairdressers are two other long-established family businesses still operating in the area.

Mr Hermie Rich started the Richmond Electrical business in the small shop on the corner of North Avon Rd and Petrie St. Later his business expanded with a move into larger premises in the Stanmore Rd shopping area, previously operated by Mr & Mrs J. Horgan, as a fancy goods shop. Mr Dennis rich, son of Hermie, built his new premises on their present site.

The Horgans family business began when Jim Horgan took over the local barbers shop from Les Kington, later to move into next door and open the fancy goods business. With this move, his son Frank took over the hairdressing business and this progressed to the modern hairdressing salon in the new shopping centre, opened by Frank and his wife Kath.

Another long-serving identity in the area is Roger Prebble, who has operated his pharmacy for many years; he took over from Annie Hine who also served the area for many years. There have been too many changes over the years to mention them all. Some may remember as far back as Tucks Ltd, Mckenzie drapery, Straws Butchery, Dr Cropps surgery, formerly a haberdashery shop owned by the Church sisters. Moore's dairy, now Mecca Fruit-&-Veges, Mitchells Fruit-&-Veges, later to be taken over by Wonnacotts. The Corner Dairy, Young's Grocery...

Many shops have changed hands over the years but are still operating in the new village; North Avon Drapery, Marine Fish Supply, Straight's Butchery (formerly Brodies). The new Richmond Village Shopping Centre caters for most of the requirements for complete one-stop shopping: Restaurant, electrical appliances, post office, ladies' & gents' hairdressing, footwear & bags, wines, supermarket, fruit-&-veges, butchery, fish & chips, chemist, boutique, frozen foods, drapery & apparel, paint & garden centre, fish & pet supplies, shrubs, delicatessen & tea rooms, cycles, hardware, dentist.

Slightly outside the area we have dry cleaners, car sales, working men's club, silk screen printer, motor repairs, service station, medical centre, book exchange and tax consultant.

Letter from Mr Roy Burn to the Pegasus Post c.1980 at the time of the demise of the North Avon Shopping Centre and the opening of the Richmond Village.

North Avon Shoe Store has come a long way since its meagre beginning over 50 years ago when Mr Albert Burn took over the shoe repair business of Mr J. Corkery in 1928. This shoe repair business was for many years on the corner of Stanmore Road and Avalon Street the shop being attached to living accommodation at the rear. After many years of hard work and long hours put in by Mr Albert Burn, despite his disability as an amputee, he built the business up to the first stage of retailing with the very basics, sandshoes, gumboots and sandals (which he handmade). I can remember spending many an hour helping my father, from the time I was about 10 years old. I often had to stay home from high school to look after the shop with my mother when illness struck. I was well grounded in footwear repairing by the time I left school.

About 1950 the repair business was sold to Mr Roy Masters who only carried on for a few years before selling the property to Greens Dry Cleaners. North Avon Shoe Store was born at 333 Stanmore Road around the time of the sale of the repair business. It was the southern-most shop of the row fronting onto Stanmore Road and was for many years operated by Anne Hine Chemist. Anne Hine moved a few shops further north, which was an addition to the existing older shops.

Mr Burn senior built up the footwear retail business steadily until retirement time arrived and the business was bought by son Roy, who now operates the shop in the new Richmond Village complex. It was back in 1965 when the first stage of real growth came for North Avon Shoe Store, the interior of the shop being completely modernised with lighted display fixtures. During the redevelopment of the area which has now become Richmond Village, a temporary move was made to the premises vacated by Roger Prebble.

This move was a case of history repeating itself, as these premises were also previously occupied by Anne Hine. Now the North Avon Shoe Store has a pleasing modern decor and is situated on a corner site of the complex with two window frontages, one on Stanmore Road and one on the North side facing the car park area. Instore displays are designed for maximum viewing from either outside or inside the store.

Trading patterns have changed over the years, handbags, wallets, leather goods, etc, being a big part of a variety of goods available along with the wide range of footwear. While space does not permit for repairs to be done on the premises, they are still carried out by the owner.

In spite of many changes over the years, the friendly atmosphere and personal attention is still available from management and staff.

A handwritten note on the reverse of this graphic states: "December 1972 in conjunction with Pegasus Post article."

*Your quick, easy reference guide
to BETTER SHOPPING*

NORTH AVON

SHIRLEY BURWOOD

SHOPPING CENTRE

NORTH AVON RD. NORTH AVON RD.

PHONE	PHONE
Chemist - - 896-275	Footwear - 898-985
Service	Fruiterer
Station - - - - 897-116	& Dairy - - - 896-835
Draper - - - - 895-633	Hairdresser 896-715
Fancy Goods &	Grocer - - - 899-635
Electrical - - 899-645	Butcher - - - 898-135

OTHER AMENITIES INCLUDE -

Post Office, Doctor, Dentist, Hardware, Toys, Fish Supply, Dairy, Frocks, Cakes, Dry Cleaners, Paint, Surplus Supplies, Stationery, Car Sales, Delicatessen, Taxi Stand, Main Bus Route to City.

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