

SHOPS IN HIGH STREET, HAMPTON, IN THE 1960's

Centuries ago, the main shopping streets of Hampton were clustered around the core of the old village and were mainly located on Thames Street, High Street and, to a lesser extent, Church Street. In early Victorian times the railway came to Hampton and in late Victorian times Station Road, with the building of more shops, became much more important for shopping. The arrival of the motor car in the early 20th Century accelerated this change as people preferred the quieter Station Road to the busy and noisy main roads for their shopping. This, in turn, was to lead to the decline of the traditional shopping streets. By the 1960's Thames Street had lost most of its shops and there were early signs that High Street was starting to go the same way. This selection of High Street shops pictures the area at this point before further decline and conversions or rebuilding took place. The images cover many, but not all, of the shops in High Street and captures the street before many of the later changes took place.



Believed to date from 1966 this view shows the shops at 6, 4 & 2 High Street (curved white building in centre of the image). Further shops and the Jolly Coopers can just be glimpsed near the left-hand edge of the photo. At this time No 6 was occupied by The Galleon, confectioner and tobacconist, although the shop blind obscures the front of premises in this picture. No 4 is occupied by a shop selling second-hand car spares and new tyres. The lack of a painted sign on the front of the shop probably indicates the short-term nature of this usage at the premises (what would be called a pop-up shop nowadays). No 2 is Hampton Barbecue Restaurant (snacks and grills) and has been a café/restaurant continuously since 1939. It was the Tudor Rose Restaurant

from 1969 until the late 1980s, then Casa Dino, an Italian restaurant, in the early 1990's and has been the Riverside Indian Cuisine restaurant since the 1990's.

This 1964 image shows part of The Galleon, confectioner and tobacconist, at No 6, on the right-hand edge. The shop was closed by the early 1980s and was converted to domestic accommodation. The next premises, behind the wall, (No 8) were then occupied by C P Heath, boatbuilders. The property had previously been the Jolly Gardeners pub until 1955



from its establishment as a beer house in c1851. Peter Heath, son of the last landlord, Chas Heath, continued to occupy the premises until his death in 2022. Next door were the premises of Douglas Fenton Ltd, Dispensing Chemists, which are now converted to domestic accommodation. The premises were established as a Chemists by Mr G H Benbow in 1835. They continued to be used in this way until c1980 having been taken over in around 1946-7 by Douglas Fenton.

This next image is slightly out of our time frame and dates to 1976. However, it has been used to avoid missing out two of the oldest businesses in High Street as there is no 1960s image available and in any case the buildings would have looked very similar in the 1960's. On the right-hand side is the Jolly Coopers at No 16. It is the oldest running pub premises in Hampton, that has not been re-built. It was formerly known as "The Glass and Bottle" and is listed as such in the Licensed Victuallers register of 1726. Later in the 18th century the name changed to the Jolly Coopers. The current owners, Nick and Jane Witham, have run the enterprise since 1986. On the left-hand side of the photo the shop at No 22, C E Stacey & sons Ltd, butchers, sticks out and creates a pinch point in the road – always a sign of an old property. This has a wonderful curved door on the corner of the premises. A branch of the Lawrence family, who also ran the Red Lion at No 1, had this long-running butchers shop and first signed a lease for the property in 1812.



The business was sold out of the family in c1894 to J Farmer. About ten years later the business was sold to the Stacey family who ran the butchers business right up to the early 1980s. It is now converted to domestic accommodation but with the former shop windows retained.

On the western side of High Street, this 1966 view shows a very small part of the Red Lion at No 1 (the entrance to the car park through the building) on the left-hand edge. The next building is the former original Kingsbury's premises, here being used to display table lamps and other decorative items (presumably as a fairly short-term



rental). These premises at 3 High Street, Hampton, had started being used by Kingsbury's in 1897 as a small bicycle factory and repair service. The firm then moved onto motorcycles and then rapidly onto motor cars. (Additionally, a workshop had been acquired in Station Road in c1914 and car sales and repairs are still carried out at the Station Road premises nearly 130 years after the business first came to Hampton). The shop on the right, No 5, is that of F Edwards, grocers. This shop had long been used as a grocers and was being used as such in the 1870's. The site of No's 3 and 5 were redeveloped in 1982 and used as a new Barclays Bank before later being converted to apartments.



A small portion of the old Barclays Bank (No 7) is visible on the left-hand side of this 1963 image. It was converted to apartments in 2012. Next door at No 9 is K & N Press who occupied the premises for more than 30 years. From at least the 1960's into the 1980's they also occupied the adjacent shop at No 11 as well. Just beyond the parked cars are three further shops. These were occupied by F W Harrison, fruiterer and greengrocer at No 15, Cheetah, joinery manufacturers and retail and trade timber sales at No 17, and the long-running Box Café at No 19 which operated for more than 30 years. (It was very popular for breakfast and apparently part of its charm was that the old ladies who ran it never seemed to put their prices up!)



This 1966 image shows three properties at The Triangle - No's 64,66 & 68 High Street. The property on the right (no 64) with a former shop window - was used by coal merchants (Roberts) for many decades. The property in the centre (No 66) also with a shop window was used as a sports outfitter (Griffiths) for decades. The shop on the left (No 68), was a fruiterer and greengrocer (S G Germany) at this time. In the 1980's it became Hampton's Pantry which ran until the 1990's and the premises were converted into a house in 1996.

On the right-hand side of this photo is the confectioner and tobacconist shop of Fredk. W Smith at No 116. The shop, under the same ownership, is also listed as a grocers in street directories in the 1930's and 1940's. On the left-hand side is the Dukes Head



public house at 122 High Street. It was formerly known as The Maidenhead and is shown under the earlier name in the register of Licensed Victuallers for 1730. The name change occurred about 1870. The building has been altered since it started life as a cottage. It has been re-fronted in the Regency style with further embellishments in the Victorian period. The building is now converted to domestic accommodation but with the name on the frontage retained. The lane beside the former pub, now known as Duke's Head Passage, was formerly known as Maiden Lane, is now one of the last surviving lanes of Hampton.

This building, immediately to the left (north) of the Duke's Head, across the entrance to Duke's Head Passage was the Hampton Motor Works at the time of this 1966 image. The building is



the former Girls School known as the School of Industry which had opened in 1805 and was the first girls school in Hampton. As the building did not meet the requirements of the 1870 Education Act it later became the Drill Hall (until the building of a new Drill Hall at the bottom end of Hampton Hill High Street which opened in 1914) and was then used as a garage, as here, before being demolished later in the 1960's. It then became a petrol station and has since been replaced by a different building which offers tyres, exhausts, car servicing and MOT's for cars (J & P Motors).

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