

This is a list of the shops and businesses that my cousin Helen Waghorn remembered from her childhood in the village. Helen died 2004 age 93years.

## **Shops and businesses in Robertsbridge 1930s-1980s**

### **High Street - West Side**

Odd Numbers Starting at the Southern end Market Place Cattle Market held fortnightly.

Then Country Crafts.

George Hotel and stabling.

- 65. Butcher Mr Taylor Shop and house.
  - 61. Original building and ground at rear of Nicols Cricket Bat Factory. / Barbers Shop./ Crafts./ Private House.
  - 59. White Horse Public House Mr& Mrs Skinner.  
Then Property developers /, Antiques,/ Private house
  - 57. Butchers shop with private living accommodation.  
Then electrical shop/ Barclays Bank./  
Now Senlac Vets, flat upstairs.
  - 51. Langham House Tea Rooms and sweet shop.  
Rooms to let .Mr & Mrs Douch & Cicely (Lusted)  
1970s Butcher and still is in 2005. House privately owned
  - 49. Grocer and Hardware  
Mr Barnes sold to Mr Jordan.  
Then antiques.  
Now a private house
  - 47. Shoe shop & repairs.  
Medhurst then Mr& Mrs Kelson sold on to Mr Jim Beeden  
Now private house cottage between very small now part of 45
  - 45. Barbers shop  
Then butchers shop Mr Glyde.  
Then Steven Barden.  
1960s-mid 1980s it became the Bough House tea rooms and restaurant  
Now private house
  - 43. Bakery and shop Mr Douch later taken over by son Desmond.  
Now Hairdresser and flats
- Alleyway to drinking water canal
- 41. Grocers and millinery men's clothing.  
Caffyns / Walters / Croucher & Fuller / Robin& Betty King.  
Then sold to Mr Evans.  
Shop is now ONE STOP. House and flat let privately
  - 39. Rented cottage to Henry Weston.
  - 37. Greengrocery Mr Slaughter and his house 1960s.
  - 39 & 37 later sold to become Pharmacy and house.
  - 35. Fish shop Mr Slaughter Wet fish and frying (frying was done in the barn behind the property!!.
  - 33. Alec Duck electrical goods and repairs  
Later various including greengrocery (Harris)  
Various shops.  
Now private house
  - 29. Sweets and tobacco Mrs Southhall.  
Then various shops  
Last shopkeeper Mr& Mrs Hurst.  
Now a private house.

Alleyway to drinking water canal

Access to the Slaughterhouse and Waterloo Terrace 5 cottages. These were condemned 1935.

Occupants housed in the newly built Bellhurst Cottages

## High Street - West Side (Continued)

27. Bread and general Shop with flat. (bread supplied daily from Gregory of Battle) Milk delivered  
Owned By George Lawrence with numbers 21.23.and 25  
Property later let with flat to Thorpe's shoe shop
25. Greengrocery /China. Mr& Mrs George Lawrence and Hilda.  
25 & 27 sold 1958 after death of Hilda to Peter & Kate Westbury. (Antique collector) who eventually bought the whole property. Peter restored 25 &27 to its original as one building. The exterior weatherboarding removed.
23. Furniture shop.  
Then greengrocery with living accommodation behind. Cottage let to Frank & Violet Waghorn 1920. Three rooms downstairs with complete upper floor four bedrooms and attic room. Two rooms let to Dr Pearle (Battle) Mon. Wed. Fri. 11am-12.30pm weekly until 1979.
- 23a. Downstairs North side of 23 let by G Lawrence to> Amies the Barber. Rear to Spilstead as a carpenters shop.  
1943. Electrical sales and repairs.  
1957. Whole property bought by Ruth Waghorn who continued to let 23a to R N French Electrics  
1979. Converted for use as a surgery until 1987  
1987. Restored as one property 23 by Ruth Waghorn
- Alleyway to drinking water stream.  
Access to Hoadley Terrace
- 21-15 Cottages demolished  
1970s (Michael French) Replaced with new block
- 21  
19-15 Electrics R N French now 21 Rented,  
19-17 Chemist, Dentist,  
15 Various shops now Travel agent  
13. Blacksmith Mr Hook, Then antiques. Then café. Now Indian restaurant
- Alleyway to drinking water stream  
2 cottages in alleyway condemned 30s  
Over bridge was an Orchard and allotments. Now Pelhams.
11. Bridge House  
9,7,5,3. Row of four cottages  
9&7 now one house.  
1. Cottage.

## Fair Lane - East Street

Blacksmith behind 7 Stars Mr Simmons  
Mission Room and Guide Hut old Guide Hut demolished to make room for the new vicarage (Guides to new Hut at the Grove)  
Allotments  
Wesleyan Chapel and schoolroom. Now flats  
Shop General goods Acott & Lawrence now the dentist.  
The Fair Field. Site for cattle fair and fun fair every September. Now Primary school.  
Gravel Pit now site of Travellers homes.  
Allotments

## Station Road - North side

Builders Bennetts and yard

Steps down to drinking water stream. First bridge

Corn Merchant Burgess Toy Factory now Bat factory

Area now Culverwells

Electrical Goods R N French mid 1930s (Small lock up shop at entrance)

Undertakers and funeral directors Cecil French. Large building making of and storage of coffins.

Coal Merchants Huxford, Day and Weston.

Allotments

Station goods yard with sidings for K&ESX. Railway Building now Garden machine centre.

(Cattle pens for cattle that often were sent by train (market days)

Allotments for station staff

Main line station for London and Hastings

Post came on the 6am train collected by two postmen on their bikes!! Parcel post 11am train. Fish delivered twice weekly from London

Dairy. Milk dispatched in churns.

Replaced with Bungalow Stores, a small general shop and tea rooms. Replaced 2000. Two semi detached houses.

## Station Road - South Side

1-4 Ellis Cottages - Number 1 sold Sunday papers Mrs Glyde

Working Mens Club and Institute Hall. Latter used for all village events including weekly travelling cinema this was discontinued post 1950s

Cottage by bridge stream.

Paper and sweet shop Mr Croft Later various owners closed 2004

Motor bikes and cycles sold and repaired. Petrol? Paraffin

New Cycle Shop built for Mr Aubrey Clark post WW2

Mr & Mrs Holloway rented West part of the house and she let the front room to visiting Tailor/ Raymond Blakely twice a week.

Ostrich Hotel & Stables owned for some time by Eber Waghorn (Ruth's father born here)

Garage Mr Chandler Petrol Paraffin, New cars & and repairs. Enlarged post war. Demolished 2000

Now 4 cottages Railway Mews

Stennings Timber Yard & Stables. Office in house (Firefield) site of yard now houses Mill Rise

Darvell hospital sanatorium for treatment of people suffering from T B

## High Sreet - East Side

Even numbers, starting at Grove Farm.

Entrance to Farm buildings. Grove Farm. Milk and cream sold from stand Steve Comber  
The Grove Dr Blomfield and later his widow lived at The Grove Bought by Dr Maxwell for the Youth  
of the parish

Still Youth club - Youth club and Parish office

Village Fire Engine stored on premises

56. Saddler (and recipient for parcels sent by bus) Mr Burchett

Later antiques,

Now a bookshop.

54. Printer Whitings business continued by Frank Brett.

Now private house.

46. Little Shop Mr Morphet .

Later various shops,

Now a private house

48. General Stores Mr Hills

Later Dray

Then Fuller.

Now private house

46. The Robertsbridge Stores Mr& Mrs Langford

Later Mr Scotcher

Now private house

Westminster Bank was next door.

General shop & Animal feeds.

Later clothes

Then shoes

Now private houses

Congregational Chapel

Now called United Reform Church

Seven Stars Public House

Private house

Now flats

Baptist Chapel and Cottage.

Cottage demolished 1940s

28. General shop and China Mr Baldwin

Barber Mr Hopperton

Later greengrocer R& B King

Now Florist

24. Sweet Shop Mrs Burchett

Later Clock shop.

Clothes shop.

Private house.

? known as the The Hat Box Mrs Carter.

Later Barbers.

Still Hairdressers

22. Post Office Mr & Mrs Pascoe

Mr Richardson etc

20. Drapers Mr & Mrs Carter.

Betty Latham.

Eileen & George Coman.

Gwen Taylor.

Now Florist

## High Street – East Side (Continued)

14. Paint shop and house Mr Whitwick builder.  
Wheelwrights and Blacksmith Mr Beeney  
Area now houses  
Alleyway to Prince Albert Terrace  
12 & 10. House & Garage Mr & Mrs Bonfield and Son Allan.  
Petrol, New Cars and repairs  
4 Cottages  
Stream

## North Bridge Street - East Side

Tin Tabernacle in the field next to cottages.  
2-8 High Street.  
Mr and Mrs Ripley Scrap metal etc.  
Originally they lived in a caravan but in the early 30s bought a railway coach which was set up on a wooden platform with steps up to it. It was lovely.  
In the first of three cottages (now demolished) Mr&Mrs Woodgate (local chimney sweep)  
In the second ?  
In the third Mr and Mrs Osbourne. They opened and closed the gates across the road for the Rother trains. There were three trains daily. Section of this bought for use with mill when Dr. Beeching closed the line to Tenterden.  
Mr & Mrs Bates Market Gardener  
Grocer Mr&Mrs Ticehurst daily deliveries  
Sweet shop and tea room Mrs Harmer  
Salehurst School Mr Potter (Head). 1949 Mr Wawne Headmaster.  
Addition of two prefab classrooms for the teaching of Woodwork and Home Economics, Over 11s from Hurstgreen, Etchingam, Burwash, Bodiam with Ewhurst & Sedlescombe each bussed in for one days tuition per week. All over 11 year olds to new school 1954  
Garage, Petrol and car repairs. Mr Gasson  
Bantony Farm

## North Bridge Street - West Side

By Rother railway was a clock menders little shop  
Hodsons Flour Mill.  
Vue Valaise Mr Brett Stonemason (work still in evidence at St Mary's churchyard)  
NEW The ~~How~~ Eight Bells Public House (Grandfather Waghorn was the publican before moving to the Ostrich.)  
Three cottages. The middle was the Policeman's house Mr Simmons.  
Brook side. The two Miss Neales. This was a little private school. They also gave music and dancing lessons and had Teddy Bears picnics in the coppice behind the house.

## Salehurst

The Vicarage

Salehurst St Mary's Church and graveyard

Post Office Terrace with Post Office and general shop Mr Harris

DL) Eight Bells public House

OLD

### **Occupations Mode of transport Walking, cycling? Motor bike.**

**Farm workers** were employed on the numerous farms in the locality.

**Gypsum mines** at Mountfield.

**Timber yard**, Men worked at the yard care of horses used to pull the timber tugs, sawyers, office staff etc.

**Cricket bat factory**

**Toy Factory Station Road**

**Undertakers**

**Coal merchants** Deliveries etc.

**Railway station**, Goods yard staff, porters, signal men, gangers, office staff,

**Sanatorium** Nurses, cooks and domestics. Gardeners.

**Large houses** all employed gardeners and maintenance staff

**4 Garages**. employed mechanics, pump attendants, office staff.

**Local shops**, Deliveries, shop assistants, Bakery staff to make and sell bread.

**Road men gangs** employed to maintain given areas and hedges etc.

**Staff for local pubs and hotels (George, Ostrich)**

**Domestic staff and cleaners**