

High Street Stony Stratford

Even Numbers

Number	Name	Previous business	Notes, Comments and Gossip
	Dance Studio, Myra Tiffin Performing Arts School	The Public Hall	Kelly's Directory 1939 lists Mr S. Benbow as Secretary for the Public Hall. It was originally The British School (for children whose parents were non-Conformist), headmistress Miss Plumb, who resided at No 36 High St. There was also a dressmaking business in one of the upstairs rooms. Kelly's Directory 1915 records a Mr James W Smith as secretary for the Public Hall. The Public Hall also housed The Wolverton & Stony Stafford District New Tramway Co. Ltd waiting room and parcels office.
2b	Rags Ladies Clothes Shop (est 1994)	N C Benbow and Sons Bakers c1950/60s	Listed in Kelly's Directory 1939 as a bakers with coffee and cake café, proprietors Mr Reg and Alice Benbow, with his father Mr Nimrod Benbow, who moved from premises at No 40 High Street in 1908. Previous to their occupation it was owned by Mr Henry Perrins, a harnessmaker and saddler, possibly before the premises was divided into two properties.
2a	Chesneys Hair Salon	Benbows Bakers and Confectioners (second half of original premises)	Listed in Kelly's Directory 1937 as part No 2 High Street, trading as Benbows Bakers with Confectionery, coffee and cake café. Mr Reg Benbow and his wife moved from No 40 High street in 1908 With his father Mr Nimrod Benbow. Previously the occupant of No 2 High Street was a Mr Henry Perins, Harnessmaker and Saddler. The premises were also rumoured to have been occupied by a cordwainer/ropes business, possibly before the division of the shop into two properties. There is a suggestion that it was previously Aslam's Book Shop and possibly a Pine Furniture shop.
4	Barovic - Jewellers	Freshfields Traditional Greengrocers	Kelly's Directory 1939 refers to a Fras. Drage trading as a greengrocer. Records also show a Fisher's Fruit and Vegetable shop. C1950/60 a Mrs Rita Hill lived at the property and ran a greengrocery shop. The names Cody Jones (fishshop) and Parkers, Brittens and Cliff Marshall (saddler) are also associated with these premises.
6	Woodstocks Artisan Bakery	Jones and Son. Baxters Butchers for London Central Meat Company c1950/60s	C1950/60s the premises were occupied by the London Central Meat Company and run by Mr Les Stewart, who lived at No 18 High Street. In the 1950/60s Jones & Son were said to be trading as Greengrocers and Fishmonger at the premises. Kelly's Directory 1939 records a Mrs Minnie Rogers, Fried Fish Dealer, trading from this property.
8	Meraki Hair and Beauty	Party Mad - fancy dress shop. Meads Ladies Clothing shop c1958. Liam Ivers picture framing	Removal of the shop nameplate revealed a previous photographer's premises by the name of Liam Ivers 'Picture Framing and Fine Art'. Reference is also noted of Miss Hassall's Toy and China Shop trading at these premises. The names Cody Jones (Fishshop) and Parkers Brittens and Cliff Marshall (Saddler) are also associated with these premises. A shop dealing with ladies clothes possibly called 'Underhills' has been mentioned and a shop called Wests selling shoes, possibly an offshoot of Wickens. An advert c1970s refers to Vanity Flair, ladies fashion shop, in this property. This could possibly have moved to a larger shop at No. 90 High Street, under different ownership, with a change of name to Fashion Flair. Kelly's Directory 1907 records an Ann J. Pacey as shopkeeper.

10	H. Green & Son Quality Butchers	H. Green & Son, Est.1905 also known as Porky Greens Pork Butchers in past.	Kelly's Directory 1939 records Green & Sons as butchers. Grandparents were reputed to sit in shop preparing pork pies which were baked over the road at Haseldines bakers.
12	Oxfam Shop	Lampitts (Wolverton) Ltd (electrical shop) at these premises c1950/60s.	Kelly's Directory 1939 refers to Mr Frank Hassell as a Glassware and China dealer and toys at No 12. He was also known to visit the villages with cups and china hanging on hooks on his horse and cart. There is also record of Jesse Savage, shopkeeper, at no 12a High St. Also noted is the LCM Butchers at these premises.
14	Empty - September 2020	Morgan Guilder Interiors and Furniture Specialists. Wilymans Chemists c1950/60s	Kelly's Directory 1939 records James William Smith, Chemists and Druggists and the property. Mention has also been made of Iron Gates and Railings across the entrance to The Retreat.
14-16	Entry to the Retreat	Private homes (Almshouses) consisting of 5 properties and courtyard.	Prior to 1892 The Retreat was the site of a medieval Guild, which was reputedly followed by the Red Lion Inn c1600s, then becoming the workhouse for the Parish of St Mary Magdalene, erected by William Fred Woollard for the use of 'the aged and the worthy poor'. St Mary's Workhouse was rebuilt in 1740 and demolished in 1892. It stands on the site of a Monastic house, portions of which have been built into the courtyard walls, which retained the original window, piscena and door jamb from the Monastery. Miss Plumb, (headmistress of The British School at No 34 High St) records this area as a Monastery in c1240. Mention has been made of Iron Gates and Railings across the entrance to The Retreat.
16	D W Roberts Optometrists Est 1967	Grafton Cycles c1950/60s.	Records show No 16 was occupied by The Grafton Cycle shop around 1950s. Mention also made of Lampitts Electrical Goods at these premises and in 1940. Kelly's Directory 1939 records Arthur John Elliott as an electrical engineer operating from this address. it is reported that Chipperfields Ironmongers of No 38 High St used this shop window for display purposes. Hamleys Furniture was also associated with the property. It has been noted that a property, No 16b, was occupied by a Mr P Reed in 1881 and in 1842-47 by a Mr Edward Pearman, watchmaker. In 1881 It was occupied by Henry Newton (?), coal merchant. In 1935 it was occupied by Lampitts & Elliot (electrical shop).
18	Spadini Oro Jewellers	Kitty Blewett's Wool shop c1950/60s.	Kitty Blewett (nee Webb) was married to Mr Les Stewart and they lived in the private residence of this building. Mr Les Stewart was the manager of the London Central Meat Company (known as Baxters Butchers. premises at No 8 High St) Kelly's Directory 1939 reports Mrs Rosina Webb as having an art, needlework repository at no 18 High St.
18	Skills Picture Framing and Art Materials	Private residence	See alternate No 18 (Spadini Oro Jewellery)

20	Café Latte	Robins Butchers. E R Albans Newsagents c1950/60s.	At one time the property was Higgs Butchers, who advertised in 1939 'Higgs Family Butchers for pickled tongues and corned beef, noted for sausages. All home killed'. Kelly's Directory 1939 records W.H Smith & Son Ltd Booksellers trading at No 20 High St. It later became Clay's Butchers after E R Albans Newsagents. Mrs Maria Cecile Eaton also had a connection with this property. Reputed to be a 'ticket office' but not known for what.
22	Christos Unisex Hair Fashions (est 1990)	At the rear of these premises is Betts & Faulkner Builders and Undertakers yard.	William Sydney Parrott lived in the premises and had his offices here. Reference is also made to Messrs. Horwood and James, Solicitors, who also practiced at these premises according to a 1970s advertisement. Kelly's Directory 1939 records a Mr James Owen at the property.
24	Private residence	Private residence	There is a reference in Kelly's Directory 1915 of a Mr William Howe running a fried fish business in these premises. It is known to have belonged to Mr J Betts of Betts & Faulkners (builders). There is also mention of 'the tenant being Freddie Aveline'. An advertisement c1970 refers to Mr A G Barlow, running a decorating business from the yard at the back of the property. At that time it was Nos. 24 and 24a. The original frontage to this property, on the left side of the main entrance, showed an entrance to a small shop. Mrs Pam Egan, provider of much information for this article, is daughter of Mr A G Barlow and Mrs K Barlow. She advised that her mother's wallpaper and decorating supply shop was situated on the left of the front door of these premises. The frontage was eventually removed and is exhibited in The Stony Stratford Street feature at the Milton Keynes Museum.
26	Private residence	Originally part of The Rose and Crown Inn c1600.	Recorded on the 11 September 1936 in the Wolverton Express, is notation of a Tudor wall paintings in the property, Painted for Michael Hipwell 1610', which information was given by Miss Plumb, headmistress of the British School at No 34 High St. The property was recorded as an inn in c1600, and was later occupied by a charity with a school and a resident schoolmaster for many years. c1950/60s this historic Inn was a private residence and the business address of Mr Betts, owner of the Betts & Faulkners Building Contractors with the builders yard at the back of the property. Historically the Rose & Crown Inn was the overnight resting place in 1483 for the Princes on their way to London, accompanied by their uncle Richard Duke of Gloucester (who became King Richard III) prior to their disappearance.
28	Private residence	Part of The Rose and Crown Inn c.1600	The property was recorded as an inn in c1600, and was later occupied by a charity with a school and a resident schoolmaster for many years. c1950/60s this former historic Inn was a private residence and the business address of Mr Betts, part of the Betts & Faulkners Building Contractors, with the builders yard at the back of the property. Historically, the Rose & Crown Inn was the overnight resting place in 1483 by the Royal Princes on their way to London accompanied by their uncle, Richard Duke of Gloucester, prior to their disappearance. A further door in this building is marked 32A and listed as Brock Chocolates.

30	Willen Hospice Bookshop	Shoe Shop c1970s name unknown. Andrews Jewellers. Peacocks Bazaar (1d bazaar).	C1950/60s it housed Peacocks Bazaar (known as the '1d Bazaar'). It was also a shoe shop (name unknown) This property is part of a large building and incorporates nos. 30 and 30A and No 32. It was erected in in 1819 to rehouse an existing school, (at the rear of The Rose and Crown), then becoming the National School. It was enlarged and rebuilt in 1858. In the early 1900s it became St Giles and St. Mary's School and also the Church of England School for Boys in 1910, (the girls having attended at what is now The Plough Inn at the top of the High St, on the corner with Wolverton Road). During this time It is listed that a Mr. Baldock was Head Master, Mr Toms, (church organist), Jack McLeod, Miss Plumb and Ms Patterson were all teachers at the school. Kelly's Directory 1939 mentions Green's Stores (Ilford) Ltd Provision Merchants (grocers).
30A	Entrance to upstairs offices.		
32	The Royal Thai Restaurant	The Gateway Building Society. The Penny Bazaar otherwise known as Peacocks Bazaar c1950/60s.	This property is part of a larger building and incorporates nos. 30, 30A and No 32. Prior to the division it was St Giles Church of England School for Boys in early 1900s. This could also have been known as Frederick Ancell's School. There is also record of nos. 30, 30A, 32 being built in 1858 to accommodate 150 children known as The British School for Children of Non-Conformist Church Members under the guidance of Headmaster Archibald Lang. Kelly's Directory 1939 mentions Hooton Bros. Bazaar at no 32 High St, trading as Peacocks Bazaar. Miss Plumb, headmistress of The British School at No 34, has also reported Mrs Bailey's Greengrocers (everything sold in tubs), at the property.
	ENTRANCE TO SWAN YARD		
34	Kardamon Lounge Bangladeshi and Indian Restaurant	c1950s/80s this was The (Old) White Swan Inn. Changed to Stratford Arms in the 1990s.	First established as an inn in 1877. It was run by Mr Thomas Amos (a butcher) in 1899 (possibly to 1914). In the 50/60s it was fondly referred to as 'The Mucky Duck'. Kelly's Directory 1939 records a Mr Edgar George Toombs as landlord of the property. 1907 and 1911 Kelly's Driectory notes the White Swan as No. 32.

36	Taylors Estate Agents (since 1973)	Mr Meakins Barber's Shop c1950/60s.	At one time a Private House - a Miss Webb, (related to a Miss Hally of New Street who was reportedly lost on the Titanic) has been mentioned in connection with the property and also Rev. Christie, vicar of St. Giles. Rev. Sankey, the new vicar of St. Giles in 1851, decided to use No 36 as his vicarage for a couple of years. The building is reputed also to have housed various different traders, (including a Mrs. Plumb, headmistress of the British School in the Public Hall), namely a baker and confectioner (other sources mention a William Marlow as baker and confectioner). In early 1900s it was occupied by Harry Yates, builder and later, Miss Mole, Mr and Mrs Kenny and Dr. E. Witheridge (Kelly's Directory 1911 lists Mrs Emerton). Edward Swinfen Harris (the renown local architect) was born here on 30th July 1841 (died 1924). Records show that the family moved to 'Back Lane', now Vicarage Road. Swinfen Harris began education at Belvedere Academy at Old Stratford, then in Leicester as a boarder. He then qualified as an architect and returned to Stony Stratford where he built Calverton Limes, which became the Working Mens Club, c1950/60s. He married in 1870 at Potterspury and lived at 15 Wolverton Road. In 1887 he built and moved into 107 High Street (the old doctors Surgery c.1950s/60s) which was then called Rothenburg House. It has been recorded that the house was used as the vicarage for St. Giles Church for a time.
38	British Red Cross Shop (est 1994)	Calladine & Allen Shoe Shop	Kelly's Directory 1939 refers to the property as Calladine & Son, Boot and Shoe Makers. The proprietor was Mr Allens, with boot and shoe repairers at the rear. The 1915 directory also lists Calladine's. It is also noted that a Mrs Amos hired out pony and traps for outings from these premises. An advert c1970 referred to No 39 as belonging to Mr. L (Len) H Dewick, (est. 1920) specialist in television installation, TV rental and catering for all electrical repairs and maintenance, alongside No 40 High Street.
40	Cobblers and Vape Shop	Dewicks Radio and Television Electrical Shop (est 1920) c1950/60s.	Kelly's Directory 1939 refers to Mr Leonard Harry Dewick as an electrical engineer. Historically, he has also been identified as serving at Bletchley Park during WW2. Mrs Pam Egan remembers her father taking radio batteries to be recharged at Mr Dewick's shop. It was also the premises for Mr Yate's bakery and sweets from 1915 to 1932 (buns ½d each). Also listed at this property, are a Mr Nimrod and Alice Benbow, confectioners, having taken over from Shepherds Bakers. Mr. and Mrs Benbow traded as Bennie Confection in 1894. He then transformed the premises into a new Bakery and Tea shop and later moved to No 2 High Street and pursued their trade and added a coffee shop. Nimrod Benbow died in 1943 and his two sons, Stanley and Reginald took over as bakers. This was also mentioned as the site of Callandines Shoe shop (but was possibly next door). It has also been noted as a Photographers shop, and a Pawnbrokers in the past. According to an advert, c1970, Mr L H Dewick's electrical business (est. 1920) operated from Nos 38 and 40 High Street.

	NEW STREET	Some time previously known as Ram Alley (which followed the course of New Street).	All the properties in New Street were acquired by the Reverend William Sankey, a man of considerable personal wealth who spent a great deal of it improving Stony Stratford. New Street, the Vicarage and St Paul's College were all built at his expense in 1861.
42	Bianchi Cycle Shop	Galleon Wine Shop. Robbies Sweet Shop and Tobacconists Shop c1950/60s	C1970s advert shows proprietor Mr D & E W Robbie, sweetshop and tobacconists. Kelly's Directory 1939 records a Miss Lilian D Gidman as Tobacconist at No 42 and 44 High Street. At one time it was advertised as Empire Tobacco and Cigar Stores (with fancy goods, clocks and jewellery at No 44). It is possible there was also an antique and stamps shop at the property and records and cassettes have a connection.
44	Bianchi Cycle Shop	Galleon Wine Shop. Robbies Sweet Shop and Tobacconists c1950/60s.	Proprietor Mr D. Robbie. The premises were also referred to at one time as Mr Amos' Tobacconists and Sweet Shop. Prior to this there is reference to Gidmans Tobacconist at No 44 combined with a Sweet Shop at No 42. Kelly's Directory 1939 records a Miss Lilian D Gidman as Tobacconist at nos. 42 and 44 High St.
46	Coral bookmakers	Arthur Young & Co Ltd Bookmakers Est 1962.	During the 1950s/60s era there was Pugh's Butchers at this property, where they slaughtered their animals on the premises. Kelly's Directory 1939 reports Valentine & Sons, butchers at no 46. There was also Animal Fare Pet Food and Equipment Suppliers at this property and according to an advert, No 46a was listed as Greenway's Commission Agents Ltd. An advert c1970s refers to Val's Pet Shop at this property.
48	Private residence 'Shell House'	Possibly a previous Antique Shop	The shell shaped porch is Queen Anne style. Carvins the Butchers from No 2 High St lived here.
50	Bekash Indian Restaurant	Clewetts Ladies Outfitters c1950/60 Proprietress Mrs Adelaide Clewett	Kelly's Directory 1939 records a Mrs Adelaide Clewett trading as a Ladies' Outfitter from this address, also selling childrens' clothes and babywear.
52	First Class Chinese Restaurant	Florentine Restaurant, Freckles Restaurant, Ruby Tuesday Restaurant, Moffats Restaurant (not necessarily in that order).	Mrs H J Brooks Ladies Outfitters c1950/60. Mention has also been made of an Edith Hall trading as a Ladies Outfitter in these premises. Previously it has housed 'Art' Reuben Elms, drapers (Kelly's Directory 1915).
54	Telegraph House Offices	Offices accessed from alleyway known as Telegraph Walk.	c1950/60s Mrs Pam Egan records No 54 as Adam Barnes House. She also refers to the Postmaster as Mr Calendine. Pam Egan refers also to the Prince of Wales' Equery stopping here to telephone Melton Mowbray for the hunters to be ready for his arrival.
	TELEGRAPH WALK	Offices accessed from alleyway known as Telegraph Walk.	

56	On The High Street Gift Shop	Shoe shop. The Post Office	Before this property became the Post Office the original post office was next door, at No 58, possibly from the beginning of the 1900s. Kelly's Directory 1939 records Mr George Edward Waymark as a Distributor at The Post Office and also a Mr Frank Jones as a Distributor) The Post Office premises closed c1980s? In c2012 it became a shoe shop which closed c2018.
58	India Arts	The Stani Art House. The Sports Centre. Michael's Menswear. Read's Fish and Chip Shop	Mr C E Read (affectionately known as 'Fishy Read') ran a fish and chips shop and also sold wet fish. There was a very small cafe. Kelly's Directory 1939 lists a Mrs Elizabeth Ann Read, Fried Fish dealer. In early 1900s the Post Office operated at this property and Kelly's Directory 1915 records the premises as The Stamp Office with Mr George Edward Waymark, Distributor. The Post Office moved to No 56 High Street next door.
60	Odell & Co Ironmongers		Kitchenware shop which is part of the existing Odell's Ironmongers premises. At the turn of the 1900s this property, which was built in 1600s, became the home of the Odell family when they purchased nos.. 62 and 64 to trade as ironmongers (est. 1740). It has been noted that the family could be seen eating their dinner in the front room at lunchtime. Kelly's Directory 1939 refers to Mr James Odell as ironmonger at nos. 60 & 62 High Street.
62	Odell & Co Ironmongers	c1950/60 Odell & Co Ironmongers	Established family business with Mr Lionel and Mr John Odell (twins) Mrs Audrey Odell and her Husband Mr Stan Beardmore. Expansion of the premises at rear in early 21st century - Odells Yard - incorporating offices above, with various small businesses: The French Affaire (previously Camerons Restaurant); The Greek Affaire; The Knife and Cork (formerly Stony Wines).
64-66	The Bull Hotel	Established c1700. T	Reputed to exist from the beginning of the 1700s. Kelly's Directory 1939 records this property as The Bull Commercial Hotel with proprietress as Mrs Dorothy Clair Knight. An advertisement c1970s depicts E & M Howell & Son as operating from part of this address, 64a, as printers. Mary Hawley has an association with this property. In the days when criminals were extradited to Australia, some stayed overnight at the Bull Hotel on their way to Tasmania, according to Miss Plumb, Headmistress of The British School for Children of Non-Conformist Parents at No 34 High St. The premises were also recorded as being the property of the Radcliffe Trust until 1802, when it was sold to Mr Harrison at a public Sale in 1821. During the 1950/60s an unused, locked room on the ground floor of the premises was opened up to reveal that it was crammed from floor to ceiling with horse tack and farming implements from the beginning of the last century. It was cleared and some items retained and the management opened up the room as The Vaults Bar. Prior to the opening of the room the premises at the front on the High Street was occupied by Mr R W Filsell, trading in watches and jewellery (Kelly's Directory 1939). Mr Filsell was a pilot in the 1st World War. It is also noted that a Mrs Dot Knight was at one time the landlady of The Bull, having been the last landlady at The Rising Sun when it closed at 131 High Street. The proprietor of the Bull was Mr Paul Waring c1950/60s (possibly in partnership with Mr Howard Willis).

68	Stony Stratford Surgery - Milton Keynes Veterinary Group	Castles Government Surplus Stores. International Stores UK c1950/60s	Ex-Army Surplus Stores established 1968 and operated until April 2019. Kelly's Directory 1939 records the International Tea Company's Stores Ltd at this address, the possible proprietor being Mr Bence? It has also been suggested that brothers, Mr Julian and Mr Quentin Rose managed the shop for a year or two. Mrs Russell is also mentioned. The premises also housed Drage & Meakins grocery shop at one time. The premises are also reputed to have become a motorcycle shop called <u>Keyne Machine</u> .
68A + B	Entrance to upstairs offices - Hickeson Boyce, Chartered Certified Accountants	Keens, Shay, Keens & Co	
70a	The Haven Centre for Well Being and Boutique Organica		
70	Carpetwise (est 1993)	Rudds Florists Shop c1950/60s	Mrs Rudd was assisted in her florists shop by her son Sam who was an exceptionally highly trained horticulturist and florist. He was also a very well known character in the High Street c1950/60. Kelly's Directory 1939 lists a Bertie Jn. Rudd, Fruiterer, as occupying the premises. Also noted in an advertisement c1970s is a Mr H S Baker & Co. at this address. It is possible that Lampitt & Elliotts also traded from this address.