

with Gambriel's for green grocery and Suttons seeds for the gardens. One of the oldest shops was Gingers delicatessen, which being a listed building, is still with us today as an estate agent's office. The post office still remains but the International Stores, Hunton & Son estate agents and the veterinary surgeon have gone. The dental surgery at Wynstar has gone but the house remains at the eastern end of the High Street.

gy, a Bracknell resident, worked at the post office recounts memories of the church being pulled down and the graves dug up. The War Memorial to the fallen of the two World Wars was moved from its location at the western end of the High Street to the entrance of Princess Square.

BRACKNELL HIGH STREET: A SNAPSHOT IN TIME

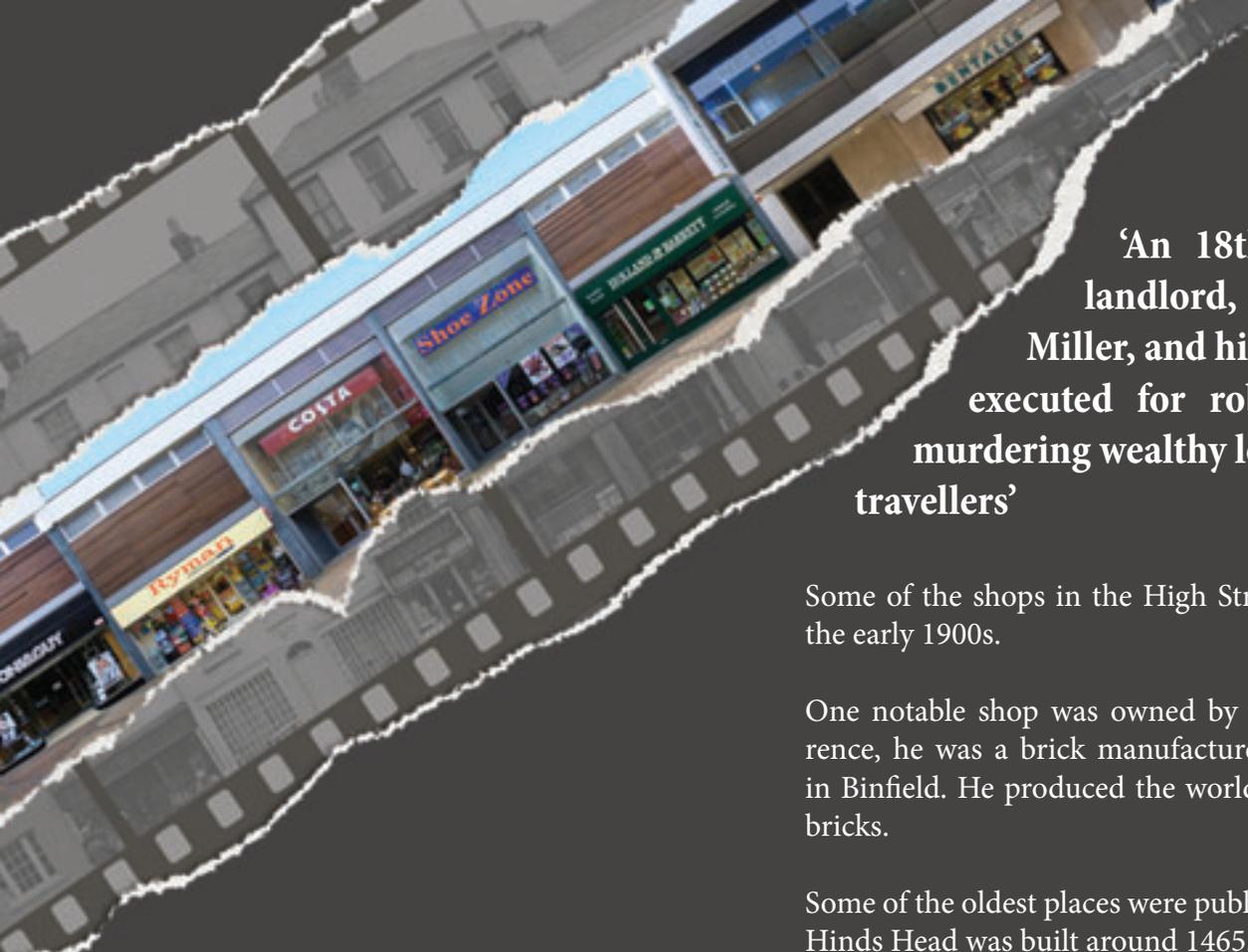
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In 1798, due to the “general depravity” of the inhabitants of Bracknell, nonconformists established a church in a house. Following persecution by some of the locals the first chapel was erected on the High Street site in 1808. This was replaced in 1859 by the Congregational Church now featured. This was demolished in 1968. Peg-

*Written by U3A Bracknell Forrest Local History Group.
Photographs of old Bracknell belong to the Bracknell
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Bracknell Highstreet: A snapshot in time is a Bracknell
Forest Council exhibition in association with U3A and
South Hill Park. Leaflet designed by Kate Ratcliffe*





‘An 18th Century landlord, Richard Miller, and his wife were executed for robbing and murdering wealthy lone travellers’

Some of the shops in the High Street date from the early 1900s.

One notable shop was owned by Thomas Lawrence, he was a brick manufacturer at his kilns in Binfield. He produced the world famous TLB bricks.

Some of the oldest places were public houses. The Hinds Head was built around 1465. An 18th century landlord, Richard Miller, and his wife were executed for robbing and murdering wealthy lone travellers. They murdered their victims by plying them with alcohol before opening a trapdoor in the guest bedroom which plummeted into a deep well.

The Old Manor dates from Tudor times and features priest holes. Rumour has it there was a tunnel from the Hinds Head to the Old Manor to allow criminals a means of escape.

The Bull is a Grade II listed building thought to date from the early 1400s. There are visible signs

of the 17th century structure; the original timbers can be seen on the Bull Lane side of the building.

The Red Lion is also very old. Queen Victoria stopped here briefly on 20th January 1845 to change horses while on her way to visit the Duke of Wellington at Stratfield Saye. Another public house, The Prince of Wales, stood where the Crossway was built and to date we have no photograph of it. The Forest Hotel was acquired by Dr Edward Fielden as a private residence and later became a youth club. The only part remaining is the clock which is now in a tower above a suite of serviced offices.



Looking at the makeup of the shops and businesses in the High Street in the 1950s it can be seen that everything was catered for. Cissie Simmons in her publication “A Berkshire Lady” reminisces that for the working man Mr Young’s shop was the place, likewise “Snell’s” shop was for the working girls. Mr Stewart was the chemist; Mrs Twidell was toys; Gale and Jordan’s meat and fish. Mr Rimes was a shoe-maker and Frisby’s a boot and shoe shop. Home and Colonial (part of the previous Thomas Lawrence shop) was a food store

New Bracknell was a single street known as Bracknell Street, and was recorded as such on 17th century maps. By 1790, Thomas Pride’s map shows buildings on either side of the street. Older residents today still refer to the High Street as Bracknell Street.

Prior to the re-development in the 1950s and 1960s, the High Street was the A329, carrying all traffic between Ascot and Wokingham. The railway through Bracknell was completed in 1859 and the population between 1861 and 1901 doubled.