

Axminster's General Food Shops and Wine Merchants

Introduction

This document covers a range of food shops, other than bakers and butchers (which are dealt with separately). It also covers more specialist wine merchants.

The following information is drawn almost entirely from published trade directories. Whereas a listing on a specified date means that the business concerned was almost certainly active as recorded, the absence of a listing could be an error or omission, and the careful guidance that 'absence of evidence should not be regarded as evidence of absence' applies.

The places and occupations of all named individuals can be assumed from the headings.

Market Place

Grocers

The only grocer listed on Market Place was William Charles Tytherleigh, in 1889. His main business was on Castle Hill (see below).

Castle Street

Grocers

In 1856 Isaac Dare was described as a beer retailer and shopkeeper (probably but not necessarily a grocer) based at the Phoenix Inn.

Greengrocers and fishmongers

Frederick K Enticott was a greengrocer on Castle Street in 1889.

In 1926 Frederick J T Arnold was a fruiterer as well as running the Phoenix Inn, while Frederick William Enticott was listed as a greengrocer that same year.

Castle Hill

Grocers

William Willmott was a grocer and tea dealer from 1844 until 1856. He was later also a baker and confectioner with the Misses Mary and Elizabeth Willmott.

John Tytherleigh was a grocer, cheesemonger and tea dealer from 1838 until 1857. In the later years he also dealt in hardware.

Susannah Dare sold groceries and sundries from 1844 to 1850, while William Blackmore was a grocer, tea dealer and coal dealer from 1850 to 1857.

William Slyfield combined a business selling stationery and postal services with groceries in 1856. He later moved to Victoria Place.

William Charles Tytherleigh was an ironmonger and grocer in 1870 and 1890, but in 1873 was only listed as an ironmonger. (In 1889 he also had a shop in Market Place.)

Samuel Hencher was a cheese merchant and shopkeeper in 1879. He continued in business as a cheese dealer until 1883, but does not appear to have retained the shop.

Other grocers and produce merchants who were listed once only on Castle Hill were Samuel Loud (1878); Joseph Collard (1883), Mrs Jane Loud (1890); A Wide & Co (1923); W&E Blight (1935); and Axminster & District Cooperative Stores (1939).

Greengrocers and fishmongers

George Palmer was a fruiterer in 1866. Samuel Enticott and Frank Enticott were both listed in 1890 as fruiterers, but in 1893 Samuel was described as a 'marine store dealer' (i.e. fishmonger). He later moved to South Street.

William Palmer had a fish and fruit shop listed on Castle Hill in most directories from 1890 until 1910, and in later years he also sold hardware. However, in both 1889 and 1893 the address was given as Poplar Mount (between Chard Street and North Street) rather than Castle Hill.

Jesse Oliver Chapple was a greengrocer from 1926 to 1930, followed by Albert Hawkins in 1939.

Wine merchants

Thomas Whitty Hallett was a wine and spirits merchant on Castle Hill with a substantial business. He had been there some time by the time of the first directory listing in 1838, and remained until his death in 1848.

He was succeeded by George Westlake Mitchell (1856 to 1866), who then merged his business to form Mitchell, Turner & Co (listed in 1870, with other outlets in Seaton and Lyme Regis). From 1873 to 1883 the business was badged as James Turner & Co.

Richard Southwood & Co then had a wine and spirits merchant's business on Castle Hill from 1893 to 1923 (he died in 1824).

From 1926 to 1939 Carr & Quick, an Exeter-based firm of wine and spirits merchants, beer bottlers and cider manufacturers, apparently ran their wine and spirits business from the Castle Inn (which is usually described as being in Market Place, though the directory listings all give their address as Castle Hill).

Victoria Place

Grocers

William Slyfield had a general shop on Victoria Place from 1870 until 1883 which sold some groceries, and in particular tea.

Henry White was a grocer and butter merchant from 1878 to 1889, and in the later years also sold wine and described his shop as a draper's. He was followed (1890 to 1906) by John William Aplin, who sold groceries and wine as well as describing himself as a provisions dealer and supplier of glass and china.

Edwin Dawkins is understood to have started his business in the 1880s, but was only listed in directories as a grocer, draper and ironmonger in 1893 and for a short while thereafter. By 1902 the word grocer no longer appeared in the description of his business, which went on to become one of the two largest shops in Axminster.

John Morris was a grocer and draper in 1906. Then from 1910 until 1939 William Trump (later Trump's Stores) sold groceries, wine and confectionery. Trump's Stores also had outlets in Seaton, Colyton, Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary.

Trinity Square

Grocers

John Daniels was a grocer who also sold sundries in 1844. After a long gap William Hayman was in business as a draper and grocer from 1870 until 1883. He was followed by Thomas George Batstone & Co (1889 to 1893), whose emphasis increasingly shifted to that of a draper and outfitter.

From 1914 to 1919 William Joseph Harris (who had previously been described as a baker, like his mother before him) was listed as a grocer. By 1923 the business name was W J Harris & Son, and as well as groceries they sold wine and had a café. The grocery and wine shop remained a feature of Trinity Square until the 1990s.

Dairies

From 1923 to 1939 Axe Vale & Thames Valley Creameries Ltd had a wholesale dairy and egg business at the point where Trinity Square meets West Street. The business was later re-badged as the Axe Vale Devon Creamery.

Wine merchants

Between 1883 and 1914 Thomas Stone had a wine and spirits merchant's business on Trinity Square. He appears to have started and finished on the Square, but to have moved to premises on West Street during the middle years. From 1906 onwards he also had a cider-making business.

As noted above, W J Harris & Son had a wine shop on Trinity Square from the 1920s to the 1990s.

West Street

Grocers

In 1870 Samuel James French was a grocer and provisions dealer on West Street.

Stanley William Moon & Co was a grocer from 1910 until 1923. The shop was not always listed thereafter, but in 1935 Moon's Stores (proprietor O B Gans) was again listed. In 1939 F G Stuart was named as the proprietor.

Greengrocers and fishmongers

George Restorick, who was also a cattle dealer, had a greengrocer's shop on West Street from 1873 to 1879. He later moved to Lyme Street.

Dairies

The Newbery family (Abraham Skinner Newbery, followed by Isaac Newbery) had a dairy business at the bottom of West Street from 1906 until 1939. They also had shops on South Street and Lyme Street at various times.

Church Street and Silver Street

Grocers

In 1844 Thomas White was described as selling groceries and sundries on Church Street.

South Street

Grocers

John Chapple was a grocer and tea dealer in 1844. He was followed by John Loveridge, a grocer and draper (1850 to 1857); William J Bentley (1866); Thomas Bishop, a provisions dealer (1873) and then Emma Bishop (1878). Mrs Jane Loveridge was also a grocer and draper in 1878 (her relationship, if any, to John Loveridge has not been researched).

James Moore was a photographer and grocer from 1890 to 1902, with the emphasis increasingly on photography at the expense of the grocery business. Over the same period (1890 to 1902) John George Stocker was a grocer and boot dealer.

From 1890 until 1906 James Smyth had a grocery business on South Street as well as on Lyme Street and at the Town Mill. He also sold wine.

Greengrocers and fishmongers

Samuel Enticott & Son was described as a fishmonger from 1902 until 1914, but as a greengrocer from 1923 to 1926. The business is not always listed, but in 1935 Frederick William Enticott was described as a greengrocer, and in 1939 Samuel Enticott & Son was again listed as a general shop. The business was later taken over by Geoffrey Enticott, and remained a feature of South Street until 1991.

H J Sansom was a greengrocer from 1935 to 1939.

Dairies

Abraham Skinner Newbery had a shop selling milk and scald cream on South Street from 1878. The business was later purchased by Salter & Stokes, and operated there until 1902.

Lyme Street

Grocers

Thomas Chapple was a grocer, cheesemonger and tea dealer on Lyme Street from 1838 until 1857. Mrs Lucretia Chapple was listed separately in 1856 and 1857.

James Reece was a grocer and cheesemonger in 1838. He was followed by Sarah Cross (1844 to 1857), described as selling groceries and sundries, and in the later years also described as a draper.

William Hayman was a grocer and draper in 1870, and William Garraway was a grocer and tea dealer from 1870 to 1873.

Richard Rundle was a provisions dealer from 1873 to 1879, as was Miss Emily Rundle in 1883.

James Smyth was a grocer and butter factor from 1878 to 1906 (and he later had several other business lines as well as an outlet on South Street, and was the tenant of the Axminster Town Mill).

Mrs Elizabeth Palmer Lord was a cheese dealer from 1910 to 1919.

James Reginald Smith was a grocer and wine retailer in 1910.

Sydney Sheppard & Co was a grocer from 1914 to 1935. In 1939 Sheppard's Stores were listed with E Webber named as the proprietor.

Greengrocers and fishmongers

Charles Jeans was a greengrocer and fruiterer (and later a saddler) from 1879 to 1889.

George Restorick was a greengrocer and game dealer from 1883 to 1889. He was not listed as a greengrocer thereafter, but was a butcher as well as a game dealer until 1914. In 1919 Miss Emily Restorick was listed as a grocer (as well as a confectioner, which was her main line of business thereafter).

Frank Enticott was a fruiterer from 1893 to 1902.

Dairies

Charles Newbery had a dairy on Lyme Street from 1906 until 1914. He was followed by Hector Loveless in 1923.

Mrs Eliza Jane Hill had a fishmonger's shop from 1914 to 1935. Other fishmongers on Lyme Street were Mrs Elsie Felicia Loud (1919) and Roland Hawkins (1939).

Chard Street

Grocers

T C Cawley was a grocer and cheesemonger on Chard Street in 1838.

Solomon Newbery was a grocer from 1850 to 1866. He was succeeded (apparently after a gap) by Miss Mary Newbery, described as a grocer and confectioner from 1878 to 1893.

William Hayman was a tea dealer in 1889.

Dairies

Miss M R Rowe from Fawnsmoor Farm had a dairy shop on Chard Street in 1935, followed by Messrs N&H Rowe in 1939.