

IN THE ARCHIVES - "THE LOST BUILDINGS OF GRINDLEFORD" by Alan Jacques

It's not often that a new building appears in Grindleford, thanks mainly to the strict planning regulations governing development in the Peak District National Park. Over the years, some new properties have appeared, but are they as good as some of the older ones that they replaced?

Several old, poor cottages were demolished during the 1920/30's, including three on the corner of Main Road and Bridge Lane (the Hathersage Road or School Hill) when the junction was improved to take the increase in traffic. At this time, part of the Old Bell Inn opposite, which had protruded further into the road, was also taken down. See the banner photo of this article, the wall on the far right being the part demolished.

The same fate was in store for a fine row of typical old Derbyshire Gritstone cottages on the corner of Main Road and Padley Road. At least these were replaced with a fine detached house, built by a local stonemason.

Perhaps the most controversial demolition, carried out in the late 1950's, was that of Swallownest Cottages on Hathersage Road. These might have had only basic facilities and were of a rustic design, but they were a most attractive row of artisan dwellings that were removed to make way for the benefit of the motorists. Another cottage lost part of its original fabric here, when number 2, The Green on the opposite side of the road, was reduced in size.

Many small buildings housing local businesses have also disappeared, including Billy Moseley's Cordwainers Shop, which was a wooden construction on stilts in the garden of the Old Post Office; the Chapman family carpentry business buildings by the Old Smithy Dental Practice went quiet recently & another old smithy that was in the field over the bridge opposite Toll Bar Cottage was condemned as unsafe. A fine old cruck barn, which was a scheduled listed building, just below the Maynard, was illegally demolished in the early 1960's.

One of the villages most prominent and well known buildings was sadly demolished in the early 1960's to make way for car parking and an access road. Built in 1906, this was R. Kenyon & Son, General Supply Stores on The Green, next door to the Sir William Hotel. In its day, this fine 3-storey emporium was the premier shop in Grindleford, until just after WW2, when it became the Sir William Café, offering "Breakfasts, Luncheons, Teas, Snacks & Pots of Tea. Open till dusk."

A less well known, but more mysterious building was condemned around the same time. This was a strange house on Adlington Lane called "The Tower" and was the last but one property on the lane. I remember delivering groceries there in the late 1950's and I was always scared by the gloomy, tall, brooding structure that would have made a good location for the Bates Motel in Psycho!



Old Cottages at Nether Padley



The "Waitrose" of Old Grindleford!



Swallownest Cottages



Can you find any Lost Houses on this old postcard?