



Spondon shops and businesses in the mid 20th century: a Committee member's memories, Part 1

SHS committee members are currently looking through the archives with a view to cataloguing them in order to answer the many enquiries we get from Spondonians both in the UK and abroad. We recently had an enquiry from family members in Plymouth about Barnes' Shop, which was on the corner of Chapel Street and Gladstone Road (now Brown's hairdresser).

One of the items found was a rough sketch map of village

centre shops 60 years ago. What memories that evoked: working in Derby 1948-1952, getting off the number 9 bus at Dr Rudge's surgery (now Co-op supermarket), crossing Poplar Avenue, where on the corner Mrs Monton's shop, named *Adele*, sold Ladies' and Children's wear. This shop was the first of a row of three, built in the mid 1930s; at that time the centre shop was the Post Office (George Smith was postmaster). The two shops were to be knocked into one, selling gents' clothing from the centre unit (now Captain Sam). The third shop belonged to Allen Stevens, grocer and greengrocer; home made ice cream was also sold. During the war it was impossible to buy ice cream, so when the Government gave permission for ice cream to be manufactured again, it was a case of get off the bus, go into Stevens' shop, and buy a cornet of delicious ice cream to be eaten on the way home.