

Shopping around

Researching high street retail history

www.archives.wyjs.org.uk



Records of what we bought and how and where we bought it, routinely and in unusual times, build a picture of shopping habits, shopworkers' lives, local commercial activity, town centre development and change.

Shops and stores Historical records deposited by businesses that have ceased trading, been taken over, or who continue to trade may include amongst administrative records: stock books, catalogues, ledgers, photographs of window displays, staff records, staff magazines, promotional material. **Trade directories** compiled from the 18th century onwards list tradespeople and business names. **Licensing records** in local authority collections may include registers, from fish friers to ice cream parlours!

Shoppers and shopworkers' lives and experiences are chronicled in **personal diaries** and **oral histories**. Family and estate collections may include personal **account books, receipts and bills** for a snapshot of household expenditure.

Change and local commercial activity appear in regular local advertisements see **parish magazines, theatre programmes, council year books** to spot 'under new management' and 'new in' as well as local newspapers.

Shop development is mapped, illustrated and recorded in local authority collections, as businesses seek approval in **planning applications** for shop signs, extensions, and alterations to shop fronts. Registers of applications and plans may be available.

Town centre regeneration central area plans include drawings, maps and on occasions photographs as supporting evidence collected by local authorities, civic trusts and historical societies.

Try an 'any text' search in our online catalogue, tell us what you find via email or facebook and help us extend our guide to researching high street history!



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West Yorkshire
Archive
Service

West Yorkshire Joint Services

Bradford
Calderdale at Halifax
Kirklees at Huddersfield
Leeds
Wakefield

**Ideas for
keeping
and using
Archives**

Shopping around Bradford

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The following records can be browsed online. Enter the 'catalogue finding number' (that appears in bold below) in the Advanced Search option via the catalogue button at <http://catalogue.wyjs.org.uk/>

Held at WYAS Bradford, Bradford Central Library

47D95 and **14D96** collections relate to Brown, Muff and Co Ltd department store of Bradford 1818-1986 including staff magazines, photographs, press cuttings, registers of shareholders, accounts, etc.

WYB311 Busbys Department Store collection is a comprehensive photographic record of shop life. 1920s-1979

58D86 and **42D93** Yorkshire Co-operatives Ltd, Bradford includes minutes and photographs of hundreds of local co-operative societies. 1722-1985

DB39/C33/15 Catalogues of food sold by Arthur Rhodes and Sons of Rawson Place, Darley Street and Kirkgate family grocers and provision merchants 1896-1935 includes Christmas price lists!

29D82 John Hardaker of Baildon, household account books relating to business as a cobbler and grocer 1814-1859

85D91 Mrs Carney, shopkeeper of Shelf wrote a diary between 1880 and 1890

WYB482 Elaine Denby details shopping expeditions and purchases as a teenager during the Second World War

WYB288/1 Sherwin Stephenson chronicles shop life 1934-1950

BBD1/1/32 Bradford Borough Council Town Clerk's Department records relating to Bradford Corporation Act 1925 includes photographs of shop frontages, shops, business properties and advertising.

Held at WYAS Wakefield, Registry of Deeds

Records of West Riding County Council

WRD11/8/1 Planning Department Bradford Development Plan comprising the Town Map 1959

Useful links

www.historicaldirectories.org Digitised collection of trade directories including 1881 Kelly's West Riding

www.measuringworth.com/ppoweruk To compare prices then and now

www.buildinghistory.org/buildings/shops.shtml