

How Guernsey used to shop 2026: free guide

W C PENNEY, TINSMITHS, 1952. W James began the



business at 11a Bordage, c. 1891. Their apprentices the Penney brothers took over in 1942. Reopened in 1946 at 52 Bordage, it moved in 1970 to 36 Bordage, and was closed shortly afterwards. The brothers also worked in copper and brass and made Guernsey cans.



MRS FERGUSON, STATES' ARCADE. Mrs Ferguson supplied most of the leading hotels of the island with a plethora of goods including oysters, lobsters, grouse, partridge, hares, wild duck, larks and venison, and with the choicest fruit and vegetables from home and abroad.



WARRY'S, 24 THE POLLET. The bakery was founded in 1880 by Samuel Bartlett Warry from Somerset. Locals could bring in their 'Bean Jars' to cook overnight in the ovens. The shop has been considerably altered and is now a café. The bakery in the Bouet closed in September 2013.



CORONATION DAY, 9 AUGUST 1902. Le Riche's second Guernsey wine store, at No. 2 Smith Street, opened in 1901, is decorated for the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. Le Riche was established in Jersey in 1818, opening its first store in Guernsey in 1898, and obtained a Royal Warrant. The manager, Frederick Frayling, stands in the doorway.



QUEUING FOR SWEETS, 1941. On 5-6 May 1941, during the Occupation, the queue for sweets at Collin's legendary sweetshop at Nos. 4 and 6 the Pollet, in

St Peter Port extended as far back as the Post Office in Smith Street.



COLLIN'S SWEET FACTORY, 1958. Mr Colin Wright of South Africa and Mr L J Le Mesurier of Laurel Villa, Le Bouet, were penpals. At Mr Le Mesurier's invitation, Colin and his wife were given a tour of the sweet factory in June 1958, and were featured on the front page of the *Guernsey Press*.



TRADES EXHIBITION, 1953. Celebrating the coronation of Elizabeth II, this Trades' Exhibition revived the pre-war tradition of commercial exhibitions held in St

George's Hall.



G WILLIAMS, GROCER, VAUVERT, 1903. George Williams was born in England, lived in Cornet Street and his grocer's shop operated for only one year, closing in 1904. He must have been proud of it, however, to have had this photograph taken.



FISH MARKET, 1967. H E Petit's stall in the fish market, taken by Guernsey photographer Carel Toms. Despite the modernity of the commercial

refrigerator in the background, the fish are still laid out on the original marble slabs.



DEEP FREEZE: THE FISH MARKET, c. 1935. This substantial snowfall by Guernsey standards probably occurred in March 1935. The Fish Market was constructed to much fanfare in 1830.



MRS SEBIRE SELLING ORMERS. In 1956, ormers were selling for about four shillings per dozen. Mrs Sebire would have spent hours extracting the ormers from their shells, scrubbing and beating them before they were sold in the market. Collecting these abalones, or 'ormering', a favourite pastime of the Channel Islanders, took place from the end of October until the end of April on 'ormering tides'.



PRIME CUTS: THE MEAT MARKETS, 1967. This photograph by Carel Toms, taken in 1967, captures the Meat Market in its heyday. Cuts of meat are displayed on the original 19th-century countertops.

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THE BRIDGE, 1900s.

No. 1 tram crosses The Bridge. This is a Lévy Fils et Cie LL-series postcard from the early 1900s.



NOEL'S GARAGE, TRINITY SQUARE, 1950s.

These concrete garages in the Rue du Pré were owned by Stanley A Noel. The southern side had been

Fred Robin's Britannia Garage before the German Occupation. Back in 1874, the site was that of James Saunders' smithy and his son Henry's harness-making business.



HOT OFF THE PRESS! Clad in distinctive uniforms, *Guernsey Press* deliverymen pose with their newly acquired motorised transport. With

substantial international and national news coverage in its three daily editions, published at noon, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., the *Guernsey Press* enjoyed a competitive advantage over the national newspapers which arrived in Guernsey by sea – one day after publication.



STADDON & GRIGG'S ALMANAC, 1877. In the early 1870s Messrs Staddon & Grigg took over the business premises at 25 High Street from stationer and bookseller Barbet's, favoured by Victor Hugo. Barbet had printed an almanac for general island distribution for the previous 30 years which

the new owners continued to publish, funding it through the many advertisements. John Gardner's 'Private Hotel' was to become the Old Government House Hotel, while the building that housed W Bailey's baker's shop at 24 the Pollet was demolished and rebuilt in the 1960s.



FUZZEY'S BRIDGE HOUSE, 1975. The 1860s partnership of cabinetmakers Isaac Fuzzey and William Luff laid the foundation of a long-running business. Under Isaac's son Frederick, F G Fuzzey became the largest furniture retailer in Guernsey with premises at 22-26 Mill Street, later turning to selling electrical appliances at smaller shops in High Street, Commercial Arcade and The Bridge.



G A THOMAS, IRONMONGER, c. 1910. George Allix Thomas arrived from Jersey in the 1890s and by mid-1903 had gone into business with George Valpy as 'furnishing

ironmongers, plumbers and sanitary heating engineers', with premises and workshops in Trinity Square. By 1907 Thomas was running a successful business alone.



ADVERTISING ON THE MOVE. Vehicles pulled by draught animals used to deliver merchandise to both commercial and private premises were often ornately painted with the name and description of the

business, an no doubt effective form of early advertising. This van belonged to Trinity Bakery, owned by William Cluett.



TORODE & NICOLLE, DRAPERS. In the book *Guernsey as it used to be*, Torode and Nicolle are described as 'the one a dark man of ruddy complexion, the other taller and very fair': they opened their drapery shop in 1865, one of no less than ten drapers' establishments in the High Street.

Next door Abraham Bishop kept his double-fronted drapers' shop with a Social Club above. The young men from the club who congregated outside Torode & Nicolle's were prevented from lounging against their shopfront by a row of sharp spikes!