

Newby Shop

There was a grocery shop present in Newby from at least 1841 onwards, according to all the 19th Century censuses. Whether it was always in the same property we may never know. But by the 1930s it was in Daleview, what was then a small one up, one down property run by Mrs. Daniels. She lived next door at Mosna with her husband, Ernest, and teenage son, Douglas.

Mrs Daniels, Agnes, would be alerted to a customer by the bell jingling when the shop door was opened. She would come out of Mosna, down the steps, through the doorway, disappear round the back of long drapes of paper screening off two walls, and re-emerge by the counter, which was positioned in front of the window facing onto Newby Lane. She had steely grey hair which was pinned in very tight curls against her head with not a hair out of place.

Besides the counter the room also had some tables laid out with empty promotional packets and tins of groceries, sweets and cigarettes that she sold. But whatever it was you'd called in for Mrs Daniels would manage to produce it from under the counter, though there was no chance of credit - above the window, behind the counter, hung a plaque with the legend 'Please do not ask for credit as a refusal often offends.' This amused the locals because there was little choice of what was in the shop, so little chance of wanting credit in the first place.

If Mr Daniels was about and recognised the customer he would come into the shop for a chat. He was very expressive using his hands and arms in the telling of stories. He had some fingers missing on both hands.

There was also an old fashioned shallow stone sink set by the wall behind the door and opposite the foot of the stairs to the upper floor. Behind the property there was a dark green painted corrugated iron lean to shed attached to it. (Old photographs show it with the word TEAS in large white letters painted on it.)

A story remembered of Mrs Daniels was of the occasion she provided extra sandwiches for a wartime dance supper at the Institute. It attracted more people than was expected and there wouldn't be enough supper to go round for everyone. Mrs Daniels was at least one person who offered to make more. Bearing in mind this was wartime, shortages and rationing in place Mrs D's sandwiches were memorable for their spread contents – some had a sauce spread on them, some mustard! nothing else.

The family eventually moved to Derby where Douglas was a draughtsman for Rolls Royce. The shop was now run by Mrs Bessie Dugdale. She transferred it next door to Mosna. Not only did she run the shop but also catered for hikers, bikers and travellers out for a country run in their cars. The hikers and bikers would be served in a room upstairs over the shop which had a bare floor, plain tables and forms to sit on. Whilst the visitors wanting a high tea were shown into the room to the right of the shop laid out in a finer fashion. There was also a row of good toilet facilities situated at the west gable end of Mosna.

Dale View became the home of Mrs Dugdale's son Stanley, wife and young family. The shop and cafe eventually closed in 1964.

(Much of this description is as Mary Bairstow described it to Brian Stott. She cannot recall Mrs Daniels running a cafe as well as the shop.)