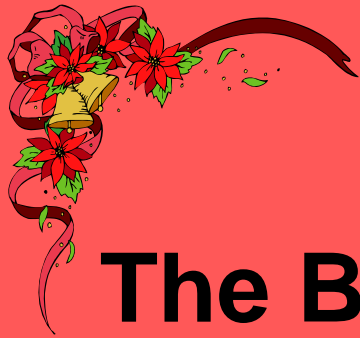


# Brighthouse and Christmas Past

*presented by  
Chris Helme*



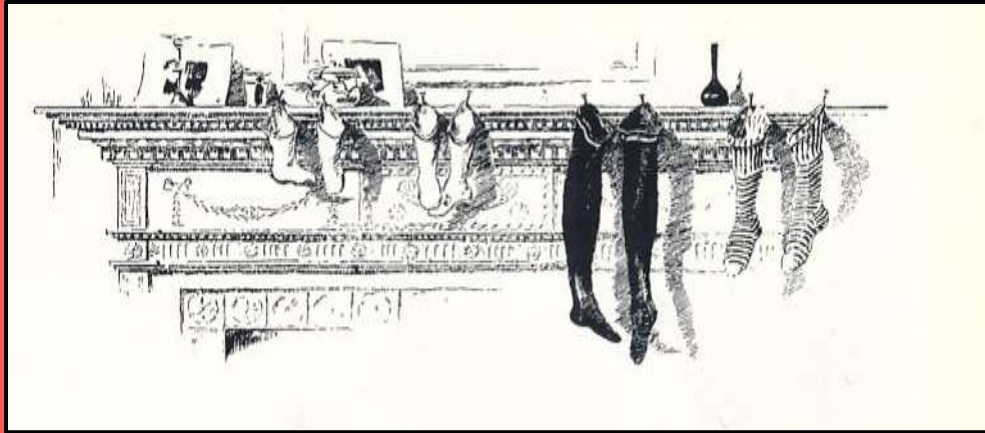


**The Brighthouse of my own childhood  
seems a far different place from the  
town I know of today. The shop  
lights always seemed brighter the  
Christmas tree looked even bigger  
and the tinsel seemed to glitter more  
in those days.**



**Commercial Street, King Street and Bethel Street were so busy that folks had to walk in the road to pass the swirling crowds of shoppers.**

**Even those queuing up outside many of the shops waited patiently taking in the many different aromas there were, wafting through the busy streets.**



**No doubt taking the opportunity of  
sharing a joke or a smile whilst waiting  
to be served.**

***Ah well, it might sound sentimental  
but you're only a child once.***

**But today Christmas  
the world over means  
shopping.....**







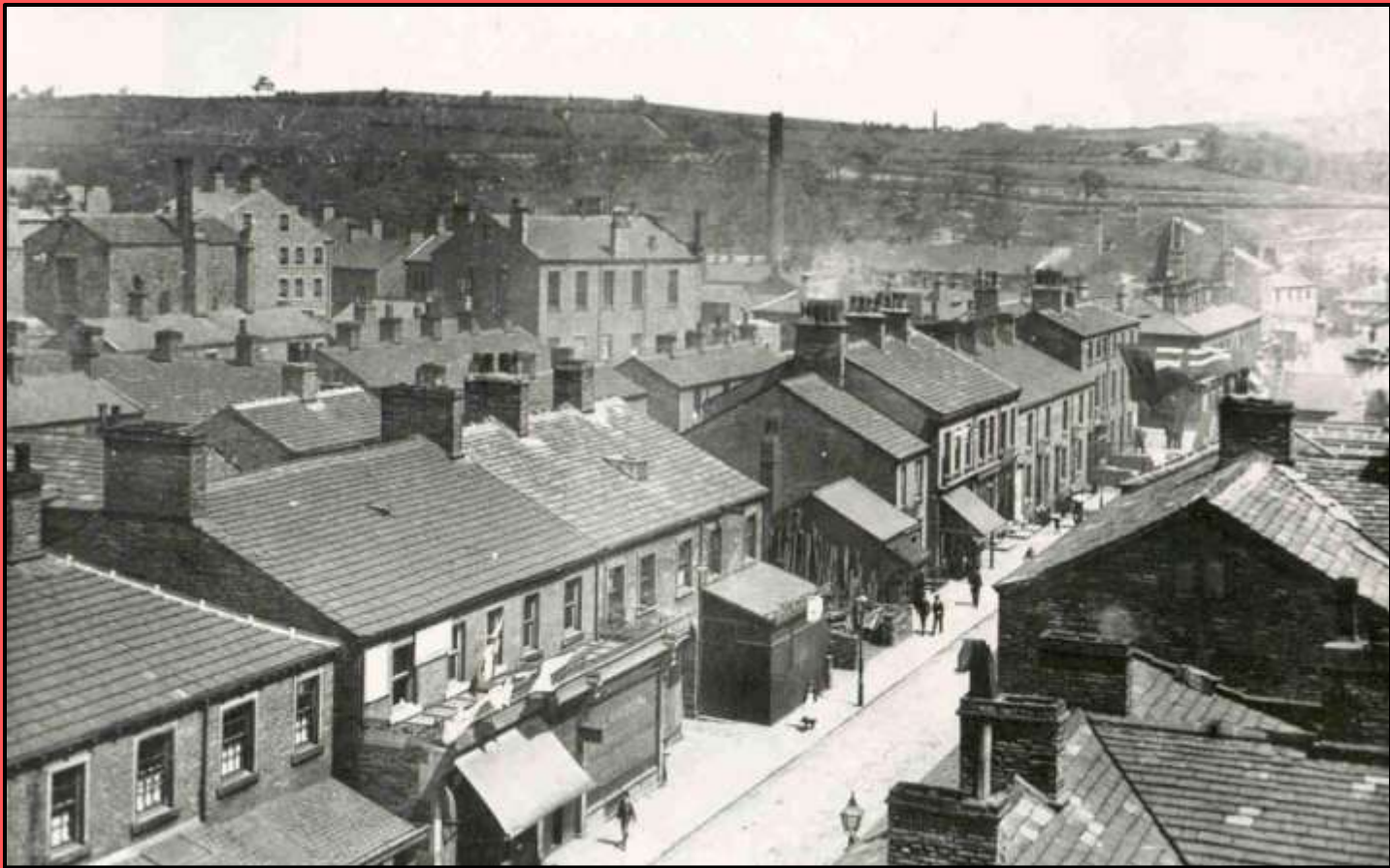
**- and lots of it and be that many shops have extended hours and are open seven days a week and many of us are able to buy on—line. Most of us all seem to insist on shopping at the same time which in inevitably means one thing**

**CROWDS**



**So let us turn the  
clock back and  
share some snap  
shots in time from  
the last 100 years.**

**Aspects of  
Christmas we have  
all experienced  
here in Brighthouse.**



**Commercial Street c1890 - many of the  
same buildings of that period are still here  
today.**

***NOTE THE WIDTH OF THE PAVEMENT.....***





**The old Malt Kiln in  
Union Street was  
demolished to make  
way for the new  
Town Hall in 1887.**

**For Brighthouse the  
dawn of a new era**





**Holroyd Buildings  
the property that  
was facing the town  
hall - the cobbled  
section between the  
two was Union  
Street.**

**Above on the  
corner was Joe  
(Skinny) Marsden's  
green grocers and  
game shop – and  
rabbits too.**





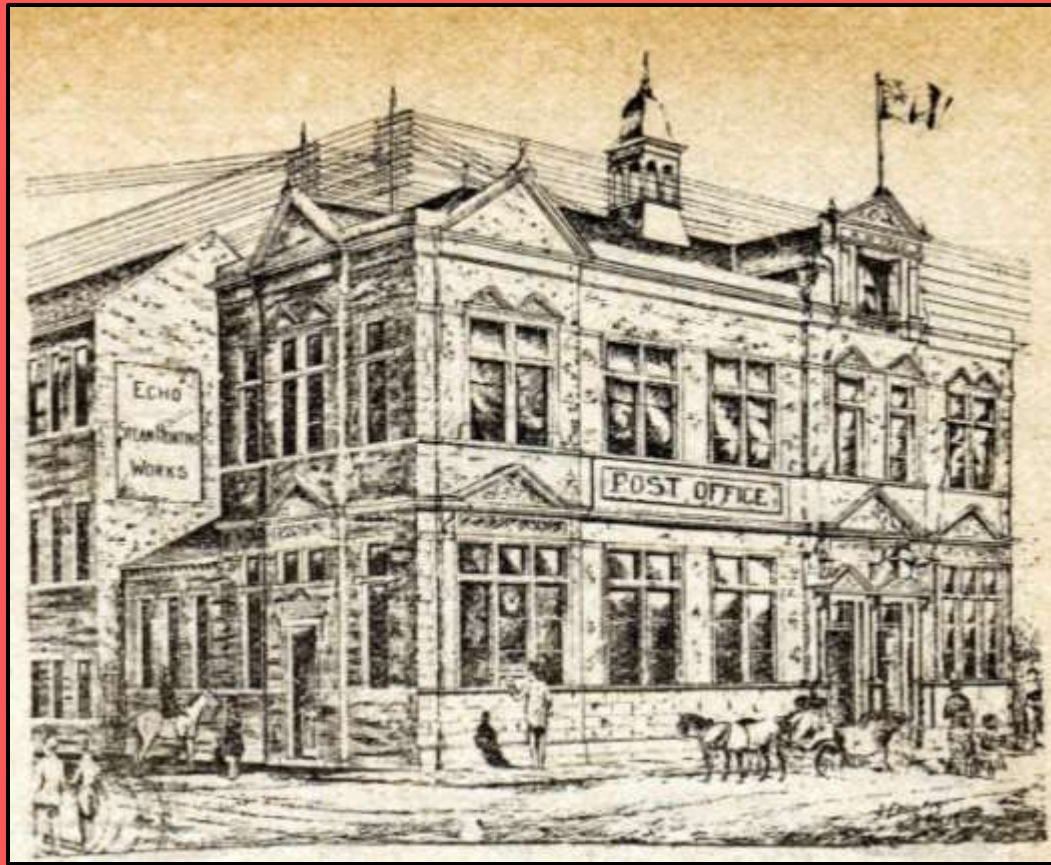
**Lancaster's meat  
and game shop  
1890. This  
business was  
started in 1856.  
This is their  
Christmas display  
– where the  
Wellington Arcade  
is today**



**Modern day greeting cards have origins to a card printed in December 1843 at the instigation of Sir Henry Cole, first director London's V & A Museum.**

**With the words "A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU" written across a banner covering the bottom half. This was to become the "standard" Christmas card message.**





**The new Brighouse Post Office opened 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1900 in Park Street just in time for the Christmas post – Thomas Quinn was its first postmaster. Previously the post office was in various shop premises in the town centre.**

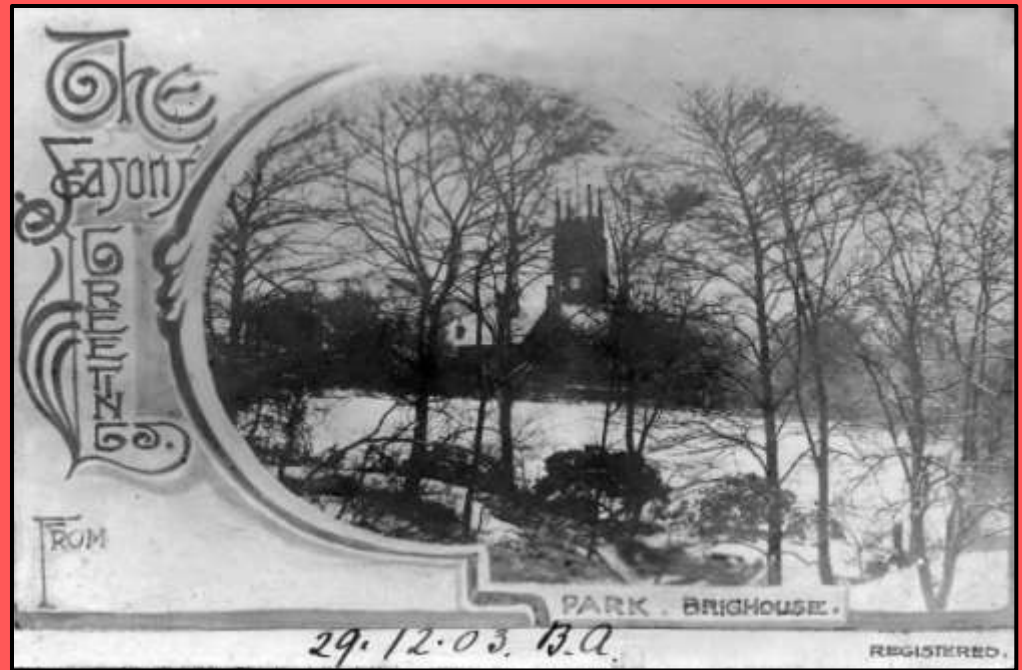




**The Post office staff of the 1930s**



**Brighouse Post office staff support the  
Brighouse Echo Christmas Toy Appeal -  
1991**



**Postcard style Christmas cards from 1904 and 1903 – I wonder what they would think of those that now send e-cards ?**





"I chatter over stony ways,  
In little sharps and trebles,  
I bubble into eddying bays,  
I babble on the pebbles."

"I chatter, chatter, as I flow,  
To join the brimming river,  
For men may come and men  
But I go on for ever." *TENNYSON*



*Flowers of Spring.*

With Heartiest Greetings  
for a Joyous Christmas  
And brightest Hopes for you  
... in the Years to come.

FROM

MR. AND MRS. GEO. HEPWORTH

20 Bradford Road,  
BRIGHOUSE.

CHRISTMAS. 1923.



**Christmas time means it's party time  
and of course the school nativity....**





**St James School (or Queen Street School)  
nativity 1946 - this school was on the site now  
occupied by Tesco's Supermarket. As a school  
it closed in the early 1970s**



***OR....***this one at Hipperholme Infant School taken sometime between 1942 and 1949. The school closed in the 1980s and was later demolished and the site became part of a housing development .



***OR...***you might have gone to the works Christmas dinner in the canteen - no expense spared here on Christmas trimmings at Mellor's Mint factory in Millroyd Street opposite the old swimming baths – c1959 / 1960





**Christmas trimmings brought out at  
T.F.Firth's 1951 – no health and safety  
problems here**



**T.F.Firth's retired employees  
Christmas Party December 1994**





**OR... you may have gone to your mum & dad's  
works party – here are some of the children  
attending the Brookfoot based Meredith and  
Drew's party in 1945**



***OR...* as these children at Thornton,  
Hannam and Marshall (Dyers) at Brookfoot  
in 1925 which would have been held either  
in the works canteen OR....**



**At a local club such as these children having a great time at their Christmas party in 1957 at the Dyers Club (now the residential home for the elderly) in Brighthouse Wood Lane.**

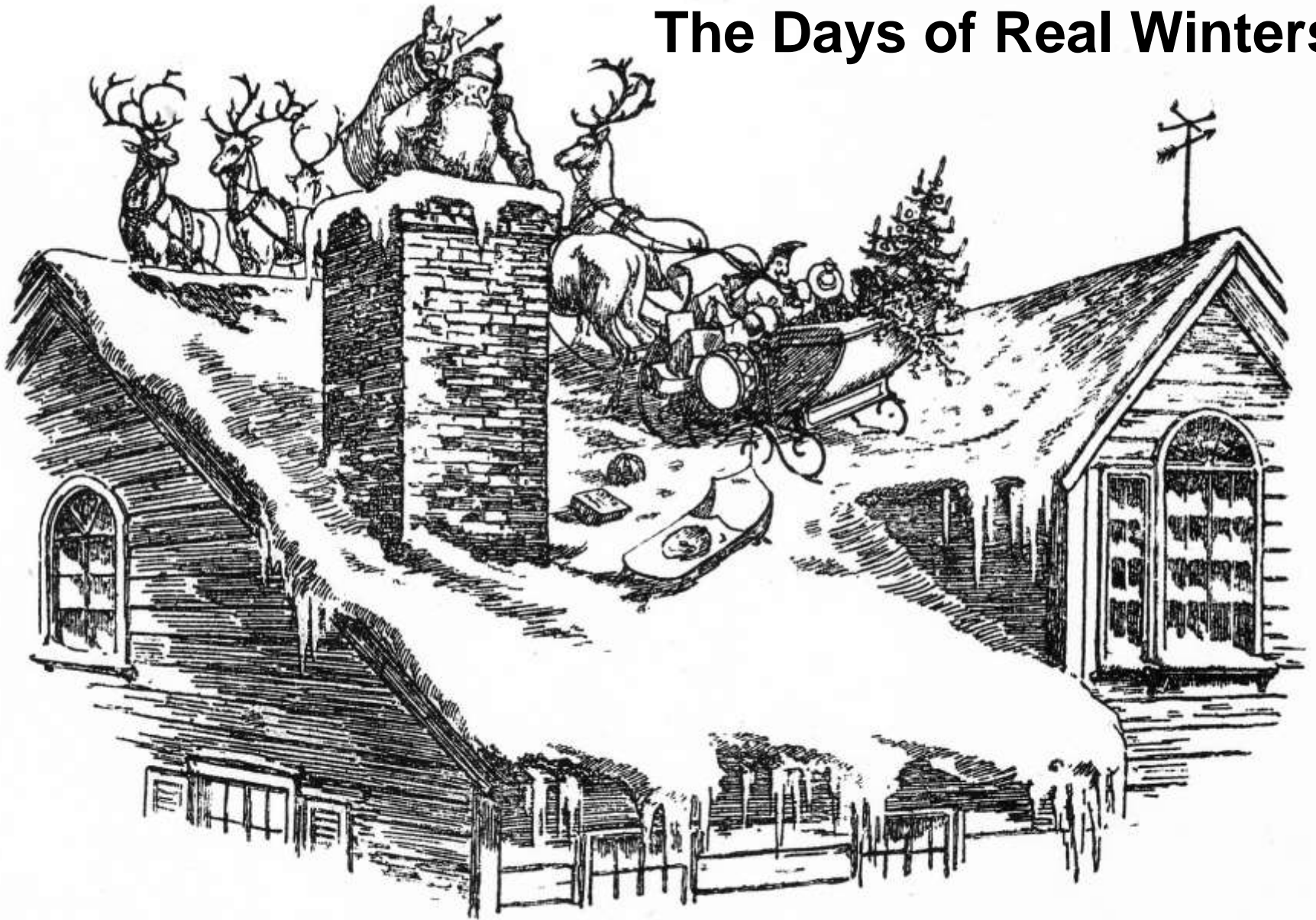




**You cannot  
have Christmas  
without the  
Christmas tree  
and the  
trimmings**

**Brighouse Girls  
Grammar School 1952**

# The Days of Real Winters





**Kirklees Bar Wakefield Road Brighthouse – c1890**





**January 1947 with Christmas barely over was the start of the coldest winter for more years than anyone could remember.**



**Towngate Clifton 1947 – the village just about closed down**



**Clifton Co-op January 1947 – whilst this would cause problems for most people children were re-assured that Santa would have no problem**





**Towngate Clifton during the freeze of  
January 1963 when the temperature dropped  
to -12.2C**

**From the Roy Black collection**



**Clifton Common impossible for motor  
vehicles**



**Whilst it looks picturesque and almost inviting it was a highly dangerous situation for anyone who was foolish enough to venture on the ice. This was Boxing Day 1981 – a rare event**





**No council gritters in 1890 James Ball  
outfitters shop next door to the White Swan  
pub (now Lloyds Bank)**



**Kids didn't mind the cold – with many of them taking the opportunity of using their new Christmas present, a sledge, for the first time in Holly Bank Road at Field Lane Estate in 1953**



**...then again given half a chance these adults also took the opportunity of enjoying the snow and ice. Seen here in 1947 on the Sunny Vale boating lake – what a way to spend a Boxing Day evening.**



# SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS



**Wartime Rationing**  
**8<sup>th</sup> January 1940 to 4<sup>th</sup> July 1954**



**There was always a Christmas bargain to be had at the market – Market Street 1936**

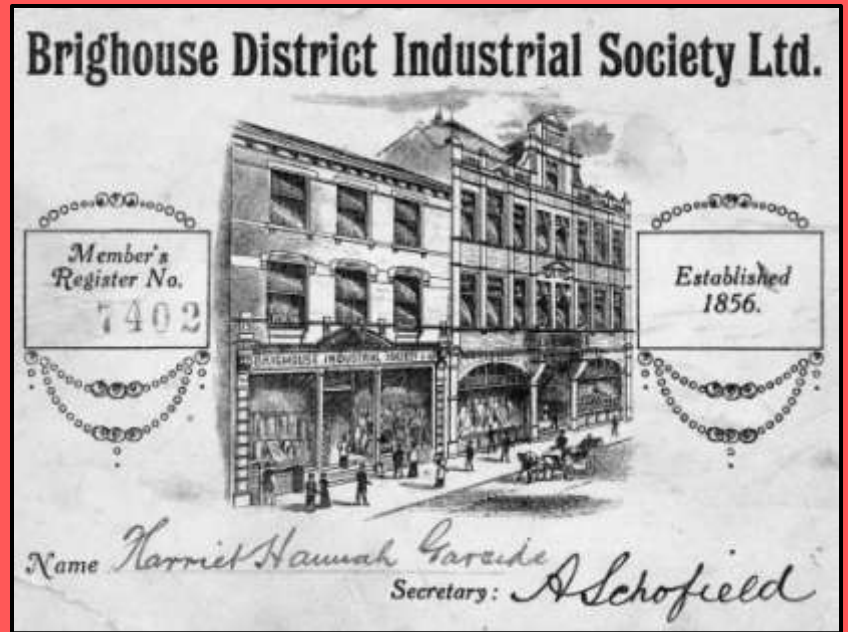


**...and even in the 1960s**





**This is Barclay's  
Bank these days - no  
ATMs and no credit  
cards in 1902 . Once  
you had spent up  
that was it until your  
next pay day...but the  
one place that was a  
lifeline for many  
families was the  
Co-op.**



**The Co-op divvy – helped countless families through Christmas and other holiday periods - can you remember your Co-op number ?**



**I am sure many of you  
will remember visiting  
the menswear  
department on this busy  
corner for a few  
Christmas presents.**







**1956 saw the arrival of the new Food Hall and the revolution in shopping - the start of Self Service. Imagine being able to buy your Christmas food shopping in one go and in the 1970s you could even get double stamps as well.**



## **Castle Hill Co-op Branch at Rastrick - 1899**

**One customer  
trying to get to  
grips with the new  
self service method  
of shopping in 1957**



# **Shops you may remember**



**Tommy Joy's Cycle  
and pram shop –  
which is now  
Wilkinson's car park**





# Barnett Bros.

UP-TO-DATE

## Drapers and Outfitters,

SILK MERCERS,



HOSIERS,

GLOVERS, etc.

Dress and Mantle Makers.

First-class stocks only in every department.

THE NOTED ESTABLISHMENT FOR  
—HOUSEHOLD LINENS.

Our windows are always filled with the Latest Novelties, and are  
worthy of inspection.

### 64, Briggate, Brighouse.

A shop that had been established for at least 50 years before the town centre re-development of the early 1970s saw its demise – ‘Ideal for Christmas presents...’ one of their advertisements once promoted



**Fruit, Fish, Game and Poultry was available at  
Frank Stocks Cash Stores in  
Commercial Street**



**Charles Hollingdrake had his drapery shop at 8 and 9 King Street where he commenced trading in 1885**





**JP 'The Great Provider' – Joah Pearson (b1874 - d1944)– a marketing genius way ahead of his time. This was the confectioners you would have all gone to at this time of year**



**Thomas Wyatt's hosiery and drapers  
everything the modern housewife would need  
-1890**



**Buying those all  
important new  
shoes for the  
children - the place  
to go from 1860 to  
the 1980s was  
George Mitchell's  
in Commercial  
Street**





**Eastman's butcher's 5 King Street which with number 3 is now the offices of Bearder's solicitors**



**Hillard's Freezer Food Centre  
Commercial Street - 1976**



**With the arrival or return of Hillard's as a Supermarket was in 1972 this changed the face of shopping in Brighouse.**

**It changed yet again with the arrival of Tesco and in more recent times with Wilkinson's .**







**The changing face of  
shopping in  
Brighouse –  
Sainsbury's  
Supermarket**

**Tesco  
Supermarket**





**The End**