

Matthias, J.B. The Store, Stowupland Green. Stowmarket 33¹

The story of Matthias' Store starts with a shop in Buxhall which Winnie and Ben (John Benjamin) Matthias took over from the Southgate's. Subsequently in the 1950's Ben and Winnie moved from



Winnie Matthias in the front garden with Boxer groceries in the evening.

The shop was the front room of their family home, it had a high counter and the wall behind it was stacked high with sweet jars.

People had a choice of using Matthias or Disney's shop as they seem to have sold very similar commodities. Both sold just about everything local people might need to buy e.g. paraffin, fresh vegetables, tinned produce, sweets and cheeses. The Matthias cheeses were kept in a cool larder behind



Ben Matthias I in front of his shop looking across the Green

Customers arrived in the shop and placed their orders; Winnie would pack their goods into boxes while they waited but then Ben would deliver their order in his Morris van when he returned from his day job.

Buxhall to Stowupland. Here they bought the end cottage of the row of houses with the address of Chapel Lane. They backed onto the lane but looked across Stowupland Green. They re-opened a general store that had previously been run by Mr & Mrs Samuel Skinner at the same location. They had run the shop for over 20 years but it had been closed for a few years after the end of WW2.

Winnie served in the shop while Ben worked at the Iron Foundry during the day and delivered the



The view from the shop looking across the Green, with their granddaughter in cowboy costume

the shop, to maintain a cool steady temperature the floor was below ground level and the doorway was low. No prepacked cheeses then, the required amount of cheese was cut and wrapped by Winnie using a wire cheese cutter.

Outside the kitchen door as well as the cool larder there were a variety of sheds, one of which was used as a coop for chickens. There was also a large walnut tree but whether these were sold in the shop we don't know.

¹ 1956 Newby's Stowmarket Annual



Ben tending his front garden.

Behind the room that was used as the shop was the 'everyday room'. The front room on the other side of the hallway to the shop was for 'best', it rarely had a fire lit but there was a bathroom upstairs.

The Matthias' daughter had a serious car accident in the '60's. This was before seat belts and having broken her neck, she was in a ½ body plaster cast for 6 months. Ben and Winnie looked after their granddaughter quite a bit during her early childhood.

In 1965 Mr F.R.D. Mann bought the house, shop and adjoining orchard for £3,250, paying an additional £400 for Goodwill and £90 for shop equipment.

DATED 27th September 1965.

(3)

MR. J.B.MATTHIAS

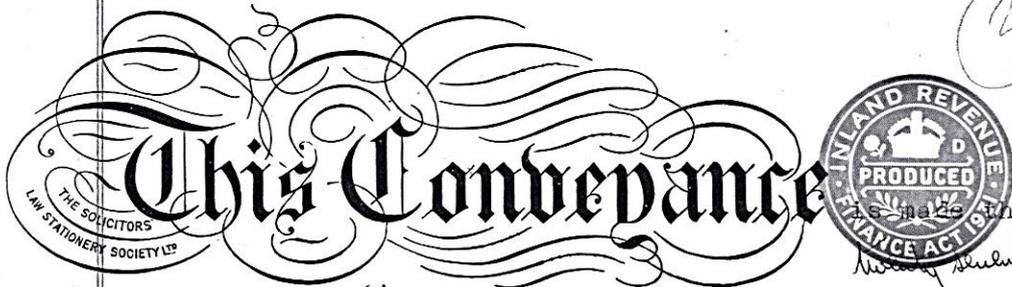
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MR. F.R.D.MANN.

Conveyance

of dwellinghouse and shop at
Stowupland in the County of Suffol

Produced in accordance with the Finance Act 1931.



day of September One thousand nine hundred and sixty five BETWEEN JOHN BENJAMIN MATTHIAS formerly of 87, Hillside, Stowmarket but now of Chapel Lane, Stowupland both in the County of Suffolk (hereinafter called "the Vendor") of the one part and FRANK ROBERT DOUGLAS MANN of 3 & 5, Silver Street, Buckden in the County of Huntingdon (hereinafter called "the Purchaser") of the other part.

WHEREAS the Vendor is seised in fee simple in possession free from incumbrances of the property hereinafter described and he has agreed with the Purchaser for the sale thereof to him at the price of Three thousand two hundred and sixty pounds. _____

NOW THIS DEED WITNESSETH as follows:

1. In pursuance of the said agreement and in consideration of the sum of Three thousand two hundred and sixty pounds now paid by the Purchaser to the Vendor (the receipt of which sum the Vendor hereby acknowledges) the Vendor as beneficial owner hereby conveys unto the Purchaser ALL THAT messuage tenement or cottage and shop with the yard garden and orchard thereto adjoining and belonging situate lying and being in Stowupland in the County of Suffolk abutting in part on Thorney Green and now or late in the occupation of the Vendor Which said property contains in

area Twenty two poles or thereabouts and forms part of Ordnance Survey Number 468 and is for the purpose of identification only delineated and coloured pink on the plan annexed to a Conveyance dated the Twenty ninth day of August One thousand nine hundred and fifty one made between Samual Skinner of the one part and the Vendor of the other part TO HOLD the same unto the Purchaser in fee simple. _____

2. It is hereby certified that the transaction hereby effected does not form part of a larger transaction or of a series of transactions in respect of which the amount or value or the aggregate amount or value of the consideration exceeds Four thousand five hundred pounds. _____

IN WITNESS whereof the said parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written. _____

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED by the said
JOHN BENJAMIN MATTHIAS in the presence }
of:-

J. Matthias

Witness Name..... *B. Southgate*.....
Address..... *Greenwich*..... *Harbours*
..... *Stowmarket*.....
Occupation..... *Instrument. Antiquar.*

DATED 17th September 1965

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MR. J. B. MATTHIAS

and

MR. F. MANN

A S S I G N M E N T

of goodwill of the business of a
village stores at Stowupland, Suffol



ASSIGNMENT is made the *twenty seventh*
day of *September* One thousand nine

hundred and sixty five BETWEEN JOHN BENJAMIN MATTHIAS
formerly of 87 Hillside Stowmarket in the County of Suffolk
but now of Chapel Lane Stowupland in the same County
(hereinafter called "the Vendor") of the first part
WINIFRED LILLIAN MATTHIAS of the same place the wife of
the Vendor of the second part and FRANK ROBERT DOUGLAS MAN
of 3 and 5 Silver Street Buckden Huntingdon (hereinafter
called "the Purchaser") of the third part

W H E R E A S :

1. The Vendor has for some years past carried on the Business of a village stores upon freehold property at Stowupland aforesaid which by Deed bearing even date is being conveyed by the Vendor to the Purchaser
2. The Vendor has agreed with the Purchaser to sell to him the Goodwill of the said business at the price of Four hundred pounds and to assign to him the fixtures and fittings and utensils used in the said business and specified in the Schedule hereto at the price of Ninety pounds

NOW THIS DEED WITNESSETH as follows :-

1. In pursuance of the said agreement and in consideration of the sum of Four hundred and ninety pounds paid by the Purchaser to the Vendor (the receipt whereof the Vendor

This schedule makes fascinating reading, giving us a little insight into what was involved in running a general store in the mid-20th century.

THE SCHEDULE

Prestcold Conservator (large capacity)
 Avery 14 lbs. scale
 Avery 14 lbs. scale
 Asco automatic confectionery scale
 2 Shelf glass hanging display set
 Cheese cutting board with wires
 Counter with drawers
 Shelving
 Electric light fittings
 Outside entrance light
 45 Gallon paraffin tank with tap with measure and funnel
 Glass vinegar measure and funnel
 5 scoops
 Nest of 4 wire display baskets
 Nest of 2 wire display baskets
 2 white plastic trays
 2 clear top plastic base provision units
 Venetian blind
 Sun blind

Note: The Mars self service display rack is not the property of the Vendor but is lent by the owners.

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED by)
 the said JOHN BENJAMIN MATTHIAS)
 in the presence of :-)

J. Matthias

WITNESS NAME

BW Southgate

ADDRESS

*Greenacres, Harleston
 Stowmarket*

OCCUPATION

Instrument Artist

SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED by)
 the said WINIFRED LILLIAN)
MATTHIAS in the presence of :-)

W. L. Matthias

WITNESS NAME

BW Southgate

*Greenacres Harleston
 Stowmarket.*

OCCUPATION

Instrument Artist.



The row of houses as they looked in 2013 after the shop ceased trading for the last time and the premises were modernised.

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Stowupland Local History Group are grateful to the granddaughter of Winnie and Ben Matthias and the 2013 owners of Farthings for their help in putting together this short history of Matthias' Store