

THE CHEMIST/PHARMACY AT NEWICK



Lloyds Pharmacy 2017

THE CHEMIST/PHARMACY AT NEWICK

In 1924, when 'Kings' hairdressers was built in Church Road, there was no chemist shop in Newick, so the hairdresser Harold King sold some medicinal items at his premises as well as operating his hairdressing business. The two grocer's shops in the village may also have sold similar items.

The Kelly's directories for the 1930's, which list the many commercial premises in the village, do not refer to any chemists shop. However, there was certainly a chemists shop in 1941, located next to the garage/petrol filling station in Church Road. It was a small, single-storey building occupied by the Uckfield firm Sidney Oddie (later 'Oddie and Whitby'). The shop window display included large, decorative carboys (glass medicine bottles) typical of the time.

Telephone : Newick 203.
Uckfield 50.

SIDNEY ODDIE, M.P.S.,

DISPENSING AND PHOTOGRAPHIC

Chemist & Optician,

**80 HIGH STREET, NEW TOWN,
UCKFIELD,
and CHURCH ROAD, NEWICK.**

KODAK SUPPLIES.

*ELIZABETH ARDEN and
CYCLAX Preparations.*

UCAL and REXALL REMEDIES.

Advertisement from Newick Parish magazine October 1941

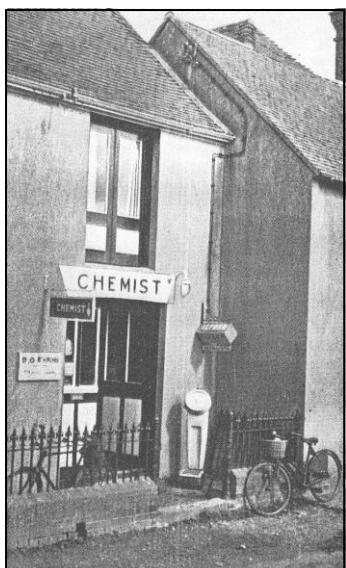
During the Second World War there was a major incident affecting the Newick premises on 22nd May 1941. It was a hot day. An enemy bomber reached England coming in over Shoreham at 4.45 in the afternoon. Bombs were dropped from the aircraft over parts of Sussex, including one at Newick immediately opposite the chemist shop. The huge blast not only damaged the nearby Bannister's shop and car repair garage but also killed the chemist, 62 year old Percy James Horsley. He was found on the floor of his shop surrounded by broken glass. He lived at Lower Birchland Lodge. His gravestone in Newick churchyard has the inscription 'killed by enemy action'.



The grave of chemist Percy James Horsley and the *Evening Argus* newspaper photograph of the bomb damage at Bannister's shop, lying close to the chemist shop

Another chemist then took the place of Mr Horsley at the Church Road premises - Thomas W H Pickett from Buckfast Guest House, Newick, followed

for a short period by David O Evans. Then, in 1952, David Evans opened a new chemist's shop/dispensary at number 3A, The Green, a couple of doors to the right of the general provisions shop. The premises had previously been a tea room and before that was a furniture store associated with the general provisions shop. Below, on the left, is a photograph from the 1950s, showing his shop with his name board, a weighing machine, a hanging sign advertising 'Ilford' camera films and an inviting open door. The photograph on the right is also from the 1950s showing the chemist shop.



The chemist shop in the 1950s

D O Evans dispensed drugs, patent medicines, toilet articles, photographicics, diabetic preparations, sick-room requisites, veterinary medicines and horticultural chemicals. His business advertisement is shown below indicating that he had previously been employed at Allen and Hanbury's Ltd.

Your Local Chemist

IS ON

THE GREEN, NEWICK

YOU DO NOT NEED TO TRAVEL ANY FURTHER FOR

Drugs, Patent Medicines, Toilet Articles, Photographicics,
Diabetic Preparations, Sick-room Requisites, etc.
Veterinary Medicines and Horticultural Chemicals.

D. O. EVANS, M.P.S., F.S.M.C. Dispensing Chemist

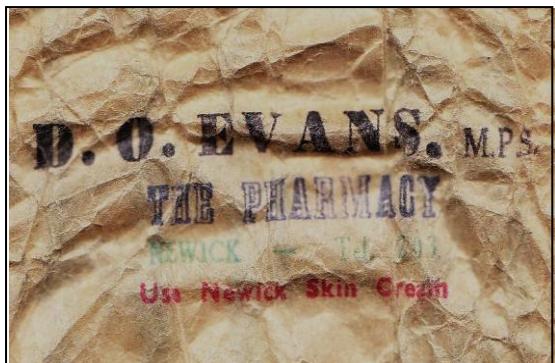
Late Allen & Hanburys, Ltd.

Tel. 203.

D O Evans advertisement 1953

David O Evans was born in Australia and qualified, from Sydney University, as a pharmacist. He had periods in England in the 1920's and finally settled here in 1951. He considered the premises facing Newick village green as idyllic. The premises had no shop window, which reminded him of a pharmacy in New Guinea which had no walls! He stated 'we often have cause to be thankful that we chose brick-red linoleum for the shop floor, particularly when the local butcher walks in with blood streaming from a cut hand. Our dispensary lino is primrose yellow and so, before he crosses the Rubicon, we quickly have a lotion bowl in position'. He further stated that 'in this type of business there is an ever present consciousness that the pharmacy plays a necessary part in the life of the surrounding community'.

He manufactured his own brand of skin cream which he proudly advertised as shown below.



Mr Evans promotion of his skin cream on paper bags and in his adverts

Mr Evans continued at the premises until 1962. He then proudly established a new chemist's shop/pharmacy at the current premises at 9, The Green. It had previously been a butchers shop and lent itself to conversion, including the creation of the dispensary in what had been the butcher's refrigeration room. A wide shuttered gap in the front wall which, when it was a butchers was left open during business hours, was changed to a bow window. Moving some of his pharmacy stock from the old premises to the new was done with some difficulty, involving the use of a garden wheelbarrow on a wet and windy morning. His former shop was converted to a house which involved providing a new front door and the previous door being changed to a window.

Mr Evans retired in 1964. His home was in Burgess Hill. The newspaper report at the time acknowledged that he was always ready to help those in need and that he 'dispensed both medicines and kindness to all his customers'.

After D O Evans, the business continued as 'Selbys' managed by Mr J Willis

and by P S Thompson and later changed to Burnie and Gilmour Ltd, run by Mrs Sheila Burnie.

Newick Pharmacy

Burnie & Gilmour Ltd.

THE GREEN, NEWICK
DISPENSING CHEMISTS
NEWICK 2203

Advertisement from 1979

It then changed to the Lloyds Pharmacy. There was a danger of the Lloyds business closing in 2008 which generated considerable local concern as shown in the newspaper article below.

20 theargus.co.uk/news NEWS

Villagers rally to save chemist

Petition started against GP dispensing service

VILLAGERS are battling against a doctor's surgery because of fears it would steal business from the village pharmacy.

The campaign by people living in Newick, near Lewes, was started after Newick Health Centre's South Chailey surgery began dispensing prescription drugs last month.

People fear the new service, so close to Lloyd's Chemist in the centre of Newick, will take passing trade from the village, resulting in a knock-on effect for other shops.

Newick Parish Council chairman Chris Jago said: "The chemist is part of a cluster of shops vital to the village and the loss of one would affect the others."

Leaflets have been distributed around Newick and a petition to close the surgery's dispensing unit has been started.

PICTURE: JIM HOLDEN JH150508-A1

APPEAL: Chris Jago, left, with campaigners and staff at the pharmacy on Newick village green

The petition will be delivered to East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust, which runs the surgery and has given a deadline of May 28 for appeals.

Unlike some villages, Newick still has a bakery, butchers and general store. Without these businesses people in the village would be forced to travel up to seven miles to shops in Haywards Heath.

There are also fears Lloyd's Chemist's home-delivery medicine service, which many people depend on, could close because of the competition.

Chris Jago said: "This could hit other villages, which depend on home deliveries from our chemist including Plumpton, Fletching and Maresfield.

"The decision to allow the Chailey doctor's surgery to dis-

pense drugs to anyone living outside Newick was made without local consultation or any effort to ensure that doctors and the chemist could work together.

"It appears that only the chemist has a right of appeal and we think this is ridiculous. The authorities have deprived us of both consultation and the ability to appeal. We are taking professional advice on how to proceed."

A spokesman for East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust said: "The PCT is obliged to consider all applications for dispensing services within GPs surgeries, using an agreed set of criteria.

"This process involves careful consideration of comments from all interested local parties.

The committee is not permitted to take any potential impact on local traders into account.

"Their decision must be based purely on whether any new service will prejudice general pharmaceutical or medical services."

● To sign Newick's online petition, visit www.newick.net.
jessica.bauldry@theargus.co.uk

Pressure to save the chemist 2008

Lloyds Pharmacy has continued to provide its service to Newick and the surrounding villages. In 2015 a replacement fascia sign was provided and in 2016 an internal refit was carried out together with installation of an air conditioning condenser.



Lloyds Pharmacy 2017

Information sources:

Information directly from Doris King, daughter of hairdresser Harold King regarding the 1920-30s period; *Kellys* directories; the Parochial Church Council electoral roll for Newick (ESRO: PAR 428/16/2/1); *The Evening Argus* newspaper 24th May 1941; *The War in East Sussex* published in 1945 by *Sussex Express* newspaper; Newick and Fletching Infant Welfare minute book refers to Ballinger's tea rooms in September 1949 (ESRO: ACC 7809/3); East Sussex County Council community survey of Newick 1951 (ESRO: R/P22/15); *The Alchemist* July 1957; town planning applications E/61/123, E/61/679, LW/15/0712, LW/15/0775, LW/16/0725, LW/16/0726 from Lewes District Council; *Pharmacy Digest* May 1962; *Sussex Express* newspaper 20th November 1964; Parish magazines; *The Argus* 16th May 2008; *The Mid Sussex Leader* 22nd May 2008; *Mid Sussex Times* 27th November 2008. Modern photographs by author.