

# 9. IN AND AROUND MARKET STREET

Market Street in the early 1900s. Frisby's shop, which you can see below on the right, was a well-known boot and shoe dealer that was established in Hednesford some time before 1912



## Down memory lane: SHOPS IN HEDNESFORD TOWN CENTRE

Many Hednesford residents have fond memories of the shops and businesses that were in their town, which were often long-established, family-run firms that formed a very important part of the local community.

### Blagg's ironmonger's

At the southern end of Market Street, at the corner of Church Hill on the Rugeley Road, was Blagg's ironmonger's. Among the wide range of items they sold were leather goods, which were manufactured on the premises. The business came to Hednesford from Leek in 1865. In later years they had a shop in Rugeley, as well as a depot in Brereton. Blagg's traded in Hednesford until 2003. The building was demolished in 2007. By 1851 Anglesey Lodge had once again become a training stables and employed eleven stable lads and a groom. With the coming of the Cannock Mineral Railway to Hednesford, the Lodge became a hotel. It was run by Margaret Eskrett, whose husband Thomas used the stables for horse training. The hotel was later turned into a public house. The stable blocks have been demolished and the Lodge's main building is now in private use.

Information provided courtesy of Anthony Hunt

### Tribali's café

Tribali's café was owned by an Italian family, and its home-made ice cream was a particular favourite.

“ A local lady remembers it well:  
We went there to buy ice-cream after church functions at the Lady of Lourdes church or after tennis in the park. They sold various flavours - I seem to remember tutti-frutti, Neopolitan and mint and chocolate chip, but my favourite was rum 'n' raisin, which for me was the height of decadence! ”

### What can you see for sale in this photograph of Blagg's?

Look out for a folding chair, fireplaces, hurricane lamps, mangles, sieves, washing tubs, broomheads, dustpans, a wardrobe, buckets, garden forks, a washstand, and stepladders.

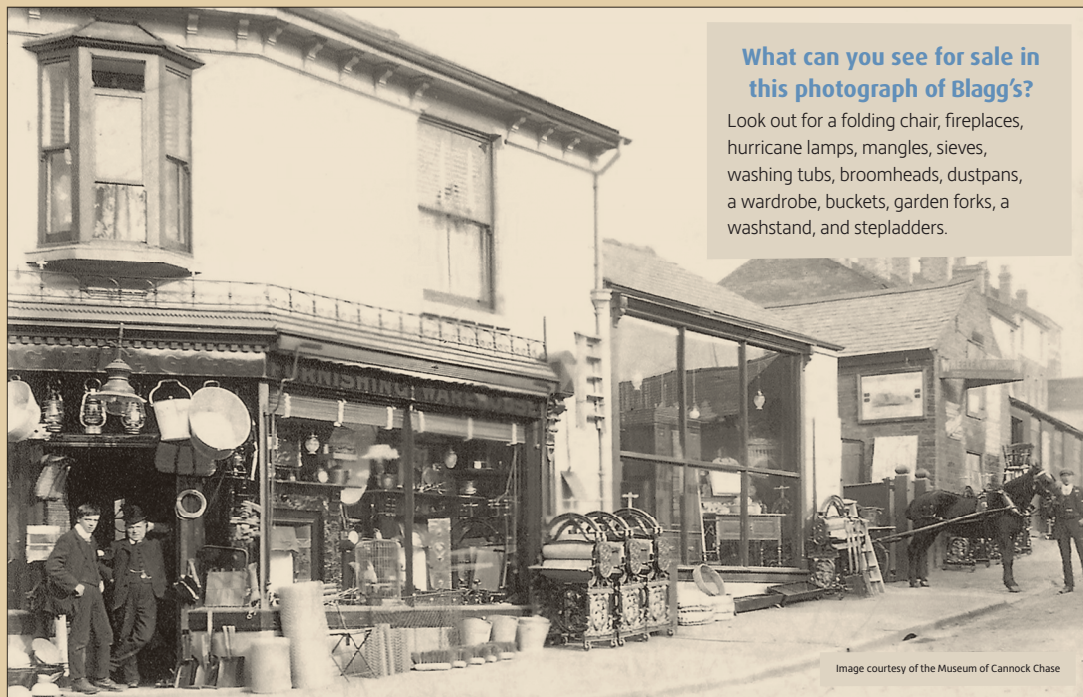


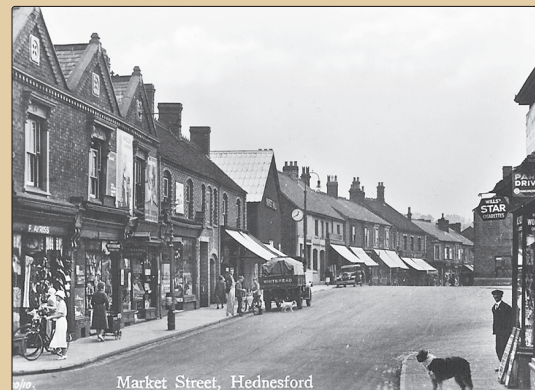
Image courtesy of the Museum of Cannock Chase

Market Street in the 1950s. Note the two-way traffic system, which didn't become a one-way system until the early 1990s.



Image courtesy of Ray Smith

“ One local resident clearly remembers Andrew's shop, which you might be able to spot on the left of the image:  
Andrew's sold sweets, newspapers, fancy goods, postcards and best of all – fireworks. In the 1950s fireworks were sold 'loose' and were on display in a glass fronted cabinet. Many hours were spent admiring the 'rockets', 'jumping jacks' and 'Roman candles'! Your purchases (to young children) were put in a brown paper bag and the bag had a lovely smell of gunpowder. ”



Market Street c1935. Near the centre of the image, adjacent to the clock, is a sign for the town's Market Hall (now demolished). In the foreground on the left is a shop called 'F Ayriss', which is listed in the 1912 edition of Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire as a bootmaker.

Image courtesy of Ray Smith

### Tranter's butcher's

Tranter's butcher's stood on Market Street until the shop closed in 2000. In about 1905 the firm moved here from the neighbouring village of Wimblebury, where it had been since before 1880. The Tranters reared their own pigs at the back of the shop and later built a bakehouse. They often produced over 300 pork pies a week, as well as pressed meats, faggots and sausages.

Information provided courtesy of Anthony Hunt

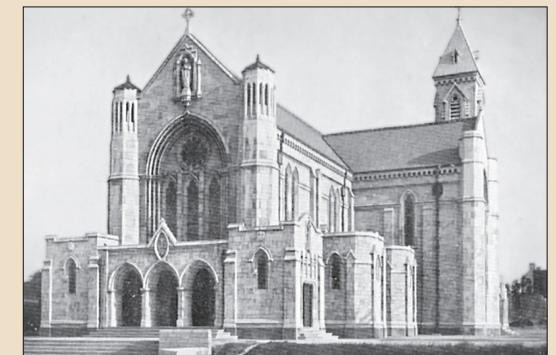
## EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

### Our Lady of Lourdes

Just off the Cannock Chase Heritage Trail, on Uxbridge Street, is the striking Roman Catholic church of Our Lady of Lourdes, which was officially opened in 1934.

The church was inspired by the shrine at Lourdes, in France, which is a site of pilgrimage for Catholics from all over the world. In 1858, in a cave (or grotto) near Lourdes, a peasant girl, Bernadette Soubirous, had a vision of the Virgin Mary.

Hednesford's first Catholic priest, Dr Patrick Boyle, made many visits to Lourdes, and decided to build a church in his own parish in honour of Our Lady.



A postcard of Our Lady of Lourdes c1935. The life-size statue of Our Lady, near the top of the building, is carved from Portland Stone.  
Image courtesy of the Museum of Cannock Chase

Designed to resemble the church in Lourdes, the style of the building is 13th-century French gothic. It was constructed entirely of concrete, which was less expensive than brick or natural stone, then faced with white granite. To counteract possible subsidence, the concrete raft of the church was designed to be adjustable. At the time, this architectural feature was unique to the British Isles, and attracted a great deal of interest.



These Latin words, carved on the front of the church, are from the beginning of the famous Hail Mary prayer.



This grotto is a reproduction of the grotto at Lourdes. Today Our Lady of Lourdes church receives many visitors from all over the world, including those who join the three annual pilgrimages that are made each year to the shrine within the grotto.