

*three nice Georgian shop bow windows, embellished with carvings, which are very unusual, possibly unique in Essex. The central red brick chimneystack is circa 1600. Inside there are a number of beautifully moulded beams. Some upstairs ceilings contain old hand-painted designs of grapes.*

This building was formerly a wholesale grocer's shop, owned by Liddiard and Tanner; later it was a retail grocer's shop owned by a Miss Bryant. (See Photos). According to the present owner, Miss Bryant had an open ended Ostermilk tin embedded in the ceiling above the till so that she could keep an eye on "cashflow" from upstairs. Note the Queen Anne house on the end of this block (No 66), and round the corner in Tudor Mews a 15<sup>th</sup> century (haunted?) barn which was sympathetically renovated a few years ago. (See photo).

Opposite the Carpet Shop is "Sutton's warehouse" once used in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by Liddiard and Tanner for bulk storage of produce. (See photo). The building is now offices. Between this building and the church lych gate is the former shop of Mr. Rust with unusual living quarters at the back. *Originally late 15<sup>th</sup> century, almost completely rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century. Now tenements of 2 storeys, 2 bays. Roof of slate, mansard with 3 sloping roofed dormers.* Three half-timbered shops stood in the space now occupied by a bench occupied by Mr Downing the harness maker, Mr Frith the shoemaker and Mr Overall the upholsterer. These 3 shops were sadly demolished in the 1960s.

We have now reached the junction of the High Street with Bell Street where formerly stood the Bell Inn. (See photo). The inn was owned by Baddow Brewery, the premises of which are described in the Walking Guide to Church Street. The front of the inn was rounded to fit in with the contours of the road and pavement. The inn was demolished early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century during a road-widening scheme, but one interesting wall remains.

Bell Street itself retains some buildings of interest. Bell House has a brick casing painted white of circa 1800 hiding an older timber frame, and the houses on the East Side further along date from the 18th century. The 2 end houses are called The Munnions. The name may relate to mullions (an architectural term) but I like to think the name goes back to the Middle

Ages, and may relate to monks. There are trapdoors in these houses leading to tunnels under the road to the carpet shop, thought to be escape routes for Roman Catholic priests who had to conduct services in secrecy after the Reformation in the homes of fellow Catholics. Capture by the authorities could mean death for heresy in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Russell's delicatessen at the other end of this block was formerly a Builder's Merchant owned by a Mr Russell.

Back to the High Street, the next building is that formerly occupied by Daces, once Carter's Bakery, and next door was a grocer cum greengrocer cum post office. These shops were very important to Baddow residents before the Vineyards shopping centre replaced them about 1968. Carter's farmhouse is behind this block, backing onto Foxholes Road.

Opposite we see 2 quaint buildings set into a large brick wall. One is a garage workshop, the other a tattoo parlour. Formerly these buildings were the cellars of the Bell Inn.

Foxholes Road was named after "Foxholes", which stood east of the High Street, half way up Pump Hill on the right, now occupied by town houses. Pump Hill contained one of the village pumps, in regular use by those villagers without a well until mains water came to the village around 1920.

Well House Farm was a fine 16<sup>th</sup> century house that stood at what is now the junction of the High Street and Foxholes Road (See photo). The farmhouse was reputed to contain timbers rescued from ships that took part in the Battle of the Armada. It had one well inside the building and two wells in the farmyard. There was another very deep well in the area occupied by Reynards Court flats. (Note the interesting names 'Reynards' & 'Foxholes').

Two old thatched cottages were demolished when Reynards Court was built. They were owned by a Mr Collins, an elder of the Peculiar People, who were a mainly Essex religious sect of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century who disassociated themselves from doctors and hospitals.