



Reynolds Newsagents to close after 50 years

A LARGE hole is going to be left in the community of Stratton after Reynolds Newsagents announced it was to close in the summer.

Reynolds, in Ermin Street, opened its doors 50 years ago and has become a hub of the community, with residents often visiting the shop on their way to and from work or school.

The shop was started by Charlie Reynolds Senior, who died earlier this year, and was taken over by his son Charlie Reynolds Junior in 1979.

Charlie Jnr has become a popular character in the area, greeting everyone with a friendly smile, and the shop had become a meeting spot in the morning for many residents – and had become known as ‘the breakfast club’.

But on July 28 Charlie Jnr, 64, of Nythe, will sell his final paper.

Speaking in January Charlie Jnr said: “The shop has become a heart of the community, especially in the mornings when we have the breakfast club, a group of two or three who stand outside the shop in the morning catching up on all the gossip.

“I remember when we used to get deliveries on the train for the national papers and the Adver was delivered by bus. “There used to be three editions of the Adver a day, and the pink for the football results on Saturdays.”

Charlie Snr was born in South Marston, and grew up in Swindon working as an apprentice boiler worker in the railways before heading for the south coast to work for Saunders-Roe flying-boat company on the Isle of Wight.

When the Second World War broke out, his boiler welding experience was invaluable to the war effort and he was moved to the shipyards helping to build motor torpedo boats.

In 1948, he returned to Swindon where one of his sisters had married a Swindon newsagent by the name of Samworth.

He began delivering papers, including the Evening Advertiser, from his Ermin Street home before the opportunity arose to buy the shop in 1961 Charlie Snr became famous as the oldest paper boy in the UK in 2004 at the ripe old age of 88, but he sadly died in February this year following a fall from his bike.

The Swindon Advertiser has been sold from the shop from the very day it opened, with it being delivered by bus from the printing press.

Rachel Youd, newspaper sales manager at the Advertiser, said: “Reynolds News have been a very loyal and supportive newsagent to the Swindon Advertiser and we will certainly miss him as I am sure will the community of Stratton. “Everyone at the Swindon Advertiser would like to wish Charlie Jnr a long and happy retirement.”

Swindon Advertiser 31 May 2012



Community store: Charlie Reynolds opened the shop in 1961 and had his son - now 64 - working with him from the age of 15. Charlie Snr 'retired' in the 1980s after handing the management over to his son in 1979

WALL
WHOLESALE NEWSA

Agent Reynolds.

Week 16th October 1948.

BOX No. 37.

1, WELL

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	QRS.	QRS.	QRS.	QRS.
MAIL	4	11		
EXPRESS	9	21		
NEWS CHRON.	5	22		
MIRROR	13	13		
GRAPHIC	1	25		
	6	90		

Early days: A delivery form from October 1948 when Charlie began running his newspaper delivery service from his home in Swindon, Wiltshire

QRS. COP. £ s. d. QRS. COP.
10 18 65

FORTNIGHTLY PUBLICATIONS

13	Sun Comic	2d	13-1/6	
6	Adventure	2d	13-1/6	
52	Beano Comic	2d	13-1/6	
9	Funny Wonder	2d	13-1/7	
5	Family Star	2d	13-1/6	
6	My Weekly	2d	13-1/6	
34	Red Letter	2d	13-1/6	
9	The Hotspur	2d	13-1/6	
16	Sunny Stories	2d	13-1/6	
12	Titbits	3d	13-2/3	1-9-44
19	Mickey Mot	3d	12-2/3	
4	Picture Show	3d	13-2/4½	
6	Jingles	3d	13-2/3	
15	Tiny Tots	3d	13-2/4½	1054
11	Rainbow	3d	13-2/4½	
2	John o' London	3d	12-2/3	
	Anglers News	3d	2½	
	Confetti News	6d	5½	

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Delivery: A newsagents order form of all the magazines needed in one week in 1948 in the early days of the business

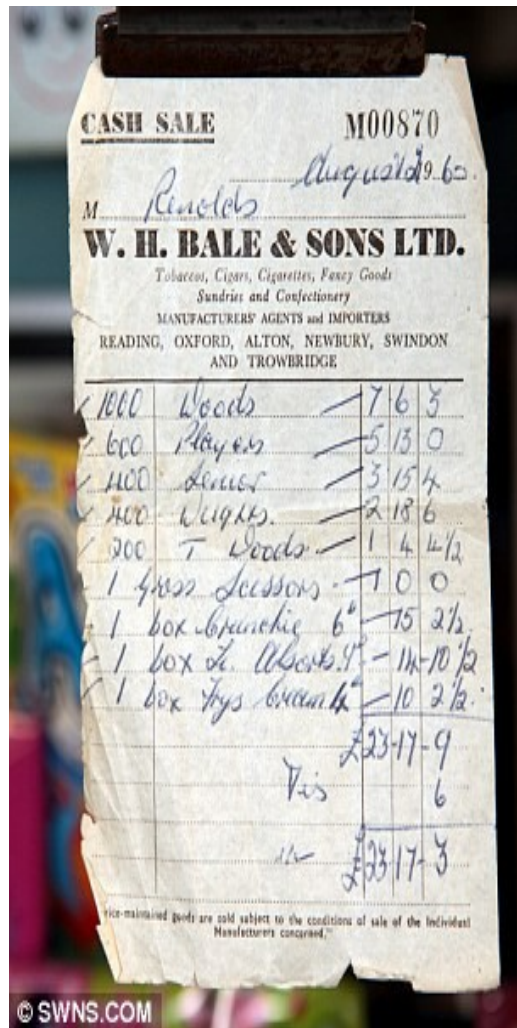
'We gradually built the business up and when the Honda factory opened up nearby it gave us a steady stream of customers every day.

'But it's very hard work. When we worked full time we were up long before 6am and worked in the shop until after 6pm every night.'



The store in Ermin Street, Stratton, opened its doors more than 50 years ago -when a loaf of bread cost the equivalent of just 5p and people smoked Woodbines"

End-of-terrace shop: The store in Ermin Street, Stratton, opened its doors more than 50 years ago -when a loaf of bread cost the equivalent of just 5p and people smoked Woodbines



Receipt: A note from 1960 detailing purchases made by Charlie Reynolds from wholesalers for his store. The top entry reads '1000 Woodbines- £7.6'3'

Charlie jnr, an only child, was keen to join the business and started his first paper round aged 10.

He left Kingsdown School in Swindon aged 15 in 1962 and started working for his father full-time shortly after he bought the Ermin Street shop.

Charlie jnr took over the business from his father in 1979 and has risen at 4am ever since to open the doors at 4.45am.

After getting up at 6am, Charlie snr cycles a few hundred yards from his home to the shop to start by 7am.

He serves on the counter during the busy morning rush before returning home by 10am to look after Phyllis, who now requires constant care due to her failing health.

Charlie jnr has had just one holiday in the last 50 years and works seven days a week.

His retirement will mark the end of the family business as his two grown-up children both have careers in other industries.

He said: 'It's very hard work, I don't know if anyone will want to take on the business - it is such a commitment.

'I've had the odd day off here and there and the occasional long weekend, but I've never had a proper holiday in 50 years.

'But we must be one of the oldest newsagents in Swindon and we really enjoy what we do.

'The shop has become a heart of the community, especially in the mornings when we always have a group of people standing outside the shop catching up on all the gossip.'

Photographs and captions Daily Mail 2018