

The Wheatley Society

Continuity and Change in Wheatley High Street: A study of the evidence from documents, environmental and personal sources.

This exhibit is the work of Wheatley Society, a community association with members throughout the village. The historical information has been collected by the Local History section, and the architectural information by the Environment section. Residents in the High Street, and a number of older local people have also helped, thus making it a real community contribution. The Local History group has consulted many sources, including the Census Returns of 1851, 1861 and 1871, old rate books, parish registers, accounts written by older residents thirty years ago, and the working notebooks of James Robbins (1815-64), the village carpenter. Architectural sources include old maps, drawings and photographs.

The results have been presented in three ways: the visual display, arranged by the Environment group, uses a colour code. The drawing of the street and the photographs on the dark-brown background show the street as it is today; the drawing and the photographs on the yellow background show it as it was in the past. Wherever possible each building is illustrated by a photograph immediately above or below. Brief accounts of each house will be found under the pictorial display. In addition, a much fuller account of the historical findings is in the catalogue provided. There is also a slide show with commentary, and photographs and tape-recordings of older occupiers provide a more personal history of the street.