

## **GRIFFYDAM POST OFFICE, SHOP AND BAKERY**

**(Including supplementary information on  
Peggs Green Post Office)**



**HERBERT ROWELL THE FIRST SUB-POSTMASTER AT GRIFFYDAM POST  
OFFICE IS THIRD FROM THE LEFT. THIS WAS THE YEAR OF HIS DEATH AT  
THE AGE OF 74.**

**PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW GRIFFYDAM  
WESLEYAN METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING IN 1932.**

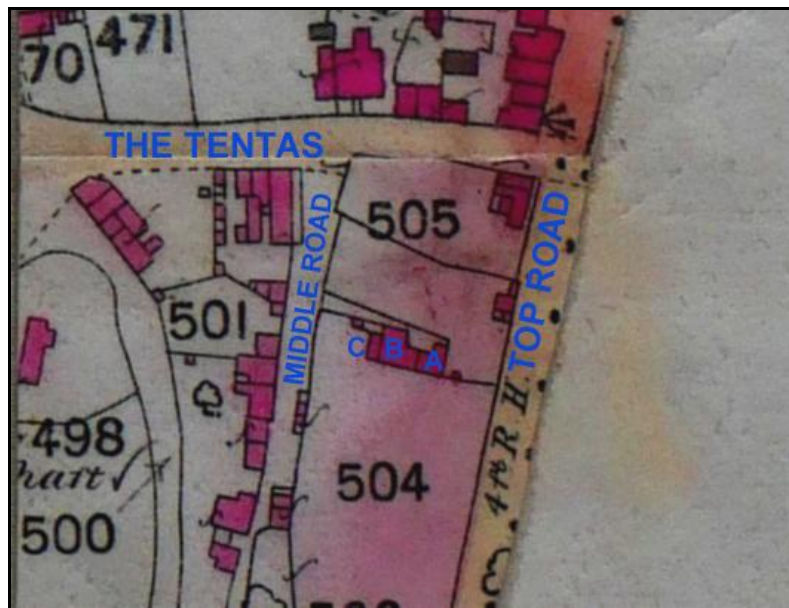
**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - JULY 2025**

**The author would welcome any further information or photographs from readers appertaining to both the Griffydam and Peggs Green Post Offices.**

**© Samuel T Stewart - July 2025**

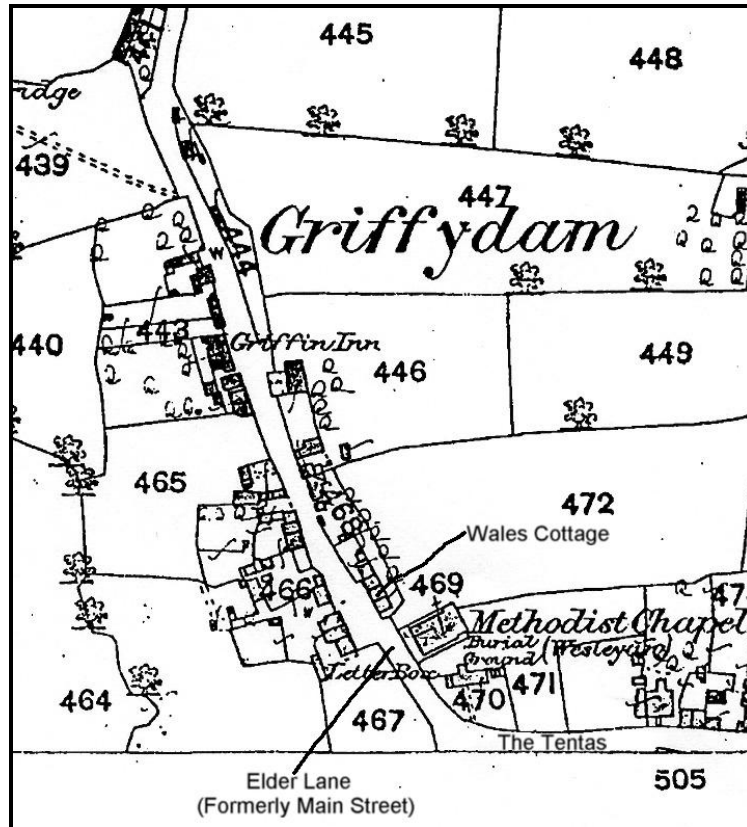
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by means, electronic, mechanical or otherwise without first seeking the written permission of the author.

## REFERENCE MAPS



The Post Office was located in what is thought to be the first properties on the corner where Middle Road meets the Tents on the above 1911 map, which were converted into what is now known as "Westleigh" as shown in the photograph below





**MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF LETTER BOX WHICH WAS INSTALLED BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE POST OFFICE**

**Griffydam Post Office** was opened on the 6th of June 1892, it was not a stand-alone branch and was described as a sub-post office, responsible to the main Post Office at Ashby de la Zouch. From the 3rd of December 1916 it became responsible to Leicester. It was replaced by Pegg's Green Post Office on the 30th of April 1975.

**The first sub-Post Master at Griffydam was Herbert Rowell.** Prior to being awarded sub Post Office status, Herbert ran a grocers and bakers establishment in the same property. Herbert was also a well known local preacher and a trustee of Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. He was also the grandfather of the renowned Eric Rowell of Anchor lane, Pegg's Green, who supplied the author with photographs and information on local history.

**A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WHICH PRE-DATES THE OPENING OF THE GRIFFYDAM POST OFFICE BEING ESTABLISHED:-**

**Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – February 18<sup>th</sup> 1888**

**Ashby Petty Sessions**

**SELLING BREAD WITHOUT WEIGHING**

Superintendent Holloway charged a number of bakers and sellers of bread with having, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January, sold respectively to Dorothy Anne Holloway certain loaves of bread, otherwise than by weight such bread being not called "Fancy" or "French" bread or rolls. The defendants

were.....Thringstone ([Rotten Row, Coleorton](#)) John Kendrick, Baker ; [Herbert Rowell, baker, Griffydam](#).....All the defendants with the exception of Robinson and Underwood pleaded guilty. – Supt. Holloway stated that complaints had been made regarding the deficiency in weight of the bread, and the Chief Constable had directed that proceedings should be taken against the defendants. He accordingly obtained the assistance of Mrs. Holloway to make the sundry purchases. The case against Robinson was proceeded with first. – Mrs. Holloway stated that on the 27<sup>th</sup> January she went to the shop of the defendant, Robinson, at Coleorton. He was the seller of the bread. She saw the defendant and his wife, and asked for a loaf of bread, which the defendant supplied without weighing. Witness paid the defendant 2¼d . for the loaf, which was not “French “ or “Fancy” bread, nor rolls. It was a half quarter cake loaf. – John Underwood was then charged with having, on the same date, unlawfully sold to Mrs. Holloway, a loaf, other than by weight. Witness stated that she then went to the defendant’s shop at Whitwick , and he sold her a loaf, and he sold her a loaf, for which she paid 4½d. Defendant did not weight it. The bread was not “fancy” or “French” bread, nor rolls. – Supt. Holloway said that he weighed the bread and the deficiencies varied.

A 4lb. loaf supplied by John Kendrick, of Thringstone ([Rotten Row, Coleorton](#)), was 1oz 2 drs deficient .....[Herbert Rowell, Griffydam, 2lb. loaf, 10 drs. deficient](#).....[With the exception of Robinson and Rowell, who sold 2lb. loaves the loaves purchased were supposed to be 4lb. loaves](#). – Supt. Holloway observed that the bread got lighter after keeping, and within twenty-four hours after purchase, he found another ounce deficiency. The bread purchased he weighed in the presence of the defendants respectively. Mrs. Biddle’s bread, it was stated had not been baked that day ; the bread of the other defendants had. The defendants, with the exception of Robinson and Ward, bread sellers, were all bakers.

[The Bench retired, and after consideration..... John Kendrick and Herbert Rowell were fined 5s. 6d., and costs amounting in all to 16s. 6d.,.....](#)In each case the fine was paid, one of the defendants expressing her sorrow, and adding that she would never offend again.

#### **Burton Chronicle – June 20th 1889**

##### **Ashby Petty Sessions**

##### **A GRIFFYDAM TRADESMAN AND HIS WEIGHTS. –**

Herbert Rowell, shopkeeper, Griffydam, was summoned by Superintendent Holloway for having an unjust weight for use in his shop. – Mr. Holloway said he went to defendant’s shop and found a 2lb weight 6½ drams against the buyer. Neither Mr. Rowell or his wife were there, but he afterwards saw the former, who told him he was very sorry for what had occurred, and made an excuse that he had borrowed the weight from another person. Thirteen other weights in the shop were alright. – **Fined 5s. 6d. and 12s. costs.**

In the 1891 census Herbert (33), a grocer, baker and employer, was living with his wife Maria (33) and the following children - Francis (12), a scholar, b. in Coleorton ; Nellie (6), a scholar (b. in Worthington ; George H (4) b. in Worthington and Matthew Henry (2) b. in Worthington.

**Information from Kelly's Trade Directory for Leicestershire & Rutland 1895 / 1899 / 1908** - Post Office, Griffydam.- **Herbert Rowell, sub-postmaster.** Letters from Ashby-de-la-Zouch arrive at 8.10 a.m. and dispatched at 5.15 p.m. There was no Sunday delivery. Postal Orders issued here but not paid. Nearest money order office at Whitwick and Coleorton The telegraph office was at Worthington Railway station, 2 miles distant. There was a Wall Letter Box at Newbold, which was cleared at 5 p.m

At some point, a wall letter box was installed at Griffydam, the location of which is shown on the earlier map, opposite the chapel. The letter box is not mentioned in trade directories, as Newbold always was, but as the extract of the map is thought to have been surveyed in 1881, it is assumed that the box was installed prior to that date.

By the 1901 census, Herbert is recorded as a grocer, baker and Post Office sub Post Master and they had three further children - Florence (8), b. 21st March 1893 in Griffydam ;Clara (6) b. in Griffydam and Leonard W (10m), b. in Griffydam

By 1911 they had 5 daughters and two sons who were still living with them at the Post Office.

**Leicester Chronicle – May 25th 1912**  
**A Whitwick Nonacenarian's – interesting Recollections**

Mr. John Batson, who lived with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bunce, in Brooks Lane, Whitwick, reached his 90th birthday on Monday. He hails from Hardwick, Buckinghamshire.

Prior to living at Whitwick he stayed with his son who was proprietor of the "Rising Sun" in Griffydam, until the public house was permanently closed. **He was the first man to receive the old age pension at Griffydam Post Office**

*The history of old age pensions in the UK began with the Old Age Pensions Act 1908, which provided a means-tested pension for those aged 70 and over, funded through taxation. This was a significant step, as it marked the first time the state provided financial support for the elderly. Prior to this, support was primarily through the Poor Laws. The system was later expanded and reformed, with contributory pensions introduced in 1925 and further changes occurring with the National Insurance Act 1946.*

By the 1921 Spring register only Francis and Matthew Henry are living with their parents Herbert and Maria, who are assumed to still be running the P.O. and shop.

Herbert died on the 23rd December 1932 aged 74 and his wife Maria on June 27th 1932 aged 74 also. They are both buried in the same grave in the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel graveyard.



At some point between c.1932 and 1939, the Post Office was taken over by Tom Saddington (a colliery safety shaftsman b. 30th April 1892) and his wife Florence (nee Rowell.....daughter of Herbert and Maria Rowell above). The 1939 register confirms they were living at the Post Office It is assumed that Florence ran the Post office and shop whilst Tom was at work. Florence and Herbert Rowell's sons Francis (incapacitated) and Matthew Henry (chief clerk and cashier for a sectional building company are living with them. Matthew Henry became a famous local footballer and was Uncle of the author by marriage. Also living with them is a daughter Irene H ( a cellulose painter, b. 27th July 1919) and Gordon V Smith (a hosiery factory clerk, b. 6th November 1920).



**“The Wesley Guild Parade” marching down “The Tentas”  
and on to Elder Lane near the Chapel in 1931.**

**The first gentleman on the left is [Tom Saddington](#) and Mrs. Sarah Witham, the Chapel caretaker is looking on from the garden of the caretakers cottage**

The author currently has no knowledge when the Saddington's vacated the P.O. or details of any further owners until Pegg's Green Post office was opened in 1975 resulting in the closure of Griffydam. The Pegg's Green PO was first run by Mrs. Bird (nee., Davies). It is possible that the Saddingtons ran the Griffydam PO till it closed and was transferred to Pegg's Green.

There were no Saddington's recorded as being buried in Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Chapel graveyard, which may have given some guidance on dates.

The 1939 register records that living near the Post Office was a widower Burnie C Mitchell, (b. 1884), who was a stone man in a coal mine. He had two single daughters living with him, Ann J and Florence, who were born in 1916 and 1919 respectively. Ann was an elementary uncertificated assistant teacher and Florence was a hosiery machinist. Apparently, Burnie Mitchell came down from Northumberland to work in the coal mines which was quite common in those days. When the council houses were built at Newbold the

family moved there and their cottage on middle road was demolished. It is possible that his wife had died prior to the move from Northumberland. Daughter Florence married a Hodges on 21st December 1942.

E.D. Letter Code		Borough, U.D. or R.D.		Registration District and Sub-district													
RGAO		RURAL		4004-2 4004-3													
ADDRESS.		SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.		O. V. S. P. or I.		M. or F.		BIRTH.		S. M. W. or D.		PERSONAL OCCUPATION.		See INSTRUCTIONS.	
		No. Sub. No.								Day. Year.							
1		2 3		4		5 6		7 8 9		10		11					
Lonehigh Bottom Rd.		20 4		Abbot Mabel E		F		25 Oct 1914		M		Unpaid Domestic D					
No 3 Bottom Rd.		21 1		Wardle John		M		11 Nov 1916		M		Coal Teller Below					
		2		Wardle Rachel E		F		14 Nov 1917		M		Unpaid Domestic D					
This record is officially closed.																	
This record is officially closed.																	
No 2 Bottom Rd.		22 1		Lownsend Thomas		M		22 June 1870		M		Sunday Newsgate					
		2		Lownsend Althea A		F		6 Sep 1893		M		Unpaid Domestic D					
		3		Lownsend Francis H		M		23 Apr 1902		M		Coal Teller below					
		4		Lownsend George		M		15 Oct 1922		S		At School					
No 1 Bottom Rd.		23 1		Wistley Florence		M		4 May 1917		M		Coalminer Flower Below					
		2		Wistley Margaret J		F		20 Feb 1919		M		Unpaid Domestic D					
		3		Wistley Margaret S		F		13 Nov 1935		S		Under School Age					
The Lents		24 1		Cornford Isabella		F		15 July 1864		M		Unpaid Domestic D					
The Lents		25 1		Witham Sarah H		F		1 Jan 1874		M		Unpaid Domestic D					
		2		Witham Doris H		F		24 Mar 1911		S		Domestic Servant Paid					
This record is officially closed.																	
Post Office		26 1		Saddington Lon.		M		3 April 1892		M		Colliery Shallowman Safety					
		2		Saddington Florence		F		21 Mar 1893		M		Unpaid Domestic D					
		3		Russell Francis		M		29 Sept 1878		S		Incapacitated					
		4		Russell Matthew H		M		4 Apr 1912		S		Chief Clerk Cashier for Sectional Building Insurp					
		5		Saddington Irene H		F		27 July 1919		S		Cellulose Painter					
		6		Smith Gordon V		M		6 Nov 1920		S		Hosiery Factory Blank					
Middle Row		27 1		Brookes Ernest		M		6 Sept 1887		M		Road Foreman, Incapacitated					
				Brookes Alice M		F		28 Aug 1888		M		Unpaid Domestic D					
In Post Office		28 1		Mitchell Bessie E		M		27 June 1894		M		Stonemason in Coalmine					
				Mitchell Ann J		F		10 April 1916		S		Elementary Unemployed					
				Mitchell Florence		F		6 June 1919		S		Mat Mother in Hosier					
The Lents		29 1		Johnson Benjamin H		M		8 Nov 1893		M		Colliery Coal Heaver Below					
		2		Johnson May		F		17 June 1897		M		Unpaid Domestic D					
		3		Johnson William H		M		15 Oct 1921		S		Colliery Coal Heaver Below					
This record is officially closed.																	
This record is officially closed.																	
This record is officially closed.																	
This record is officially closed.																	
Lents House		30 8		Hill Rowland		M		30 Apr 1881		S		Permanent way Labour					
		1		Williamson George		M		3 Sept 1904		M		Sanitary Pipe Fitter					
		2		Williamson Lily J		F		24 May 1903		M		Unpaid Domestic D					
		3		Williamson Derek H		M		18 Apr 1929		S		At School					
		4		Williamson George H		M		18 Apr 1932		S		At School					
This record is officially closed.																	
This record is officially closed.																	
Chapel House		31															
Wesleyan Chapel																	
Griffyddan		32 1		Platts Charles W		M		11 June 1893		M		Colliery Coal Heaver Below					

The above is an extract from the 1939 register for Griffyddan, confirming the Saddingtons' were running the Post Office at that time



### **'NO' TO POST OFFICE AT NEWBOLD**

People living at Newbold, a small community near Coleorton, where pensioners have to travel by bus to either Worthington, [Griffydam](#) or Coleorton to collect their money, cannot look forward to the time when it will have a post office.

Following an appeal by Ashby Rural Council, a letter was received at their meeting from the Head Postmaster at Leicester stating that it was impossible to accede to the council's request to open a sub-post office at Newbold.

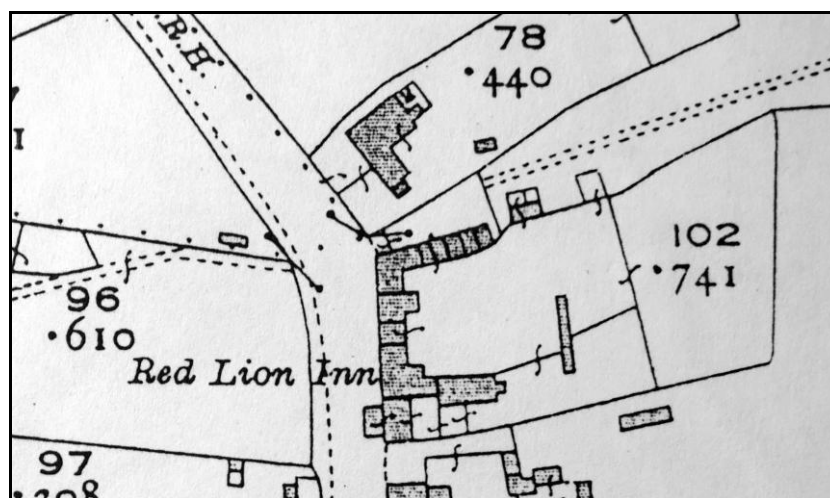
The Head Postmaster pointed out that a license was held in Newbold for the sale of stamps, and that regulations permitted old-age pensioners to nominate an agent to collect their pensions.

The council decided that details of the existing post facilities at Newbold should be sent to the local MP with a request that he should press for the establishment of a sub-post office

### **PEGGS GREEN POST OFFICE**

As mentioned earlier, Pegg's Green Post Office opened on the 30th of April 1975 which coincided with the closure of Griffydam Post Office.

The Peggs Green PO was located in a passage way to the right of where the Red Lion public house, which closed in 1968, was situated. It is now a private residence. Mrs. Bird (nee. Davies), who first ran the Post Office, had a son named Clifford Marriot by her first marriage and later married the well known Billie Bird who did a bit of local preaching and had a withered arm. They had two children by the names of Susan and Philip. At one point they lived in the top end cottage of New Row, Peggs Green, and the author has fond memories of playing cricket with Clifford in the field behind their house c. 1950.



The passage where the Peggs Green PO was located can be seen at the bottom of this extract from the 1923 O/S map