

HERITAGE TRAIL



JACK HARRIS SHOP

In 1932 this cottage was owned by Sydney and Frederick Johnson. Sydney was a retired miner and we believe Frederick a railway worker.

In 1940 Jack Harris (*formally known as Horace Hoult*) took ownership of the property and opened it up as a General Store. Jack was a known character, frequently leaving a 'back in 5 minutes' sign on the shop door but often disappeared for several hours. A half crown was permanently glued to the shop counter to see how many customers would attempt to pick it up, and his resident parrot was famous for its wolf whistles.



Jack Harris

At the Rex and Regal cinemas in Coalville there were regular advertisements for Jack's shop in Griffydham. When Jack was away from the shop it was looked after by David (Dink) Else and Harry Weston.

Jack was unmarried and the shop was left to David Else and Harry Weston on his death. Jack also left his 3 wheeler invalid car and a valuable gold watch to David Else. It had the inscription "Sergeant Horace (Horris) Hoult" and some of the villagers are rumoured to have thought Jack was some kind of spy.

Harry Weston and his wife Mary continued to run the shop until the early 1960's. In 1964 the property was extended and became a private residence.

