

SHOPPING THEN AND NOW

When the previous owners of our house moved here in 1965, the outgoing occupants left a helpful list of “*retailers who have given satisfaction*”. Looking at this note half a century later, it reads more like the Victorian era. Not only milk and newspapers were delivered to Dorney Reach, but so were bread (3 days a week – not counting that there was still a baker’s shop in Dorney village), meat (daily), fresh fish (3 days a week), and fruit and vegetables (twice a week). The butcher, fishmonger and greengrocer all had shops in Eton Wick. There was also a “*small*” supermarket, Darvilles, in Eton Wick, but several mobile grocery vans used to visit Dorney. Several laundry vans and one from a launderette called on a Monday. New laid eggs from a local farm could be bought at Dorney Post Office. There was a bus every hour to Windsor, and every other hour to Maidenhead.

Fast forward to today, and we have far more choice but perhaps not as much service. If we have internet access, we can order all our food and more to be delivered to our home. The only shop in Dorney is the Walled Garden, but there are still shops and a Post Office in Eton Wick, as well as two major supermarkets within easy reach – but not by bus. I can buy fresh eggs from my neighbour who keeps chickens.

In the early 1900s, shopping in Dorney was limited to the Post Office cum grocers, and the bakery, and there was no bus service. How, I wonder, will things change again in the next 50 or 100 years?