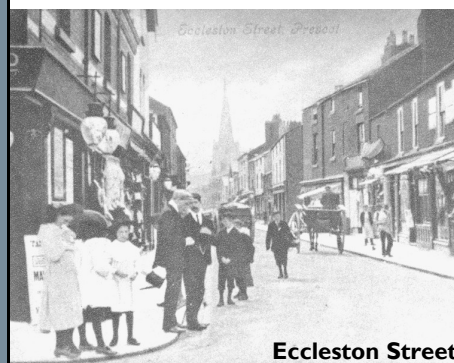


Eccleston Street

In the 16th century Eccleston Street was originally known as 'Newgate Street'. The old name may relate to it possibly being a new roadway added to the older parts of the town. In an earlier age it was called Fountain Street.



Eccleston Street

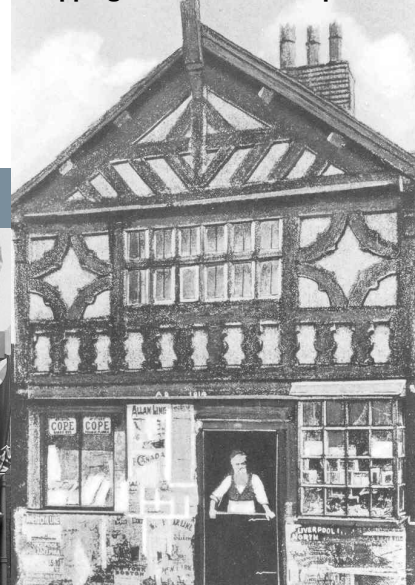
Initially Eccleston Street was designed as a residential road with large houses for Prescot's more prosperous residents. As Prescot flourished in the 18th century, the wealth of the town increased and people began moving from Eccleston Street to other parts of the town. Gradually shops began to open up in place of the houses, and Eccleston Street became the main shopping area in Prescot.

Amongst the many shops along Eccleston Street were Quick's the Booksellers, Seddon's Grocer Store, and the Public Benefit Boot Company shoe shop. In Edwardian times, George Hemingway's chemist shop was located on the site now occupied by the Boots chain of chemists. Hemingway was not just a chemist, he was also a seedsman, wine and spirits merchant and a keen photographer, producing many photographs of Prescot.

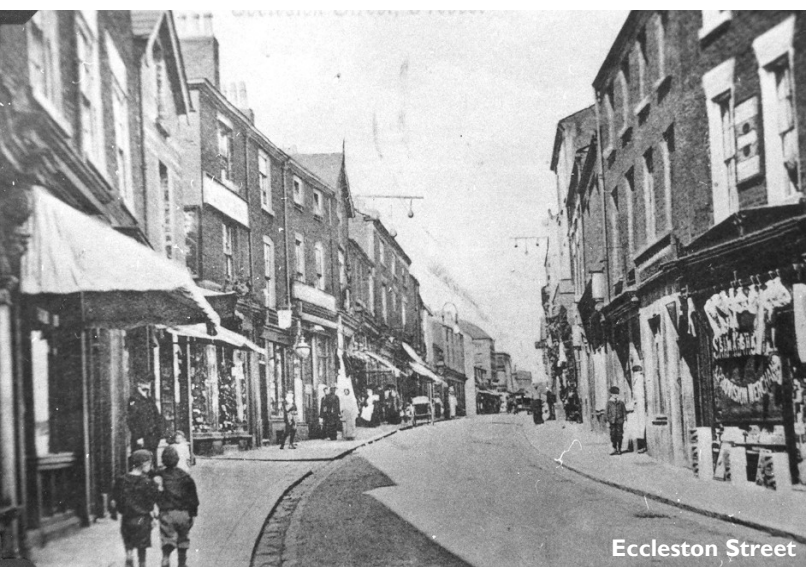
Amongst the drapers, grocers, public houses, butchers and booksellers on Eccleston Street, stood Thomas Miller's barber shop, also known as 'Hopping Bob's'. In addition to cutting hair, Mr Miller also acted as a travel agent, selling tickets for the Allan Shipping Line.

Thomas Miller's barber shop was in a timber-framed Jacobean building which had been built in 1614. In 1927 a replica frontage was added to the building next door to match. The building still stands today.

'Hopping Bob's' barber shop



<http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/things-to-see-and-do/galleries-and-museum.aspx>



Eccleston Street



The Wool Shop
Coronation King George VI

Eccleston Street

Mather's Grocers & Saunder's Fruiterer shop was situated on Eccleston Street. Fruit and vegetables would have been piled high inside and outside the shop in an impressive display.

In 1922 the Lyme House Cinema opened on Eccleston Street. The cinema was set back from the road, and the entrance covered by an ornate glass veranda. For many years silent films were shown here, followed in time by talking pictures. Saturday matinees were very popular with children. The top half of the building is still recognisable today if you look up above the modern shop frontage.

In Elizabethan times, Prescot had its own playhouse, built by Richard Harrington. This was the first purpose built indoor theatre outside London, and was known simply as The Playhouse.

There is little documentation surviving about the building, but it is known to have stood near to the site of the 'Flat Iron building' in Eccleston Street. Richard Harrington was tenant at Prescot Hall, and was able to fund the project with revenue from Prescot Mine.



The Lyme House Cinema



Mather's Grocers & Saunder's Fruiterer Shop

Public Benefit Boot Company



George Hemingway also produced the 'Prescot Year Books', which were full of local history, stories and useful information alongside adverts for local shops.



George Hemingway's Chemist Shop