

## Bygone Businesses in Keinton Mandeville

Times are always a-changing so this is the start of some village information, much of it based on collected memories *from* those who can remember the items and *for* those who are too new to have ever known them. It all makes up part of the 'rich tapestry of life....'

Let's start with **B for banks**.

Below is the very last customer, *Geof Dabbinet*, **Kingweston Postmaster**, drawing money from the very last serving cashier, *Fiona Wilson* on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 1992, (recorded by *John Matthews*.)



Somerton had banks in the '20s, but they only opened after WW2 on Thursday mornings in Keinton. Keinton had two banks, *Lloyds* in Castle Str, also *Nat West* in the High Street (in what is currently **Bank House**). The Nat West cashier was escorted on her journeys for security! The Banks were mostly used by the other businesses to draw wages/ bank takings.

*What other business did they do?  
Any memories?*

On the right, is **Nat West**. It closed at mid-day and within two hours it was stripped of all fixtures/fittings. Nothing left to remind us that it had ever existed. Vanished for ever.

Gone but not quite forgotten, for the building is called **Bank House**. So, as we walk towards Keinton Stores (on right of the photo) pause and think: names are part of the jigsaw of past and present a constant reminder!



... *Do you have any 'Bank' stories to add?*



This picture (courtesy of Trevor Cook) shows the **Lloyds** sign outside the Griffin's house (called **Ebenezer Cottage**), where the front room served as the Bank until about 1981 when it moved across the road to where the Hair Salon now stands. When renovating the house, a large niche was found, in the thickness of the front wall.

*Could this have been for the safe?*

**Lloyds Bank** was first to close in Dec 1991, followed by **Nat West** in Feb 1992. Since then we have plenty of choices to use banks in Somerton, Cary, Street, or Yeovil.