

Grand Drive, Lower Morden:  
Shopping Parade being built c.1930



Opening of the RAC Store Grand Drive c.1939 © Marilyn Bartlett

In the 1960s the Co-op used to be three shops – a grocery, a butchery and a greengrocery. There were no shops between the Co-op and what is now the hairdresser. This land was originally bought to build a Baptist church, which they subsequently swapped for their current site by the roundabout.

Maurice



When my sister and I were young the Co-op used to issue different shaped tin checks which were given every time one spent money.

Mavis



My sister and I used to play shops with these checks. I think they were like points one gets nowadays with loyalty cards, paid towards a dividend.

Peter

I used to work in Helene's in Grand Drive, which sold clothes from baby size up to adult women. We also sold slippers, knitting wool and haberdashery. It was a very friendly shop and we had many customers who came in to chat, as well as to buy.

Mavis



Trevor Sergeant (undated)

John Goddard 1999



John Goddard 1999



Starting from the roundabout there was a newsagent similar to today's shop but including the Post Office, then Holes the baker, Charles the ladies' hairdresser, the café, Helene's the drapers, an independent greengrocer, a chemist, and a hardware shop with yard behind. At the Cannon Hill Lane end was Lovibonds the off-licence, a newsagents called Cannon Hill Library, Paul Electrics, and the toy shop Bonadventure.

Maurice



Chris Scoffield

The end shop, which lies back, used to be the Post Office, where I worked.

Gladys

There was an off-licence, which sold all kinds of drinks. It was in the Beverley car park in Lower Morden Lane, and is now a firework shop. Shops weren't allowed to sell alcoholic drinks in those days.

Mavis