

## Garages of Stickney

**Jabez H Sergeant** was the first person to establish a garage in Stickney in 1915, when he bought the old Grocery shop that was once occupied by William Atkinson for Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds. He started his business by servicing and repairing motor bikes and also selling Fleet and B.S.A bicycles, but by the end of The First World War he had turned his skills to repairing cars as well. He also stocked and sold Moseley tyres and even supplied wind-up Gramophones and kept a good selection of Seventy-eight Records that were greatly appreciated by those who could afford to buy them. When the gas lighting was installed in the Church, the Rectory and also extended to the School in 1922, the carbide that was needed by the Church Wardens for the production of the gas was frequently supplied by Mr Sergeant. He installed the first Shell Petrol pump in the Village and this was positioned very close to the side of the main road, and customer's vehicles had to actually park on the highway to be refuelled. This situation prevailed virtually unchanged for the next fifty years until they were moved onto a new forecourt. In the later years he became an agent for the Morris Oxford cars and also installed a wireless in the Garage where the boys from the village would meet and listen to the football matches. When he sold the business in 1931 a modern telephone system had been installed a few years earlier.

**Sidney James Woods**, from Croft was married in Stickney Parish Church in 1923 and bought the Service Garage from Mr Sergeant in the August of 1931 and continued with the business mainly servicing cars and vans. He retained the telephone number of Stickney 27 and later took an agency for the RAC and the AA. George Walter Wilson worked as a mechanic for him and was once required to repair the front end of Bert Handsleys lorry after it failed to stop and hit the back of another one while fully laden with sand. When the

young driver was sacked after complaining that the brakes never were effective it was soon discovered that all the front brake shoes had been removed sometime before the accident.

He eventually became an Authorised Dealer for supplying Morris trucks and Vans and also Ford cars before he and his wife Dorothy retired after Twenty Nine years in the Village

**Palmer and Bell** were well established as Dodge and Ford truck Distributors in Butterwick by the end of the Nineteen Fifties and they were looking to expand their business elsewhere. They bought the garage in Stickney from Mr Woods and his wife for Six Thousand Pounds in July 1960 and kept the dealership for Morris and Morris Commercial vehicles and continued to employ local people as staff. Malcolm Robinson and Derek Cooley were mechanics. Graham Burman and Melvyn Smith both served their apprenticeship here after leaving the William Lovell School in the nineteen seventies, and Eileen Dodds started work at Palmer & Bells as a Pump attendant and later married Alan King who eventually bought the premises in 1975

There is also a photograph that was taken at the front of the show room that shows six new minis in a line all with consecutive vehicle registration numbers that were all supplied in the 1960s as one complete order.

**Rowland King** originally worked as a engineer and a agricultural contractor from his premises just south of Tempest Garage. At one time had owned two steam traction engines and threshing sets but later changed to combines harvesters and also took on ploughing contracts as well as cultivating.

When Palmer & Bell sold their Stickney Garage in 1974 it was acquired by the Kings and resumed to traded as "R King & Son" until Rowland died in 1975

and his son Alan King continued with the business eventually building a new Forecourt to the south of the Garage and moving the petrol pumps from the side of the main road. As well as general servicing and maintenance to cars and light commercial vehicle he established a body repair shop with paint spraying facilities on the site. For several years the garage provided a twenty four hour vehicle recovery service for the RAC and even stocked and sold new cycles for a short while. At one time they operated the old school buses for the transport of the pupils to and from the Village Schools. This service was later taken over by Translinc Transport.

As well as providing Ministry Of Transport inspecting and being the only Garage in Stickney that sells petrol and diesel now, a large part of their business includes operating a growing fleet of small Coaches and Mini busses

**John William Nelsey** was born in Eastville 1898 and moved to Stickney with his widowed mother a short time after. By 1930 he is listed in the books of Lincolnshire as being a Cycle agent in the village, where he ran his business from a wooden shed at the south side of The Plough Inn. An old invoice produced by him only four years later shows that he also sold and part exchanged motor bikes as well as being Agent for Humber and Rudge-Whitworth Cycles and selling petrol from a pump that stood close to the side of the main road. When George Lovell died in 1936 his old carpenters and wheelwright premises became vacant and was sold by the owner Mrs Gerty Bett to Mr Nelsey who converted it into a garage. Lovell's old mud and stud home that was known as Jasmine Cottage was pulled down and replaced with a wood and asbestos roofed bungalow to the rear of the garage. Mr Nelsey lived here with his wife Susannah Mary and they expanded the business eventually progressing to car maintenance and motor cycle sales and repairs. He also provided a vital necessity of recharging the glass accumulators that

customers relied on for their wireless at home. Every school morning Ray Featherstone would walk past the Garage and as a young boy he was fascinated by the sight of the cars and motorbikes and was often allowed in the workshop by the men that worked there, yet always finished up virtually alone with his Blaizer clamped tight in the bench vice making him late for school again

One morning Bob Kingston and some local youths were amused to see Mr Nelsey straightening the pedals of PC Crunkorns bike, that had mysteriously fallen from the Railway Bridge the night before, while he was otherwise occupied at the Station's waiting room.

An old derelict lean-to shed at the side of the workshop was full of scrap motorbikes and disregarded spare parts and became known as the Glory Hole.

William died suddenly at the age of fifty and his grave is marked in Stickney Cemetery. His wife moved to a new Prefab in Hall Lane and survived for another Thirty two years and was buried at Nottingham in 1981

**Fred Tempest** came from Old Leake and bought the Garage when William Nelsey died in 1949 and continued to run it much as it was, living with his family in the bungalow at the back although he did have a telephone installed in 1950 with the number Stickney 52 and took on some maintenance of Tractors and Commercial vehicles. The garage held a dealership for MG, Morris and Austin motors for many years but they were eventually amalgamated in to the British Leyland Group. Originally the Esso's brand of petrol was sold from the forecourt and Sue Peal and Fred's wife, Jean Alice regularly served at the fuel pumps but she sadly died at an early age in 1975. For many years there was a silver model of a Sunderland Flying Boat hanging in the showroom but this seemed to disappeared when the new building work commenced.

Both of Fred's sons joined the business after leaving school and a new car show room and Unipart Shop was erected by local builders Caulkwell & Dallywater from Hall Lane in 1965. Colin English was employed as an apprentice when he left school in 1960 and is still working there part time after more than fifty years. The sale of Burma petrol and diesel ceased in the nineteen eighties and all the fuel pumps and tanks were removed and the whole of the fore court was turned over to used car sales. The timber and asbestos bungalow at the rear of the garage became vacant after Ken moved to a new house and was later demolished to provide more parking spaces. Fred died in 1997 and the enterprise is now run by Ken and Graham Tempest with much of the trade relying on car sales and Self drive van and mini bus hire. As well as general maintenance and servicing of cars, it still remains busy as a class four MOT testing station

**Samuel George Lovell** was born in Islington in 1871 but was baptised in Stickney Parish Church. He was the son of Samuel who worked as a Railway Clerk in London. After being trained as a Motor and Mechanical Engineer he had returned to the village and in 1901 he was living in a cottage with his spinster Aunt Sarah Ann near to what was later to become the railway station, but moved later to live opposite Atkinson's Grocers Shop what is now known as Kings Garage. It's unknown where he worked from or what he did but he may have had a small workshop or cycle repair shop at the rear of his Aunt's Cottage and is remembered as having fitted Dress Guards to ladies bicycles. He presented a bill to the Church Wardens in 1929 for work done on the clock in the tower and in 1930 he is recorded as being a motor bus proprietor and ran an Omnibus from Stickney to Boston Market on Wednesdays and Saturdays. There is no record of him getting married or his death in Stickney but he may have died in Wakefield 1944

**Kevin J Green** was born and brought up in Stickney, first attending the Church of England Primary School then the William Lovell Secondary School, as well as some of the various clubs that once existed in the Village. Upon leaving school at the age of fifteen he attained an apprenticeship to Bert Eyre as a Motor Mechanic, and worked several years at his Garage and Ford dealership in Tattershall, as well as attending Boston College on a day-release scheme. After leaving Eyre's he went to work for The British Road Services division at London Road in Wyberton for a short while before starting on his own account in 1983. Kevin had previously erected a brick and tiled Workshop to trade from, on his own premises at Staunch Farm near Hagnaby Lock, being complete with an underground service inspection pit. Most of the work now consists of repairs and routine services to most makes and models of cars and light commercials, and also preparing vehicles ready to obtain a Ministry Of Transport test certificate. Most of his regular customers come from the Stickney area and many of the surrounding parishes

One other Garage enterprise in Stickney that specialises mainly in repairs and services to Heavy Goods Vehicles started business in Stickney in 1982 and is operated by Mervyn Greatrex from the original yard and workshop that was erected and used for many years by haulage contractor R Collier Ltd before he moved to the north of the Village into BA Bushes old yard around the same time.