

# GIBBONS

## — SOLICITORS —



### Howard in the heart of Hadleigh

As I write this column I am delighted that it is staying lighter longer in the evenings and Spring is on its way. There are though more serious matters that concern me in that Hadleigh as a vibrant town is under threat of cataclysmic proportions. As I briefly mentioned in my last column, the Morrisons supermarket had just opened. You will know that I am about in Hadleigh all the time whether on foot or with Frank my chauffeur. One is immediately conscious that since the arrival of Morrisons you my readers are no longer in the Town. I understand that you are also forsaking the shops in the villages. The new supermarket has had an immediate impact upon the Co-op which appears only ever now to have a handful of customers. As a result the footfall to the other shops in the High Street has evaporated. It is self-evident that the future viability of the shops in the High Street is "on the edge" even as I pen this piece.

Hadleigh has a proud history and through all the changing scenes of life, it has evolved. Do you want to see "the Town" struggle, gasp and die. I certainly do not. If shops become empty, rental levels will fall and the capital values of the properties will follow. Who will want to site a business or come shopping in a place that has nothing. Hadleigh has an Aladdin's cave in Partridges, there are two good butchers and Andrews in particular has won prizes for being the best in the Eastern Region. Partridges Farm Shop, the Post Office, the Idler, the Delicatessen, Aingers the garage, the banks, Frosts and Mortons the Estate Agents, Threadneedle the dressmaking shop, the Co-op, Greggs the bakers, Avis the newsagent and printers, Patels the newsagents and Gwinnells the Undertakers to name but a few of our shops. Morrisons may sell stamps but it will not provide all the other services to be found in our Post Office and the whole range of goods in the shop there.

So what is to be done. In short, the answer lies with you. I would urge you to think as you shop. Whilst you may enjoy some of the convenience of Morrisons do make sure that you also visit your Town and use your shops and the shops in your villages. Enjoy the service that you get there. Without commerce the Town has little and we will all be the poorer. Please carry these words around with you and make sure that Hadleigh is not another casualty of the modern age.

Thank you for entering my competition in such numbers and I will announce the winner in my next column. If you haven't got a Will or a Lasting Power of Attorney perhaps now is the time to pay me a visit. Happy Easter!

*Howard Gibbons*

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