

## **George Whites Chemist**

It was an open plan hardware store. On entering from Georges Street if one went right there was I seem to recall the ladies section. On the left were paints and tools. Further back in a store compound you would get tinnings, and meths spirits. Similar to John Hearnings on the Quay. A wooden floor and dedicated people for each counter.

Kavanagh - My Dad worked there for almost 40 years too. Though it was called George White and Sons, it was the Grubb family who were the proprietors by then. Grubb and Company, the art supply shop across the road, may be able to point you in the direction of any old photos that exist, that some in the extended family might have. (I'd love to see some of the inside of the original shop myself!) I remember there was a John Grubb who used to set up the electric train display each Christmas, who was also a bit of a photographer and I've often wondered if he had photos of the shop. I can remember the shop ledger. A huge black, hard-covered book, it seemed bigger than a concrete block and very heavy. I wonder how much of the 200+ years' sales records were in it!

Loved the two guys in their brown coats on the hardware counter on the right of the shop and the way they wrapped everything in brown paper and string!! the two guys were my Dad, Paddy Kavanagh, and his colleague Robert Power. Another thing that fascinated me was watching my father singlehandedly moving a large new sheet of glass from the wall where it was leaning over onto the table for cutting. Somehow, it didn't break as it landed!! 'smells', though, like linseed oil mixed with turpentine. My father was a bit deaf and at times had difficulty hearing what people were asking for. He didn't like to ask them to repeat themselves, so he depended on lip-reading, which worked fairly well most of the time. He told us of a time when he brought out a bag of bird-seed

to someone looking for a bag of plaster - and the priceless expression on the person's face. I always wondered what other amusing mix-ups there might have been! There was a Mr. Ellis, who worked in the shop and never retired. Eventually, at 94, he was in the habit of taking an afternoon nap on Mr. Eric's chemist's couch. One afternoon, he didn't wake up.

I bought alum and saltpetre in George Whites for preserving rabbit skins. John Ellis William St Waterford he worked for 80 yrs as a Chemist s assistant in George Whites Waterford we think this is his retirement party.