

KNOWLE – Knowle Shops – Notes by Peter Hill

Shops in Knowle are on the corner of Station Road/Warwick Road taken from the bus stop (Midland Red) – shops known as ‘Wrensons Corner’ . Image possibly mid 1950s

L to R in image

COLE BROS – *electrical goods (and even B/W TVs) (they had another shop in Dorridge as I don’t think the brothers got on too well)*

The ‘Entry’ between the shops was closed at night with two large wooden doors to full height. It gave access for goods to be delivered, especially for the grocers with a large storage building there as well as some car parking for a couple of cars for those running the shops

C J HILL MPS* - *chemist (later c. 1958 onwards the shop sign also carried MPS PhC) – during the War 1939-1945 he was a white helmet air raid warden at night and the house further along Station Road (number 199) carried a little metal red lettering sign: AIR RAID WARDEN*

A E COLE – *newsagent (Mrs Cole ran the shop, the mother of the two brothers (above))*

WRENSONS – *grocers (items such as butter were sold loose - butter cut from a large slab of butter*

*[Out of sight to the right and on the corner: **HARRIS** – dry cleaners – my mother managed that shop for a time and further round facing the Warwick Road, the front room of a house there was the **WOOL SHOP** run by an elderly lady]*

*CJ Hill: Cyril James Hill) was my dad. Previously in 1930s he managed a chemist shop in Solihull High Street with living accommodation above – my mother worked at HARRIS – dry cleaners along the High Street in Solihull and knew ‘Mr Harris’ very well. Then in the 1930s they moved to Knowle, rented a house in Station Road, rented the shop premises and set up my dad’s chemist shop – he became well-known locally! He sadly died young in 1961 (overwork trying to run a business and do too much for the local community!) and after struggling to keep the business going for a couple of years, we had to walk away from it and came out it only with debt.