

The Co-Op Store

1867



In 1867 the Reverend James Wentworth Leigh started a store, one of the first such village stores to be started in England. It soon flourished, doing a business of nearly £3,000 per annum on a capital of £600, almost all the shares being owned by village labourers. In 1881 the storekeeper was William Hewitt; by the 1901 census it was Amos Assinder and in 1911 it was Joseph Morris, assisted by his wife, son and daughter. Adjoining the store was a bakehouse where villagers could take the Sunday dinner to be cooked. Deliveries from the store were made to Stareton, Baginton and Ashow as well as Stoneleigh. By the late 1920s the store had been taken over by the Coventry Co-Operative Society, and closed soon afterwards.