

## Doo's Chemist

This shop is a replica of Mr. Harold Emile Doo's shop in Halesowen Road, Netherton. His family were from Cambridgeshire and moved to the Black Country in 1882 when his father James qualified as a chemist and opened a shop nearby. Harold qualified in 1908 and inherited it from his father in 1929. He was a chemist for 60 years and died in 1970.

A lot of the things in this shop date from before this as he brought many items of stock from his father's original shop. There are weighing scales for mothers to check on the weight of their baby, which cost them one old penny! No visits to the clinic in those days!

You can also see a baby's curved feeding bottle. Note how it could be opened at both ends. Hygiene was the reason for this, for if one end was closed off, germs could breed there, giving the baby stomach upsets that could be life threatening.

The pill maker to the left was made in Germany. The pill paste would be rolled into a long roll and placed on the grate and the handle on top moved back and forwards and the little pills would appear on the tray as little balls which would be then covered in sugar to make them easier to swallow.

Mr. Doo had a good reputation for his home-made medicines and pills - just as well as the chemist was the 'poor man's doctor'.

Before pills and tablets were taken most medicine was dispensed in powder form and in the 20th century most headache and infant teething remedies were sold in this way.

The powder was placed in the middle of a rectangular piece of white paper with the two edges folded over to the width of the box with the paper strip pressed over the folder to form two sharp creases.

The two ends were brought together and one end pushed into the other to make it secure. These were put in a box or tied together to make a neat bundle.

There are lots of glass bottles on display. Those containing poison have ridged lines in the glass.

The big bottle in the window is a sign for a Chemist Shop. These bottles, or carboys as they were called, contained coloured water. The different colours mean different things - blue for water, yellow for air, red for fire and green for earth.