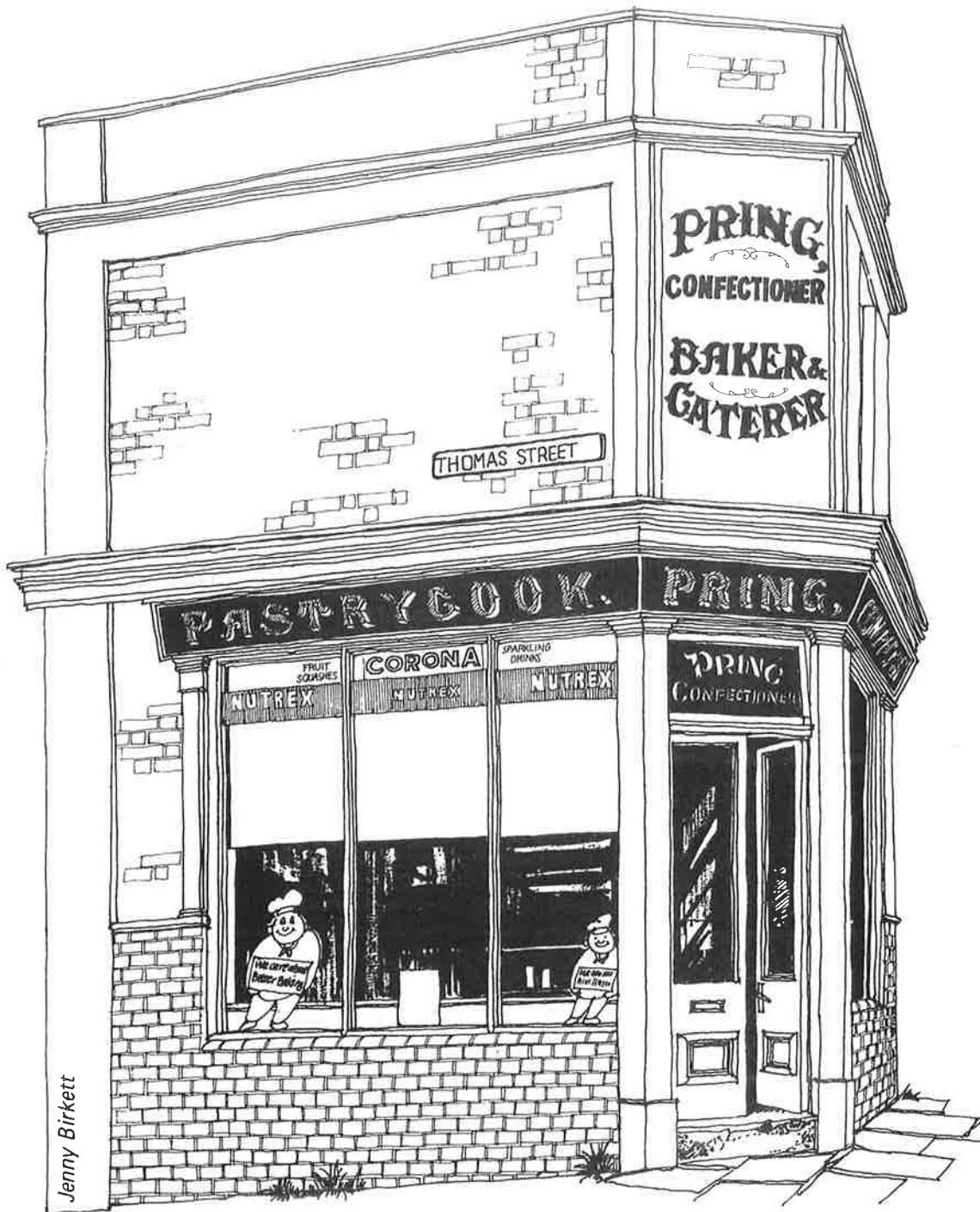


# BIAS

**JOURNAL 14**



Industrial archaeology can mean many things to many people. This is part of its fascination. It is interesting to look at the remains of the Industrial Revolution at the age of iron, steam and railways, but equally rewarding is the study of ordinary everyday objects, the kind that tend to be overlooked . . . until they are no longer there.

The small shops of domestic Britain are a case in point. As the country increased its prosperity at the end of the 19th century, outlets for the supply of food, clothing and manufactured articles became more numerous with shopping areas mushrooming around residential districts and either side of main roads. After the 1939-45 war the scene changed quite rapidly. The arrival of large, multiple chain-stores and super-markets took its toll of many highly-individual small retail shops which sometimes vanished almost overnight.

But there are still a few to be found and looking for them can be extremely interesting and worthwhile. In this issue David Helps writes an introductory article which has been illustrated by Jenny Birkett's drawings.

These are also reproduced on *Shopfront Conservation Broadsheet Number 1*, produced by Avon County Planning Department and published by the County Public Relations Department earlier this year, price 50p. We are grateful for permission to use them.

If you find the industrial archaeology of 20th century shops of value, try reading *Food, Clothes and Shelter*, by BIAS member Kenneth Hudson, published in 1978 by John Baker. It contains a comprehensive bibliography with books dealing with the economic climate which brought about such shops, how the goods sold were marketed and the construction of the buildings.

Jenny Birkett