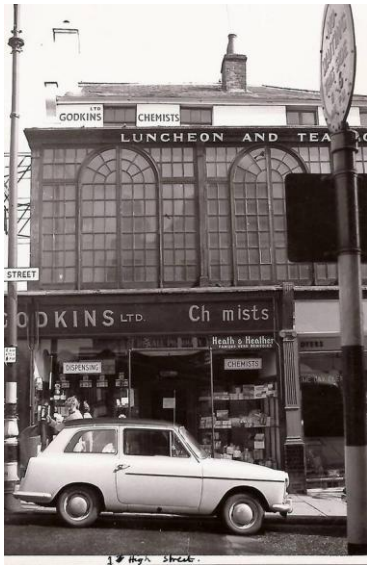


Godkins



A picture from October a 1982 article in the Focus (The Amelia archives) shows Godkins in the early 1940s. The shop, at No 1 High St, became Godkins Ltd in the 1930s, selling a wide range of goods from perfumery, cosmetics and skin care products to men's toiletries. The owners at the time, Mr and Mrs Furey, extended the shop in 1982, buying No 5 High Street to accommodate their growing business.

Above the shop, was the famous old orangery room, known to locals as 'The Bird Cage'. In the 1920s, the heyday of the Dansant, locals would hurry to the 'Nevill Café' before the music started so they could secure the seats with the best views of the dance floor. The music, which started promptly at 3pm, was provided by a three-piece band, usually all women, although on occasion, they might be accompanied by a male pianist.

There was room for an audience of about 100 in the first floor tea room, which was the brainchild of Mr John Brown, its owner. Mr Brown had bought part of a country house orangery and had it fitted onto the balcony over Godkins, where it rapidly became the most popular afternoon venue in Tunbridge Wells.

Today, the tea room is occupied by The Warren, a restaurant.

To access details of other Tunbridge Wells shops, click [here](#):