



Sedgley's

Diamond 60

*Sixty years, sixty people,
sixty stories about village life
since 1952.*

1978

The Clifton becomes a Bingo Hall

by Shirley Teach

The Clifton was originally a cinema which opened in May 1937. I saw my first James Bond film there in the 1960s. It closed in 1978 and they turned it into a bingo hall - my sisters and I all used to go. When that closed down it was developed by Wetherspoons as a food pub.

When we played bingo there was a caller at the front on stage who used to dress up smartly. There were always lots of people there – I used to love it. The prizes were only worth about £3 – not much.

I remember my son, who was in the Forces, took me one night and I went there on the back of his motorbike. I had my slippers on but nobody caught me out! Bingo was something we did every week. There was a small entry fee.

When it closed in 1995 there was a period when it lay unused before Wetherspoons took over and spent £920,000 developing it into a theme pub dedicated to the movies, which opened in 1998.



The front of The Clifton in the 1950s, when it was a cinema. The Clifton was redeveloped as a Wetherspoon pub, opening in 1998.



The side extension to The Clifton in the late 1950s, now demolished. The lower floors were occupied by Beresford's cafe (left) and W Sproson Vinrace's grocers (right).