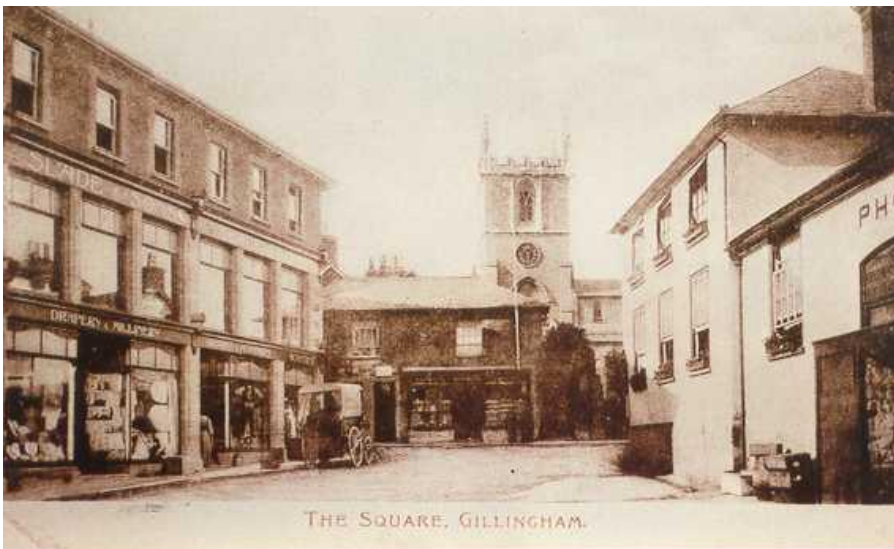


## The Slade Building

The Slade Building in the Square is a former department store which now houses the Slade Centre, a facility which combines business and the arts with office suites, meeting rooms, exhibition space, classes, workshops, and café. The building is associated with the Slade family, who built it in 1904, replacing an earlier shop on the same site.

The original building was part of a range which extended round into Wyke Street and included the house now called Rorty Crankle. The range was owned by the Neave, Davis, and then the Slade families, who were general dealers. In 1875 the store was being run by John Davis, described as 'linen and woollen draper, hatter, outfitter, undertaker, china, glass and earthenware dealer, ironmonger, and druggist.' By the 1880s the business had passed on to William Slade. The Slades ran a truly family business, for in 1891 no fewer than ten members of the family worked there, each with a particular specialism, including drapers, milliners, outfitter, and grocer.



*The Square in 1906, with the recently built Slade Building on the left.*

The store traded as W. Slade & Sons. In 1904 it was substantially rebuilt in the latest Edwardian style with a prominent façade advertising its different departments. Family members involved in running the business through the next decades were James J.W. Slade, Edwin Slade, and Ellen Brown Slade. The last of the Slade family to run the store was William (Bill) Slade (1900-81).

In later decades the Slade Building became divided into several premises. By the 1930s part of it was occupied by International Stores. From the 1970s occupiers included Blackmore Vale Shops, Raby heating, Granada TV

and video, and Toshiba electrical. It was known then as the Blackmore Vale Building.

In 1997 the building was converted for use as The Slade Centre (meeting rooms and studios) above, with financial services (Andrews and Palmer) and café or bar premises on the ground floor. An article from 1998 wrote: 'During its Granada days the shop fascia was deepened to cover the upper part of the windows. Fortunately, the original windows survived and have now been cleaned and restored to give the building some of its original integrity.'

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