



photos by John Sargent

It is no secret Haworth is recognised as a nostalgic destination. International visitors and day trippers alike enjoy the delights of steam trains, vintage shops, Bronte love, and moorland walks throughout the year.

But the magic and nostalgia isn't confined to the cobbled Main Street.

One step inside Rhodes Hardware on Mill Hey and you'd think you were on the set of Open All Hours, half expecting Albert Arkwright to saunter to the counter in his brown work coat and ask if he could be of assistance.

You'd be forgiven thinking that Granville was lurking in the shadows as you peruse

the shelves stacked with everything and anything you could possibly ever want or need to keep your household intact.

It certainly is a glorious curiosity of an establishment and one that residents hold in great affection. Rhodes is another kind of Haworth attraction in itself; the unique ambiance has been carefully honed over the years and sits happily with its 21st century business.

Good humour and honest helpfulness underpin this Aladdin's Cave. The adage, "Try Rhodes First" is a principle that proprietor Julie Rhodes relishes. "If we don't have what you are looking for we can either get it or point you to someone else who can help. We rarely disappoint. There is little point driving in to town when we have most things here."



Julie Rhodes, proprietor of Rhodes Hardware

Sometimes people just call in for a chat and a laugh. The community aspect of Rhodes is part of its DNA, instilled 50 years ago when Julie's parents first opened its doors to 'supply the locals with everyday needs.'

Garden and pet care related products and all things DIY fill the shelves and neatly spill out on to the pavement; bedding plants, rakes, mops, brushes, it's all there.

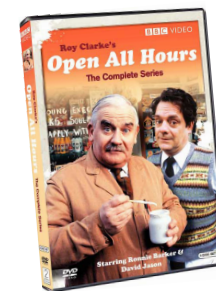
If you are thinking of painting and decorating before the in-laws arrive, Rhodes stock a huge range of Johnstone's paint and can supply everything from drop cloths, sandpaper, wire wool, ladders to paint thinner and roller brushes.

What else is there? Buckets, pipes, nails, brass screws, rawl plugs, string, tape,

wire, sandwich boxes, frying pans, whisks, jam jars, candles, pet food, kindling, logs, Calor gas, fire lighters, rock salt, coal, electric heaters, hot water bottles, kitchen matches, dishcloths, polish..., in fact, come to think if it, Rhodes stock most things that make you warm, safe, dry, clean and happy.

(Here is a reminder: get a plastic sledge and snow shovel from Rhodes before the white stuff begins to fall from the sky!)

2013 marks a Golden year for Julie and her team. They are celebrating 50 fabulous years of trading, interrupted only by a flood in 2004 that caused them to close temporarily. But the heartwarming support of local people and the commitment of loyal customers saw them back on their feet and trading three months later. It has been full steam ahead since.



If you manage to catch the Christmas edition of Open All Hours this year on telly, you can have a chuckle and think how lucky we are to have our own beloved Rhodes Hardware store,

Open 7 days a week and most bank holidays; Supplying everything you could possibly need or want. (How good is that!)

**Rhodes Hardware
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West Yorkshire
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01535 643211**