

## Shopping Loans Box



## The Coop

The Coop was an important institution in Furness up to the 1970s. It had many shops and even tea rooms and a farm at one point.

The **tokens** that are included are dividend checks from **Dalton Cooperative Society** that would have been issued to their members, in the same way that members have **plastic digital dividend cards nowadays**.

There are also a few **tokens** for **coal** and British Restaurants. In May **1941 Barrow's first Civic Restaurant**, later called **The British Restaurant** opened in the old Public Hall serving **400 meals a day**. Tokens could be purchased in shops and workplaces and these exchanged for **tickets for food**. For example Thursday's lunch: Soup, meat, potatoes, carrots and turnip, semolina or ginger pudding, tea or coffee—10d (less than 5p) the **maximum** cost for an average meal.

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### OXO box and tin

**OXO** is a concentrated extract of meat that can be a **substitute** for the real thing. It has many uses including in gravy and soups. **OXO** published **recipe books** and the cubes went to the trenches in the **First World War** in their thousands. There was an **OXO doll**, a **book of Nursery Rhymes**, a **painting book**, a **magic book** and also a red **OXO van Dinky toy**. In 1953 **John Hunt** and his team took **OXO** up **Everest** with them.

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### Reckitt's Blue box

This laundry starch company began producing laundry blue in **1852** by using a combination of a man-made ultramarine and sodium bicarbonate. **The dolly blue was added to the final rinse to ensure that white items would maintain their original brightness.**

This dye used to be made near **Backbarrow** just off the **A590** near **Newby Bridge** in a factory which was known as the **Dolly Blue** works. The rocks along the riverside were covered with a fine, royal blue dust from the works. When the workers were taking a break they used to sit outside the building at the side of the main road. They were called the **Dolly Blue men** because every bit of **exposed skin** was covered in **blue dye**.

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## Smith's potato crisps

Smiths Crisps were **first** manufactured in **Australia** in **1931**. Smiths Potato Crisps sold its early crisps in **3d [1p] packets**, 24 to a tin. **'Twist of salt'** sachets were included before pre-salting was introduced. Growth after World War II was rapid and the cooking process was also improved. In **1961** Smith's introduced its first flavoured crisp: **chicken** and later on **salt and vinegar**. Since then there have been many new variations on Smiths products.

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### Cinnamon tablets

Cinnamon comes from the **inner bark** of the shoots of a **tree** that grows mainly in **India, China and Sri Lanka**. It has been found that just **half a teaspoon of cinnamon a day** significantly **reduces blood sugar levels** in diabetics. It is one of the oldest remedies used in traditional Chinese herbalism to help the digestive system. The **Egyptians** used cinnamon in their **embalming rituals** and the **Romans** used it as a **love potion** and valued spices as highly as **gold**.

It has also many uses in **baking and cooking** and is arguably the **most popular** spice in the world.

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## National dried milk formula

Infant formula is a **substitute** for breastfeeding, but it remains a controversial product. Improperly used it can contribute to **obesity** and **tooth decay** in children, among other health problems.

Formula milk first reached the United Kingdom in 1904 and became very popular during the **Second World War**. In **1941 dried milk** was also made available to the **general public** and once made up by adding water to the dried milk it would have to be kept **chilled**, usually by standing the filled jug in a bowl of cold water as **few houses had fridges**.

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## Bicarbonate of soda

Bicarbonate of soda is a white powder which, when heated, gives off **carbon dioxide**. It is still used today in baking such things as **gingerbread cake** because it enables the cake to **rise**. It is also used to treat **indigestion and heartburn** and in **effervescent salts**. Used in toothpaste, baking soda helps to gently **remove stains, whiten teeth and freshen breath**. It is also used in **fire extinguishers**, to clean **fridges and microwaves** and remove **household stains**.

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### Wicker shopping basket

Wicker is made from the **willow** tree and the twigs are plaited and made into **baskets, chairs, mats, storage baskets** and even containers for **pets**. Willow is used because it is **flexible**. In Victorian times **food, flowers** and many other items would have been carried from **home** to **market** in a basket like this.



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### Veritas oil mantle

The mantle was a very important part of the **lamp**. It was a **fragile lacelike tube** fixed round the **gas-jet** which gave off a **light** that glowed with **heat**. Although, obviously things have progressed with the coming of **electricity**, lanterns are still made for **leisure**, **commercial** and **industrial** uses and are used all over the world because they are highly **dependable**, **safe** and **long lasting**, although nowadays **paraffin** is used to **fuel** the **lamp**.