

Shops and Services through Time



A history of Allendale's retail, trade and community services

The current Victoria House was once a grocery and drapery shop run by David Edgar
– pictured circa 1880 –
and was previously the site of the Three Tuns Inn

Our project: shops and services through time

This study - undertaken with support from Allendale Primary School's History Club - gives you an insight into the shops and services that have existed in the village of Allendale from 1850 until the present day.

Our study has used a variety of resources and approaches to research this topic including studying maps and photographs, reviewing historical documents, conducting first hand observations and seeking the direct historical knowledge of local people.

Our approach:

- identification of Allendale's shops and services in 2020;
- comparison with the picture in 1850 using visual evidence from a map;
- information gathered from a visit and talk by Malcolm Whitfield about his memories from the 1950s;
- a walk around the village to study the history of individual buildings;
- giving each member of the school history group the responsibility to study the history of a particular building that has either been a shop or provided a service for the community;
- analysing the village directory of 1900, gathering data and personal recollections from 1955 and information from 2020 to present a graph of the changing number/range of shops and services; and
- sourcing period advertisements from the first half of C20.

The study got underway in January 2020, with the pupils in the school history club studying old maps and undertaking research on shops old and new. The subsequent impact of shutdowns for the remainder of 2020 due to Covid-19 meant that the pupils were not involved in the analysis of the data from the 1900 directory.

Introduction

Our study of the shops and services of Allendale starts in the latter half of the C19 when the population of the village was around 1000 people occupying over two hundred dwellings. There was not an empty house with many of the larger houses having several tenants. For instance, a house on Wentworth had a school for young ladies in one room, a cobbler's shop in another downstairs room with two families living on the first floor.

During this time there were shops everywhere and all kinds of shops from shoemakers and coopers to candlemakers and saddlers. Allendale already had a Post Office although it was in a different location to where it is today. Inns were also numerous, indeed along the northern edge of the market place there were three next-door to one another - the Three Tuns, the Kings Head and the Golden Lion. In total there were eight public houses in the village.

There was a brewery at the Riding, a corn mill at Bridge End and two blacksmith shops in the centre of the village. As for places of worship, St Cuthbert's Church catered for those who were 'Church of England', there was both a Wesleyan and a Primitive Methodist Chapel and a Quaker Meeting House at the Bridge End.

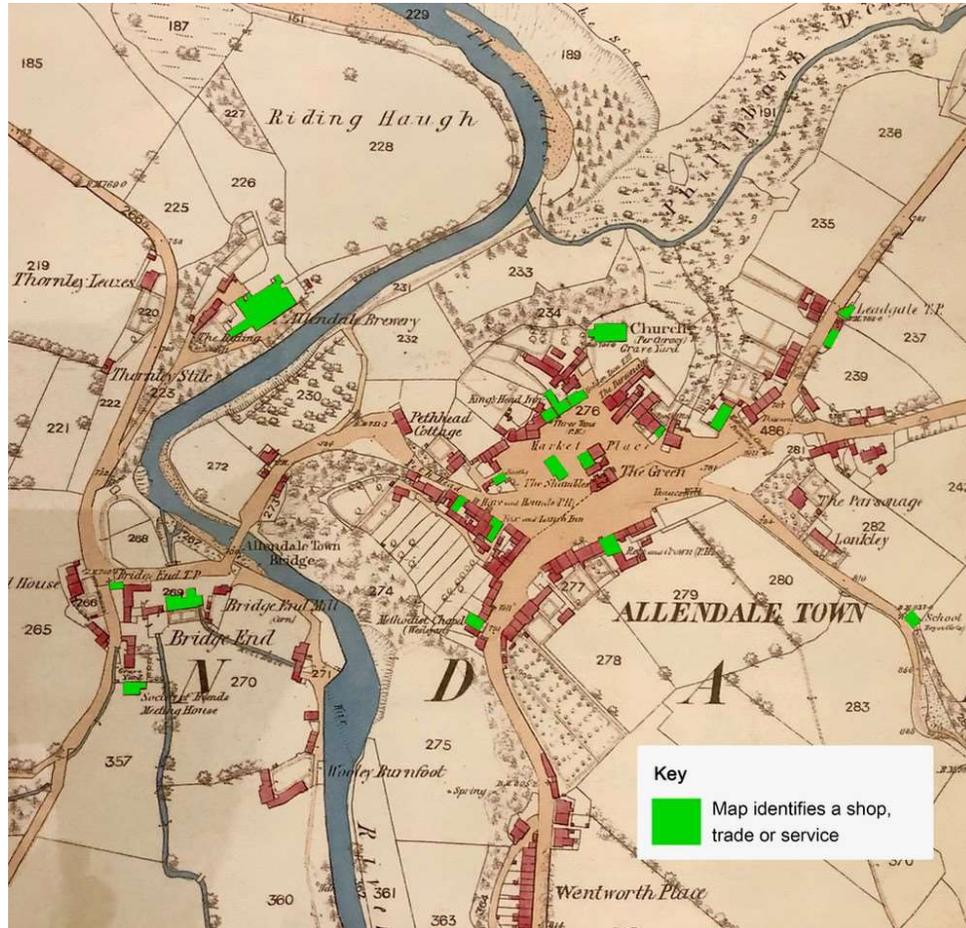
At the beginning of the C20 there was still an abundance of shops but a new service industry had emerged. The coming of the railway made it possible for tourists to visit to take advantage of the country air. Allendale became known as a health resort. Hotels and boarding houses were established throughout the village. The Shambles was demolished and Allen House boarding house constructed in its place. Hotels such as the Heatherlea and Forster's Temperance, later the Dale, catered for the influx of visitors. A golf course, a riding school, and tennis club all provided entertainment.

Right through until the 1960s little changed; during the summers the hotels were packed and the village remained a popular destination for family holidays. But this period did witness the outset of a significant change to the number of shops in Allendale. People were more mobile; many had cars and did not have to rely on shopping locally. They went to Hexham regularly and further afield to Newcastle. The onset of the popularity of holidays abroad also meant that Allendale was no longer a first-choice holiday destination for many.

Setting the scene: the picture in 1850

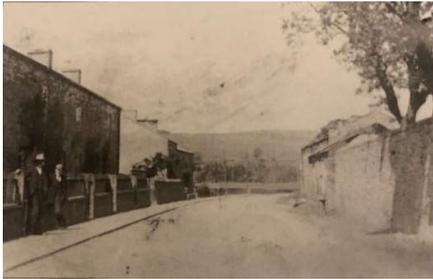
This map from 1860 shows the predominance of public houses, which reflects the social life of the community of the time. Methodism was the preferred form of worship, particularly amongst miners, with two chapels in the village and others in surrounding hamlets. Each of the major roads had a toll cottage and the toll-keeper would charge people who travelled the turnpike roads.

Although the map doesn't identify individual shops, the Shambles in the middle of the market place is marked as housing up to nine butcher shops. Many people operated shops from the front rooms of their own homes.



1860 Allendale map: identifying which shops and services are evident on the map in the mid-19C

1. Leadgate



The five terraced houses on the north side of Leadgate were built between 1848 and 1861 to house lead miners and their families on land that had previously belonged to Abraham Dawson. It is believed that at that time each room in each house housed one family.

During the early 20th century people ran businesses from their homes. Miss Marion Hipson who lived on Leadgate after 1911 was a fruit and fish dealer. She also sold eggs, poultry and rabbits, and had previously worked in the trade alongside her father Robert.

There were two other businesses on Leadgate, a blacksmith shop and a carpenter/undertaker. In 1894 the blacksmith was Henry Dixon, by the 1920/30s it was Abe Bell (*Abe is*



pictured below standing at the west end doorway of the ground floor building). By the 1950s the blacksmith was Abe's nephew Basil Fairlamb who had his main smithy in Thornley Gate.



The Bell family ran the carpenter and undertaking business above the blacksmith shop (*the joinery workshop can be seen in the colour photo from the 1980s above*). Joe Bell was the last member of the family to run the business. He ceased trading in 1980. The premises were accessed by a staircase which ran up the side of the building. Although the building is now a holiday cottage accommodation there is a lintel above the door that says 'The Forge'.

2. The Library

The building that is now the library was built in 1878 as the Primitive Methodist Chapel and closed in 1954. It is built of sandstone in the traditional design of a chapel with stained glass windows and an arched doorway. The first Primitive Methodist Chapel was the building next door at Dawson Place that was built in 1833. In 1878 it became the meeting room and by the 1950s it was where both the Youth Club and Allendale Scout Group met.



3. 'Midland Bank'

This attractive building was originally called Woodbine House and lived in by Thomas Bushby and his sister Hannah (*see opposite*). After Hannah died in 1903 it was used as a doctor's surgery by Dr Murray. In 1927 it was converted into the Midland Bank and was in business until its closure in 1992.



Although it is now a private house again this building has all the characteristics of its former use as a bank. There is a very attractive frontage, stone mullion windows and an imposing double front door.

4. Former 'Police House'

This building holds a central position in the centre of the village next to Isaac's Well. Until 1980 Allendale had a local police constable who lived in the police house. He patrolled the village on a daily basis and there was even a cell in the basement of the house where people who broke the law could be detained.

The cell window is still 'blackened' although the building is now for residential use.

5. Arnison Terrace



This row of six terraced houses was named after Dr Arnison, a local 19C doctor who was of great service to the Allendale community.

In the early 1800s however this row of buildings was referred to as the High Street.

Between 1902 and 1921 Number One Arnison Terrace was a shop owned by John

Forster (*the shop is on the extreme right of this photograph*). He was a linen draper and grocer. The premises were then taken over by George Dodd and his daughters Cissie and May. They continued to run a drapery business but also sold pie and peas and fish and chips.

By the 1950s the two sisters were in charge of the then confectionary shop and they sold the most wonderful homemade ice cream. The building later housed the gift shop (*pictured*) and although the building is now a house the windows are the original shop windows although the doorway has changed.

Next door is called 'Olde Oakes'; it used to be a café from 1932 until the 1960s when a sculptor called Charles Sansbury lived and worked there. The building was originally a coaching inn called the 'Rose and Crown'. It was certainly there in 1850 when the Bell family were the owners. Lizzie Bell, and then her sister Jane and husband Lancelot, ran the business (*Lizzie and her brother Abe are pictured below-left*).



In the late 1800 and early 1900s Number Four Arnison Terrace was a cobbler's shop owned by Jacob Milburn.

The building at the east end of Arnison Terrace has the unmistakable features of a former shop, with a large front window. In 1929 Lena Robson ran a bakery which some years later was taken over by Mr and Mrs Dick. They ran a café upstairs which was in existence until 1977 when the premises were converted into a house.

6. Hotspur House (formerly 'The Hotspur')



The first building on this site was constructed in 1806 as a family home for Dr George Arnison after whom Arnison Terrace is named.

Five generations of his family lived here at 'Selah House'. Later, in the first half of the C20, one of the downstairs rooms became a dental surgery. In the mid

C20 the house became the Hotspur Hotel and remained a pub into the 1980s before becoming a private house once again – now being called Hotspur House.

7. Dale Salon

The hairdresser's salon is at the southern end of Arnison Terrace. It is a small sandstone building that has been a hairdresser's since about 1950 when it was run by Eleanor Henderson (nee Lancaster).

In 1902, George Short - a fruiterer and saddler - ran his business on the premises (*below-left*).

By 1906 this shop was a butcher's shop belonging to Isaac Dixon that was subsequently taken over by the Co-op (*below-right*).



After 1927 what is now the hairdresser's ceased being the butcher's and became a hardware shop.



8. Shield Street



Over the years Shield Street has housed a series of shops. In 1900 there was T.W. Hall ironmongers, J.A. Edgar fruiterer and florist, P. Hetherington cabinet maker and W.E. Dickinson chemist. Today, only two shops remain - the Pharmacy and 'Crafty Allsorts' a novelty gift shop.

Several of the buildings have distinctive features which suggest that they were once shops. Opposite the pharmacy for example is a house with a wide front window which resembles a shop window. Miss Hipson's was a fruiterer, confectionary and tobacconist and also served teas from a room at the back of the premises. Next door Nora Bell had a drapery shop. Later these premises were occupied by Shield's cycle shop.

9. Crafty All Sorts



A gift and crafts shop has existed on Shield Street as 'Crafty All Sorts' for around four years. The design of the building with large windows looks like it was built to be a shop, the walls are of sandstone.

It was built in 1927 as the Coop Butcher's Shop and the wheat sheaf motif and motto of the early Co-operative Wholesale Society can still be seen high up on the front wall.

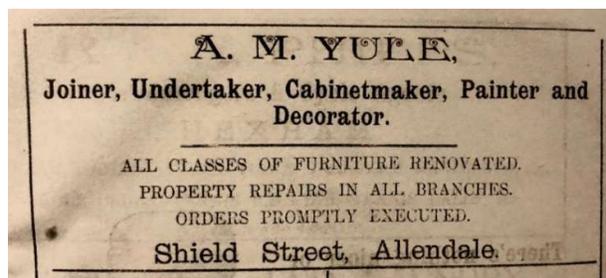
The slaughter house was behind the shop and the meat was prepared for sale on the premises. Before that it was a farm building part of Selah Farm which was next door.

When the butchers closed it was converted into the 'Pebbles' restaurant in the 1990s by the Docchar family. Later it was run as a gallery and art café by Carol Denton.

10. Cross Keys

Now a private house, Cross Keys has a number of rather unusual design features. Some of the windows are arched, there is a wrought iron bracket high up on the wall and part of the building on the first floor has large panels of glass. In 1900 Peter Hetherington, who was a cabinet maker and joiner, occupied the premises. Perhaps the metal bracket was where he advertised his business and the room with the large windows was his workshop.

Later the business was taken over by a Mr Yule. He carried on with the cabinet making business but was also an undertaker and painter and decorator.



11. The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel



This building is opposite Cross Keys and the foundation stone shows that it was constructed in 1875

A previous chapel had been constructed on the same site in 1760 when Methodism was highly significant amongst the lead miners of the period. It was then altered in 1839 but then partly demolished to make way for the new building.

12. White Cottage

The white cottage that faces down the length of Shield Street was an ale house in 1875 before becoming a caretaker's house for the Wesleyan chapel (*it can be seen on the left of the chapel, pictured above*).

During the heyday of the lead mining industry many private houses in the village were ale houses. White Cottage is now a private residence.

13. The Pharmacy



The pharmacy situated on Shield Street is built of sandstone and has large shop style windows. The doorway has double doors and it looks like it has been a shop for a long time. Both the exterior and interior of the shop remained the same for more than 100 years.

An outside staircase runs up the side of the building to the living accommodation above. This

characteristic was common throughout the village where shopkeepers lived on the premises but also provided access for lodgers who also rented rooms on the premises.

In 1900 the business was run by a Mr Dickinson, then a Mr Metcalfe. In 1929 The pharmacist was a Mr Blake. By 1930 it was called Allendale Drug Stores and run by J.H. Kendall. As well as being a chemist and druggist it sold animal medicines for horses, cattle, pig and poultry. During the 1940s Arthur and Effie Walker had the business until they retired in the 1960s. Happily it is still a chemist/pharmacy.

14. Charlton's Shop



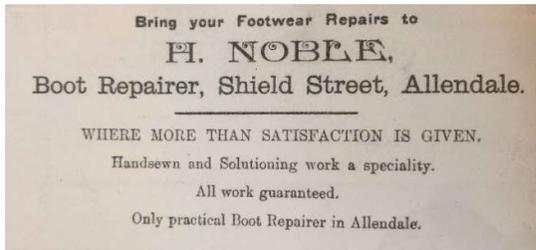
Just next to the Pharmacy there was a grocer's shop that was run for three generations by a family called Charlton, who also lived on the premises.

In 1904 John Charlton was the proprietor and then by the 1940s his two daughters ran the business. It had a wonderful array of sweets - all in huge glass jars - displayed along a shelf behind the

counter. These were bought by the ounce and sold in small paper bags.

In latter years the shop also had a 'gift' section where visitors bought Allendale souvenirs and locals purchased their birthday and Christmas gifts. Unfortunately, nothing remains of the original shop as it burned down in 1983 and was replaced by two houses.

15. The Cobblers



Almost next door to Charlton's Shop was the cobblers. It was a tiny shop with a stable-style door. Although it is now part of a house you can still see the original shop door and window.

In 1930 H. Noble was the cobbler.

Looking at the village directory of 1900 there were as many as seven boot shoe and clog makers in the village and a Mr. Brown was a boot and shoe dealer who lived in Westoe House. The last cobbler was Mr Dixon who occupied the premises into the 1960s. He also ran the shop as a drapers.

16. Heatherlea

The large building known as Heatherlea has been private apartments since 1991 but the present building was a hotel in 1901 and was then very popular for many years with holiday makers who enjoyed coming to Allendale on family holidays.



Since 1850 part of the site on this corner of Shield Street had been occupied by the Cumberland and Union Bank whilst next door, in what was then a much lower building, was M Stephenson's grocery store (*pictured left*).

17. The Allendale Inn

There has been a public House on this site since at least 1861. It was originally called the Fox and Lamb.

18. The Hare and Hounds

Originally an old coaching inn with stabling at the rear of the property there has been a pub on this site since at least 1850.

The building was converted into two houses after 2010.



19. Forge Studios shop

The Art Gallery and Café, on the south side of the market place, is housed in a modern building which between 1930 until 2000 was the site of a garage.

The garage was built and owned by the Forster family then later, between 1963 and 1973, by the Handcocks. It also served as a petrol station. Between this period and until 2009 it was a car sales and repair business run by Michael Robson.



The building that is now the Forge shop was a blacksmith shop as far back as 1715. It is built of sandstone. The family who ran the blacksmith shop from 1910 until 1938 were called Hutchinson. They were the last blacksmiths to operate from these premises.

20. The Dale holiday cottages



The three Dale holiday cottages continue the tradition of providing holiday accommodation – something that has happened on this site for at least one hundred years. The range of buildings was originally two cottages then in 1875 half the building became the Forster's Temperance Hotel with farm buildings attached (*left*) before the hotel was expanded further (*pictured on the next page*).

During most of the C20, and from 1927 when George Thompson and his wife bought the premises the hotel was known as ‘The Dale’ and was a very popular residential hotel for families spending their holidays in the country.

Like most of the buildings in the centre of the village it is built of sandstone. The original doorways are very low which is typical of old buildings. There are several across the front of the property which perhaps belonged to the original cottages or there were a series of different rooms all accessible from the outside.



21. Allen House

The site where Allen House is built appears on an 1860 map as ‘The Shambles’ – a line of butchers shops occupying a central position in the medieval market place. These market stalls were demolished by the 1880s and a large 3-storey building was erected on the site.

By the early 1900s ‘Allen House’ was established as a guest or boarding house. During the Great War of 1914-18 it became a refuge for Belgian refugee families. In the later 20C it was divided into three residential apartments.

22. Victoria House

This building was originally the ‘Three Tuns’ pub. The structure was pulled down under the instruction of David Edgar in 1863.

Then became Edgar’s grocers and drapers shop. David Edgar and his wife Mary had 6 boys and 7 girls. One of the sons, Herbert took over the shop in 1900. It is now a private house.



23. King's Head Hotel



This stone building overlooking the market place has always been a hotel or pub and was built in the early C18 and is reputed to be the oldest public house in the village.

Until the 1960s there was stabling and a carriage house at the rear of the property where travellers' animals and the carriage were housed overnight whilst the travellers

themselves stayed in the hotel.

24. Golden Lion

This building - also known for a time as the Lion House Hotel - has been a pub and hotel since at least 1839 and was one of the many that were found in the village during the lead mining days.

It stands next to the King's Head and so also overlooks the market place.



25. Allendale Co-op

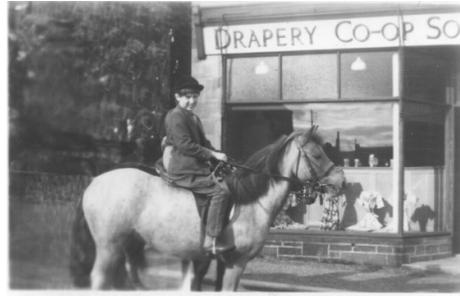


The first Coop building was opened in 1874 at what is now The Dale Cottage. It then moved across the market square in 1893 to the site of what is now the access way between the Co-op and the Butchers (*pictured in the centre of the picture to the left*). In the late 1920s, that Co-op site was rebuilt and a new larger Co-op building was built to

replace what had been West View House (*West View is on the extreme left of this photo*). The old Co-op building was pulled down and built as it currently stands (as Allendale Butchers).

This new Co-op building housed the drapery (*pictured right in the 1950s*) and a greengrocer.

In the 1980s, a larger self-service frozen food department and hardware products joined a reduced drapery department until, in 1990, all Co-op products were centralised on this one site and the building further remodelled



26. Allendale Butchers



This shop had originally been JW Robson's grocery shop in the late 1800s (*pictured left*). A fire in 1902 destroyed the shop whilst it was being managed by JW's son, and the grocery business then closed.

When the Co-op buildings were being reconstructed in the late 1920s, a new Co-op grocery building was built on the site.

Groceries were sold on the ground floor and hardware and ironmongery on the first floor.

In the later 20C, the grocery department became self-service and the hardware and ironmongery products moved into the larger Co-op building closer to the church.

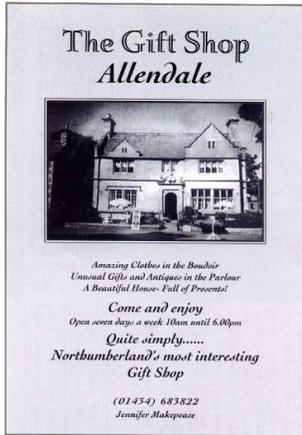
In 1990 the Co-op centralised in its current, single building and this building became Allendale Butchers.



27. Rose Cottage

At the bottom of the Store Bank is the current Rose Cottage. This may have been original site of Allendale Post Office, before William Fairlamb – the second postmaster – moved the premises to a building that stood on the site of the current Bunkhouse. Later, Rose Cottage was occupied by Bland's the tailors before becoming a private house.

28. The Gift Shop



The Gift Shop is a very attractive building and looks as if it must have originally been something other than a gift shop. Until about 1978 it was in fact the Trustee Savings Bank and for a time the bank manager was called Mr Graham. The present building was constructed in 1875. There is a name above the door that tells you that it was a bank.

It is situated at the bottom of the Store Bank and the picture (*right*) shows the



interior of the building when it was a bank.

In 1840 there was a candle factory on the same site. Candles were necessary in the area at that time because they were used in the lead mines.

29. Lloyds Bank House



This building is now a private house but between 1904 and into the C21 it was Lloyds Bank (*below*) with the bank manager's living quarters attached.

The bank safe is still on the wall near the front door and the word 'Bank' is displayed above the door.

At the end of the 19th century the site was occupied by a joiner's shop. Mr. Glenwright was a cart and carriage builder. The building (*pictured above*) burned down in 1901.



30. Natural Beauty



Natural Beauty is situated in the Market Place next to the Tea Rooms.

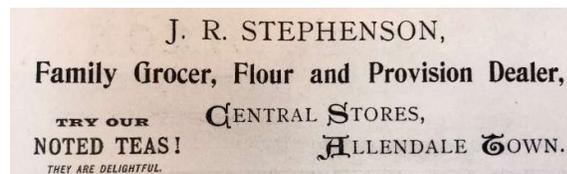
It has classic shop windows and is built of sandstone.

It has been a shop since the 1800s and a photo from that period shows that it was owned by JR Stephenson (pictured right in c.1911).

By 1920, the Elliotts had taken over and later established it as a fish and chip shop. People would come out of the cinema (which is now the church

hall) and go to get their fish and chips. In the late 1950s it became a fruit and vegetable shop and a 'snack bar'. The Elliott family who owned the business lived above the shop. By 1970s 'Elliott's' was focusing on selling sweets, with just a few groceries.

In the 1980s, the shop reverted to groceries as a Spar grocery outlet and later continued to sell groceries as 'The Village Shoppe'.



WM. FAIRLAMB,
Furniture Broker & General Ironmonger.

STATIONER & NEWS AGENT,
Post Office, Allendale Town,
OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS AND PAPER HANGINGS.
EMIGRATION AGENT
Agent for Royal Exchange Fire Assurance, and
Wilson, Ludlow & Co., Glasgow. CREAM SEPARATORS,
Cement, Fire Bricks, Fire Ranges, Rain Coats, Ac.
Licensed to sell Patent Medicines.

POST OFFICE, ALLENDALE TOWN
Money Orders and Telegraph Office.

Mails.		
Arrivals	Week Days	8.40 a.m.
		7.0 p.m.
	Sundays	10.30 a.m.
Despatches	Week Days	8.15 a.m.
		7.0 p.m.
	Sundays	8.30 p.m.
		5.45 p.m.

On Sundays the office is open for Telegraph Business from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. and for cables for letters from 11 noon until 4 p.m.

31. The Tearooms

The building that houses the Tearooms in the Market Place is very old and is built of sandstone.

In 1780 it was a pub called The Green which later became the Black Bull. The reason for the original name is probably because it was situated in the middle of the village green.

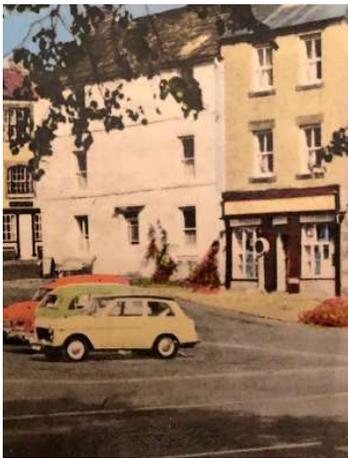
By 1881 it had become the Post Office run by William Fairlamb who moved across the Square from premises next to Victoria House. As can be seen from the advertisement it was also a furniture broker and general ironmonger.

More surprisingly, Mr Fairlamb was also an Emigration Agent. When Mr William Fairlamb died in 1904 it was taken over by his son Llewellyn who ran the business until his death in 1952.

It remained as the village Post Office until 1960 when the grandson of William Fairlamb moved the premises to the present Post Office site around the corner.



32. Market Place Shop & Post Office



This building became the village post office in 1960 and was originally run by Billy and Nancy Fairlamb and then subsequently by Alan and Pat Blair from 1970 to the 1990s.

Prior to 1960, the shop had been Knight's the bakers but earlier in the 1800s it had been a joiner's shop belonging to Nicholas Fairlamb. The living accommodation was above the shop. This living accommodation has – by 2020 – been repurposed as holiday accommodation.

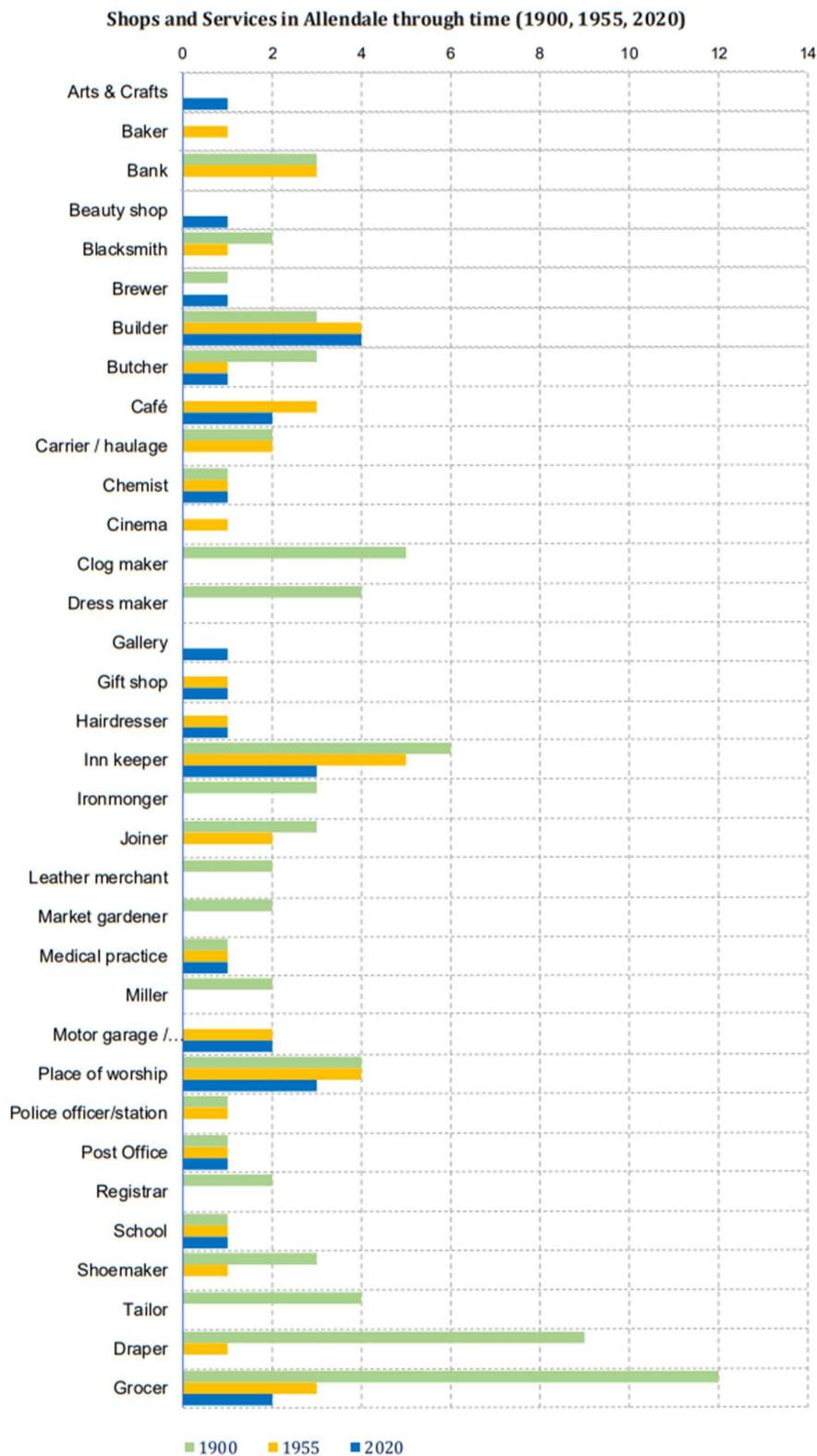
33. St Cuthbert's Church Hall

During World War Two a cinema opened in what is now the Church Hall to entertain children who had been evacuated to Allendale.

It continued to entertain locals until the 1960s and was for a time managed by Bert Young.



Comparison of types and numbers of shops and services in 1900, 1955 and 2020



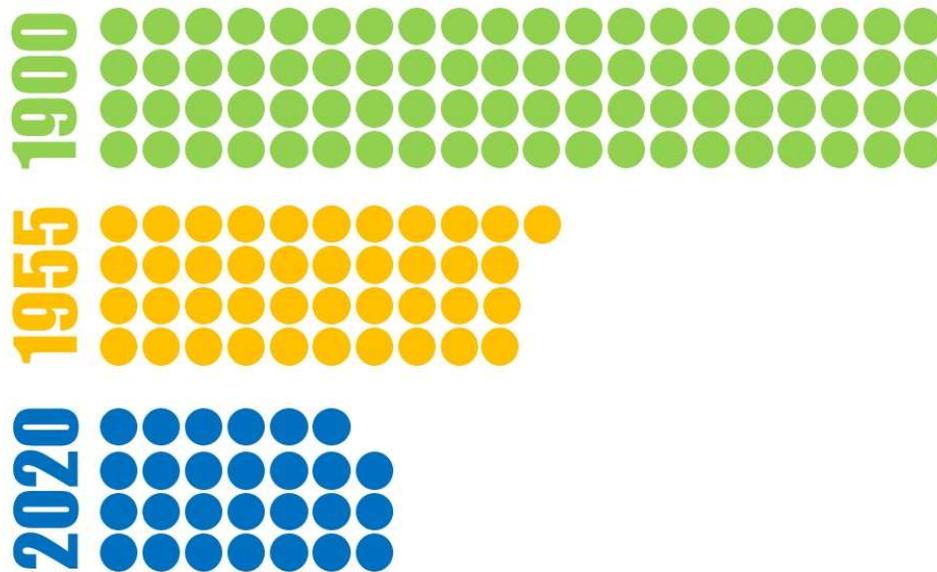
Conclusions

The data from 1900 highlights a range of shops and services that reflect a largely self-sufficient community. Allendale had drapers, bakers, joiners, and tailors – alongside grocers, fruiterers, shoemakers and dressmakers.

Many of these shops and services had disappeared by the 1950s when the opportunity to travel beyond the village, and do so more frequently, was much easier. What did feature in the 1950s were shops and services that catered to the increase in visitors who came to holiday in Allendale, such as cafés and gift shops and hotels.

Important services that have been maintained into the C21 include a pharmacy, primary schooling, a post office and a doctor’s surgery. Services that are now delivered outside the village include banking (even in the 1970s there were still three banks in the village) and petrol stations (of which there had once been three).

In general terms, there were eighty providers (shops, services, trades) in Allendale in 1900, which had dropped to forty-one in 1955 and to twenty-seven in 2020.



This rapid change and the general decline across the shops and services landscape – which throughout the C20 was focused in villages like Allendale – has shifted focus and is now impacting high streets in local market towns like Hexham. Ironically, in 2020 local people are once again purchasing more without having to leave Allendale. Not only from the twenty-seven shops, services and trades still located in the village – but increasingly from online providers. What will the landscape look like by 2050?