



All Change on the High Street

Heritage Open Days
Organised by Salisbury
Civic Society

Shop 18 **Allum and Sidaway** 22-24 Oatmeal row/26-28 Minster street, Salisbury

Dating back to Medieval times Oatmeal Row, on the west wide of the Market place, was where foodstuff merchants plied their trade and sold their goods. Allum and Sidaway is in the most recent addition to the Row, New Sarum House. Built around 1900 by Frederick Bath as Chambers, It extended and replaced an earlier New Sarum House which features in Kelly's Directory of 1879. Several addresses have been used for this site over the years: 22 and 22-24 Oatmeal row, Market place and, more recently, 26-28 Minster Street. The two prominent doorways, one opening on the Oatmeal Row side to the market square and one to Minster Street and Market Place may partly explain this. The ground floor and part of the upstairs, accessed via a dramatic staircase, and an upper floor with stained glass windows, now houses Allum and Sidaway, jewellery and bridalwear. On the Minster Street side there is also a separate entrance to flats above.

New Sarum house is a roughly square building, of red brick and ashlar with timber windows in Jacobean/Dutch style. It has a symmetrical 3 bay north front, and faces Blue Boar Row rather than the market itself. The corners have large ashlar oriel-turrets corbelled out over the corner entrances; the doorways have elliptical arches, fanlights and panelled doors. The ground floor shop windows have stone pilasters, high fascia with moulded cornice and plate glass windows. These continue on the east and west elevations. The upper lights of the windows have leaded panes and stained glass. The doorway on the west side leads to the staircase with turned wooden balustrade, mentioned above.

Vibert the grocer occupied part of the site from 1885-1897 along with an international tea house, using the address Market Place. Davis, Bennett and Baker, accountants and stockbrokers are listed for 22 Oatmeal Row in 1879. Others to have used the premises include Main the corn merchant and numerous financial institutions including Bradford and Bingley, Commercial Union (1962-68), Portman building society and Nationwide Building Society. Amongst this august company a 'Chicken Inn' was also an occupant for a short time.

Allum and Sidaway, a family jewellery business, was established in 1942 and occupied 20 Queen Street on the west side of the Market square. The business moved to New Sarum House in 2016 and after comprehensive renovation of the building it makes good use of the building's character and scale.

