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## Exploring the Market Place: past and present

Heritage Open Days  
Organised by Salisbury  
Civic Society

# Allum and Sidaway

## 26 to 28 Minster Street

Oatmeal Row, on the West side of the Market place dates back to Medieval times and was where foodstuff merchants plied their trade and sold their goods. It is positioned near to the site of the medieval Cheese Cross and of the later Market House. Allum and Sidaway is in the most recent addition to the Row, New Sarum House. Believed to have been built around 1900 by Frederick Bath as Chambers, it extended and replaced an earlier New Sarum House. 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 building has two prominent doorways, one on the Oatmeal Row side to the Market square and one to Minster Street and Market Place. 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 which have similar ornate timber oriels. 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 Vibert the grocer 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 who used the premises include Main the corn merchant and numerous financial institutions including the Bradford and Bingley (1962-70), Commercial Union (1962-68). The Portman building society was there from 1993 till around 2006, thereafter the Nationwide Building Society moved in till 2014.

Amongst this august company a 'Chicken Inn' was also an occupant for a limited 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 where, after comprehensive renovation of the building, it is able to make good use of the building's character and scale