

# The changing face of the high street

## A personal experience

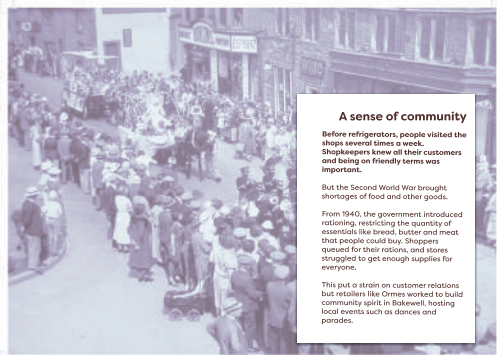
By the time Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837, Bakewell had been transformed by local industries like Arkwright's cotton spinning mills.

The rural market town had become a well-connected trade centre, and more professional families were settled here.

During the 1800s, Bakewell's high street grew to meet the needs of its population. Specialist stores like Nelson's pork butchers, Turner's fishmonger and fruiterer and Broughton's drapery (clothing) appeared.

Shopping was a personal and social experience, as there was no self-service. Shopkeepers would fetch items from behind the counter, and chat to customers while they waited.





## A sense of community

Before refrigerators, people visited the shops several times a week. Shopkeepers knew all their customers and being on friendly terms was important.

But the Second World War brought shortages of food and other goods.

From 1940, the government introduced rationing, restricting the quantity of essentials like bread, butter and meat that people could buy. Shoppers queued for their rations, and stores struggled to get enough supplies for everyone.

This put a strain on customer relations but retailers like Ormes worked to build community spirit in Bakewell, hosting local events such as dances and parades.



How have Bakewell and other high streets in Britain changed over your lifetime?  
How do you think they will change in the next 50 years?

