

## The East End

The Northumberland Arms on the corner originally had a door on the corner (not long gone) and above it the inscription 'Wonders Buildings 1859'. Billy Wonders, son of the proprietor at the time was a notoriously mischevious character and tales of his pranks were related for many years. The shops and property from here belonged to the Church. One of them was occupied by Charles Carr and his family, newsagents in Bedlington for over a century.

Moving down the street, a few red-tiled cottages existed from the late eighteenth century. The Gardener's Arms was a quaint old ale house. Ned Metcalf, for many years the proprietor, had a world-wide reputation as a breeder of Bedlington Terriers. The street of small shops led on to Bell's Place built in 1839. Across the far end, squarish and rather formidable, stood the Old Presbyterian Church which was certainly there in 1850. The most famous minister here was the Rev. Dall. It was his efforts which saw the building of the new church (later Dall Memorial) at the West End in 1897. The old church became a warehouse, later a garage, before being pulled down. Behind this building was a small private school run by Mr Whittle (built around 1850) then rebuilt in 1874 together with a house. Beyond this was the old Pit Row, two parallel streets of cottages. They were built by the farming Swann Brothers on their pasture, to take advantage of the influx of colliers in the 1840s. The cottages were initially leased, then sold in 1892 to the Coal Company who added attics and privies.

Across Bell's Place on the Front Street East was the Gibson