

EVENING COURIER
THURSDAY
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LONG LOST SHOP

AT the turn of the century the small village of Luddenden had six butchers, four grocers, a post office, a cobbler, a coal merchant, a Co-op, three drapers and a tobacconist.

At the end of the century the village, one of the most picturesque in Calderdale, is down to one sub-post office-cum-general store and that is due to close in the autumn when its owner retires. It may or may not be replaced.

It is a familiar pattern. In an age of greater mobility, in which people travel further afield for work, recreation and shopping, small communities, once self-contained, gradually lose their local facilities.

In the case of Luddenden the process has been a long-drawn out one, not least because several of its businesses remained in the same families for several generations.

The drapery business of G and F Lucas closed in 1990, having been run since 1947 by two generations of the Sayle family.

The sub-post office has been run since 1921 by three generations of Hirsts.

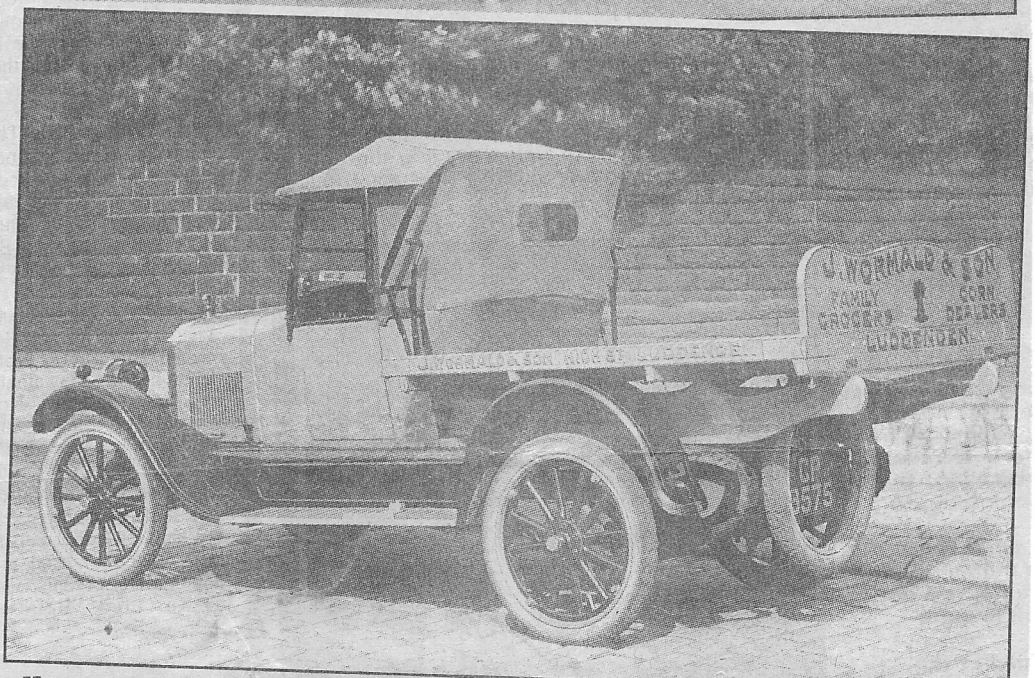
And until the mid-1970s a High Street grocery business had been run by four generations of the Wormald family.

The last incumbent was Albert Wormald, who retired in the early 1970s and the business - now a house - closed soon after.

This week's pictures show, top right, a view of Luddenden in 1965. Albert Wormald's shop - offering "choice fish, fruit and flowers, poultry and game" - can be seen beyond the famous Lord Nelson pub.

The centre picture is from the early part of the century and shows John Wormald - who was both a grocer and a draper - and his son, plus pet dog, outside the shop.

The bottom picture is from a postcard, dating perhaps from the early 1920s, when the Wormald business had acquired a smart new vehicle for its deliveries.



William Marshall