

The name Broadwood Hall is thought to be named after the original owners, the Broadwoods, estatesmen who claimed descent from the Roman Legions who, when their service with the imperial army ended, chose to stay in Britain. Those who stayed behind were granted land near the Wall, on condition that they defended the land against the Picts. John Broadwood of the famous Broadwood Piano Company is thought to be a descendant from these estatesmen. Occupation at Broadwood Hall is recorded as early as 1547 when its tenant was Edward Stout. At this time Allendale was well populated as can be seen from documents that record in 1538 the town supplying 64 men to muster. A survey in 1537 show that almost all the inhabitants of the area were copyholders and many of the present farm names can be identified.

George Bacon from Derbyshire was an early owner of Broadwood Hall. He exploited Allendale's lead ore and built a smelting mill at the site of the present Allen Mill. His son John became the High Sherrif of Northumberland. Evidence of John Bacon's occupation at Broadwood Hall can be seen in a lintel reset in the yard of the present farm. 1690 H over JB. This house, demolished over fifty years ago was rather grander than the usual bastle and can best be described as a "strong house". All that remains of the house now are angle quoins and the western wall, partly incorporated into a group of byres (these form the boundary wall of the orchard) and one original base-ment window, a chamfered square headed loop retaining its original iron bars.

The present house, a typical hall house, was built in 1716. In 1696 Charles Alsop was a smelter and northern agent for the London Lead Company. He married Lydia Brown of Broadlea and when the company took over the Whitfield Smelt Mill he moved to Allendale and built a house at Broadwood Hall. Their initials A above C : L 1716 are carved in the lintel over the front door.

More recently Rev. Thos Scurr, a noted mathematician and his son opened an Academy at Broadwood Hall where young gentlemen boarded and were taught Latin, Greek and Mathematics.

It is interesting that today the two houses that make up Low Broadwood Hall are home to two families and five people. In the Census of 1841 it was home to 4 families and a total of 26 people.

Over the last thirty years Broadwood Hall has been lovingly restored and repaired. Modern plumbing and heating has been installed and slight changes to the inner orientation have been made, but always with regard to retaining as much of the original fabric as possible.

In the last few years the history of Broadwood Hall has again moved on, our neighbours, the Little family, farmers at Broadwood Hall Farm since the 1800's, have sold the farm to a property speculator and we now have tenant farmers from Carrshield occupying the house and land. We are waiting to see what happens to the old outbuildings at the farm and hope that whatever the new owner decides it enhances Broadwood Hall.

Now in 2025 we have once again new neighbours in the farmhouse but the old farm buildings are still awaiting development.

The most exciting development recently has been the discovery of a henge like earthwork in our adjoining fields. The geophysical surveys made by archaeologists at Durham University show that there was a causeway and a circular feature within the enclosure. Although there is nothing to see on the surface now, standing in the field gives a vantage point with an unimpeded view of the sky in all directions and this would likely have been important to Neolithic people over 3000 years ago. We wonder if what is known now as Broadwood Hall would have been first inhabited by these people so long ago.