Luton: Straw Hat Boom Town

The resources in this pack focus on Luton from the mid 1800s to the first decade of the 20th century. This period saw the rapid growth of Luton from a country market town to an urban industrial town. The process changed the size and appearance of the town and the lives of all those who lived and worked here. The aim of this pack is to provide a core of resources that will help pupils studying local history at KS2 and 3 form a picture of Luton at this time.

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19th Century Descriptions
A collection of references to the town from a variety of sources.

1855 Map of Luton
This map shows the growth of the town to the show west and the beginnings of High Town to the north-east. The railway is only a proposition at this point in time.

Luton From St Anne’s Hill, 1860s
This view looking north-west over the town shows the Midland Railway line to London. The embankment on the right of the picture still shows the chalky soil. In the foreground is Crawley Green Cemetery. On the left of the picture is St Mary’s Church, still bounded by fields to its east.

Hobbs Map of Luton c.1900
Compared to the 1855 map it shows the growth of the town out from the centre as well as the prominence of the railways. Many of the local businesses advertising round its edges can be found in the 1898 Directory listing included in this pack.

1902 Ordnance Survey Map of Luton
Although Luton had grown a great deal by this date, the surrounding hamlets had not been reached.

Luton from Hart Hill, 1862
The new streets laid out on the edge of town are clear in this engraving, particularly the New Town area in the top left of the image.

George Street, 1850
Looking down the road towards the Town Hall. This image still gives the impression of a quiet country town. The Town Hall was built in 1847. A new clock was added in 1856 by public subscription to commemorate the end of the Crimean War.
George Street, looking towards the Town Hall c.1900
This photograph shows the same view as the 1850 illustration. The tall building on the right of the 1850 picture is the second building on the right in this, but it no longer stands out. The photograph gives a sense of the narrowness of the road as it is taken at ground level. The carts are piled high with crates of hats from the many factories in George Street. The carts are about to go off to the station.

George Street, looking towards Market Hill c.1900-1910
Taken from the Town Hall this photograph looks the other way up George Street. The Corn Exchange dominates Market Hill, and market stalls are just visible in front of it. The building on the far corner of Bute Street, which leads left off George Street, still stands. As well as the carts piled high with hat boxes, several people are carrying large canvas bags. These would be filled with hats collected from the factory, finished at home and then returned.

The Corn Exchange
This building replaced the old Market Hall. This picture is taken from The Illustrated London News of October 2nd 1869. Built at the same time as the Plait Halls, it is mentioned in the article from January 30th 1869, included in this pack.

The Plait Halls
The article from The Illustrated London News, January 30th 1869, describes the opening of the Plait Halls that year. The engraving, originally published with the article, shows the opening procession. The photograph shows the exterior of the Plait Halls in 1907.

The Parish Church and Vicarage c.1860
This engraving looks north down Holly Walk. In 1899 the electricity station was built on the Vicarage gardens. The Vicarage was demolished in 1907 when the electricity station was extended. Today beyond the church you would see the Arndale Centre and where the Vicarage stood is the inner ring road and the Power Court Industrial Estate.

Luton’s Chapels
Luton had a strong nonconformist community. During this period chapels were built, extended and improved, many at the time when Luton had no adequate sanitary system (see Report to the Board of Health 1850).

3: Industry, Business and Trade

Luton’s entry in Slaters’ 1850 Directory of Bedfordshire
This provides a description of the town and its amenities, details of the number and types of businesses carried on in the town, schools and transport links.

Businesses in Luton 1898 From Kelly’s Directory of Bedfordshire
Luton had expanded so much between 1850 and 1898 that its entry had grown to 20 pages. This list is taken from the directory of commercial addresses that forms the bulk of the entry.

Auction Sale Details
One of the impetuses for Luton’s growth was the availability of building land, both for factories and housing. The earlier of these auction bills offer land in the centre of town, while the later ones document the town’s spread into the surrounding countryside.

Asher Hucklesby’s Hat Factory in George Street
This factory is typical of the many large hat factories that were built in the late 1800s. It was demolished but many remain in the town, a few are still hat factories.
4: Living in Luton

Extracts from the Board of Health Report 1850
This report was presented to General Board of Health under the terms of the Public Health Act. It provides a graphic picture of sanitary conditions in the town at the time.

Census Data
Concentrating on one short section of George Street, including the George Inn, this data is drawn from the 1871 and 1901 censuses. It shows its change from a residential street to one dominated by business premises.

Jones Yard 1891 Census Returns and 1899 photograph
Jones Yard was typical of the squalid run down housing available to the poor. This census information gives details of those living on one side of the yard. The photograph was taken in 1899 shortly before the houses were demolished.

Blackwater Lane
This photograph shows the junction of Blackwater Lane and Park Street. Taken around 1890 it shows the shocking state of some of Luton’s older dwellings. The Board of Health targeted this area and changed the name from Blackwater Lane to Lea Road.

Extracts from a Home Missionary’s Journal
Written in 1872 the diary of this Home Missionary provides a glimpse into the everyday poverty of working class Lutonians at the time.

Extracts from a Factory Inspector’s Report written in 1890
These extracts give an impression of the working conditions and temperament of workers in Luton hat factories at this time.

Recollections of Old Luton by Mr T.G. Hobbs
Extracts from articles published in the Luton News and Bedfordshire Advertiser in 1933. Mr Hobbs celebrated his 80th birthday that year.

Bedford Road on a Saturday Night
This extract is taken from a series of articles called ‘Sketches About Luton’, they were written for a local paper in the 1890s.

Extracts from A View From The Alley by Aubrey Darby
Aubrey Darby grew up in Luton at the very beginning of the 20th century. Writing in 1974 as an old man, his reminiscences provide a vivid picture of aspects of working class life.

Luton’s Progress
These extracts were written at two important markers in this period: the first for Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee and the second at the turn of the century. They illustrate how people felt about the changes they had seen in their town and country.

Acknowledgements
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1: Teachers’ Notes

Introduction

During the period between 1840 and 1900 Luton changed almost beyond recognition. Its population grew from just below six thousand in 1841 to thirty-six and half thousand in 1901. The driving force behind this change was the straw industry. The Napoleonic Wars at the beginning of the 19th century had blocked imports of straw plait and hats from the continent and Luton’s business men and women took full advantage of this.

Luton became a boom town. The population figures illustrate just how many people were attracted to the area to work in the hat trade and other industries. A comparison of the businesses listed in the 1853 and 1898 Directories included in this pack shows how the trade had grown and the other businesses serving it and its workers.

The expansion of the town and the industry required a lot of land. In 1800 most of the land around Luton had belonged to a just few aristocratic families. The Butes at Luton Hoo and the Crawleys of Stockwood owned the most. By the middle of the century all these families, except the Crawleys, had died out or moved away. By 1900 most of the land once belonging to the Marquess of Bute and other estate owners had been sold off. Initially the land immediately round the centre of town was developed, but such was the demand roads soon began to push outwards into the surrounding countryside.

To meet the growing demand for housing, Luton first expanded into present day New Town, High Town and Park Town. With no kind of planning authority or building regulation a lot of cheap housing was built quickly from poor quality materials. Many homes had tiny rooms with dangerous stairways and no lighting, heating, water supply or sanitation. The 1850 Board of Health Report descriptions of the town and its neighbourhoods are almost unimaginably squalid. A key recommendation of the report was the formation of a local Board of Health. There was strong opposition this and it was only instituted after a petition was organised. The Board of Health was an elected body and had many of the powers of a town council.

Having read the Report’s description of Blackwater Lane it will come as no surprise that one of the first actions of the Luton Board of Health was to provide a sewage works. But it was not until 1870 that the town had a piped water supply. This was installed by the Luton Water Company who bored deep wells down to a pure water supply and laid water mains throughout the town. The Board were also responsible for the building of the Corn Exchange, the Plait Halls and the public baths in Waller Street which opened in 1872. There is no doubt that the impact of the Board on the town’s environment was very positive and in the later years of the century the town’s cleanliness was commented upon by visitors.

As businesses prospered so the middle classes grew. They moved out from the town centre leaving large residences and gardens to be demolished or redeveloped into hat factories and warehouses. Genteel villas were built, often by speculative builders, to supply the demand. The land surrounding Bury Farm was developed, offering ‘country residences’ and large mansions were built along the New Bedford Road, such as ‘The Laurels’, home of the brewer J.W.Green. A couple of
these remain at the southern end of the road, including one that is presently the Landsdowne Club. Wardown House, now Luton Museum, was built in the 1870s by Frank Chapman Scargill, a solicitor. He called his mansion ‘Bramingham Shott’.

The coming of the railways was a significant event of this period. In 1851 Luton was noted as the largest town in the country to be unconnected by railway, canal or navigable river. Although a proposed railway is marked on the 1855 map included in this pack, it was not until 1858 that Luton was finally connected to the national rail network. The first line was a branch of the Great Northern Railway, linking Luton to London via Hatfield and the North via Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard. In 1867 Luton gained a more direct route to London, and another station, when the Midland Railway Company opened the Bedford to London line which is still in use today.

These developments represented a vast improvement Luton’s transport links and were of immediate benefit to the businesses of the town. Import and export costs came down and new businesses were attracted to the town, including some of the engineering firms that would figure largely in the 20th century.

All this progress filled the most influential Lutonians with intense pride. They wanted to see the old fashioned provincial market town swept away to be replaced with a modern and model industrial centre. This actually meant the demolition of anything that got in the way of their vision. The 18th century Market Hall was demolished in 1867 and replaced by the Corn Exchange, St. Mary’s Vicarage was demolished in 1907 to make way for an extension to the electricity station already built in its gardens.

The architecture of the new buildings reflected their aspirations. The Town Hall was built in 1847 in a classical style and faced with Portland stone. The Corn Exchange was, according to the review in The London Illustrated News, in the ‘Italian Gothic style’ while the Plait Halls, built at the same time, were modern and had an iron and glass roof supported by massive square iron columns. A great many chapels were also built and rebuilt and extended. All these public buildings were financed by private money, a reflection of the willingness of the Lutonians of the time to invest in the future of their town.
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Using The Resources

These are just a few suggestions of activities using the sources included in this pack.

The Town and its buildings

- Discuss which of the descriptions best fits the illustrations of the town.
- Compare the 1902 Ordnance Survey map with a modern OS map. What changes do you see?
- Look at the images of George Street in 1850 and 1900. What differences do you notice?
- Visit the centre of Luton or look at photographs of the same views today. Look for any remains of the Victorian town as illustrated in these pictures. Which buildings have now gone? Which buildings still remain? What are they used for now? List all the changes you can see.
- The Town Hall and the chapels illustrated in this pack were built before Luton had proper drains or sanitation. Discuss why this might be the case.
- Discuss why Lutonians wanted to demolish the Market Hall and build the Corn Exchange. Do you think it was the right decision?
- What impression of the town do the extracts from the Board of Health Report give you?
• Using the picture, the Illustrated London News Article and T.G. Hobbs’ description imagine you were a member of the crowds the day the Plait Halls were opened. Write a letter to a friend in another town or a diary entry describing the event.

• The London Illustrated News was an important national paper. What picture of Luton would a reader get from this article and the illustrations? What aspects of the article would Lutonians have felt most pleased with?

• Compare the census material for numbers 50 to 74 George Street in 1871 and 1901. What differences are there and what changes do these suggest?

• What impression of the town do T.G. Hobbs’ and Aubrey Darby’s reminiscences give you?

Living In Luton

• Imagine you are a Board of Health Inspector. Write a list of your recommendations for cleaning up the town.

• What impression of life in the town do the extracts from the Home Missionary’s Journal give you? Why do you think some of the people he talked to did not want to listen to him?

• What does the census information and photograph tell you about life in Jones Yard?

• Compare the 1871 and 1901 census information for numbers 50 to 74 George Street. What does it tell you about the type of people living there? What are the most noticeable changes?

By 1901 far more people were not born in Luton. What might the causes of this change be? In 1871 far more of the buildings were homes. Why might this have changed?

• Compare the missionary’s entry for 22nd December with Aubrey Darby’s references to pawnbrokers.

What services did pawnbrokers offer?
Why do you think the pawnbroker was referred to as ‘Uncle’?
Why didn’t the man want to admit that he had pawned his suit? Darby says that everyone did it.
What do you think Aubrey Darby means when he says: “The poor fed off the poor, the rich built walls to keep the cannibals out!”?

• What impression of life in the town do Aubrey Darby’s reminiscences give you? Do you think he enjoyed his childhood?

• Compare Aubrey Darby’s recollections to the article ‘Old Bedford Road on a Sunday Night’.
What sort of things did young people like to do at the time? How different are they from the things they do today?

• Look at the surnames listed in the directories and mentioned in other sources. Are any of these names still listed in a modern directory? Consider whether it is likely that they are the same families.
Trade and Business

• Look at the trade directories included in this pack and compare them. Use a dictionary to look up any that you do not recognise. Compare lists to a modern trade directory - such as Yellow Pages. Which types of trades are still present in Luton? Which have disappeared? Think about why this might be the case. Are any of the firms listed here still going today? Pick one trade and compare the number of businesses in 1853 and 1898. Are there more or fewer businesses of this kind? Why do you think this might be? In the later directory the number of businesses has increased. Which businesses grew most strongly? Did any stay the same? Did any decrease? Do you notice any trends? Which businesses would be considered manufacturing, which service? How does the proportion of these change over the years?

• Look through the Directory list for women’s names. What businesses are women most likely to be involved in? Did the number of women running businesses increase between 1853 and 1898? Did the type of businesses they ran change? Is there any difference between married and unmarried women? Does this information seem surprising?

• Discuss the impact the railway made on business in Luton.

• During this period businesses came to see the importance of advertising. Using the adverts on the edge of the Hobbs map as examples, chose a business from the directory and design an advertisement for it. Collect some adverts for present day local firms, how do they differ from the old adverts?

• Imagine you were moving to Luton at this time to set up a business. What would you chose to do? Explain why you made your choice. Which of the properties and plots of land listed in the auction details would you have bid for? Why would its position have suited your business?

• Read the extracts called ‘Luton’s Progress’ and discuss: What do the writers feel about the changes they had seen in the town? What aspects are they most proud of? What sort of future are the looking forward to? Do you think all Lutonians felt like this? What about the people living in Jones Yard? What they might think of Luton today?
19th Century Descriptions of Luton

1844 The Penny Magazine
"It is a neat, clean town, that, from the number of straw-hat and other factories, has much of that business-like air the city dweller so much misses in most second-rate country towns in agricultural districts."

1869 London Illustrated News
"This good town, with its 22,000 inhabitants, and a staple manufacture of some importance, as well as of artistic beauty, feels that it ought to be more highly appreciated by the nation at large. Great improvements have lately been made … in the enlargement, paving and draining of the streets."

1876 Harrod's Royal County Directory of Bedfordshire
"The town has increased to nearly double the size during the past sixteen years. The inhabitants are almost wholly engaged in straw plait making, dyeing, bleaching and the manufacture of straw hats and bonnets."

1895 Handbook for Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire,
"Luton is an increasing town, of which an unusual proportion are females."

C.1895 Newspaper cutting
"It is no mere spirit of chivalry on the part of a crusty old bachelor to say that the ladies of Luton dress well. Observation has led me to note that sartorial feature conspicuously in my register of indisputable facts. See the belles go by in Wellington Street of an afternoon or drop their billets doux into the PO in Cheapside, and, if you love smart costumes and delight in noting the turn of a ribbon, you may enjoy your fancy to the full."

1898 Kelly's Directory of Bedfordshire
[Luton] "stands completely in a valley, surrounded by hills, which render it beautifully picturesque; it is very clean, and well paved and lighted."

1899 Luton And District Year Book and Almanack for 1900
"The town of Luton is situated 30 ¼ miles from London and 19 from the county town. It is a clean place, well paved and lighted, and possessing an excellent water supply."

c.1900 The Way About Bedfordshire, A Gazetteer by H. Graves
"The town itself is not remarkably beautiful, though it is a good deal cleaner and brighter than most industrial towns. The hills look better from Luton than Luton does from the hills. Seen from London Road on a summer's day the expanse of red brick and purple slate reflecting unrelentingly the hot glare of the sun is not inspiring."

1907 Mate's Illustrated Luton
"Few towns in the Midlands have undergone greater changes and made more rapid progress than Luton during the last thirty years. This applies not only to public improvements, but also the remarkable development of the staple trade, and Luton's expansion as a busy, commercial centre. The population, which is now about 40,000, and the largest in the county, has doubled since the town was incorporated in 1876. The aspiration contained in its motto: Scientiae et labori detur (May it be given to skill and industry) has amply been fulfilled, and everyone is agreed that there is a big future for Luton."
Luton: Straw Hat Boom Town

Map of Luton 1855
from The History of Luton by Frederick Davis
2. The town and its buildings

Luton from St Ann’s Hill, 1860s
2: The town and its buildings

Hobbs map of Luton

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Luton From Hart Hill 1862
From The Princess Album of Luton, 1862
George Street, looking towards Town Hall in 1850
George Street, looking towards Town Hall in the 1900s
George Street, looking towards Market Hill in the 1900s
The Corn Exchange
From The Illustrated London News, October 2nd 1869
The Luton Plait Halls

The public-spirited and enterprising townsfolk of Luton, in Bedfordshire (where the straw hats and bonnets are made which ladies will again have the good taste to wear), have erected a Corn Exchange and two Plait Halls, at a cost of £16,000. This good town, with its 22,000 inhabitants, and a staple manufacture of some importance, as well as of artistic beauty, feels that it ought to be more highly appreciated by the nation at large. Great improvements have lately been made by the local board, of which Mr. E.O. Williams is chairman, in the enlargement, paving and draining of the streets; but the building of the new halls is its most conspicuous. The two Plait Halls for a branch of the staple trade—viz. the sale of straw-plait to be made into hats or bonnets—are situated adjoining each other—one in Cheapside, the other in Waller-street. The Corn Exchange is on the Market Hill.

The first-mentioned Plait Hall, which is to be open daily, is nearly square, its size being 100ft. by 90ft. Facing Cheapside, three pairs of folding doors open under an arched roof which has a span of 43ft., and rises at the apex to the height of 32ft. There are also two side entrances under the side roofs. The principal roof is of iron and glass, supported by fourteen massive square iron columns. This hall has eight circular iron windows and five doors. The walls are panelled of a light grey colour. The bases of the piers are of grey brick, the cornice of ornamental red and moulded brick, with a grey band under. There are forty central stalls, 6ft. long by nearly 2ft. wide; and nineteen shops, each about 12ft. square and 12ft. high, with moulded cornices and glazed fronts. There are to be also thirty moveable tables, with a division on the top of each, making two small stalls for the accommodation of sixty small plait-dealers who cannot afford to hire more expensive stalls.

The second Plait Hall may be entered from the Cheapside Hall or from Waller-street. It is 133ft. long by 60ft. wide, and its interior architecture is similar to that of the other. All the windows are glazed with plate glass. Here are fitted on the sides round the building forty plait-stalls, and thirty-two stalls stand in the centre, giving ample space for the passage of buyers all round. The total cost of the Plait Halls, including the purchase of ground, will be about £8000. Mr R.M. Ordish, of London, is the architect; and Smart Brothers, of Luton, are the builders and brickmakers.

The building of the Corn Exchange has cost, with the ground, about as much as the Plait Halls. It is an ornamental building, in the Italian Gothic style, with a clock-turret rising to the height of 85ft. The principal room is covered with an open-timbered roof, stained and varnished. A gallery is erected at the end capable of seating 150 persons. The Corn Exchange will give nearly as much sitting accommodation, if used for public meetings, as the Town Hall. The Corn Exchange is entered by two pairs of polished oak doors up a flight of steps on each side. There are here four committee rooms, access to which is by a circular stone staircase. The windows are glazed with plate glass. A large bay window, with two centre and two side lights, faces George-street. The structure is built of Bath stone and red brick with banded work. Beneath the Exchange is a meat and provision market, which, on a Saturday night, when lighted up with gas, presents a very busy scene. In the centre are massive iron columns, and for the protection of the Exchange, there is one of Dennet’s fireproof roofs. The architects are Messrs. Grundy and Messenger, of London; and Smart Brothers, of Luton, are the builders.
The proceedings on the opening day were briefly noticed in our last [issue]. The Lord Lieutenant of the county, Earl Cowper, K.G., who presided on this occasion, was accompanied by the Hon.
Reverdy Johnson, the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, and Sir J.D. Burgoyne, High Sheriff of Bedfordshire. They were escorted in procession, with flags, music, and a guard of rifle
volunteers from the Town-hall, through George-street and Cheapside, to the Waller-street entrance.
The ceremony of opening took place in the Plait Hall on that side, which had been decorated with
mottoes beautifully worked in straw, and hung upon the walls, besides ornamental sheaves of
wheatstraw, evergreen garlands, and banners. The company having assembled, Colonel Ames, on
behalf of the inhabitants of Luton, addressed Earl Cowper, and invited him to declare the Plait Halls
opened, which his Lordship did, expressing his interest in the prosperity of the town. An address to
welcome the American Minister was then presented by Mr E.O. Williams, and Mr Reverdy Johnson
made one of his kindly, pleasant speeches in reply. The procession was again formed, and went on to
the Corn Exchange, where a similar form of opening was enacted. In the evening, at four o’clock,
the Plait Halls were lighted up; and a dinner took place in the Cheapside Hall, at which Earl Cowper
presided; and the American Minister, Mr H. Brand M.P., Colonel Gilpin M.P., Mr Hastings Russell M.P.,
and other gentlemen connected with the neighbourhood made speeches upon the topics of the day.
The procession to open the new Plait Halls
From The Illustrated London News, January 30th 1869

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2. The town and its buildings

Luton: Straw Hat Boom Town
Some of Luton’s Chapels
Some of Luton’s Chapels
LUTON,
WITH THE VILLAGE OF CADDINGTON AND NEIGHBOURHOODS.

LUTON, a flourishing and respectable market town, giving name to the parish in which it lies, in the hundred of Fytt, is 31 miles s. w. by s. from London, 20 E. by s. from Bedford, 10 n. from St. Albans (Herts), and 5 E. by n. from Dunstable—the last named a station on a branch communicating with the London and North-Western Railway, at Leighton. The town is seated near to the small river Lea, from which circumstance it is said to have been formerly called Leatone; however, contrary to the formative, its name, ‘Luton,’ from Longman, derived from the low position of the place, is being surrounded by gentle eminences. Baron Fulke de Breme built a castle here, in the early part of the thirteenth century; and John Lord Wenlock, in the reign of Henry VI., erected a semiconditional chapel on the north side of the church, and had commenced building a noble mansion at Summerset (the portion of which is still standing), on the opposite side to Luton Hoo Park, but the battle of Tewkesbury, in which he fell, prevented its completion. The manufacture of straw hat, may be considered the staple of the place, and this branch is carried on by several houses, on a very extensive scale; that of Weller has stood conspicuous in the trade for many years. Exclusive of the hut branch, the business here is mostly of a retail and general character; and there are several workshops and round mills. The growing prosperity of the town may be attested, not only by the rapid increase in the number of houses, but by the taste displayed in the erection of new and the alteration of the old buildings. The streets are enlightened, and an appearance of respectability and general improvement are manifest. The town hall erected in 1849, in George-street, is a handsome and commodious building, comprising convenient apartments for the use of the county courts, and savings bank, with rooms for public lectures, concerts, &c., the entire forming a valuable improvement to the town. A mechanics' institute has also been formed, and is well attended, and a reading and news-room, also a scientific institution are supported by respectable members. The workhouse of the Luton Union, is a convenient building situated near the gas works. On the Dunstable road, the board of guardians sit here every Friday. Luton is governed by a high constable, appointed at the quarter sessions; petty sessions for the division held here; a county court, for the recovery of debts to an amount not exceeding £20, sit monthly at the town hall; and Luton is a polling station, at the election of members to represent the county at large. John Shaw Leitch, Esq., is lord of the manor, and also lord paramount of the hundred of Hilt.

from Slaters' Directory of Bedfordshire 1850
## LUTON, &c.

### Bedfordshire

**POST OFFICE.** Park square, Luton, Graham Popham, Post Master.—Letters from Luton, all parts of the North of England, and from Scotland and Ireland every morning at six, and are despatched at the twenties next post in the evening.

### Directory

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Luton: Straw Hat Boom Town

from Slater’s Directory of Bedfordshire 1850
Luton: Straw Hat Boom Town

from Slaters' Directory of Bedfordshire 1850
Accountants
Keens Thomas Jun., Park St. & High Town Rd., & Insurance Broker & Stock & Share Dealer
Scarff & Co, Castle St., & Auditors
Thorne Thomas, Market Hill & Dunstable, & Bailiff & House Agent
Whitehead Sydney Thomas, Winsdon Rd, & Bailiff & Estate Agent

Apartment For Rent
Bowden Mary (Miss), Park St. West
Buckingham Emma (Miss), Cromwell Rd.
Burgess Clara (Miss), Durnfries St.
Burnett Anne (Mrs), Park St. West
Jeffrey William, Castle St.
Rowley Harriet (Mrs), Melson St.
Turner Ellen (Mrs), Park St.

Auctioneers
Cumberland John & Sons, Castle St., & Surveyors & Valuers
Holyoak Henry & Son, & Surveyors & Estate Agents
Pearse Frank, Barber's Lane, & Surveyors & Estate Agents
Stratford D Douglas, Park Square, & Estate Agents

Architects
Baker Sydney Charles, Brook St. & Surveyors
Brown J.R. & Son, & Market Hill
Pearson William Jason, Cheapside & Surveyors
Smith Albert Edward, Church St.
Wilkinson Albert, Adelaide St. & Surveyors

Bakers
Ansell James, Guildford St.
Arnold Charles, North St.
Blindell Frederick Joseph, Essex St.
Bloomfield Ernest, Hitchin Rd.
Bloomfield Walter, Stuart St.
Bond Elizabeth (Mrs), Burr St.
Broomfield John, Salisbury Rd.
Cain Henry Edwin, Castle St.
Clark Hannah (Mrs), Chapel St.
Cook Albert, Alma St.
Cook Henry, High St.
Crawley William, Langley St.
Cripps Henry, Wellington St.
Cripps Samuel, High Town Rd. & Manchester St.
Crouch Harriet (Mrs), Wellington St.
Dexter William, Liverpool Rd.
Dockrell Ernest, Cardigan St., & Post Office
Dunham Alfred Henry, North St.
Emery George, High Town Rd.
Ewington George, Durnfries St.
Farr Herbert, Wellington St.
Fauchn Fanny (Mrs), Manchester St.
Ferenside Sidney, Wood St.
Flint George, High Town Rd.
Foster Charles, John St.
Foster Samuel, John St.

Beer Retailers
Arnold Joel, New Town St.
Batten Albert, Boyle St.
Bradshaw Thomas, Hibbert St.
Coleman Charles, New Town St.
Cooper Josiah Thomas, Chapel St.
Day James, Cumberland St.
Day James, Taylor St., & Straw Hat Manufacturer
Day William, Duke St.
Dickman James, Wenlock St.
Dodson Samuel, Hastings St.
Dorrington Jesse William, New Town St.
Ell Albert, Albert Rd.
Ell James Charles, Park St.

Booksellers, Publishers & Printers,
Atkins Alfred (Mrs), Cheapside, Book Seller, Bookbinder, Stationer, Fancy
Marshall Ernest, Manchester St., Book Seller
Marshall Frederick, Hastings St., Printer
Pearson Thomas, George St., Book Seller

Bleachers & Dyers
Abraham Henry, High Town Rd.
Allin John Thomas, Dunstable Rd. & Leagrave
Barford Brothers, North St.
Biggs R & Co, Church St.
Bunnage James, York St.
Coupees Edwin, Old Bedford Rd.
Diler & Suter, Biscot Rd.
Fyson George, Leagrave Rd.
Godfrey Arthur & Frederick, Langley St.
Godfrey George, Plant Hall
Hart Ernest William, Windmill Rd.
Hawkes & Rundle, Albert Rd.
Hinson & Fyson, Princess St.
Hitchcock E & W, Waller St.
Impy William, Durnfries St.
Keeling Fred, Cross St.
Lye Thomas & Sons, New Bedford Rd., Martin
James, Hitchin Rd., Rowes John William,
Collingdon St., Rowes Benjamin & Son, Chapel St., Dyers & Cleaners
Tearl Levi, Melson St., Straw Plait Dyer
Webb Frederick Bennett, Bute St., Straw Plait Dealer

Bristol: Straw Hat Boom Town

from Kelly's Directory of Bedfordshire 1898

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Ewington George, Durnfries St.
Farr Herbert, Wellington St.
Fauchn Fanny (Mrs), Manchester St.
Ferenside Sidney, Wood St.
Flint George, High Town Rd.
Foster Charles, John St.
Foster Samuel, John St.

Beer Retailers
Arnold Joel, New Town St.
Batten Albert, Boyle St.
Bradshaw Thomas, Hibbert St.
Coleman Charles, New Town St.
Cooper Josiah Thomas, Chapel St.
Day James, Cumberland St.
Day James, Taylor St., & Straw Hat Manufacturer
Day William, Duke St.
Dickman James, Wenlock St.
Dodson Samuel, Hastings St.
Dorrington Jesse William, New Town St.
Ell Albert, Albert Rd.
Ell James Charles, Park St.

Farr Matthew, New Town St.
Fenn Hamor, Cross St.
Goodwin John, Park St.
Green John, Wellington St.
Kenney Alfred J, Salisbury Rd.
Kirby Henry James, Hastings St.
Lacey George Abraham, Midland Rd., & Shopkeeper
Moore William, High Town Rd.
Oakley Lavinia (Mrs), Duke St.
Purks Frederick, Chapel St.
Rainbow Frederick, Havelock Rd.
Rainbow Henry, Cardigan St.
Sharp Kezia (Mrs), High Town Rd.
Twidell Thomas Jesse, Duke St.
Winter James, High Town Rd.
Womwell James, New Town St.
Wood Thomas, Court Rd. & Vicarage St.
Zammitt Spero, Midland Rd.

Blacksmiths & Farriers
Gazeley Elizabeth (Mrs), Hitchin Rd., Smith
Gazeley Elizabeth (Mrs), Park St.
Hopkins Thomas, Bute St.
McDonnell Walter J, Chapel St., Farrier
Newby Charles, Waller St., Blacksmith & Farrier
Palmer William, High Town Rd.
Stanton & Thompson, Castle St.
Titmus Levi Charles, Duke St., Smith
Welch Alfred, Stuart St.

Bleachers & Dyers
Abraham Henry, High Town Rd.
Allin John Thomas, Dunstable Rd. & Leagrave
Barford Brothers, North St.
Biggs R & Co, Church St.
Bunnage James, York St.
Coupees Edwin, Old Bedford Rd.
Diler & Suter, Biscot Rd.
Fyson George, Leagrave Rd.
Godfrey Arthur & Frederick, Langley St.
Godfrey George, Plant Hall
Hart Ernest William, Windmill Rd.
Hawkes & Rundle, Albert Rd.
Hinson & Fyson, Princess St.
Hitchcock E & W, Waller St.
Impy William, Durnfries St.
Keeling Fred, Cross St.
Lye Thomas & Sons, New Bedford Rd., Martin
James, Hitchin Rd., Rowes John William,
Collingdon St., Rowes Benjamin & Son, Chapel St., Dyers & Cleaners
Tearl Levi, Melson St., Straw Plait Dyer
Webb Frederick Bennett, Bute St., Straw Plait Dealer

Booksellers, Publishers & Printers,
Atkins Alfred (Mrs), Cheapside, Book Seller, Bookbinder, Stationer, Fancy
Marshall Ernest, Manchester St., Book Seller
Marshall Frederick, Hastings St., Printer
Pearson Thomas, George St., Book Seller &
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Stationer
Punter Ernest, Langley Rd. & Wellington St., Printer
School Teacher Publishing Co Ltd, Church St., Publishers
Stalliker William, Wellington St., Printer

**Boot & Shoemakers & Repairers,**
Amies & Son, Park St.
Bates Albert, Collingdon St.
Bird Walter D, Wenlock St. & High Town Rd.
Brightman William, Lea Rd.
Bunyan Arthur, Park St.
Burrows James, Dudley St.
Clare Samuel Jabez, Church St., Boot Repairer
Coles Alfred, Park St.
Coles Joseph Thomas, Park St.
Cook Levi, Park Lane
Cook William, Russell St., Boot Repairer
Cooper George R, Barber's Lanes
Creasey Henry, Dunstable Places
Dickins Charles, Adelaide St.
Dunham Abraham, Manchester St. & Gordon St.
Fensome Walter, Back St.
Fountain Jesse, Windmill St.
Fryer Alfred Henry, Cowper St.
Hale Henry, High Town Rd.
Hart George, Park St.
Hawkes Charles, Hastings St.
Hawkins Thomas, Blyth Place, Russell St.
Heley George, High Town Rd.
Horn William, Inkerman St.
Horwood John, Hibbert St.
Hove George, Wenlock St.
Hudson Edward, Langley St.
Hughes William, Wellington St.
Hull Albert, Dumfries St.
King Thomas A, Victoria St.
Lane James, Langley St.
Lawrence Arthur William, Bridge St.
Lawson Henry, Manchester St.
Leonard Richard, Park St.
Linger Alfred, Hibbert St.
Mooring Charles, Park St.
Mowles Samuel, John St.
Norris William, North St.
Osborn William, Inkerman St.
Parker Frank, Tavistock St.
Parker John, Cumberland St.
Pickering George Jun., Queen St.
Pickering George Sen., Waller St.
Prime Frederick, Windsor St.
Rowe Richard E, Bute St.
Sach Henry, Market Hill & Leather Seller
Smith John, Cardigan St.
Spence George, Park St.
Spittles George, High Town Rd.
Stanford Charles, Cobden St. & Bute St.
Tomlin William, North St.
Turner John, High Town Rd.
Turner Jonathan, Boyle St. & Castle St.
White & Son, Park St. West, & Leather Sellers &

Grindery Dealers
White Harry, Manchester St.
Wildman Eli, Chapel St.
Witham Albert Edward, Adelaide St.
Withams Albert, Wellington St.
Woodbridge George, North St.
Woodbridge Thomas, Dudley St.

**Boot & Shoe Dealers,**
International Boot Company, Wellington St.
Mooring Brothers, Wellington St.
Pocock Brothers, Wellington St.
Public Benefit Boot Manufacturing Co., Park St.

**Boot & Shoe Warehouses,**
Bigg William, Manchester St.
Earl A & Co, Wellington St., & Bicycle Dealers
Freeman, Hardy & Willis, George St.
Sharp Jane (Miss), Chapel St.
Skelton & Son, Wellington St.

**Brewers,**
Green J.W. Ltd, Park St. West, & Wine & Spirit Merchants, Ale & Stout Bottlers & Mineral Water Manufacturers
Locke & Smith, Stuart St., & Spirit Merchants
Northampton Brewery Co, George St.

**Bicycle Manufactures & Agents,**
Chilton Free, Adelaide St., Cycle Agent
Dockrell F & Co, George St., Cycle Manufacturers
Gell Arthur, New Bedford Rd., Cycle Agent
Langley James, Park St., Gun & Bicycle Maker
Rushden Cross Cycle Co. Ltd, New Bedford Rd., Cycle Manufacturers
Spratley Joseph, Park St., Bicycle Depot
Starke Ernest, Castle St., Bicycle Agent & House Furnisher
Trott Albert, New Bedford Rd., Cycle Agent

**Bricklayers,**
Linney Samuel, Chobham St., Bricklayer
Muskett William, Burr St., Bricklayer

**Builders,**
Allen Thomas, Castle St., Builder
Amos & Co, Chapel St., Job Masters, Horse & carriage Hire, Livery and Removals
Ashton Isaac, Waldeck Rd., Builder & Shopkeeper
Atwood Arthur, Ashton Rd., Builder
Batson Alfred, Rippleford Rd., Builder
Brown E & Son, Chapel St., Builders & Contractors
Buckingham Charles, Crawley Rd., Builder
Cole Arthur, Edward St. & Castle St., Builder & Carpenter & Agent for English and Foreign Bees
Dunham William G, Guildford St., Builder
Kingham George, Midland Rd., Builder & Contractor
Lemons William F, Wellington St., Jobmaster
Mardle Alfred, Cowper St., Builder
Neville Thomas & Edward, Castle St., Builders
Norris Edwin, Wellington St. & Windsor St., Builder
Pryer George Walter, Cardiff Grove & Park St., Builder
Puddaphatt Thomas, Rothesay Rd., Builder
Sanders Amos, Princess St., Builder
Saunders John & Son, Duke St., Builders & Brickmakers
Sinkfield John, Grove Rd., Builder
Smart George, Guildford St., Builder & Contractor
Smith John, George St., Builder
Taylor John, New Bedford Rd., Builder
Turner Abraham, Hibbert St., Builder
Warren John, Baker St., Builder
White Charles, Dunstable Rd., Builder

**Builders’ Materials Merchants,**
Andrews & Lacey, High Town Rd., Timber Merchants
Bird Charles, Collingdon St., Lead & Glass Merchant
Brown Henry & Sons, Chapel St., & sawing, planing and moulding mills
Bunn George, Villa Rd., Brick & Lime Merchant
Keast George, Bridge St., & Corn & Flour Merchant
Williams Herbert Owen, Manchester St.

**Butchers,**
Andrews John, Park St. & Lea Rd.
Bass Arthur, Cobden St.
Bass Richard, Dudley St.
Batten George, Burr St. & North St.
Bird Daniel, Taylor St., High Town Rd. & Langley Rd.
Bird William Henry, Langley Rd.
Bradshaw John, Park St.
Carrington Frederick William, High Town Rd., Pork Butcher
Clarke Harry, Upper George St.
Coles Mary Ann (Mrs), Albert Rd., Pork Butcher
Conisbee William Henry, Burr St.
Cooke George, Hastings St.
Cooper John, Hitchin Rd., Pork Butcher
Crawley Arthur, Hastings St.
Crawley William, Wood St.
Crotty Kate (Miss), Ashton Rd.
Darby Frederick, Cheapside
Davis Thomas Ellerd, Park St.
Dean Thomas, Church St.
Eastmans Ltd, George St.
Fletcher W & R Ltd, Park Rd.
Gatward Charles, Waller St.
Gray Sidney, Guildford St.
Gregory William, High Town Rd.
Hancock Frances (Mrs), Park St., Pork Butcher
Harris Henry, Manchester St.

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Hill Walter James, Hastings St.
Houghton Alfred, Stanley St.
Hutchins Frederick, Hitchin Rd. & Bute St.
Jenkins Agnes (Mrs), Hitchin Rd.
Jenkins Emily (Mrs), Langley Rd.
Kilby John, New Town St.
Lee Brothers, Park St.
London Central Meat Co. Ltd, Cheapside
Lovew George, Cheapside
Miller Alfred T, Albert Rd.
Panter William, Castle St.
Peck George, Wellington St., Park Butcher
Pogott Arthur, George St.
Pogott Ezra, Park St.
Pogott Henry, Manchester St.
Pike Mary (Mrs), Park St., Ham & Beef Shop
Poulton Edmund, Buxton Rd.
Poulton Emma (Mrs), Chapel St.
Poulton John Davis, High Town Rd.
Pratt Sarah (Mrs), New Town St.
Pryer Arthur George, Langley St.
Sanders William Emerston, Princess St. & High Town Rd.
Schoeppler A.M. (Mrs), George St., Park Butcher
Smith William, Hibbert St.
Stephens William, Albert Rd.
Stott Joseph, High Town Rd.
Tearle James, Langley St.
Waller Linda (Mrs), High Town Rd., Pork Butcher
Ward Harry J, Cardigan St.
Wheeler Brothers, Wellington St.

Brush Manufacturers
Colonial Produce Co., Collingdon Mill

Cabinet Makers
Geeves Charles Hussey, Hastings St.
Hoyles & Maidment, Guildford St.

Carpenters
Anderson Joseph J, High Town Rd., Picture Frame Maker
Brightman Joseph, Mill St.
Carter Richard, Jubilee St. & Ashton Rd.
Cox William B, Langley Rd. & Cardigan St.
Crew Isaac, Windmill St. & Wellington St.
Davis William, Inkerman St., Wellington St. & High Town Rd.
How William, Round Green, Wood Cutter
Lane Edward, Cumberland St.
Miller John, Wellington St. & Langle St.
Pratt Alfred, Inkerman St.
Prosper John, Bury Park Rd.
Puddephatt William, Windmill St.
Roe Daniel, Lea Rd. & Castle St.
Sear William, Cowper St.
Stokes Samuel, Dumfries St. & Joiner
Tomkins Joseph, Union St.

Carriers, Removers & Carmen
Brice Brothers, Queen St., Furniture Removers
Deacon Alfred, Stuart St., Carrier
Sutton & Co., Melson St., Carriers
Young Henry, Guildford St., Carman

Chemists, Druggists & Herbalists
Chantler Richard Philip, Park St., Chemist
Clegg Philip Watts, Castle St., Herbalist
Cocker Horace Edward, George St., Chemist
Cox George Frederick, Wellington St., Chemist
Crosby Samuel, Bridge St., Herbalist
Drew Heriot Creasy, Chobham St., Druggist
Duberley George Smith, Market Hill & Stuart St., Chemist
Gibbs Alfred, Wellington St., Druggist
Hall Ephraim, George St. & Stuart St., Chemist
Horwood James, Brunswick St., Druggist
Jackson Thomas, High Town Rd., Chemist
Marsh Edward, Cheapside, Chemist
Sunman Joseph Thomas, Wellington St., Chemist
Wootton & Webb, George St., Chemists & Druggists

Chimney Sweepers
Bryant William, Upper George St.
Riddle Frederick, Langley Place
Stronell Thomas, Guildford St.
Tilcock George, Burr St.

Clothiers
Ager John, Barber's Lane
Freeman Sarah (Mrs), Church St.
Roast George, High Town Rd.
Stagg William Bowes, Park St.

Coach Builders
Mayes Brothers, Stuart St.
Randall Arthur, Chapel St.
Squires William, Langley St.

 Coal Dealers & Merchants
Abrahams William, Wellington St.
Bennett Sydney, Bute St.
Chambers Daniel, Duke St.
Currant Alfred, Cowper St.
Dudley Richard, Ashton Rd.
Ellis James Swain, Mill St.
Facer John, Cheapside
Godden & Rudd, John St.
How Edward, King St.
Lee John T, Cardigan St.
Newbold George, Cheapside.
Perry George G, Langley St.
Powdrill George, Hitchin Rd., & Coke, Salt, & Builders' Merchant Robinson George, Church St.
Rudd Henry C., Cardiff Rd.
Saunders Henry, Hitchin Rd.
Woolerstone Arthur S, Havelock Rd., & Coke Merchant

Comission Agents
Burgess John, King St.
Pollard George, Waller St.
Tomlin Brothers, Cheapside

Confectioners
Custance James, Chapel St.
Dickins George William, Dorset St. (Wholesale)
Elcock William, Manchester St. & Chobham St.
Ellingham John, Windsor St. & Midland Wharf
Garratt & Cannon, Wellington St.
George Joseph, Castle St.
Grace & Son, Park St.
Ingram Louisa (Miss), Castle St.
Knight Alfred George, Manchester St.
Knight Leonard, Albert Rd.
Morley Frederick William, High Town Rd.
Ogden John Thomas, Albert Rd.
Powell Thomas, New Bedford Rd.
Rudd Mary (Mrs), Chapel St.
Smith William Robert, Park St.
Tomkinds William R, Wellington St.
Tompkins William R, New Bedford Rd.
Webb George, Hastings St.
Wheeler William Groom, High Town Rd.

Corn, Flour & Seed Dealers & Millers,
Brown William Henry, Great Northern Mills,
Guildford St., Miller (steam)
Deacon Charles William, Chapel St., Corn Dealer
Flemmons William, Hastings St. & Park St., Corn Dealer
Horton J & Co, Old Bedford Rd., Corn Merchants
Horton Jabez, Cheapside, Corn Dealer
Hucklesby David, Church St., Corn, Meal, Hay & Straw Dealer
Hunt Frederick, Castle St., Corn & Seed Merchant
Looker William, Church St., Miller
Newbury John, Boyle St., Corn & Flour Dealer
Rogers Robert, Manchester St., Corn Dealer
Rosson Charles John Jun., High Town Rd., Steam Flour Miller & Corn Dealer
Sell Emily (Mrs), Stuart St., Seed Merchant
Tompkins & Son, Bute St., Corn Merchants
Tooley James Francis, Park St., Corn & Flour Dealer

Cow Keepers
Holdstock John, Edward St.
Pateman William, Collingdon St.

Dairymen & Milk Dealers
Allen William, Langley St.
Allen William, Brache House, Park St.
Browning James D, Stuart St., Milk Dealer
Cartwright George, Bury Park Rd.
Coles Richard, Winsdon Rd.
Felstead John, Ashton Rd.
Griffin David, Leagrave Rd.
James William, Albert Rd. & Victoria St.
Neale Henry, Burr St., Milk Seller
Nicklinson Richard Wilson, Havelock Rd.
Pestell Harry Bruce, Langley St.
Pestell Samuel, Castle St. & Old Bedford Rd.
Underwood William, Hastings St., Milk Seller

Decorators
Abbott, Frederick, Court Rd.
Burgess J & A, John St.
Fowler William, Oxford Rd. & Plumber, Gas & Water Fitter, lead, glass and paper-hanging Merchant
Harding Benjamin, Manchester St., & Paperhanger
Higgins Louis Richard, Bury Park Rd., & Plumber
Pedley Frederick John, Cheapside

Drapers
Alexander & Son, Wellington St.
Alexander Adam, Melson St., Travelling Draper
Austin Elizabeth & Margaret (Misses), Castle St., Fancy Drapers
Bean Henry William, Park St., Linen Draper
Biggs Annie (Mrs), Wellington St.
Brasier Brothers, Cheapside
Cheesman Thomas, High Town Rd.
Connell John W, High Town Rd.
Crawley Maria (Mrs), Stuart St.
Cunningham Robert, Stockwood Crescent, Travelling Draper
Darvill Richard Henry, Park St.
Dimmock William, Cardigan St.
Edgington Alfred, Dumfries St.
Foster Emma (Mrs), Church St. & Dressmaker
Gibbons Henry & Sons, George St.
Godfrey Albert, Albert Rd.
Hopkins Arthur R, Park St.
Horwood Alice (Miss), Boyle St.
Kelly Malcolm, Park St.
Lewin Charles, Dumfries St.
Linger Fred, Wellington St., Linen Draper
Maney & Co, Wellington St.
Oliver & Son, Park St.
Olney Thomas, Collingdon St.
Pridmore Sarah & Eliza (Misses), High Town Rd.
Rollings Bartle F, High Town Rd.
Sadler Florence (Mrs), Castle St.
Shackleton Thomas & Sons, High Town Rd.
Smith E & H E., Wellington St.
Strange Edwin, Wellington St.
Trantrum William, High Town Rd.
Wren Christopher, Park St., Linen Draper

Dressmakers
Allen Sarah (Mrs), Castle St.
Anstee Robina (Miss), Salisbury Rd.
Arnold Annie (Miss), New Bedford Rd.
Baker Maud & Florence (Misses), Cromwell Rd.
Batson Sarah & Alice (Misses), Liverpool Rd. & Collingdon St.

Bradley Annie (Mrs), Collingdon St.
Brinkler Kate (Mrs), New Bedford Rd. & Langley St.
Burrows Ann (Mrs), Dudley St.
Burrows Martha (Mrs), Regent St.
Coleman Ellen (Mrs), Castle St.
Coles Charlotte (Mrs), Winsdon Rd.
Davis Louisa (Mrs), Wenlock St.
Day Eliza (Mrs), Chapel St.
Deamer Florence (Miss), New Bedford Rd.
Dunham Florence (Miss), Manchester St.
Elgar Rebecca Margaret (Mrs), Regent St.
Ellis Sarah (Miss), Ashton Rd.
Farr Ada (Mrs), Regent St.
Fensome Annie (Miss), Cardigan St.
Finlinson Elizabeth (Mrs), Mill St.
Folks & Webb, Salisbury Rd. & Wellington St.
Foster Emma (Mrs), Church St., & Draper
Franklin Emily (Mrs), Salisbury Rd.
Gibbs Clarissa (Miss), Wellington St.
Gravett & Gladwell (Misses), Church St.
& Park St.
Hacking Charlotte (Mrs), Hibbert St.
Hale John, North St.
Harris R B & M (Misses), New Bedford Rd.
Hart Ann Joysey (Mrs), Regent St.
Hawkes Phoebe (Mrs), Cumberland St.
Hawksworth Mrs & Miss, New Bedford Rd.
Horn Sarah E (Miss), Upper George St.
Horton Ellen (Mrs), Havelock Rd.
Hutchins Cecilia (Miss), Oxford Rd.
Jeans Florence & Emily (Misses), Park St.
Lake Bertha (Miss), Chapel St.
Martin Sarah Ann (Mrs), Grove Rd.
Mead Jane (Mrs), Wenlock St.
Perry Annie (Mrs), Liverpool Rd.
Randall Nellie (Miss), Dumfries St.
Rice Margaret (Miss), Dunstable Rd.
Robinson Charles (Mrs), Wellington St.
Robinson Mary (Mrs), Park St. West
Sinfield Suie D (Miss), Grove Rd.
Smith Emma (Miss), Church St.
Stanbridge Kezia (Miss), Hastings St.
Stormer Annie M (Miss), Cardiff Rd.
Strapps Eliza (Mrs), Albert Rd.
Taylor Martha (Mrs), Brunswick St.
Webb Eliza (Miss), Adelaide St.

Drysalters
Dormer William, Waller St.
Toyer Alfred, High Town Rd., & Post Office
Seddon J & F, Waller St.

Engineers
Delger Joseph, Melson St.
Dixon William, Guildford St.
Hardstaff William, Buxton Rd.
Hayward-Tyler & Howards, & Iron & Brass Founders
Hudson Ernest William, Langley Rd.
Keston Hyram, Stuart St., & Machinist

Fishmongers & Dealers
Andrews Albert, High Town Rd., Fish Dealer
Debney Arthur C, High Town Rd.
Dudley Daniel, Manchester St.
Fliton William, George St.
Gray William, Castle St.
Hammett David, Hitchin Rd. & Peel St. & Greengrocer
Hockley Henry, Albert Rd.
Marshall Percy, Wellington St.
Richardson Samuel, Park St., & Greengrocer

Fried Fish Dealers & Shops
Barrett Arthur, Dudley St. & Crescent Rd., Fried Fish dealer
Duce Harry, Wellington St. & Bedford & Hitchin, Fried Fish Shop
Olney Arthur, Albert Rd., Fried Fish Dealer

Fruiterers
Brandon Mary (Miss), Chapel St.
Cain William Waller, Manchester St.
Cook Jason, High Town Rd.
Coulson William, Castle St.
Deamer Mary Ann (Mrs), New Bedford Rd.
Howard Arthur Sidney, Dudley St.
Leveton William James, Park St.
Olney John T, Wellington St.
Straton Henry, Manchester St.
Welsh Sidney, York St.

Furniture, Glass & China Dealers & Warehouses
Blundell Brothers, George St. & Cheapside, House Furnishers & Drapers
Funnell Sarah (Mrs), Park St., Furniture Broker
Long Arthur, North St., Furniture Dealer
Luton Furnishing Co, Bute St., Furniture Dealer
Mann William, High Town Rd., China & Glass Dealer
Merchant Francis, Manchester St., Furniture Dealer
Samm Edward James, Castle St., Furniture Dealer
Smith Robert, Stuart St., Furniture Dealer
Webdale Thomas C, Wellington St., Furniture Dealer, & London, Birmingham, Sheffield &

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Staffordshire
Warehousemen & Importers
Withers William, Hitchin Rd., Furniture Dealer
Wren William & Son, Park St., Furnishing Warehouse

Gardeners
Chapman James, Bury Park Rd., Jobbing Gardener
Hill Daniel, Guildford St., Landscape Gardener

Gasfitters
Carrington William, Hastings St.
Lines William, Park St. West

Greengrocers
Bowlies Levi, Cardigan St.
challice Lois (Mrs), Hastings St.
Chapman Emma (Mrs), Regent St.
Clark Arthur, Windsor St.
Clark Daniel & Co, Bute St.
Cook George, Alma St.
Duncombe George, Park St. & Gaiter Manufacturer
Evans Joseph, Church St.
King William, Guildford St.
Martin John, High Town Rd.
Mawby Oliver, Hitchin Rd.
Palmer William, Manchester St.
Plater James, Windsor St.
Redman William, Waller St.
Richardson Samuel, Park St. & Fishmonger
Shepherd John, Salisbury Rd.
Smith Thomas, Tavistock St.
Stanford Sarah (Mrs), Brache St.
Thorne Ezra Charles, Wellington St.
Wilson William, High Town Rd.
Worboys Jabez, Wenlock St.

Grocers
Alderman Thomas, Queen St.
Aldred Harry, High Town Rd.
Ashton John, Grove Rd.
Barford Ernest, Hastings St.
Barrow Samuel, Dumfries St.
Bennett John, Castle St.
Berry George William, Castle St.
Bets George, Park St. & Post Office
Bingham Arthur, Park St.
Boddington William, Park St.
Bond Japheth, High Town Rd.
Clark Sarah (Mrs), High Town Rd.
Clarke & Co, Langley St.
Cook Arthur Thurlbourn, Court Rd.
Cook William James, Stanley St.
Cook William, Dumfries St.
Cooper Robert, Hitchin Rd.
Cross Arthur James, Hitchin Rd.
Culham Ernest, Langley St.
Cunningham Archer, Wellington St. & Arthur St. & Post Office
Davis George, Collingdon St.
Duck Henry James, Dudley St.
Dumpleton Walter, Park St.
Flavell John, Manchester St.
Goodman, Foster & Brown Ltd, Park St.
Groom Charles, New Town St.
Hale Thomas, Hitchin Rd. & Hair Dresser
Healy Arthur, Court Rd.
Holdstock Joseph, North St.
Husband Lydia (Mrs), High Town Rd.
Impey Walter J. Boyle St.
Inwood Henry, Collingdon St., & Agents for W & A Gilby Ltd Wine & Spirit Merchants
Inwood Jesse & Co, High Town Rd., & Agents for W & A Gilby Ltd Wine & Spirit Merchants
Inwood Thomas, Dudley St., & Butcher
Johnson George Mercer & Samuel, Wellington St. & Provision Merchants
Martin John, North St.
Monk Arthur, Lea Rd.
Moody Walter Charles, Windsor St.
Morgan William H, Stuart St.
Munday William, Melson St.
Osborn William, Ashton Rd.
Overy William Goddard, Ashton Rd.
Panter Agnes (Mrs), New Town St.
Pateman Walter, Hastings St.
Pestell William, Waldeck St.
Primett Walter, Langley Rd.
Pysden Walter Henry, Russell St.
Roberts Thomas George, George St. & Provision Merchant
Robinson Herbert, Inkerman St. & Straw Material Dealer
Roe Edward, Hitchin Rd.
Rogers Samuel R, Buxton Rd.
Sanders John & Son, Hastings St. & Scrutton Arthur, John St.
Shadbolt John, Windsor St.
Slough James, North Rd. & Beer Retailer
Starkey Daniel, Crawley Rd.
Starkings Daniel, Russell St.
Steele William, Lea Rd. & Whitesmith
Strong William, New Town St.
Tilcock John Charles, Old Bedford Rd. & Beer Retailer
Unwin Joseph, Round Green, & Beer Retailer
Walter Thomas J, Bury Park Rd.
Watts Henry & Sons, Castle St.
Whitworth John William, Cheapside
Wooding James Joseph, High Town Rd.
Wren Frederick J, Manchester St.
Wright Charles, Hibbert St.

Hair Dressers
Austin James, Part St. West
Barton Albert, Wellington St. & Tobacco Merchant
Blackaby Frank T, High Town Rd. & Havelock Rd.
Buckingham William N, Park Lane
Burnet John, Barber’s Lane & Tavistock St.
Cain David, High Town Rd. & Inkerman St. & Tobacco Merchant
Caspers Carl, Bute St.
Chambers Frederick George, Park St.
Dyer Charles, Park St.
Emerson David, Bridge St.
Gale Frederick, Longley St.
Goodge Albert, Chapel St.
King Henry, Hastings St.
Morris Edwin, Wellington St.
OdeLL William, Castle St.
Smith John, Manchester St., Hair Cutter & A Gilby Ltd Wine & Spirit Merchants
St.on Christopher, Castle St.
Strowell Edwin, Church St.
Swain Frederick Jun., Chapel St.
Vass Joseph Thomas, Dumfries St.

Hardware Dealers
Bailey John Lane, Collingdon St., Bute St., Chapel St. & Upper George St.
Rosenthal Elias (Mrs), High Town Rd.
Smart John, Park St.
Webdale John & Sons, Wellington St. & Hitchin Wheeler John, High Town Rd.

Hat Tip & Lining Manufacturers & Dealers, Alexander & Son, King St.
Barnard & Davson, King St.
Barnell Henry William, Taylor St. & York St.
Burgess John, Hastings St., Gold Stamper & Ticket Printer, cottons, wires & tissue papers, agent for Smidt’s polish
Colling & Co, King St.
Edmunds Ann (Miss), High Town Rd.
Kerridge Alfred F, Bute St.
Kilby Henry, Hastings St.
Kilby Samuel, High Town Rd. & Straw Hat Material Dealer
Kingham John, Langley St.
Tomiin Hannah (Mrs), Langley St.
Toyer Emma (Mrs), Lea Rd.
Tyler Daniel, Wenlock St. & Shopkeeper
Underwood Levi, Regent St.
Ware & Co, King St.

Hat Block Makers
Akers Frederick Richard, Church St.
Bacchini Peter, John St.
Barrett Arthur, Langley St.
Brown George Jonathan, Waller St.
Cornwall Brothers, Pikes Close, Castle St.
Lowin Joseph, Lea Rd.
Martin & Tearle, King St.
Mouse Edward, Stuart St.
Northwood Charles Samuel, Vicarage St.
Oakley Frederick, Peel St.
Overhill Henry, Adelaide St.
Parsons Thomas, Russell St.
Robinson William Jun., High Town Rd.
Scott James & Sons, Alma St. & George St.
Scott Moses William, Inkerman St.
Spratley Henry, Barbers’ Lane
Stevens Oliver, Cardigan St.
Tearle Arthur, Gordon St.

Hawkers
Cook George, Langley St.
Thompson Leonard, Regent St.

Hosiers
Bellott George, Park St. & King St.
Impye Amos Frederick, High Town Rd.
Mitchell Charles, Manchester St.

Hotels
Armstrong Elizabeth (Ms), Chapel St., Queen’s Hotel
Boutwood Samuel, Bute St., Bridge Hotel
Cowley George, Church St., Temperance Hotel
Dipple William Edward, George St., George
Family & Commercial Hotel & Posting House,
Wine & Spirit Merchant
Eagle Ernest George, Market Hill, Red Lion
Commercial Hotel
Freestone Charles Helsby, George St., Bell
Family & Commercial Hotel & Posting House
Health Samuel, Cheapside, Cowper Commercial
Temperance Hotel
Swain Sarah (Miss), Mill St., Royal Hotel
Wright Thomas, Manchester St., Midland
Commercial Hotel
Wright William, Upper George St., Clarence Hotel

House & Estate Agents
Eve John Richard & Son, George St., & Surveyors
Holyoak Henry & Son, Castle St., Auctioneers,
& Surveyors
Pearse Frank, Barber’s Lane, Auctioneers,
& Surveyors
Sell H.J., Princess St.
Stratford E Douglas, Park Square, & Auctioneers

Insurance Agents
Duffield William, Windsor Rd.
Giltsos Jesse, Havelock Rd.
Hunt William, Bury Park Rd.
Inwards Ernest, Inkerman St.
Pudderpeath Arthur, Castle St.
Tearle G & Sons, Cheapside
Weston Sydney W, Guildford St.
Cox Thomas, Cheapside
Cotchinh Charles, Cheapside, for Mutual
Insurance Co. New York

Iron & Brass Founders
Andrews, Burgess & co, Albert Rd., Iron
Founders
Brown & Green Ltd., Windsor St., Iron
Founders, close & open fire kitchens, heating
stoves, tiled stoves, iron fencing & gates,
columns, hot water pipes, bath-room fittings,
hot blocking machines, hot pans & steam
apparatus
Cranfield & Pease, York St., Iron Founders
Hayward-Tyler & Howards, Engineers
Joslin Fred, Ashton Rd., Iron Founders
Langley Foundry Co. Ltd, Langley St., Iron
Founders, Stove, Range & Man-hole Cover
Makers
Luton Iron Foundry Co, Cobden St., Iron
Founders
Threadgold Joseph Clarke, Dudley St., Brass
Founder
Wilson Charles, Langley St., Brass Founder

Ironmongers
Barrett William James, Park St.
Gates William Lee, George St., & Grocer &
Agent for W & A Gilbey Ltd Wine & Spirit
Merchants
Gibbs & Dandy, George St., (Wholesale &
Retail)
Green Thomas (Mrs), Church St.
Knight Frank, Barber’s Lane, Lantern Supply
Stores
Ward Charles William, Chapel St.

Jewellers
Deacon Edwin, Wellington St., & Fancy
Repository
Pridmore Enoch, Chapel St.
Webb Sydney, Cheapside

Laundry Services
Hunt Margaret (Mrs), Dudley St., Laundress
Luton Sanitary Steam Laundry Co, Dunstable Rd.
Parkins Mary (Mrs), Cromwell Rd., Laundress
Perry Sarah (Mrs), John St., Laundress
Price Rosanna (Mrs), Dumfries St., Laundress
Sills Annie (Mrs), Castle St., Laundress
Thorogood Martha (Mrs), Essex Rd., Laundress

Marine Store Dealers
Goode George, New Town St.
Kirby William, Burr St.
Mooring John, Langley Rd.
Smith John, Windsor St.

Metal Workers
Almond Dean, Barber’s Lane, Zinc & Iron Plate
Worker, Plumber & Gas Fitter
Balmforth T Co & Pondwicks Rd., Boiler
Makers
Cannon Thomas, Guildford St., Copper Smith
Clark’s Engineering & Machine Tool Co. Ltd.,
Mill St., Machine Tool Makers
Howarth William, Castle St., Tool Maker & Cutler
Poulter Arthur, Castle St., Tin Plate Worker

Milliners
Abrahams Elizabeth (Mrs), Cumberland St.
Baker Richard (Mrs), George St.
Deacon Mary Ann (Mrs), Stuart St.
Horton Annie (Mrs), High Town Rd.
Layzell Ann (Mrs), Stuart St.
Lewin M.L. & Co, Wellington St. & Crawley Rd.
Moody & Webb, Wellington St.
Neville Emma (Mrs), Union St.
Stoffell E (Mrs) & J (Miss), New Bedford Rd.
Trott Elizabeth Susan (Mrs), George St.

Mineral Water Manufacturers
Allen Walter, Castle St.
Burgess Frederick, Oxford Rd.

Monumental Masons
Giddings Lov, Mill St.
Goudge John R, Farley Hill

Music & Musical Instrument Sellers
Baker Joseph Perrin, Park St. & Duke St.,
Musical Instrument Repairer
Roberts William Thomas, Castle St., Music &
Musical Instruments Seller & Photographic
Supply Stores
Saunders Henry, Castle St., Music Seller

Music Teachers
Bailey Thomas, Hastings St.
Coale Emily Philips (Miss)
Gentle Harry A, Upper George St.
Hawkes Ellen (Miss), Dunstable Rd.
Manning Herbert D, Bailey Rd.
Sills William, Melson St.

Newsagents
Blackabee George, High Town Rd.
Clayton Edmund, Hitchin Rd.
Ellis James Swain, Park St. & Tobacco
Hawkes Mary Jane (Mrs), Park St.
Tibbetts Thomas, Langley St.

Nurseriesmen
White William Herbert, Hart Hill
Dickman James & Son, Wenlock St.
Holdstock & Sons, Victoria Nurseries,
Downs Rd.

Oil & Colourmen
Thompson Joseph Sturge, Bute St.
Goldsmith & Co, Market Hill

Outfitters
Mares Mary (Mrs), George St.
Undewood George, George St.

Painters
Cooper Harry, High Town Rd.
Halfhead George, Castle St.
Rabblott Charles, Inkerman St.
Scott William Arthur, New Bedford Rd.
Young Fred, Castle St.

Pawnbrokers
Butcher William, Bute St.
Gale Alfred, High Town Rd. & Furniture
Dealer
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**Photographers**
Anderson Arthur J., Wellington St, Swan Herbert, Queen St, Thurston Frederic, Hastings St, & Print Seller Titmuss Daniel, Church St.

**Physicians, Surgeons, Dentists & Chiropodists**

**Pianoforte Warehouses & Tuners**

**Plumbers**

**Provision Dealers & Merchants**
Bent George, Chapel St. Brightman William Jason., High Town Rd. Hudgell Frederic, High Town Rd., & Beer Retailer Kirby & Clarke, Castle St., & Egg Merchants Oakley Brothers, High Town Rd. Plason George, Castle St. Rainbow Walter Albert, New Town St. & Church St., Underwood Joseph, Elizabeth St., General Dealer

**Public Houses & Inns**
Abbott Sidney George, Albert Rd., Antelope Inn Barber Charles, Park St., White Lion PH Barnes Edward, Bute St., Coopers' Arms Blackmore Alfred, Hitchin Rd., Old English Gentleman PH Blake Edward Walter, Castle St., Vine PH Brough Henry, Park St., Cocks PH Brown Tabitha (Mrs), Park St., Wheel Plough PH Burnard Richard Ford, Brache St., Volunteer PH Cain Frederick, Langley St., Sportsman PH Cain Herbert, Park St., Moulders' Arms PH Chart Robert, Wood St., Cardinal PH Clark George, Chapel St., Star & Garter PH Clements Sarah Ann (Miss), York St., Freeholders PH Cole John, Windmill Rd., Windmill Inn Cook Samuel, Hitchin Rd., Henry VIII PH Cooper Fred, Cheapside, Granville Hotel Croft Peter, Elizabeth St., Enterprise PH Craxford Lucy (Mrs), High Town Rd., Bricklayers' Arms PH Cutler James, Collingdon St., Butes Arms PH Darton John, Bute St., George II PH Dennett William, St. Ann's Rd., Hearts Of Oak PH Dukes Joseph, Ebenezer St., Albion PH Duvall George, Walker St. & Park St., Exchange PH Eaton Charles Peter, New Town St., Robin Hood PH Eaton John, Chapel St., Masons' Arms PH Ellerd Eliza (Mrs), New Town St., Parrot PH Flood Richard W, Stuart St., Duke of Edinburgh PH Frith John, Chapel St., Compass Inn Gage Arthur, High Town Rd., Painters' Arms PH Gange William, Castle St., Woolpack PH Garcoile William W, Guildford St., Wheelwrights' Arms PH Giradet Constant, Church St., Milson Arms PH Graham James William, Hitchin Rd., Harrow PH Hayward Alfred, King St., Sugar Loaf PH Hildebrand Frederick, Round Green, Jolly Toper PH Howe William, Round Green, Royal Oak PH Hume Thomas, Bute St., Great Northern Inn Hunt Albert, Park St. West, The Greyhound PH Hutchinson Charles, Park St., The Chequers Inn Hutchinson Clara (Miss), Park St., Blacksmiths' Arms PH Jackson George, Windmill Rd., Yorkshire Grey PH Jones Ray, New Bedford Rd., Albion PH Kenney Edward, Albert Rd., Windsor Castle PH Kensett George, Dumfries St., Royal Standard PH Law Charles, Chapel St., King's Head PH Lawrence George, Old Bedford Rd., Rabbit PH Martin George, Langley Rd., Mother Red Cap PH Millard Louisa (Mrs), Wellington St., Wellington Arms PH Muddiman John, High Town Rd., Railway Inn Naylor James, Princess St., Princess Alexandra PH Neal Henry, Stuart St., Bedford Arms PH Noble Hartley, Upper George St., Dew Drop Inn PH Oakley George, Castle St., White Hart PH Paget George L, Church St., Eight Bells PH Payne Mary (Mrs), Duke St., Green Man PH Pedrick Jason Pote, Wellington St., Salisbury Arms PH Pendleton William George, Castle St., Dog PH Pepper Samuel James, Dunstable Place, Oddfellow's Arms PH Phillips Alfred, Castle St., Richard III PH Phillips William, George St., Plough PH Proctor George T, Guildford St., Plume of Feathers PH Proctor Thomas, North St., North Star PH Reynolds Annie Ellen (Mrs), Park St., Falcon PH Rose George, Park St., Goat PH Ross William, Burr St., Britannia PH Rowe Thomas, Chapel St., Griffin PH Scammell Henry J, Peel St., Volunteer PH Canteen PH Seabrook George, Lea Rd., Lea Bridge Inn Seabrook Walter, Dunstable Rd., Fox & Wheelwright Sibley George, George St., Crown PH Sibley Thomas, Manchester St., Horse & Groom PH Spacey Arthur, John St., Grapes PH Steedman William, Hastings St., Cock & Maggie PH Stevens Benjamin, Inkerman St., Inkerman Arms PH Stewart Joseph, Church St., Wheatsheaf PH Swain Frederick Sen., Windsor St., Highland PH Taylor Albert Edward, Windsor St., Foresters' Arms PH Thompson John, Bute St., Engine PH Tipler Thomas, Windsor St., Royal Oak PH Tuffnell Benjamin, Wellington St., Fountain PH Upton Charles B, Alma St., Marquis of Bute PH
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3: Industry, Business and Trade

Luton: Straw Hat Boom Town

Veays Robert James, George St., Cross Keys PH
Verran John W, New Bedford Rd., Crown & Anchor PH
Warburton Walter, Park St., Four Horseshoes PH
Weinburg Carl J, Church St., Midland Railway Inn
Williams William, Park St., Bull PH
Wilson Mary Ann (Mrs), Union St., Globe PH
Worboys Harry, Cobden St., Burton Arms PH

Refreshment, Dining Rooms & Cafes
Brown Joseph, Church St., Dining Rooms Butt Frederick Thomas, Bute St., Coffee Rooms Carter William, High Town Rd., Refreshment Rooms Frankclln Joseph Walter, George St., Restaurant Goldsmith John Charles, Albert Rd., Dining Rooms Samuel Heath, George St., Exchange Café Smith Andrew Allen, Hitchin Rd., Refreshment Rooms & Tailor Walker Albert, Manchester St., Refreshment Rooms

Ribbon Manufacturers & Merchants
Briggs J & Co., King St., Hat Ribbon Manufacturers Stratford Edward, Cheapside, Ribbon Merchant

Rope Manufacturers
Bull John, Hitchin Rd., Pedder James, Melson St., Powell George, Bridge St., Rope & Twine Manufacturer Saddlers, Harness Makers & Leather Sellers, Coleman Montague, Park St. West, Saddler Ellwood Thomas, Chapel St., Leather Seller Lacey Emly (Miss), Waller St., Saddler Lightfoot Frederick, George St., Saddler Oliver Archibald Thomas, Park St., Saddler & Harness Maker Pedder Albert, Hitchin Rd., Saddler Wild Gilbert, Manchester St., Saddler & Harness Maker

Schools
Arnold John Edward, Rothesay Rd., Grosvenor College Boys School Ayre Eliza (Miss), Inkerman St., Girls' School Carruthers Isabel (Miss), Market Hill, School Of Art Costin Bessie (Miss), King St., School for Young Ladies Cronshy A.M. & M.A., Castle St., School for Young Ladies Furlong George, Havelock Rd., Boys Boarding & Day School Gilligan Margaret, Emma & Lucy (Misses), Milton House, Dunstable Rd., School for Young Ladies Haysman Frances (Miss), Cardiff Grove, School Higgs Martha (Miss), Princess St., Girls' Day School Langham Harriet (Miss), Mill St., School Loots Amelia (Miss), Church St., School for Young Ladies Southam Mabel (Miss), King St., Kindergarten

Sculptors & Sculpture Merchants,
Bachini Brothers, Windsor Walk, Sculpture Merchant
Eales William, Bridge St. & Hitchin Rd., Sculptor

Sewing & Knitting Machine Agents
Goodenough Edward Thomas, Hitchin Rd., Knitting Machines Horwood Thomas, Cardigan St. & Barber's Lane Janes Brothers, High Town Rd., & Bicycle Agents, Makers & Repairers, Machinists & Engineers Shearmur Francis N, Dudley St. Starke Herbert, Park St. Wiseman Edmund & Co, Cheapside

Sewing Machine Engineers & Manufacturers
Elzing William, Chapel St., Manufacturer Humphrey George, Duke St., Engineer Moody Frederick, Stuart St., Engineers Rainbow Henry, Duke St., Engineer & Repairer, Bicycle Maker & Repairer Singer Manufacturing Co, Cheapside, Manufacturers Walker George, Regent St., Engineer

Sewing Machine Engravers
Atkin George William, Princess St. Frost Walter, Collingdon St.,

Shopkeepers


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Pratt Eliza (Miss), John St.
Prime Frederick, Lea Rd.
Prime Richard, North St.
Puddophett Eliza (Mrs), High Town Rd.
Rumbles James, Wellington St.
Rumbles William, Princess St.
Sale George, Stanley St.
Shackleton Joseph, Inkerman St. & Cobden St.
Shedd Alfred, Salisbury Rd.
Simpson Arthur, Milton Rd.
Smith Alfred, Burr St.
Smith Thomas, Albert Rd.
Smoothy Thomas, Alma St.
Stevens Mary Ann (Mrs), Langley St.
Swain Susannah (Mrs), New Town St.
Sycamore Ephraim, Hitchin Rd. & Ashton Rd.
Taylor Henry, Cobden St.
Taylor John, North St.
Taylor Samuel, Cobden St.
Thomas Joseph, Napier Rd.
Thompson Sarah Ann (Mrs), Hitchin Rd.
Thompson William Poulton, Park St. & New Town St.
Timms Zebulon, High Town Rd.
Tomlin Mary Ann (Mrs), Hibbert St.
Turner John, North St.
Turner Rose (Mrs), Liverpool Rd.
Walker Charles, Stanley St.
Walker George, Cromwell Rd.
West William, Langley Rd.
Whitelock John, Park St.
Woodley Peter, Duke St.
Wright Arthur, Brache St. & Beer Retailer
Wright William, New Town St.

**Size, Glue & Gelatine Manufacturers & Merchants**

Dimmock Benjamin, New Town St., Size & Glue Manufacturer
Garrard William, George St. West, Gelatine Merchant
Shepherd Edwin, Duke St., Size Manufacturer

**Solicitors**

Austin William, George St. West
Beck Frederick Walter, Market Hill
Brooke Horace George, Dunstable Rd.
Brown Henry Cumberland, Castle St.
Cook & Son, George St. West
Cooke Douglas Edwin, George St. West
Gates John, Castle St.
Knowles & Wardle, Castle St.
Lathom Hutchinson William Lathom Brown, King St.
Milkien & Co, Wellington St.
Neve & Beck, Market Hill
Roberts & Kershaw, Park St. West

**Stationers**

Burditt Francis Noel, Wellington St.
Dryerse David, Park St.
Ottredge Henry, Chapel St.
Pride Samuel, Wellington St.
Reason George, High Town Rd.
Smith Eliza (Mrs), Castle St.
Smith Jane (Mrs), Castle St.
Staddon John, Bute St.

**Straw Goods Importers**

Di Luigi P. Vincenzi, King St.,
Mattei Guiseppe, King St.

**Straw Hat Manufacturers & Merchants**

Abrahams John, Albert Rd.
Abrahams Sidney James, Cumberland St. & Chapel St.
Adams Frederick, Cardigan St. & Wailer St.
Adcock William, Guildford St.
Atkin Mary (Mrs), Villa Rd.
Allen Frederick, Duke St.
Allen John Alfred, Bute St., & Bonnet Manufacturer
Andrews Thomas, Cardigan St.
Andrews William, Cardigan St.
Archer Charles, Russell St.
Arnall Stephen Edwin, Park St.
Arnold Francis & Co, King St.
Arnold Frederick, North St.
Ashby George Andrew, North St.
Askev Alfred, Collingdon St.
Askev George, Collingdon St.
Atkin Arthur, North St.
Bailey John Thomas, Collingdon St.
Baker William S, George St.
Baldwin Frederick, Wellington St.
Barford & Sons, King St.
Barford Abraham, John St.
Barrett Albert, Old Bedford Rd.
Barrett Frederick George, Princess St.
Barrett John, Villa Rd.
Bartlett Edwin, Collingdon St.
Bartlett Thomas, Upper George St.
Barton John, Chase St.
Bass Edward, Guildford St.
Bass Thomas, Alma St.
Bates William, Old Bedford Rd.
Bavister Frederick George, Brunswick St.
Bedford William, Wenlock St.
Bennett Benjamin, George St.
Bennett Clifford, Cumberland St.
Bennett George, Wenlock St.
Bennett Walter, Windmill St.
Biggs F.S. & Co, Cheapside
Biggs Mary Ann (Mrs), Park St.
Bingham George, Court Rd.
Bird Charles, John St.
Bird Walter, Guildford St.
Blows Wesley, Walter St. & Cheapside
Bodsworth John, North St.
Bonnick Henry, Russell St.

Booth Arthur Frederick, Bute St.
Boutwood & Harden, Bute St.
Boutwood Martha (Mrs), Alma St.
Braser William, Cheapside, & Bonnet Manufacturer
Breadall Thomas Edwin, Guildford St.
Briers Albert, Chobham St.
Brooks Frederick, Windmill St.
Brown Charles, Albion Rd.
Brown Edward, High Town Rd.
Brown Emma (Mrs), Inkerman St.
Brown George, Dudley St.
Brown Roland, Wenlock St.
Brown Sophia (Mrs), Cardigan St.
Brown William, Cardigan St.
Buckingham & Co, George St.
Burgess Arthur, Hastings St.
Burgess Ebenezer, Alma St.
Burgess Josiah & John, Essex St.
Burgess William, King St.
Burley Thomas, Adelaide St.
Burnage George, Wenlock St.
Burnett Walter, Cardigan St.
Burrage William, Church St.
Byers Richard, North St.
Cain Charles, Upper George St.
Cain Edward, Old Bedford Rd.
Cain Frederick, Castle St.
Cain George & Co, George St.
Carruthers Brothers, King St., & Felt Hat Manufacturers
Carter Elizabeth (Mrs), Jubilee St.
Carter George, Wellington St.
Carter Walter J, Collingdon St.
Camberlain Alfred, Winsdon Rd.
Cherry Walter, Holley Walk
Clark Charles Henry, Wenlock St.
Clark Harry, Langley Rd.
Clark Thomas, Mill Rd.
Clarke & Stokes, John St.
Clarke Ernest, Old Bedford Rd.
Clarke Henry, Dumfries St., & Bonnet Manufacturers
Clarke Joseph, Collingdon St.
Coleman Joseph, Wenlock St.
Coles Richard, Buxton Rd.
Collner Matilda (Miss), Guildford St.
Congreve James, Cheapside
Congreve William, Collingdon St.
Cook Edward, Melson St.
Cook F.J. & Co, Bute St.
Cook Francis F, Guildford St.
Cook William, Victoria St.
Cooke & Co, Bute St. & Felt Hat Manufacturers
Cooper Henry, Princess St.
Cooper Sidney Charles, Old Bedford Rd.
Cooper Thomas, Albert Rd.
Copestake, Lindsay, Crompton & Co, Guildford St.
Costin Ruth (Mrs), Bute St. & Princess St.
Cotchin Herbert, Upper George St.
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Luton: Straw Hat Boom Town

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Plummer Harry, Buxton Rd.
Plummer William Sidney, Regent St.
Pope Nathaniel, Stanley St.
Pope William, Crawley Rd.
Potton Albert, John St.
Powell Thomas, Hitchin Rd.
Puddifoot Levi, Wellington St.
Puddiphatt Albert, Princess St.
Punter & Child, Collingdon St. & Bonnet Manufactures
Punter Abraham, Buxton Rd.
Raines Elizabeth (Mrs), Upper George St.
Raines Frederick, Salisbury Rd.
Randall William, Rothesay Rd.
Rayment George, Buxton Rd.
Read Thomas W, Liverpool Rd.
Reed Joseph, Bailey Rd.
Roberts William, Buxton Rd.
Roberts, Gregory & Co, Bute St.
Robinson Sydney G, Guildford St.
Robinson Thomas, Villa Rd.
Robinson William, Buxton Rd.
Robinson William Sen., Hastings St.
Rodell Harry Jun., Chase St.
Roe Henry, Havelock Rd. & Bute St.
Rogers George, Cardigan St.
Rossen Henry & Co, Collingdon St.
Sale George & Son, Williamson St.
Sanders Frederick, Buxton Rd.
Sandon Sophia (Mrs), Brunswick St.
Sapwell Elizabeth (Mrs), Crawley Rd.
Sapwell Stephen, Collingdon St.
Saunders James, Cheapside
Saunders Thomas, Brache St.
Scales William, Old Bedford Rd.
Schakleton Joseph, Stanley St.
Scrivener Ephraim, Melson St.
Setchell Henry, Albert Rd.
Seymour Eustace, George St.
Shackleton William G, Peel St.
Shane Emma (Mrs), Victoria St.
Sheppard William John, Williamson St. & Ashton Rd.
Shepherd Charles, Rothesay Rd.
Sidley Henry, Court Rd.
Slough William, Dudley St.
Smart Frederick, Cardigan St.
Smart Thomas, George St.
Smith & Small, George St.
Smith George, North St.
Smith Sarah (Mrs), Queen St.
Smith Thomas, Old Bedford Rd.
Smith Walter, Foundry Lane
Snoxell Alfred, Hibbert St.
Snoxell J & Co, Williamson St.
Soile John, Williamson St.
Soper Walter, York St.
Squires Arthur, Liverpool Rd.
Squires James & George, Walter St., & Felt Hat Manufacturers
Squires Joseph, Rothesay Rd.
Stanbridge Sarah (Mrs), Bute St.
Stangham Flowers, Dumfries St.
Stevens & Gee, Bute St.
Stokes Arthur, Wenlock St.
Stuart, Sons & Co, Wellington St.
Summerfield Francis, High Town Rd.
Swain Florence (Miss), Williamson St., & Felt Hat Manufacturer
Tearle & Co, Waller St.
Terry Cornelius, Guildford St.
Thompson Annie (Mrs), Queen St.
Thompson George, Dudley St.
Thorogood Horace H, Buxton Rd.
Thrusell Henry, Waller St.
Tompkins Joseph, Cardigan St.
Toyer Alfred, Liverpool Rd.
Toyer Julia (Mrs), Queen St.
Toyer William, Burr St.
Trott James, Ashton Rd.
Turney Levi, Guildford St.
Underwood Arthur, Regent St.
Underwood Caleb, Wellington St.
Venus Thomas W, Bute St., & Bonnet Manufacturer
Vyse, Sons & Co, Park Square & Merchants
Walker Matthew, Guildford St.
Walker William, Salisbury Rd.
Waller George, Cardigan St.
Waller Harry, Dudley St.
Waller Robert, Cardigan St.
Waller W & Co, Williamson St.
Walsh William & Son, George St.
Ward John, Collingdon St.
Warren Alfred & Sons, Bute St., & Felt Hat Manufacturers
Warren George, George St. & Straw Plait Merchant
Warren Walter, Midland Rd.
Weatherhead Stanley William, Bute St.
Webb & Taylor, George St., & Felt Hat Manufacturers
Webb Edwin, King St.
Webb Henry, Cheapside, & Bonnet Manufacturers
Weedon John, Princess St.
Welch George, King St.
Wheeler Mary (Mrs), Cardigan St.
White & Auborn, Princess St.
Whittimore Herbert, Wellington St.
Whittimore Hyram Thomas, Wellington St.
Wilkinson Harry, Guildford St., & Bonnet Manufacturer
Williamson Charles, Hastings St.
Williamson Lewin Jun., Dunstable Place
Wilson Charles, Oxford Rd.
Wilson William, Cumberland St.
Wing, Arnold & Wing, King St., & Bonnet Manufacturers
Wingrave Frederick, Brunswick St.
Wingrave Sidney, Inkerman St.
Woolf S & Son, Williamson St.
Wood Frederick, North St.
Wood Henry Alfred, North St.
Woodcroft Arthur, Langley St.
Woolley, Sanders & Co, Alma St.
Worboys Frederick, High Town Rd.
Worboys George, Windmill St.
Worboys Jane (Mrs), Wenlock St.
Worboys Lawrence, Jubilee St.
Worsley Samuel Joseph, Wellington St.
Wren Henry, Cumberland St.
Wren William, Liverpool Rd.
Wright Charles, Wenlock St.
Wright Francis, Dudley St.
Wright George, Bute St.
Wright Herbert, Castle St.
Wright James, Cardigan St.
Wright John Irving, George St., & Plait Merchant
Wright Sidney, Wenlock St.

Straw Plait & Hat Materials Dealers

Day Frederick, North St., Shackleton Henry Thomas, Wellington St.,
Pestell James Arthur, Park St.
Carter Sarah (Mrs), Albert Rd.,
Dimmock Emily (Mrs), John St.
Gillam William, Brache St.
Newham James A, Old Bedford Rd., Dealer
Wallbank Annie (Mrs), Lea Rd.
White George, Hitchin Rd.
Brewer George, High Town Rd., & Straw Hat Merchant
Humphrey W & Son, Wellington St.,
Hobbs Thomas George, Cheapside & Hobbs Tours
Merry Thomas & Co, Wellington St.
Hubbard Stewart, Plait Hall, Cheapside.

Straw Plait Manufacturers

Bonham William, Barber’s Lane.
British Straw Plaiting Co. Ltd., Cheapside

Straw Plait Merchants

Abraham Henry, Walter St. & Barber’s Lane
Arnold Philip & Co, Cheapside
Axtell Alfred, Cheapside
Barford Brothers, Bute St.
Burgoyne Henry, Plait Hall, Cheapside
Dapples F & CO, Barber’s Lane
Dawson Charles, Cheapside
Dearberg Brothers, Bute St.
Dockrill Joseph, John St.
Durler & Suter, Guildford St.
Field Thomas A, Cheapside
Gentle James, Cheapside & Hitchin Rd.
Godfrey Alfred, Cheapside
Gray & Co, Waller St.
Hawkes & Randall, Barber’s Lane
Higgins Walter, Upper George St.
Horn Charles E, Bute St.
Horn Henry & Son, Cheapside
Linsell Alfred William, George St.
Nicholls Isaac, Bute St.
Ostler W.W. & Co, Bute St.
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Firms: Eayrs Ralph, Park St., & Woollen Draper
        Day George, Victoria St.
        Cooper Charles Edwin, High Town Rd.
        Clarke George, Hastings St. & Barber’s Lane
        Carrington Arthur, John St.
        Carrington Alfred, Cumberland St.
        Cane Thomas, Wellington St., & Taxidermist
        Bowler Charles, Manchester St.
        Bell William, Bute St.
        Welch & Sons, Upper George St.
        Worboys & Smart, Bute St.

Straw Hat Blockers
Breuer Alfred, Russell St.
Buckingham Herbert, Stuart St.

Straw Hat Finishers
Cockayne Mary (Mrs), Collingdon St.
Copleston Sophia (Mrs), Peel St.
Slough Caroline (Miss), John St.

Straw Hat Polish Manufacturers
Blacklock & Macarthur, Waller St.
Meredith & Co, Cheapside

Hat & Bonnet Wire Manufacturers,
Douglas Charles, Barber’s Lane
Richard William, Cheapside

Straw Trade Miscellaneous
Brown Mary (Mrs), Liverpool Rd., Straw Hat Machinist
Ireland John, Salisbury Rd., Straw Hat Packer
Ordish George & Co, Bute St., Straw Goods Manufacturers
Stevens William, Cheapside, Straw Hat Shape Designer
Vass Kate (Mrs), Guildford St., Fancy Straw Maker

Tailors
Alexander George, Cheapside
Askew William, Alma St.
Bailie & Son, Guildford St.
Barrett Francis Jabez, Park St. West
Bassett Samuel, Wellington St., & Outfitter
Bell William, Church St.
Bowler Charles, Manchester St.
Cane Thomas, Wellington St., & Taxidermist
Carrington Alfred, Cumberland St.
Carrington Arthur, John St.
Clarke George, Hastings St. & Barber’s Lane
Cooper Charles Edwin, High Town Rd.
Day George, Victoria St.
Eayrs Ralph, Park St., & Woollen Draper

Edwards Henry, Cheapside
Everitt Walter, Hastings St.
Eyles Edwin, Park St.
Foster Jabez, Church St.
Gee Sydney, Dudley St.
Hickman John, Waller St.
Manyweathers William, Buxton Rd.
McDonnell John, Lea Rd.
Pates Frederick, Waller St.
Read Alfred, Wellington St.
Roe John, Wellington St.
Roe William, Langley St.
Samson William E, High Town Rd.
Sanders Fitzhugh C, John St.
Sharp William, Salisbury Rd.
Smith Frederick, Chapel St.
Southam Alexander A, Inkerman St.
Spires James, Boyle St. & Dunstable Rd.
Stanbridge Frank, Stuart St.
Stimson William Adolph, George St.
Stonnell Arthur, Wellington St.
Strange H & Co, Wellington St., & Outfitters
Walker John, Alma St.
Ward R & Sons, Bute St.

Tea Dealers & Merchants
Bentley Brothers, Wellington St.
Home & Colonial Stores Ltd, Wellington St.
Star Tea Co Ltd., Cheapside.
Universal Tea Company, Wellington St.

Tobacconists
Anderson Hugh, Castle St., & Hair Dresser
Bailey Frank, New Bedford Rd.
Barker Charles, Manchester St. & New Bedford Rd.
Daniels Thomas Henry, Bute St.
Gibbs Ernest, Upper George St., (Wholesale) & Cigar Merchant
Hammond Richard James, Ashton Rd.
Johnson Martha (Mrs), Bute St.
Moore Charles, High Town Rd.
Rayment Horace, Cheapside

Undertakers & Coffin Makers
English Coffin Co, Chapel St., Coffin Manufacturers (Wholesale)
Matthew George W, Chapel St., Undertaker

Upholsterers
Chapman George, John St.
Dorrington John, Melson St.
Silas Daniel, Church St.
Wells Harty James, Duke St., Cabinet & Picture Frame Maker & Wholesale Bedding Manufacturer

Veterinary Surgeons
Leggatt Haydon, Park St.
Withington William, Dunstable Rd.

Watchmakers
Bailees George, Castle St.
Boothes Walter Frederick, Guildford St.
Bryan Mark, Boyle St.
Honeybone Richard, Park St.
Jeffs John Thomas, Wellington St. & Music Teacher
Judge Matthew, Manchester St. & Draper
Pridmore Alfred, High Town Rd. & Tobacconist
Rumbelow Walter, Hastings St.
White Frank Charles, Manchester St. & Langley St.
Worsley Edwin George, Hastings St.

Wheelwrights
Hawkes William, Guildford St
Lane John, Vicarage St., & Timber Merchant

Writers, Grainers & Signwriters
Cain George, Church St., Writer & Grainer
Parkins Sidney, Collingdon St., Sign Writer
Wesley William, Princess St., Writer & Grainer

Miscellaneous
Arnold Harry & Co, New Bedford Rd., Packing Case Makers
Chapman Daniel, John St., Umbrella Repairer
Buckingham Cooper Archibald Harold, Public Baths, Waller St., Swimming Instructor & Manager
Coote Edward, Post Office, Cheapside, Post Master & Stamp Distributor
David, Albert Rd. & Castle St., Tripe dresser,
Neyt’s Foot Oil Refiner & Sausage Casings Manufacturer
Forder B. J. & Son, Cranley Rd., Lime & Brick Burners
Gibbs & Harrison, Guildford St., Transfer Agents & Public House Brokers
Irones E & Sons, Park St., Bill Posters
Lee Susannah (Miss), Wellington St., Fancy Repository & Registry Office for Servants
Manlove S & Sons, Guildford St., Cotton Manufacturers
Minney Amelia (Mrs), Stockwood Crescent, Feather Cleaner
Ruffell Frederick Hyram, George St., Forwarding Agent
Shepherd Henry, Manchester St., Agricultural Implement Repairer
Smith William Hyram, Barbers’ Lane, Manufacturers’ Agent
Spratley A. V. (Mrs), King St., Costumier
Spratley John, Chapel St., Tent & Marquee Hire
Stark William, Market Hill, Mantle Warehouse
Treasure George, Church St. & Ashton Rd., Machinist
Ventum Louise (Miss), Rothesay Rd., Nurse Ward James, Albert Rd., Well Sinker
Welch Thomas, Chapel St., Poulterer

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Auction Sale Details

LUTON.

Particulars of

VALUABLE FREEHOLD LAND,

containing about

EIGHTY ACRES,

situate in detached portions in the hamlet of Stoney

in the Parish of Luton,

and principally within two miles of the town.

The

capital homesteads, farm cottages, extensive farm buildings, &c.

several very important

plots of freehold building ground,

in george street, luton,

four substantially built cottages,

in chapel street.

the excellent bleaching house in the rear,

and two plots of freehold building ground adjoining;

which will be sold by auction,

by Messrs.

HOGGART & NORTON,

at the george inn, luton,

on wednesday, october 22, 1845, at 1 for 2 o’clock precisely.

in writing.

by direction of the executors of the late thomas waller, esq.

May be viewed, and particulars had of j. crow, esq., solicitor, luton; at the george hotel, luton; sugar land

manager; fox han, st. albans; and of messrs. hoggart and norton, 62, old bond street, royal exchange,

london.

Trans., printers, edwards street, palace square, london.
LUTON, BEDS.

Particulars and Conditions of Sale of
SIX VALUABLE
FREEHOLD ACCOMODATION MEADOWS,
IN PARK STREET;
Eligible Building Ground,
IN PARK ROAD;
THE REMAINING PORTION OF
BROWN BRICK FIELD,
IN 7 LOTS;
SITUATE IN THE HAMLET OF WEST HYDE.
THE UPPER PONDWICKS GARDENS,
IN ONE LOT;
THE MIDDLE OR LOWER PONDWICKS BITTO,
IN SEPARATE LOTS, AS NOW OCCUPIED;
A SLIPE OF GARDEN GROUND,
BY BEECHES CLOSE, HITCHIN ROAD;
TWO VALUABLE ACCOMODATION MEADOWS,
AT THE END OF CHURCH STREET.
Accompanied by Mr. O'Leary and Mr. Monson, and ladies in the Hamlet of Lincham, once know offer many advantages to intending purchasers;

THE MEADOW AND GARDENS
NEAR THE ENGINE HOUSE
IN SEVEN CONVENIENT LOTS;
AND
5 COTTAGES AND GARDENS,
IN THE OLD BEDFORD ROAD, LUTON
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY
MR. J. CUMBERLAND,
At the “George” Hotel, Luton.
On Thursday, June 26th, 1862;
AT TWO o’CLOCK, IN THE AFTERNOON, PUNCTUALLY:
BY DIRECTION OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE MARQUIS OF HATFIELD.

The particulars begotten may be had from the above.

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Auction Sale Details

BURY PARK ESTATE
LUTON.

Particulars and Conditions of Sale of the
SECOND PORTION OF THIS DESIRABLE
ESTATE
COMPRISING
35 PLOTS
OF THE CHOICEST
BUILDING LAND,
MOST ASSURABLY SITUATE FOR THE
ERECITION OF COUNTRY RESIDENCES,
WITH FRONTAGES TO
DUNSTABLE ROAD, BURY PARK ROAD,
AND
WALDECK ROAD,
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY
MR JOHN C. CONDER
AT THE "GEORGE" HOTEL LUTON.
ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 8th, 1883.
AT 6 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING, PUNCTUALLY.

This Estate is situated in a very sheltering position on an elevated dry site, adjoining the High Road in Princes Risborough and adjoining the railway stations on the Midland, Great Northern, and London & North Western Systems, giving frequent access to parts of the World, and only 25 minutes from the Great Metropolis.

The Auctioneer desires to call particular attention to the most desirable property, being situated on the road to the Town, and at the most only 10 or 12 minutes walk from the Railway Stations of the Midland, Great Northern, and London & North Western Systems, giving frequent access to all parts of the World, and only 25 minutes from the Great Metropolis.

To be sold by auction, by
MR JOHN C. CONDER
At the “George” Hotel, Luton.
On Monday, October 8th, 1883.
At 6 o’clock in the evening, punctually.

This Estate is situated in a very sheltering position on an elevated dry site, adjoining the High Road in Princes Risborough and adjoining the railway stations on the Midland, Great Northern, and London & North Western Systems, giving frequent access to parts of the World, and only 25 minutes from the Great Metropolis.

The Auctioneer desires to call particular attention to the most desirable property, being situated on the road to the Town, and at the most only 10 or 12 minutes walk from the Railway Stations of the Midland, Great Northern, and London & North Western Systems, giving frequent access to all parts of the World, and only 25 minutes from the Great Metropolis.

To be sold by auction, by
MR JOHN C. CONDER
At the “George” Hotel, Luton.
On Monday, October 8th, 1883.
At 6 o’clock in the evening, punctually.
BOROUGH OF LUTON.

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE
OF 38 VALUABLE PLOTS
OF FREEHOLD
BUILDING LAND

OUTLINES OF
A NEWLY-FORMED STREET, TO BE CALLED HIBBERT STREET,

A continuation of Windsor Street into the upper part of Albert Road.
LUTON, BEDS.,

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY

Messrs. J. CUMBERLAND & SONS

AT THE "GEORGE" HOTEL, LUTON,

ON THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1883,

AT FIVE FOR HALF-PAST FIVE IN THE EVENING.

By Order of the Trustees of Mrs. Frank's Academy's Charity, and with the consent of the Charity Commissioners.

The Auctioneers beg to call Special Attention to the Site of this the first portion of the Building. Yards which form part of Adkins's Charity Estates, the soil being remarkably dry, the situation extremely healthy, and the situation is well drained. Cared for, and Enclosed.


Printed at the "Chiltern" Office, Park Street, Luton.
Extracts from the 1850 Report to the General Board of Health


Population

According to the Returns made to Parliament in the year 1801, the number of families was 656, and persons 3,095; and when the census was taken in 1841, the inhabitants amounted to 5,827, being about an increase annually of 2 1/2 percent: at present it is reckoned at 8,327. The following table shows the increase that has taken place both in the parish and the township.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Luton Parish Population</th>
<th>Luton Parish Increase</th>
<th>Luton Township Population</th>
<th>Luton Township Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1801</td>
<td>3095</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1811</td>
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<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>4529</td>
<td>813</td>
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<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>5693</td>
<td>1164</td>
<td>3961</td>
<td>975</td>
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<td>5827</td>
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<td>1849</td>
<td>10448</td>
<td>2700</td>
<td>8327</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Houses

In the parish there were in 1841, 1560 houses; in the township, 1175; and it is supposed that since that period there have been about 500 more built, making the present number in the township 1675; there being on average 4.95 persons to each house.

Mortality

The entire population of the Union, when the census was taken in 1841, was 44,237
The number of deaths that year 864, births 1,519.
The proportion of deaths being 1 in 51
The proportion of births 1 in 29
The proportion of deaths of infants under one year was 1 in 6
The proportion of deaths from epidemics, 1 in 330
The average age was 25 years and 1 month.
The average age of those who died above 20 years, was 51 years and 9 months

The Union, which comprises the above population, is that of Woburn, Leighton Buzzard, and Luton; and we have no means of ascertaining the present population of Luton with great accuracy: the amount given, must therefore be taken as an approximation.

In the year 1847, in the township of Luton, 94 died under five years of age, 127 above five, 111 under 20; and 110 above that age, making altogether 221 deaths, or about 27 in every thousand inhabitants.

Endemic, Epidemic and Contagious Diseases – During 1847, in the township there were 31 deaths from these causes alone; the localities were Chapel-street, Burr-street, Duke-street, New Town, Park-street, High Town, Church-street, Workhouse, Stuart-street, Gaitskill-terrace, Elizabeth-street, George-street, Dunstable-street, Seven Acres, and Wellington-street.

From the evidence of Mr Clarke, an experienced medical gentleman, it appears that the diseases already alluded to prevail also on the outskirts of the town, and particularly where the houses are crowded together, and inhabitants numerous. On entering the sleeping rooms, he is always
conscious of an unpleasant effluvium. In New Town, High Town, Bevor, and Duke-streets, and several lanes in the middle of town, where there is no drainage, he is perfectly convinced that the walls, flooring, and the furniture, are literally saturated with exhalations from the bodies of the inmates.

Mr Alfred Heale, surgeon, observed, that every part of the town was equally subject to fever; and Mr Thomas G. Appleton, that the mild low fever, which occurred in his practice in the town of Luton, had an endemic character, and was chiefly found in New Town, London-road, Elizabeth-street, Hawkes-yard, and Dunstable Lane.

Mr Kitt Tomson, surgeon, during the last two years, 214 cases of fever, which in Spring-place and neighbourhood, assumed a very malignant character; the houses lately erected on the highest ground, particularly at New Town, were more effected than other parts, and where there was a want of drainage, the evil was more prevalent.

State of Town Drainage – During the last 30 years the population of the township has nearly tripled, and in the houses built to accommodate this increase, no general system, either for drainage or a supply of water, has been adopted, each builder following his own ideas as to arrangements and construction; this has led to inconveniences of a grave character, now requiring some outlay to remedy, the dumb wells, foetid cesspools, ill-arranged privies, and deficiency of water being universally complain of.

Several houses, indeed rows of cottages, pour their drainage upon the surface in open gutters; and the refuse of several establishments, where the straw-plait manufactory is carried on, runs, by an open channel, into the streets. The quantity of liquid which passes from bleaching houses is considerable, and no doubt the oxalic acid, or salt of sorrel, of which the bleaching liquid is composed, enters into new combinations, as when it meets with lime the carbonic acid is liberated, and an oxalate of lime formed. In several instances the drainage of these factories runs near wells, and not unfrequently oozes through the steining.

When the drainage is conducted into a dumb well, or shaft, sunk through the capping of earth, down to the chalk, the water of the neighbouring draw-wells becomes affected, and complaints are frequent of its being undrinkable.....

The walls of many houses are in a constantly damp state from their foundations standing on a soil thoroughly saturated with the soakage from the surface drains.

In many houses there is a total absence of ventilation, and the impure air which arises from the cess-pools and surface drains, being pent up almost without any admixture of fresh air, immediately affects the inmates. In situations where there is a free circulation of air, whatever gases arise, they are either dissipated or so much diluted, as not to be seriously injurious, or immediately so; but however small the proportions in which they exist, it should always be remembered that danger is lurking, the health of the inhabitants becoming imperceptibly weakened, rendering them, in the event of some epidemic influence, liable to become its victims.

It is not necessary to enumerate all the sources whence contamination might arise, which where presented on the inspection of the several houses throughout the town: the collections or dung and refuse from pig-styes, slaughter-houses, and from private dwellings are very numerous. To abate these evils, in the present state of drainage, would be impractical; to call upon the several inhabitants to scour, cleanse, and purify their premises, without affording them the means of doing so, would be useless. The sewer to carry off the noxious matters is everywhere wanting, and the supply of water for domestic and cleansing purposes very inadequate.
### 1871 Census data from numbers 50 to 75 George Street

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road, Street, No. or name of house</th>
<th>Inhabited uninhabited</th>
<th>Name and Surname of each person</th>
<th>Relation to head of the family</th>
<th>Condition as to marriage</th>
<th>Age last birthday</th>
<th>Rank, profession, occupation</th>
<th>Where born</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Street</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>William Wadsworth</td>
<td>Head</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>Hotel Keeper &amp; Brewer</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>36</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Edith</td>
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<td>Lithographer</td>
<td>Devon, Combe Martin</td>
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<td>Manager of Young Women's Institute</td>
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<td>Visitor</td>
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### 1891 Census data from numbers 50 to 75 George Street

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© Luton Cultural Services Trust 2011
### Jones Yard, Luton in 1899 photographed by Frederick Thurston

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road, Street, &amp; No. or name of house</th>
<th>No. of rooms occupied if less than 5</th>
<th>Name and Surname of each person</th>
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<th>Condition as to marriage</th>
<th>Age last birthday</th>
<th>Rank, profession, occupation</th>
<th>Where born</th>
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<td>38</td>
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<td>Sewer</td>
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1891 Census data for Jones Yard
“Blackwater Lane and ditch, which probably formed the boundary or moat of the castle built here in 1221… is now one of the foulest spots in Luton; the mounds of the castle meadows still remain, but the ancient outlets for the water are impeded, and the drainage of the town, which finds its way to this filthy receptacle, has a difficulty in reaching, by the other open ditches, its final destination in the river Lea….This ditch from four to six feet in width, is generally stagnant, and so foetid, that, according to the testimony of many, it is at times not to be endured….It is distinctly asserted that in the immediate neighbourhood, there is not a house that has a healthy inhabitant. The men, who are absent several hours in the day, and who are employed in agriculture, are not so great sufferers as the women and children, who pass nearly the whole of their existence within the influence of this nuisance.”

from the 1850 Report to the General Board of Health
Home Missions Journal

The Missionary is a familiar Victorian figure. However most would imagine him going amongst the ‘heathen’ tribes of some distant continent to spread the word of the lord. In fact Home Missions were a feature of most industrialised towns. These missionaries preached amongst the poor promoting patience and temperance and offering the hope of eternal life in a better place.

Luton had missionaries working in its poorest districts. The following are extracts from the diary of a Home Missionary working in Luton in 1872. He was employed by the local Congregational Church. Much of the diary is taken up with listing the many visits paid to households in the town; to the elderly and sick, to the Union Workhouse and to the cottage hospital.

Thursday 16th May
Made 15 visits, 1 to a sick woman in High Town, 14 to Amen Court and Church Street. Held a cottage meeting in Church Street in the evening, about 12 persons present besides a few children, a very good meeting. One poor woman who was so busy had brought her work and continued sewing while I was speaking, till it seemed she could do so no longer, and putting down her work she wiped her eyes with her apron and listened very attentively to the close.

Wednesday 12th June
Was struck today with the contrast between three sick persons visited, a poor woman near eternity, when spoken to about her soul, thought if she begged very hard, prayed, and worked all that she could, then the Lord would forgive her. The 2nd a woman in High Town, with no prospect of recovery, appeared to be quite penitent, and anxious to be taught the way of salvation through Christ. The 3rd a very great sufferer, but who has known the Lord for some time, notwithstanding her pain, greeted me with a smile, and told me when her pain was great, she could not help wishing the Lord would release her, and take her to her other home. If the countenance be an index to the heart, her countenance indicates that she has a prospect of a bright and a glorious home away in heaven's light.

Thursday 11th July
Visited a sick woman in Adelaide Terrace. Made 8 visits in Church Street and Amen Court, 3 in Windmill Cottages, where I held a cottage service in the afternoon, 6 women attended and a number of children. Preached in the open air in Amen Court in the evening. Called today upon the woman who was so much insulted by the gift of a dress, “Good morning,” I said, she answered, “I don’t want none o’yer blab.” “Will you accept a tract?” “No! I don’t want none o’yer blab, there’s nobody here as does.” “I am sorry for you.” “I don’t want you to feel sorry for me.” Well, we will pray for you.” “You want praying for yourself as much as ever I do.” “I know it, I will pray for myself and you too.” I then stepped inside the door to put a tract in the chair hoping she might read it after I had left. “You shant come inside the house” she said and took the tract, threw it out of the door, picked it up, tore it in the middle and slammed the door in my face. She sat within hearing during the whole of the open air service sometimes mocking and sometimes singing in a low tone. The Lord grant that his own word may teach her heart.
Wednesday 2nd August
In conversation with a milkman at Tower Hill, he told me it was impossible for him to be religious and live, if he did not tell lies in his trade he should starve. I asked him how he would do at the end if his soul was not saved, he said he must keep praying to God to forgive him. "What," I said "and keep sinning all the time? Do you think God would hear such prayers? The prayer of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord." He thought that if he lived as honestly as he could, to get a living, and attended a place of worship as often as he could, the Lord would not be hard on him. I endeavoured to show him the fallacy of such an idea and the necessity of a complete change of heart, a renunciation of all sin, and reminded him of the Saviour's words, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Sunday 22nd December
Went to New Town in this evening a little before time for the service, in order to visit a few of the men, to invite them to the Chapel, but all with one consent began to make excuse; the first I called on had not put his clean shirt on, and could not come tonight, the next would like to go but had no Sunday clothes, and no chance of getting any now as he had no work, the next said he must wait another fortnight as 'Uncle' had his clothes and he could not get these yet, but when he could once get them again, he would see that 'Uncle' should have them no more, if 'Uncle' wanted clothes he should buy them the same as he did. The next could no come out and the last I called on, would come, but his wife was out and the baby sleeping in the cradle could not be left. Not much encouraged by the result of my visiting, I proceeded to the Chapel and found a better congregation than usual.

Monday February 3rd
Visited the Cottage hospital in the afternoon and held a temperance meeting in Chase Street in the evening 7 adults present and nearly 30 children. Called at 6 houses near the Chapel, to invite the people to the meeting; succeeded in inducing a woman and one man to attend. One poor woman has suffered very much through the wickedness of her husband, who has now left her. She has two children to support, and is very poor. She said she would like to attend the Chapel but could not come unless she borrowed a shawl to wear, which she did last week and enjoyed the meeting very much. While I was calling on some of the neighbours, she borrowed the shawl and went into the Chapel.

Tuesday 27th May
Made 5 visits in Inkeman Street and visited Mrs Johnson, Collingdon Street. Held a cottage meeting in Langley Road in the afternoon, and at Windmill Cottages in the evening. A man attended the meeting this evening who had been on a drinking bout for a week. In answer to his inquiring after his health, he said, 'it's no use trying to hide my faults I'm very poorly, I've been having a week's spree, but I must stop it, or that will stop me.' He was very attentive to the meeting, and promised to come again.

Extracts from the Journal of a Home Missionary working in Luton in 1872
Factory Inspector’s Report 1890

The first Factory Acts applied to cotton mills. In 1819 children younger than 9 were not allowed to work and older children could only work a 12 hour day. In 1833 the daily hours of children under 12 were reduced. By 1844 women were restricted to working not more than 12 hours a day.

In Luton the second half of the 19th century saw a decline in the local straw plaiting industry and an increase in the hat trade. The factory workers were on a piece rate system; they were paid a set amount for each hat they produced. At the height of the season people could earn five or six times as much as at the start. Many firms employed homeworkers who collected work from the factory to do at home. Neither employees or workers took much notice of the Factory Acts’ rules about working hours. However public opinion was against all night work for girls and Sunday working.

Most workers in the hat factories were women. Almost everyone agreed that to be a female sewer with a major firm was a good job: they had pleasant working conditions, flexible hours and was well-paid. By 1893 the factories were described as ‘well up to the standard required by the Act – light and well-ventilated, the girls have a great advantage in being able to chat over their work – a facility which always produces cheerfulness, and in consequence, health’.

*The Factory Inspectors produced regular reports. The following are comments made about Luton factories in their 1890 Report.*

‘Most of the workshops contrast favourably with those of many other trades. Lime-washing is well attended to, and generally speaking, the shops are clean and not overcrowded. In the matter of hours of labour and overtime the Luton manufacturers claim that their trade is peculiar to itself, that their season only lasts three months a year, and that they ought to be allowed to work as long as they like in those three months...The manufacturers also complain of the warehouses where no work is done on the premises, but all is put out. They state that this work is done at the people's homes, and that children and young persons are worked very late hours by their parents, and that they (the manufacturers) cannot keep the law as long as people at home work as long as they like for the warehouses, and that it is much better for the girls to work late in large, healthy work-rooms than in their pokey rooms at home.’

‘Trade has been bad in Luton this year, owing chiefly to the fashion of having hats of fancy work and not of straw. In England the straw plait trade is now a poor business, and a person has to work hard at it to earn 6d. a day.’

‘Some people in Luton blame what they call the greed of a few persons there; who, for a small premium, allowed foreigners to come and be taught all about the trade. However that may be, a lot of trade is gone. This shows how foolish it is for any town to put all its eggs in one basket or rely on a single trade. In Luton and Dunstable there are factories and machines idle; in other towns the manufacture of boots, corsets, and other things is extending, but in Luton people do not seem to care for anything, beyond the straw hat trade.’
Recollections of Old Luton by Mr T.G. Hobbs

These are extracts from articles published in the Luton News and Bedfordshire Advertiser in 1933. Mr Hobbs celebrated his 80th birthday that year.

When Cheapside was a Garden
Among the local families of those days the Wallers were perhaps the most influential. Their house was where Barclays Bank now stands and attached to it was a huge garden. I well remember this land being sold as building ground and the streets being laid out.

This garden comprised practically all the space between Guildford-street, Church-street and Barber's-lane, as well as a separate section between Barber's-lane and Bute Street for about 100 yards. A long row of trees (willows I believe) over hung the Lea from Barber's-lane to Church-street. Cheapside from George Street existed only as far as the site of the old post office....The streets and the site of the garden were named after the family who sold the ground.

Boneshaker Days
I think it was about 1870 or 71 when I learnt to ride a boneshaker. This was chiefly done upon the ½ mile stretch at the top of London-road hill and it was probably about 1872 I rode a race; a youth on foot with 100 yards start and I upon a ‘penny-farthing’ with thick iron spokes and iron tyres about an inch wide; the race was from the first to the second mileposts and he beat me by about 6 yards.

About ‘78 I rode a somewhat improved ‘penny-farthing’ from Luton to Leighton Buzzard in 72 minutes. In 1910 I did the same journey by cycle in 55 minutes.

In penny-farthing days brakes were not fitted to every machine, experts deemed them infra dig, but to descend even our London-road hill without one ran very near disaster.

I believe I was the first owner of a ‘safety’ in Luton, as the present form was first called, this was probably in 1886.

Until the advent of the cycle, which by the way was soon capable of out-running a horse, the usual mode of road transit for me was on foot. The cycle increased my possible radius enormously so that a much larger district became open to me.

The Coming of the G.N.R.
It was probably the first big concourse of people that I had ever seen when I witnessed the opening of that section of the ‘Dunstable and Hertford’ railway, between Luton and Dunstable on March 8th 1858. Until that time, and, indeed, until the railway was completed to Hatfield, Luton traffic had to be conveyed by lorry to Hitchin! My father once told me of a yokel who, seeing an engine for the first time, exclaimed, "Now I woon't believe but what they're a lot o'little ponies underneath."

How the Main Line was Constructed
Until the Midland Railway, from Bedford via Luton to St. Pancras, was made, passengers had to travel from the Midlands and Bedford via Hitchin to King's Cross. It was probably in 1865 that the company started upon the venture to carry a more direct line via Luton to St. Pancras, and as a boy of twelve I watched with feverish interest, the attacks made by the gangs of navvies at certain pre-arranged points along the sides of our hills. They threw the earth into close-by valleys, and so accurately had the surveyors mapped out the way and arranged where brick culverts (which would ultimately drain the water under the expected embankments) and girder bridges were to be placed, that these soon sprang up at the precise spots needed. Hundreds of navvies attacked the hill-sides and conveyed the earth along the pre-arranged level until, with the aid of metals and
trucks, drawn by horses, they ‘tipped’ the big loads and built up embankments of imposing height.

The Opening of the Plait Halls
In January, 1868, the foundation stones of the Plait Halls and Corn Exchange were laid, and the occasion was proclaimed a general holiday….During the building of the Corn Exchange and what are now the Market Halls, there were two remarkable accidents. A man fell from near the clock of the Corn Exchange, about 50 feet, but, breaking his fall by the scaffolding, escaped. At the Plait Halls, however, another man fell but three feet and it cost him his life.

The opening of the new halls on January 18th, 1869, was a most auspicious occasion, Mr Reverdy Johnson, the American Minister, attending. The only fly in the ointment was a persistent and dense fog…. Until the opening of the Halls in Cheapside and Waller-street, the collectors of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire straw plaits exposed their goods upon temporary stalls along much of George-street. Subsequently the Halls became a busy emporium on a Monday morning. But the imported plait soon gained a preference and buyers found they could do better upon the premises of the plait merchants.

Bedford Road on a Sunday Night
This is taken from a local newspaper published in the 1890s - no precise date is known

It is no mere spirit of chivalry on the part of a crusty old bachelor to say that the ladies of Luton dress well. Observation has led me to note that sartorial feature conspicuously in my register of indisputable facts. See the belles go by in Wellington Street of an afternoon or drop their billets doux into the PO in Cheapside, and, if you love smart costumes and delight in noting the turn of a ribbon, you may enjoy your fancy to the full. But for the one you notice in the centre of town of an afternoon you will witness a whole legion in Dunstable road on a Sunday. Yes, Dunstable road on the Sabbath day is certainly the firmament of fashion in Luton. Now, every one is disposed to have his or her favourite walk. Are you in love's young dream, then you poetise in that most charming of rambles across Stockwood Park, the Lawn, or stroll eastwards along that country lane, the Old Bedford road; should you have plenty of time on hand and dress up to the fashion of the hour, you are sure to be admired in Dunstable road; are you a married man and enjoy the pleasure of the company of your esteemed mother-in-law, then you select the peaceful retreat of Park road; do you enjoy the prose and poetry of a crowd, then you promenade the New Bedford road of an evening, particularly a Sunday. Should you feel you are not subject to influences as these, and have no domestic cares to interfere with your benevolence, go and study the problem of how to make the People's Park a popular resort.

In one’s peregrinations round town nothing is so noticeable as the tendency of people to converge on the West End. This is the more marked on Sunday evenings. As the Town Hall clock chimes the hour of 8 a stream of people is flowing at each side of the municipal buildings, one going down Manchester street for the New Bedford road, the other ascending Upper George street for the Dunstable road. Half-an-hour earlier the Chapels disgorged their thousands of worshippers, and now the tide of promenaders is swelled by church-goers. A few turn their backs on the town to seek the quiet and peace of the Park road, while others go along Castle street for the bracing heights of London road and the Lawn. For the most part the latter are in their period of courtship before passing away into the silent tomb of matrimony, and by that reason present a more interesting picture silhouetted in the moonlight than showing themselves off in the crowded promenades of the town.
While the churches and chapels are yet filled, the Bedford road is not without its congregation. Then it is that the young people, of all others, have their innings by reason of having escaped the supervision of the elders. Passing down Manchester street before 7 o’clock a good deal of the lively element presents itself, and while on one hand you hear the singing of hundreds of voices from the Salvationists’ barracks, on the other is the fun and frolic of the rapidly increasing habitués of the roadway. Scores of lads in their teens, with chests expanded and hands thrust deep in their trouser pockets, strut along as they blow the cloud of the cheap cigarette. If not indulging in this luxury, they occasionally test the strength of their vocal organs by shooting the arrows of sarcasm at inoffensive passers by, and should they soften their mood it will be to sing to you snatches of what were once popular comic songs. To add zest to their humours they will frisk about in a little horse play. Throw themselves against the zinc shoring near the Midland railway bridge, and awaken echoes by drumming against it with all their might. There are girls there, too, budding into womanhood and long skirts and they sport themselves in less vigorous but equally lively fashion. You generally see three or four together, and they take care that due attention will be paid to them by the rising gallants of the promenade.”

Extracts from 'View from the Alley' by Aubrey Darby.

Aubrey Darby grew up in Luton in the early years of the 20th century.
He published his memoirs in the 1970s.

My Life Begins
“I never got to know Pa, he hopped it before I was old enough to recognise him; couldn’t bear the sight of me, I suppose. Ma did say he was in politics, a friend of Joey Chamberlain, and almost a gentleman. I found out he had also been a soldier, through playing with his Boer War decorations, but they soon disappeared, flogged to make ends meet. An endowment left by my straying sire also ran out, compelling Ma to seek work. My age handicapped her, not yet old enough for school. Eventually she found a job in the hat trade, with me sitting beside her not daring to move, for fear the boss took umbrage and booted us out. Nine hours was a long time to sit inactive and I looked forward to school, it could be no worse than this.

Edward was king, but it was still fashionable to wear black for Victoria. The globe was splashed with red, a gory reminder of our wealth and possessions, yet all our contemporaries were poverty stricken…Beer at a penny a pint called ‘Porter’ and bacca twopence half-ounce were cheap, so was food, boiled bread pudding, suet pudding and treacle, sheep’s-head stew, and meat clangers filling the bellies of the poorest families.

Nothing seemed to change. All had a Sunday suit, worn only on that day and funerals. Carefully preserved, it was a source of income, pawned on Monday, redeemed on Saturday. We were all in the same boat, to have a job meant contentment, but apart from the religious sects who called on us to repent, my first impressions were of a wonderful world in which I would live forever.”

School
“The day I crossed the portals of the school destined to be my only seat of learning, the rain poured down in sympathy with my depression. The academy blended with the squalid habitations surrounding it, the bell perched on top like a carrion crow, tolled for us, and we learnt to hate it.

Inside, two hundred and fifty boys, squatted on backless forms, in uniforms of corduroys, tattered
jerseys and handed down clobber: the few well-dressed boys, social outcasts, such was the class distinction…

The cane was a great persuader in hammering home how we were part of ‘The Empire on which the sun never sets’, kinsmen of men who charged with the Light Brigade, and sons of the heroes who routed the Zulus. Progress was fairly rapid, only an imbecile could have failed to cope with a curriculum so sparse and insipid….

**Earning Money**

*At this time, the urge to make money dominated my life, so I found a job flogging newspapers. This was a lucrative business – on a good night I could make 4d. My education now broadened, pitting my wits against other boys bent on earning the magic lucre, and running like hell when caught on the bigger boys’ territory. The word got round of the pickings to be had, and paper boys sprouted in the streets, like candles on a conker tree. The market became saturated and I was out of work. It would take a long war to restore the profession to its former affluence.*

Everyone pawned in the locality, but most had dignity and preferred to use pawnshop porters as go-betweens. This was a chance for me to get into business again. The duties were in the main collecting the old man’s Sunday suit, blankets or sheets, and presenting them to the pawnbroker as security for hard cash, a kind of overdraft with security. Often the draught was felt in bed through the absence of bedclothes. The fee or porterage was 3d – my charge 2d., but this cut price was exorbitant when compared with the few coppers advanced by Uncle. There was no sentiment, this was business. The poor fed off the poor, the rich built walls to keep the cannibals out!*

**My First Job**

*Unemployment and poverty were accepted as part of life and at a time when a man could earn 16/6d for a sixty hour week, employers found it more economical to employ two boys part-time at an annual wage of 2/6d per week. The law, in its humanity, laid down that juveniles must be ten years of age before qualifying for part-time work. This seemed stupid to me. I was now eight years old, and tried in some way to get round the law. From our front window I could read ‘Dairy fed pork – Families catered for’, it was the local butcher’s shop. I hung around the shop thinking of some excuse to speak to the butcher, and then, eureka!, he asked me to fetch him a pennyworth of snuff, and I was in. He refused my overtures at first, telling me I was too small, and I was not old enough in any case. For the reason of my size I suggested standing on a box, finally clinching the job by offering my services not for a regular wage, but a tip now and then. Hours of work were 7.30 to 8.30am, mid-day when required, and in the evenings, 5.00 to 7.30pm. Saturdays 7.30 to 9.00pm and the final advice to remind him on Saturday night if he hadn’t given me anything.*

**The Workhouse**

*Though the workhouse had a good intake it never became full up. The old people didn’t last long once inside, not so much heart failure as broken heart….My mother and I often visited old friends in the workhouse, the smell of soup and old age wafting strong as we traipsed along the stone flagged corridors. The inmates wore uniform, men in a grey jacket, the women in long grey frocks, a colour scheme blending perfectly with the environment….There were no complaints of ill treatment in the workhouse. They were fed, clothed and housed but the greyness and the lack of imagination for the needs of the aged people, cast off by their own flesh and blood, led to an indifference which was intolerable…This was the twentieth century and still the shadow of Dickens haunted these institutions.*
Diamond Jubilee Programme 1897

Extract 1: Written in 1897 as Luton celebrated Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee

Luton’s 60 Years of Progress - A Diamond Jubilee

“Sixty years of Progress! Does any Lutonian venture to suggest that this many not truthfully be taken as the epitomised history of the town during the period over which the reign of the Queen has extended?....Premising that every individual whose interests are in the remotest degree bound up in the town has a pride in its recent development and a faith in its future, one may proceed that there is something extremely fascinating in the wonderful strides which Luton has made in the memory of many who are yet living amongst us. The growth has been almost as mushroom-like as that of some American cities though there exists this difference, that whereas the advance in the case of our town was seemingly too rapid at the commencement to be continuous appearances have been falsified, and the borough has steadily proceeded along the lines of prosperity until, at the latter end of this century, it occupies a capital position amongst the commercial centres of the country.”

Extract 2: Published in a local newspaper in December 1899

December 1899 Local newspaper

“On Tuesday next the world will enter upon a new century, and it has occurred to us that readers would welcome a series of articles descriptive of the wonderful progress which the town of Luton has made in the hundred years which have expired since the 19th century was entered upon.... Not only has Luton progressed by leaps and bounds during what has been described as ‘this wonderful century’ for the story of advance has to be told also of the country and the Empire at large. Let readers picture to themselves, if they can, what life must have been like in the days when there were no railways or steamboats, no gas or electric light, no telegraphs or telephones, no daily newspapers or penny post. What would the business men of today, accustomed to being whisked to or from London in a little more than half an hour, think of having to give up a whole day to the journey to the Metropolis, as their forefathers were compelled to do at the beginning of the century, when George III was king.”