

Large Print Labels – High Street Buildings

1 High Street

Now Henri Lloyd, there have been a variety of small businesses in this three-storey Georgian building including surgeons, solicitors, milliner Liz Tilley and an architect. It was the home of solicitor Edward Hicks in the 1830s, who was mayor in 1837, 1841 and 1847. When this photo was taken by local photographer Frederick Drew in 1946 it was the home of K I Smith.

The Lower High Street

Frederick Miller

Pencil drawing of the south side of the lower High Street showing Nos 1-15. Interesting features are the prominent arch through No 14 on the far right, the clock above No 11 and the sign on the wall of Bale's at No 9.

2 High Street

This building has housed J Farr's dairy, G Balls multi-purpose shop, photographer Marcus, a shop selling baskets and pottery and now Crew Clothing. In 1911 the tenant was George Lockyer, a bootmaker and leather goods seller. The Lockyer family owned shops at various locations: George had a shop at No 124 before moving here and his father Daniel was a

shoemaker at 26 St Thomas Street in 1861. George was remembered as a kindly man and a great favourite with the local children.

3-4 High Street

J St John the greengrocer occupied No 3 in 1878 followed by Frederick Loader the watchmaker in 1891, who later moved to No 29. In 1861 William Etheridge and Harriet Cole lived at No 4. Nos 2-5 High Street were taken over by Balls by 1939, which sold radios, electrical goods, bicycles and prams, and even spread to the opposite side of the street. It is now Going for Bust.

5 High Street

Butcher G St John owned this building in 1878 – perhaps a relative of the greengrocer J St John based at No 3? The building was occupied by W Pritchard in 1891, who sold tinware and oil, the British Colonial Meat Co in 1931 and the Mayflower, a Chinese takeaway, in 1984. It is now Edwards Heavies.

6 High Street

Gunmaker Alfred Clayton occupied Nos 6 and 7 in 1840, while later tenants included a nurseryman and at least three butchers – including the British & Colonial Meat Co which had moved from next door. It now houses the Frock Shop.

7 High Street

Now teeming with cafés, what was possibly Lymington's first 'refreshment rooms' was run by George Cunningham and had opened by 1871. In the 1890s the building was occupied by Sgt F Haskell, a bootmaker and bandmaster of the Lymington Town and Volunteer bands. 'Chappy' Bran's butcher's shop and Rugg's the tobacconist were also based here. It is now Made in Italy.

The Hill, High Street, Lymington

Robert E Groves

Pencil drawing of the lower High Street in the 1930s, when No 7 was WJ Rugg & Co, No 8 was occupied by Dimmick's newsagents and confectioners and No 9 by Bale's tobacconist.

8 High Street

George Tiller, a nurseryman, florist and seller of 'fancy goods', had a shop here with his wife Isobel (Dolly) for nearly 20 years from 1881. After George's death his children Fred, Bertha and Isobel ran a nursery garden in Gosport Street. The premises was then occupied by a newsagent for many years. It is now Golden Barber.

9 High Street

S Rose, upholsterer and undertaker, had premises here in 1895. By the 1950s EL Bale, hairdresser and tobacconist, were

welcoming clients (as well as the occasional horse) to the building. It is now Mine's a Pasty.

10 High Street

From at least 1851 to 1880 the Albion Inn was located here, run by William Thring and then his wife Louisa. William was also a vestry clerk and an administer of smallpox vaccinations. His daughters were straw bonnet makers and his son William Thring Jnr was a bill poster, town crier and rented out market stalls. By 1894 the building had become vacant, the land had been turned over to allotments by 1913 and in 1927 the Masonic Hall was built.

Lymington's first Masonic lodge was formed in 1764 and the first meetings held at the Crown Inn (No 96), then the Nag's Head (No 34). After some years of decline the lodge was revitalised in 1874 and the land at No 10 was purchased for the construction of a Masonic Hall. In this photo members of the lodge stand outside the meeting house in the 1940s.

11 High Street

Also known as Victoria House, this building held a number of different drapers run by the Doman family from about 1860 to the 1950s, as well as a bootmaker and, in the 1980s, Contessa. It is now the Cornish Bakery.

12 High Street

Hogan & Moss, who made stays for corsets, were based here in 1839. Members of the Thorn family, who were butchers, had a shop here from the 1870s to at least the First World War, before the premises were taken over by a greengrocer by 1939. It is now No 12.

13 High Street

This building housed a couple of fishmongers in the late 19th century, before being taken over by Pardey's Cheap Hardware Stores. The business was sold to Edward (Frank) Gearey after the First World War, who ran the store with his wife Dorothy. They sold everything from garden tools to chamber pots. It is now Stanwells.

14 High Street

Mainly a residential property, this building briefly housed a solicitor in the late 1870s. It was taken over by J Roberts, dental surgeon in the 1950s before becoming part of Stanwell House Hotel in the 1980s.

15 High Street

In 1759 General James Wolfe spent the night here, in his cousin's house, before leaving for Canada where he commanded the British Army at the capture of Quebec. Later the building was used for a ladies' school, run by Miss Groves in

1825 then Mary Galpine from 1839. Mary's boarding school, which had seven staff and 16 pupils in 1841, seems to have been taken over by the Misses Rose by 1861 who taught 23 students. By 1871 Elizabeth Rossiter and her sister were in charge and by 1875 the school was being run by Miss Taylor and Miss Johnson. William Murdoch then had his own school at the premises (previously based at Nos 63-64) from 1896 until his death in 1903. Subsequent owners included a solicitor, a physician and a surgeon before it became Stanwell House Hotel after the Second World War.

16 High Street

Thomas Colborne, builder and auctioneer, occupied this site in 1839 with Samuel Elgar taking over in 1861. The son of a local master carpenter, Samuel set up business in 1830 as a decorator, plumber, builder and undertaker. The firm built a number of properties locally including the town hall at Nos 117-118 and Quarr House in Sway. The business continued until Peter Elgar retired in 1985. It is now Cell Zone.

17 High Street

Richard Beach, nurseryman, seedman and fruiterer, ran his business from Nos 17 and 18 in the 1830s. In the late 1800s Henry Doman operated as a printer, bookseller and had a stamp office here – where revenue duties were collected for the government. In the late 1930s hairdresser JC Blachford

occupied the building, which remained with that family until the 1980s. It is now Buchanans.

18 High Street

One of the High Street's many private schools was located here from 1871 to 1881 and run by Sarah Cowley. The school then seems to have moved to Captain's Row. It was briefly a private residence, then Ing's tailors before Walter Rugg, a tobacconist, opened his business. His shop was here from 1913 to the 1950s and was followed by accountants, a café, a gallery and now Save the Children.

19 High Street

Henry Hapgood, a registrar and railway delivery agent for the London and South Western Railway, had his premises here from 1861 and the property stayed with the Hapgood family until the 1930s. Edward Hapgood, registrar, church warden and local historian, was born, lived and died in the house. By the 1980s, the building was occupied by a shop called 'Gay Nonsense'. The Buttery occupied this and No 20 from 1948 but closed in 2018.

20 High Street

Occupied by various butchers over the years, the most well-known of these is J Topp, who had a shop here from the 1880s to around 1930. The Topp family lived in a house called Sea

View in Topp's Yard, behind the shop. There was also a slaughterhouse in the yard where John butchered the meat. The Topp's also owned sweet shops in Gosport Street and Lower Buckland Road. The building now houses the Black Butter Eatery.

Lymington High Street
Edward Charlton

Pen and ink drawing showing Rugg's tobacconist on the left and Topp's the butcher in the centre. Artist Edward Charlton had moved to Lymington by 1901 and lived at 43 St Thomas Street. He was good friends with local historian Edward Hapgood of 19 High Street.

21 High Street

Booksellers John and Charles King owned this building from 1840 to 1870 after which it contained a variety of businesses, including confectioner GH Ireland and confectioner CJ Robinson. It was ultimately taken over by Barclays Bank who removed and replaced this and the adjoining building, which was also part of No 21.

21 High Street (cont.)

From about 1909 Annie Banks ran another Girl's School here, at the Gentleman's Club House to the rear of the building, in what is now the British Legion. By 1931 it was named 'West End School' and run by the Misses Hobkirk. Appearing to take its name from wherever it was located, the school later moved to Trafalgar House and then Ridgeway in Pennington in 1946.

22 High Street

Phoebe Beeston occupied Nos 22 and 23 High Street in the 1840s and may have been a relation of the Mrs Beeston who owned the Sea Water Baths in 1787. Phoebe was the sister of Captain Josias Rogers and Rear Admiral Thomas Rogers. Josias died of yellow fever in Grenada in 1795 while fighting Fédon's Rebellion – an uprising by some of the enslaved against British rule. There is a memorial to Josias at St Thomas Church. Since the mid-1800s the building has seen a variety of uses including estate agent, dressmaker and dental company. It is now Café Tres Bon.

23 High Street

Bootmaker Leonard Lewis occupied this site from about 1871, after which he went into partnership with Henry Badcock and reopened the shop as an estate agent. They moved from here to Nos 91 and 92 in the 1910s and from there to No 40 in the 1930s. It is now Watches of Distinction.

24 High Street

Surgeon J Otley operated out of this building in the 1860s, followed by chemists Adam U Allen and GH Gare. Boots took over occupancy in 1946 before moving to its current location at No 90. It is now Holland & Barrett.

No 24b, now Lemana café, was once named the 'Old School House'. This could imply another school once stood here or perhaps that the building was associated with the girls' school behind No 21.

25 High Street

Also known as Navarino House, this building was probably built in the 1720s and occupied by Mr Bowerman, a tallow-chandler and soap boiler from the Isle of Wight. Various grocers then operated from here, including Robert Perkins, Charles Gearing and South Hants Stores, founded in 1829 by Robert Bentley Purchase as a high-class family grocery business. James Willis acquired the business in 1919, from which time it traded as Willis & Son, South Hants Stores. The loss of Willis & Son is still thought of with melancholy by some older residents. One remembers: *"It was a lovely old fashioned grocers where the customer was treated with courtesy. It had an ambience no other shop had. My recollections are of going downstairs into an old timbered building which had the smell of sides of bacon hanging from hooks and the large tins and containers of tea and coffee. We*

hadn't been in Lymington long and before we knew it, it was gone and a modern supermarket was built in its place." That was Tesco, which took over the building in the 1970s. It is now WH Smith.

James Willis acquired the Purchase grocery business in 1919, renaming it Willis & Son, South Hants Stores. The portrait photos show James and his wife Louisa.

The interior of South Hants Stores in the 1950s.

26-7 High Street

Now Osbornes, this is the earliest surviving building known on the High Street, dating from around 1480-1500. The whole structure was originally part of a larger property incorporating Nos 28 and 29 which, when sold in 1673, was called The Angel and was probably an inn.

28 High Street

This building has been popular with a variety of watchmakers, including James Beeston, JW Gulliford and Frederick Loader, whose business was just down the hill from his mother Elizabeth's confectionary shop at No 31. Nos 26-31, along with Nos 110 and 111, were owned by the Hobbs family in 1840.

29 High Street

The Misses L & J Woods sold art and fancy goods from here in the 1880s and were followed by Bennett's, which sold wool, needlework and sewing machines and was also a cleaners, dyers and fancy bazaar. Culls took over the property in 1927 and by the 1980s the building was known as 'The Pooh Shop'. It is now Caffè Nero.

30 High Street

Greengrocers and food suppliers were based here for over a hundred years, including Bran Brothers in the 1910s who sold fish, game, poultry and ice. The chain MacFisheries arrived in the 1920s but in the 1980s the building was taken over by Bristol & West Building Society. It is now With Love Tattoo and Lymington Cat & Kitten Rescue.

Lymington High Street

Edward Charlton

MacFisheries is the building with the awning in this pencil drawing by Edward Charlton, made between March and April 1927. The chain MacFisheries was founded by William Hesketh Lever (of Lever Brothers) in 1919 and set up shop here in the 1920s. Culls the draper is to the left at No 29 while to the right are G Loader, who sold toys, sweets and fancy goods and a hairdresser run by Mrs Everest.

31 High Street

Hatters, tailors, confectioners, hairdressers and drapers have occupied this building over the years. The longest-standing resident appears to have been F Humphreys the hairdresser whose family ran a business here from the 1890s to the 1980s. It is now Marie Curie.

The First and Second Town Halls

Edward King

The first Town Hall stood in the road outside Nos 30 and 31 and was built in about 1463. A market cross, around which the weekly market gathered, was situated in front of the Town Hall until about 1820. Next to it were the whipping post, the stocks, the well and the shambles (stalls at which butchers displayed their produce for sale). These ran up as far as New Street. The Market House was in a separate building adjoining the Town Hall, in which were kept the stamped weights, scales and measures used in the weekly market. In this drawing local historian Edward King imagines what the town and its buildings might have looked like. The perspective is from within the first town hall and showing the second town hall outside Nos 93 and 94 on the far left.

32 High Street

T Perkins, John Wright and Mrs A Everest were all former occupiers of this building and ran hairdressers out of the

premises. It later became an optician, then a jeweller and is now the Perfumery & Co.

33 High Street

Watchmakers HM Shaw, Charles Padbury, Charlotte Padbury, Jas Hubbard and F Schreiber occupied this building from 1840 to the 1910s, followed by jewellers Hardy, Illiffe, Walsh and Reeves. It is now Thirty Three Boutique.

34 High Street

This was once the Nag's Head, an old coaching inn which many believe was involved in the smuggling trade. Jane Bayes was the landlady of the pub in the late 1700s and also an employee of the local Excise Office which recorded all goods coming into port – very useful for someone involved in smuggling! There were posting and livery stables to the rear, as well as greenhouses and gardens to supply its kitchen. The name was changed to the 'Londesborough' in 1884, apparently after one of King Edward VII's visits to the town with the Earl of Londesborough. The Earl was supposed to be in charge of the King's suite, but seems to have spent most of his time at the inn. The hotel later catered for motorised transport and the Hants and Dorset Motor Services built garages at the rear. The building has been divided and now houses FatFace and Boots Opticians.

The coach to Southampton, loaded up with passengers, waits outside the Londesborough in 1894. In the early 19th century a coach called 'The Independent' ran daily between here and the Star at Southampton.

35 High Street

Since 1943 there has been no building here, as it was demolished to give the Hants and Dorset Bus Station a wider entrance. Prior to that, a number of saddlers operated out of the premises including EA Hobbs, Henry Hewlett and George Gidden. It was also the first site of Herbert Heppenstall's solicitors, which he opened in a room above Gidden's saddlery. Herbert went on to purchase the business of Coxwell and Pope at No 1, lived at No 74 with his wife Laura and operated out of No 75.

36 High Street

Oliver Andrews, who sold carpets and was a ship chandler, was housed here in the 1870s, followed by H Pearce and AE Green (watchmakers), then Eastmans and Dewhurst (butchers). It is now Hays Travel.

37 High Street

Outfitters such as William Payne, William Cann and J Fisher occupied this spot from the 1840s to the 1910s, since which

time the building has had a variety of uses such as antiques store, optician, jeweller, shoe shop and now Greggs.

38 High Street

In 1840 Rev Thomas Beckley owned Nos 34-43, as well as Nos 56 and 57 and the land that is now Grove Gardens. He was a curate at St Thomas Church from 1813 to 1828 and mayor in 1833. By the time of his death in 1872 Beckley owned about 44 acres in the borough including Home Mead, East Grove House, the Nags Head Inn and almost three acres of land on either side of New Lane. By 1871 the Wilts & Dorset Bank had moved in, followed in the 1890s by the firm that was to become Moore & Blatch solicitors. The National Provincial Bank arrived in the 1950s and now trades as NatWest.

39 High Street

The Misses Noake ran a highly regarded elementary and finishing school here from 1859, which moved to Bellevue House perhaps as early as 1862. The building then became the private residence of Mrs Harriet Price. The Wilts & Dorset Bank moved into the building from next door in 1867 and Lloyds Bank took over in 1914 – when six employees worked in the building including the manager, a Mr Taylor. They built the present building with its elegant banking hall and neo-classical plaster decoration in 1923, by which time there were 15

employees. The date '1925' can still be seen on the downpipes running from the gutters down the side of the building.

40 High Street

Photographer Frank Smith ran his business from here from at least 1871, after which it was the home of Edward Badcock who traded as a mercer and draper from Nos 41 and 42 next door. Another member of the Badcock family, Henry, had gone into partnership with Leonard Lewis in 1881 forming Lewis & Badcock, estate agents, which occupied the building from the 1930s before being replaced by estate agent Elliott & Green. It is now Hoxton Bakehouse.

41-42 High Street

Once the site of picturesque Tudor cottages which were occupied for many years by the greengrocer Mrs Hapgood, these were demolished in 1842 and replaced by the present building. Principally a residence until the 1890s, the site was then occupied by E Badcock, a mercer and draper, followed by agriculturalists SCATS. It then became Chance shoes and is now Clarks.

43 High Street

Occupied by a series of drapers and outfitters from the 1840s, the best known was Rand's, which set up shop here in the 1910s. Rand's moved here from 7 St Thomas Street, where

William Boothby Rand had founded a business in 1876 selling hats and underclothes for women and children. The business stayed with the family until 1982, when it was finally sold. It is now the Grape Tree.

44 High Street

William Beech (1840s – nurseryman and seedsman), Robert Jeffery (1870s – gun and fishing tackle manufacturer) and C King (1890s – fishmonger) were just some of the occupants here before the building became part of G Elliott & Son in 1895.

45 High Street

George Morris, currier and leather seller, and William Stephens, fruiterer and florist, had businesses here before Elliott's moved in. Mr Curly was manager of Elliotts shoe shop here in the 1930s, and used to enjoy a drink at The Old English Gentleman in Queen Street.

46 High Street

Ann Hapgood, who took over her husband's business as a carrier at No 42, had moved to these premises by 1851 and become a fruiterer. The building was demolished in 1890 and replaced by the current edifice which occupies Nos 44-46 and is known as Ashley House. It has been occupied by Elliotts since 1890.

Elliotts was founded in 1872 at 87 High Street as 'Lymington Clothing Mart' by George Elliott and his wife Elizabeth. By the time of Elizabeth's death in 1893 their son Edward had joined the business and the name was changed to George Elliott & Son. Billheads describe the firm as a clothiers, hatters and outfitters and boot and shoe warehouse 'for ready cash only'. The business aimed to attract a high-class clientele, employing their own tailors and carrying out boot and shoe repairs from their workshop in Ashley Lane. By the 1920s branches had opened in Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst, Freshwater, Highcliffe and New Milton. The store is shown here in about 1890 with George Elliott standing in the doorway.

47 High Street

A 17th century house once stood here, occupied at one time by Thomas Thirle, one of the last surgeon-barbers who used to do all the bleeding in the town (a common practice thought to improve health). The house was demolished in 1847 to make way for the present United Reformed Church, which was built in the Decorated Gothic style to replace the Congregational chapel in St Thomas Street. That chapel dated back to at least 1672. Its minister in 1820 was Rev David Everard Ford, who composed the anthem 'Hark the Trumpet'. On its first playing he secreted the town trumpeter, old Macey, under the pulpit. At the appropriate moment Old Macey sounded the trumpet

with a loud blast, causing much alarm and fright among the older members of the congregation!

To the right of the courtyard is the Victorian minister's home. Behind the church was the British School, which was established by Rev David Lloyd and opened in 1848. It catered mainly for Non-Conformists and by the end of its first year had 259 pupils. It failed in 1877, reopened in 1888 and closed for good in 1911.

Old House

Edward King

Artist's impression by Edward King of how the building demolished to make way for the Congregational church might have looked.

48 High Street

Bellevue House was built in 1765 as a town house for the Burrards of Walhampton and is a fine example of a Georgian private house. Banker Charles St Barbe (1776-1849) lived here from 1828 and the house remained with the St Barbe family until 1854. St Barbe Bank continued in business at Nos 66 and 67 until it united with the Capital and Counties Bank in 1896. That bank was taken over by Lloyds in 1918.

From about 1860 Frances and Harriet Noake ran a private boarding school at Bellevue where they taught music, French and drawing. They first established their school in Gosport Street in 1837, moving to Nos 39 and 40 around 1859. In the 1860s they moved to this building and by 1871 had 34 pupils and employed five governesses, as well as their niece Fanny Banks who later became a partner in the business. The school closed in 1886, shortly after the death of Frances. It then became the home of Dr Kay before being purchased by Moore & Blatch.

In 1797 John King (1768-1836) established himself as a lawyer at his home Brackens in Captains Row. After 34 years practising alone, he went into partnership with Edward Horatio Moore (1801-89), forming King and Moore. Following King's death, Moore went into partnership with Francis St Barbe in 1837, forming Moore and St Barbe. Over the years there have been many changes of partners and names, with Moore remaining the constant. Moore & Blatch moved into Bellevue House in the 1950s and are now known as Moore Barlow. The small building to the right houses Rathbones.

49 High Street

Drapers, tailors and outfitters were this building's principal occupants for about a hundred years before a dental surgeon and then a watchmaker set up shop. One of the tailors was

Edward Stone, who had a store here in the 1910s and 1920s and lived at The Poplars in New Street. Edward was a Justice of the Peace, mayor of Lymington, Superintendent of the St John's Ambulance Corps, Chairman of the Lymington Gas Co and a prominent Freemason.

50 High Street

Rebecca Dalton Banks ran a ladies' school here from about 1875 to 1891. She was the cousin of Fanny Banks, who taught at the Noakes' school at No 48 and it's possible these two schools were linked. The building was later occupied by Clissold Loveland, photographer, then the Camera Shop and now Hazy Days.

51 High Street

A small pub, the Waltham Arms, was based here from about 1860 to 1943 and run by a Mr and Mrs Beer in 1913! It then became a florist and, at a later stage, a cleaners. It is now Oxfam.

52 High Street

Known as Grosvenor House, this large Regency building with Ionic columns was built in about 1830 for James Munro, mayor of Lymington in 1831. According to Roger Pinckney, the building is *"the most complicated design of a Regency front in Lymington. It marked an early house underneath. It was an excellent bit of work,*

but somewhat ruthless in that the windows did not always fit the floor levels inside.” In the mid-19th century it was a boys' school run by Jane Smith, assisted by one teacher. Boarders included the three sons of Rev Edward Clissold of Yeatton House in Hordle and John Peyto Charles Shrubbs, the son of the Boldre vicar. After the school closed the building was occupied by Mrs F St Barbe in the late 1870s, followed by a series of doctors. It became vacant in the 1970s and was scheduled for demolition, but following protests the façade was retained although the building itself was gutted. It now houses Age UK and Millets.

Architectural drawing by H G Burley and Fewster and Partners showing proposed alterations to Grosvenor House, 52 High Street, in 1966.

53 High Street

Named the Red House, this was built in 1722 on the foundations of one of the High Street's few early stone buildings. Details of the old walls can be seen on the east side. In the 1840s it was occupied by Rev David Everard Ford, the Congregational minister. His wife Jane used part of the building as a boarding school. After the Fords solicitor Richard Sharp and his wife Lucy moved in. Richard was a borough councillor and alderman and very active in the Congregational Church. His daughter Edith Lucy (1853-1929) was one of Lymington's early proponents of women's rights. She served for over 30 years on

the Lymington Board of Guardians and played a leading role in the revival and reorganisation of the Lymington & District Women's Liberal Association, where she was President. She was also a key member of Lymington Congregational Church where she was treasurer from 1899 until her death in 1930. In 1910, in a very enlightened move for the time, the church members unanimously elected her as probably the first female Congregational church deacon in Hampshire. After the Sharps the building was occupied for many years by Jackman & Masters and is now John D Wood & Co.

54 High Street

A private residence for many years, Home or Holme Mead was purchased by the Misses Sharp, who lived at No 53, sometime around 1910. In 1914 it was loaned to the military authorities as a hospital for wounded soldiers and sailors. Between 1914 and 1918 about 3,000 patients were treated at the hospital, which was staffed by the Voluntary Aid Detachment with the help of several trained nurses, under Elizabeth Chinery. The wife of surgeon Edward Fluder Chinery, who operated out of Monmouth House in St Thomas Street, Elizabeth was also vice-chairman of the Lymington Centre of the St John Ambulance Association (1916). She is commemorated in a large stained glass window in the Courtney Chapel of St Thomas church. After the Second World War the building gradually deteriorated

and was ultimately knocked down and rebuilt as a Post Office in the 1960s.

While the main Post Office building is empty, the Royal Mail still operate a delivery office to the rear while No 54b houses Coral and the Oakhaven charity shop.

55 High Street

Mercer and draper William Good occupied this building from 1839, followed by Anna Good in the 1860s and William Good in the 1880s. He was succeeded by GJ Keddie in 1895, another mercer and draper, and then a Post Office from 1905 to 1960 (when it moved next door). Violet Bennett worked here during the First World War and was one of the first women to be employed by the GPO, learning morse code in order to send and receive telegraph messages. Also the organist at the Catholic church, Violet appeared in the Guinness Book of Records in 1991 at the age of 101 as the oldest practising church organist. It is now Prezzo.

56 and 57 High Street

These buildings were two residences until 1939, when the Wessex Electricity Co moved in, followed by the Southern Electricity Board in the 1950s. They are now occupied by Cook.

58 High Street

Known as Pilgrims, this is another mainly residential building and perhaps a 17th century house, with sash windows inserted at a later date. It was briefly occupied by a boarding school run by Isaac Withers in 1825. According to Edward King, writing in 1972, it had '*a beautiful garden – one of the best in Lymington*'. The owner of the house in the 1950s had a heated greenhouse used for growing orchids.

59 High Street

E Baskett, carpenter, joiner and undertaker, ran his business from here in the late 1800s, followed by WH Farr in the 1950s. It is now known as Courtyard House and is a holiday let.

60 High Street

Henry Aldridge, dairyman and tea dealer, was based here in the 1880s, then the estate agents Hewitt & Co in the 1920s. In about 1905 the furniture company C Ford & Co took over the adjoining buildings, moving into No 60 sometime after. This shop closed in 1992, the business in 1997. Willow now occupies this and the adjoining building.

61-62 High Street

Now Willow, this Regency building started life as a grocery business run by Richard Gibbs, a master tea dealer, in the 1840s and 1850s. The next owner was Henry Lambie, who continued the grocery business into the late 1890s. Furnisher

Charles Ford & Co took over the building in 1905, running it alongside their store at 47-48 St Thomas Street.

Lymington Carnival

Mary How

Watercolour painting of Lymington Carnival in 1987. The action takes place at the top of the High Street, just outside C Ford & Co at Nos 61-61. *Reproduction courtesy of Roger How.*

C Ford & Co

Robert E Groves

Charles Ford came from Southampton to open his first furnishing shop at St Thomas Street in about 1840, spreading into Nos 60-62 High Street in the 1900s. One resident remembered: *"People liked to have a Ford's van seen outside their house. Ford's was the best!"* The horses which pulled Fords delivery wagons were stabled in Church Lane and grazed in the field now covered by the car park behind M&S. These wagons were eventually succeeded by a Leyland open cab lorry and trailer.

St Thomas Church

The church of St Thomas the Apostle stands west of the High Street and marks the transition from the High Street to St

Thomas Street. A chapel at Lymington, dependent on the church at Boldre, is first mentioned about 1140 but the earliest surviving part of the present church dates to around 1200. This makes it the oldest building in Lymington. Until 1542 it was only a chapel of the Priory of Christchurch and was dependent on the 'mother church' at Boldre. It was not until 1869 that the chapelry of Lymington was separated from the Vicarage of Boldre and from that point the church had its own vicar. The tower was added in 1670 and the cupola which surmounts it and houses the eight bells may be early 18th century. The church bells were rung to celebrate battles and other important occasions and the ringers were sometimes paid in beer. Remarkable coloured wooden bosses from the ceiling of the former nave, now displayed in a glass case on the stairs, are 17th century or earlier. The present layout of the church interior with galleries all around the nave is the result of Georgian alterations.

St Thomas Church

Alick Summers

Watercolour showing St Thomas Church and the top of the High Street in the 1940s.

St Thomas Church

Robin Thomas

Pencil and watercolour drawing showing St Thomas Church surrounded by four local views – the High Street, Quay Hill, the Quay and the Railway Station.

63 High Street

Coventry Patmore's widow lived in this Georgian brick house in the 1910s. Coventry is best known for writing a series of poems called 'The Angel in the House', a portrait of married life that became the Victorian ideal of domestic bliss. After disastrous early reviews the poems achieved great popularity, selling nearly a million copies by his death. The poet, who believed in 'the woman's excellent privilege of subordination' is rather less popular today. After retiring to Lymington he died in 1896, having caught a cold after walking down to the Angel.

In 1939 accountants LF Hope Jones moved into the building and in the 1980s it was taken over by Scott Bailey.

64 High Street

Twynham House was occupied by surgeon Charles Fluder and his wife in 1840, followed by George Banks and then William Murdoch, who ran the Solent School here. It is now a private residence.

65 High Street

Ivy House was also occupied by the Fluder's, until at least the 1890s. It remained a residence until solicitors Johnsons arrived in the 1980s. It now houses Scott Bailey.

66-67 High Street

R Footner, upholsterer and auctioneer, operated out of these buildings in the 1840s. By the 1860s the building was a bank, run by George Foster St Barbe who had taken the business over from his father Charles. Caroline St Barbe took over the bank until the 1910s, when it became Capital & Counties Bank. That bank was taken over by Lloyds in 1918 and the building now hosts Nationwide Building Society.

68 High Street

Old Bank House also held part of the St Barbe Bank, before briefly becoming a hotel and then a bistro. George and Caroline St Barbe lived here in the 1860s with their two sons as well as two cooks, two housemaids and a nursery maid.

69 High Street

Beaufort House has mainly been a residence, occupied by Charles Klitz in the 1860s. It was converted to a shop in 1937, selling china and glass, before becoming a building society in the 1980s. It is now Caldwells.

70 High Street

Henry Figg, estate agent, plumber and painter, occupied this building from 1839. He was a warden at St Thomas Church and in 1824 was involved in a dispute lasting a year regarding how much he should be paid for the Coat of Arms in the West Gallery. When he died in 1852 his son William took over the business. In the 1910s Mr and Mrs Philo sold fancy goods and ran a jeweller and optician here. By the 1950s the building was the Homemade Cake Shop, with a hairdresser called HB Gosling running a business from the rear. It remained a hairdresser in the 1960s, under Mr and Mrs D'eath, who lived in a flat above the shop. The Women's Royal Voluntary Service also had premises at the back of the building for a time. It is now Suitably Shod.

Charles Theophilus Webb, who came to live at Hatchett in the early 1900s, had an office at 70 High Street in the 1930s. His company built the Flushards Estate in Lymington, various houses at Pilley and the Stone Frigate in Boldre Lane, among others. He was known to be a fair boss, but one who didn't suffer fools gladly. On his death he gifted Grove Gardens to the town. This photo shows the construction of the Tithe Barn Council House Estate, built by CT Webb & Sons in 1929.

71 High Street

Butcher Samuel Belbin had a shop here in 1801 where he trained apprentice John Ford. By 1822 he was a highways

surveyor and by the 1830s was licensed to let horses. The premises became Tanner & Sharp's ironmongery in the 1840s. Thomas Sharp was manager in 1859 and also ran a Post Office. It became a shoe shop – firstly Sillis & Son and then Webbs Shoes – in 1905 and is now Specsavers.

72 High Street

Milliner Sarah St John was based here from the 1850s to at least 1878 followed by Henry St Barbe in 1895. In 1914 it was a chemists run by WR Wheeler and Percival Hunter Coe. The business was bought by Cyril (Davy) Smith in 1937, who lived in Belmore Road with his wife Busty. Davy became a magistrate and was referred to by one of the men he sentenced as 'that old bugger with the black bushy eyebrows'. It is now Edinburgh Woollen Mill.

73 High Street

In 1836 printer and bookseller Richard Galpine ran his business from here, which included a Post Office. Lymington High School, run by Mr and Mrs Harvey, also seems to have been based above this shop from about 1911, although may not have outlasted the First World War. Co-op moved into the building in the 1930s and it has held a variety of different businesses since the 1940s. It now houses Hope Jones and Oxfam.

74 High Street

Housing a surgeon, opticians and various residences, this was the home of solicitor Herbert Heppenstall and his wife Laura for a number of years. Herbert had an active interest in Lymington Cottage Hospital and was its Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. The building is now divided in two with Spencers estate agents on one side and on the other an empty premises (with a beautiful bay window) that until recently housed Lee Johnson hairdresser.

Edward Klitz, in a donkey cart, passes in front of No 74 in this photo taken in 1896 – perhaps on the way to his shop at No 88. The porch was still present on No 74 at this stage, but was removed when the building was divided into two residences. The tall building on the right is where successive printers and booksellers also operated lending libraries. Behind the building is a wavy wall which runs the full length of the property.

75 High Street

Edwin Ackland sold books from this shop in the 1860s and 70s, being replaced by E Jackman – who lived on the premises and was a solicitor and town clerk. Herbert and Laura Heppenstall had moved into No 74 in the 1910s and at the same time set up a solicitors' business in this building. Heppenstalls remained here until 2020.

76 High Street

For many years this unusual Art Deco building of brick and concrete was a garage, with Vince's 'Invincible Motors' the first to move in. The Dawson brothers purchased the site in the mid-1920s for their garage. They had come to Lymington in 1919 from the Royal Navy and started in business at 10 St Thomas's Street before moving to this site. Outside the garage was a gantry of metal pipes that would swing out over the pavement to deliver fuel to the cars. The Dawsons had another brother, Montagu Dawson, a well-known marine artist who lived in Milford. It is now Mountain Warehouse.

77 High Street

William Banks, builder, estate agent and undertaker, operated from this building for over 25 years. A strict employer, he forbade his apprentices from getting married, playing cards or dice or going to pubs or playhouses. In 1859 J Rashley acquired the premises and was soon to become one of the most prestigious builders in the area, with contracts including the Victoria Hotel on Milford cliff. In 1905 Tom Rashley took over the business, building Lymington's Lyric cinema in 1913, Chewton Glen Hotel in 1914 and also repairing the sea wall. He ran annual outings for his 110 employees using Royal Blue coaches, which could travel at a maximum speed of 12 mph. After 142 years, Rashley's finally left No 77 in 2001 and moved to Pennington. It is now the Red Cross charity shop.

78 High Street

Grocers Edward and John Templer, James Hewitt, A Arnold and Rowland Hill are some of those who had businesses here.

Rowland moved to Lymington from Weymouth in 1896 on purchasing Mrs Hewitt's grocery business, founded by James Hewitt in 1878. He died of consumption in 1900, aged just 30, leaving his wife Louisa in charge followed by their son Rowland Jnr. The business was bought by International Stores, which sold out to Woolworths in 1959.

79 and 80 High Street

In the 1860s Henry Prince occupied No 79 as a cabinet maker, upholsterer and paper hanger while HT Bath, nurseryman and seedsman, had No 80. From the 1890s both buildings were taken over by Bath, who had moved to selling coal and corn. He was replaced by Cecil Barrow, who sold motorcycles and bikes here from 1919. Prior to that, Cecil had been employed as chauffeur to the Earl of Egmont at Avon Castle. He added a petrol pump to the right of the premises, with the storage tank beneath the shop floor. Cecil was also a motorcycle racer of some repute, competing in every Isle of Man TT race between 1925 and 1935, and a founder-member of the Lymington Motorcycle Club. Woolworths moved into the building in 1946 and from the 1980s also occupied No 78. These buildings are all now Poundland.

81 High Street

J Pedler and then his wife Martha had a butcher's shop here from the 1830s to the 1860s. By 1867 the business had become a tobacconist and remained in that use until the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society bought the building in the 1980s.

82 High Street

The Bugle Hotel, one of the town's many pubs, was here from at least 1675 until the 1960s. Parish meetings were held at the inn in the 18th century when a Mrs Robinson was the landlady. One later, long-serving landlord was Silas Dore. William Backhurst operated out of the yard of the Bugle Inn in the 1880s as a 'fly proprietor', which meant he hired out one-horse carriages (known as flies). The Backhurst family later expanded the business, hiring out coaches for special occasions and operating out of the Angel Yard. It is now Halifax.

83 High Street

Charles Blake, a saddler and maker of leather goods, had a store here from the 1850s to the 1890s. In 1931 the chain store Home & Colonial moved in and remained in operation until the 1980s. It is now the Dog's Trust.

84 High Street

Various small establishments have been based here including Martin's circulating library, a post office, tailor and coal and fuel merchants. Parts of the medieval timber-framed building can still be seen here; a survival because many side walls are party walls. The town's second post office was also based here, run by printer and bookseller Charles Watterson. It is now Sears Barbers.

85 High Street

For many decades shops on this site sold confectionary. The proprietor in 1908 was AC Last, a pastrycook and confectioner who also had refreshment rooms and catered for fetes, banquets and weddings. In the 1930s H Hopkins of Waterford Nurseries moved in. It became James florist in the 1950s and by the 1980s was estate agent Fox & Sons, now Hayward Fox.

86 High Street

Tailors, saddlers and bike sellers have all set up shop here, along with a shop called Coroanne that sold gowns in the 1950s.

87 High Street

George and Elizabeth Elliott founded their business here in 1872, selling clothes and footwear before moving to Nos 44-46 in 1890. By the 1910s the shop sold cards and toys and was run by Miss Woodford. Denis Piper had fond memories of the shop:

“Miss Woodford was a marvellous lady, wonderful with children. She would turn the shop inside out until she found what was suitable for the child.” It is now EE.

88 High Street

Richard Galpine ran Lymington’s first Post Office from here from 1806 to 1836, alongside his bookselling and printing business and circulating library. In 1825, the letters were ready for delivery about a quarter of an hour after the arrival of the London mail, which came in every morning about 10 o clock. When the Post Office moved to No 73, Klitz’s music emporium took over, which had been founded in 1789 by George Philip Glitz, a refugee from Hesse (now part of Germany) who later changed his name to Klitz. According to Raymond Klitz, George started off his business at a house in Captain’s Row and in those early days would go around the area, including the Isle of Wight, on horseback selling music. The shop moved to No 88 in 1840, where it sold musical instruments and sheet music. The whole family were very musical and were organists at St Thomas Church for over 50 years. The store remained in the family until 1981. It is now 3 Wishes.

By 1900, Klitz’s music emporium was being managed by William Lawson Klitz, who ran the business with his son Harold. The shop was refurbished that year – the posters in the window here advertise ‘the genuine sale’ of pianos, harmoniums and

7,000 copies of sheet music. The Lymington Chronicle reported enthusiastically on the refurbishment: *"The new shop presents a very high-class and artistic front to the High Street."*

Poster by Klitz & Sons inviting people to a grand concert at the Assembly Rooms. The poster has been printed by Richard Galpine, a bookseller and printer who operated out of No 88 before George Klitz took over the premises.

89 and 90 High Street

George F Saul, an ironmonger and seller of china and glass, ran a business in this building from the 1880s to 1937. It then became Timothy Whites & Taylors chemist before Boots took over the store in the 1980s.

91-92 High Street

The site of Lymington's first bank, St Barbe bank opened in 1788. It closed in 1826 when Charles moved the business to Bellevue House at No 48. James Corbin had the longest-running establishment at this site. He set up in the 1830s as a chemist and also a wine, spirit and stamp distributor. He went into partnership with a Mrs H Nike in the 1860s, J Hayward in the 1870s and Henry Parsons in the 1880s. In 1895 Edward Badcock took over the premises, trading as a silk mercer and cabinet maker until 1913 when he set up as an estate agent with Leonard Lewis, trading as Lewis & Badcock. They also had

premises across the road at No 40. After the second world war Peter Langham Browne took over the building. He was a draper, sold furniture and was an undertaker. In about 1980 the building was demolished and rebuilt and is now Costa.

91-92 High Street

Frederick Miller

Two views of a living room, thought to be 91-92 High Street, drawn by Frederick Miller in 1922.

93 High Street

Richard King and Henry Hookey occupied this building in the 1830s, then tailor John Ings. W Green set up as a pork butcher here in the 1890s, followed by the London Central Meat Co in the 1930s and Baxters butchers in the 1980s. Joules now occupies Nos 93 and 94.

The Old Town Hall

William Colborne

Pencil drawing of the old town hall in the 1840s. By 1710 the earlier town hall outside No 93 was considered unsuitable so Paul Burrard of Walhampton financed the construction of a larger building, which was to stand in the road outside Nos 105 to 106. The building was later demolished to improve access along the High Street.

94 High Street

Saddler and harness-maker Thomas Gray ran his business from here from the 1870s with his son JT Gray taking over the shop in 1908. Then followed an electrical goods store in the 1930s and a dyers and cleaners. When Baxters arrived next door in the 1980s they took over this building.

95 High Street

Grocers William Stephens and Henry H Cooper had shops here in the 1870s, followed by E Stone the tailor in the 1890s – who later moved to Nos 49-50. In the 1930s fruiterer RC Moore set up shop here and by the 1980s GC Bateman the opticians had opened. It is now Vision Express.

96 High Street

This was the site of the Crown inn, one of the most important coaching inns in Lymington from the mid-18th century. The inn was renamed the Anchor and Hope in the 1820s. Elizabeth Ackland, aged 90, was innkeeper in 1871. By 1875 her daughter Jane had taken over. The building burned down in 1905 and was rebuilt in mock-Tudor style. It remained a pub until the 1970s. The building has been divided with Burkmars occupying the right side.

97 High Street

Robert Stroud (bootmaker), Edward Pardey (estate agent, cabinet maker and upholsterer), O Bishop (greengrocer) and W Rickman all had shops here. It now houses Truffles confectioners.

98 High Street

Grocer John Hayward had a shop here in the 1870s. In the 1890s it housed Borough Stores and by the 1910s was the site of the Conservative Club and the Lymington Steam Bakery. It is now Seasalt.

99 High Street

From the 1860s to the 1890s this housed the drill instructor and armoury of the local company of the Voluntary Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment. These volunteer regiments served only in Britain, not abroad. Since then, the building has housed a painter, jeweller, taxi firm, greengrocers and wine merchant, among others.

100 High Street

Baker and confectioner Joseph Hookey had a shop here in the 1830s and again in the 1860s, followed by Eli Bollock in the 1870s. Frank Bran set up a fish, game, poultry and ice store in the 1910s which was taken over by MacFisheries in the 1930s. A little later it hosted a model shop run by Teddy Tuckerman. It is now Scrivens.

101 High Street

Edward Peat and Henry Badcock both ran chemist shops from here in the 19th century. While Henry operated the chemists, his wife kept a school for girls and boys above the shop. The building became a sports and travel goods store run by Fred Weeks (previously of No 26) from 1927 who also sold fireworks for bonfire night. It is now New Forest Cottages.

102 High Street

H St Barbe moved his solicitors' business to this building from No 72 in the 1890s. The building, along with No 103, was bought by Midland Bank in the 1930s, which is now part of HSBC.

103 High Street

Butcher William Gatrell had a shop here from the 1840s to the 1890s, followed by WJ Snook & Son and J Topp, all butchers.

104 High Street

Edward Badcock, draper, was based here in the 1860s. By the 1890s the site housed the International Tea Co, and the International Stores in the 1930s. It is now Superdrug.

105-106 High Street

Edward King (1821-1885) set up in business here in 1858. He had moved to London in 1845 when his father Richard remarried (a marriage he called 'unpleasing') but returned in 1855 and re-joined the family business, which had moved here from No 126, living with his family above the shop. By 1881 it had been taken over by his sons Richard and Charles. After Richard moved to London to open his own business in about 1890, Charles continued to run Kings, assisted by his daughters. He established the Popular Advertiser in 1891, printed the New Forest Magazine and produced a second edition of his father's book 'Old Times Revisited'. When he died of pneumonia in 1914 his wife Annie took over, joined by their son Edward in 1918. After Edward's death in 1974 his two daughters, Mary and Janet, continued to run the business until it was sold in 1988 to four staff members. It is now Waterstones.

The tall building behind No 106 with a prominent roof was built by Mr West, a previous occupant, for use as two music rooms which were later converted to printing works.

Edward King, on the far left, stands outside his shop in 1877 with Charles King in the doorway and Richard King by the window. Printers Meadows, Loader and Gatrell are to the right of the building. Edward was elected a councillor and an alderman and was three times mayor of Lymington in the 1870s. He also became very interested in the history of the

town and in 1879 published 'Old Times Revisited in the Borough and Parish of Lymington Hants'.

Kings of Lymington

Mary How

Watercolour painting of Kings of Lymington by Mary How, a professional artist and illustrator who produced many of the iconic 1960s Enid Blyton book covers. After moving to Milford and then Lymington, Mary travelled around the area recording local life, often painting dozens of pictures a week.

107 High Street

Jackman and Masters, estate agents, were based here from the early 1900s until the 1950s, when the building became part of the Angel Hotel. George Masters, one half of the partnership, was secretary of the Milford-on-Sea and Hordle Cottage Garden Society.

Inside the building, the ground floor ceiling is clearly visible and shows it to be largely a late medieval timber-framed structure, very similar to No 26 across the street. Joists run down the length of the front room in the medieval manner and the mouldings flatten out near the window where the beams rested on a horizontal timber in the front wall and projected over it as a jetty. In the room behind is a late brick chimney with an open hearth, into which two new walls and a small iron

range were inserted in the 1990s. The building is described in 1791 as consisting of a cellar, shop, parlour, kitchen, two bedchambers (on the first floor) and two garrets.

108-09 High Street

No 108 was originally the St Christopher, possibly a medieval inn. Perhaps the oldest inn in Lymington, it was established under the name of the George in about 1673. It was first called the Angel in 1756 and became an important coaching inn from as early as 1765. The front of the building is late Georgian with a Regency balcony. Inside it is clearly earlier, perhaps 17th century, with low ceilings and wooden beams. The back part of the ground floor protruding into the yard behind was the kitchen in the 18th and early 19th centuries and a large chimney stack can still be seen against the east wall outside.

No 109 was built in 1795 by James Baugham, then owner of the Angel, as the Assembly Rooms. These became an important centre of social life in the town and even housed an 'Electric Palace' or cinema, run by Elgar and Barnard, in the early 1900s. The Assembly Rooms were used as a Town Hall from 1858 to about 1914. Nos 107-108 are now the Angel and Blue Pig while No 109 houses White Stuff.

From 1858 to about 1914 the Assembly Rooms at No 109 became the Town Hall, with Council meetings held in its rooms. During this period many important announcements were made from the balcony of the Angel Hotel. In this photograph, the mayor and burgesses can be seen on the balcony of the Angel, which has been decorated for the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in 1902. Villiers Dent, the mayor, is addressing the crowd, while reporters to his left take notes. Also on the balcony is Canon Maturin, Vicar of St Thomas Church.

110-111 High Street

George Bennett and Sons, drapers, soft furnishers and complete outfitters, had a shop here from the 1860s to the 1950s. One side of the shop sold clothes and the other sheets and household items. The site has been a Tesco since the 1960s.

112 High Street

The Hapgood family, who were ironmongers, established their premises here in 1848. Ann Hapgood took over the business after her husband Arthur's death in 1898 and by the time of the 1911 census is listed as an ironmonger. The business lasted over a hundred years, finally closing in 1983 after the owner was fined for changing the windows without permission. It is now Friends Hair.

113 High Street

For many years the site of the Red Lion pub, this was mentioned in 1784 but was probably an inn even earlier.

Landlords included Anne Frye, Charles Tarver, Sarah Gauntlett, Albert Hapgood and Mr & Mrs Baker. The pub closed in about 1998. It is now Koh Thai.

Dating between 1880 and 1895, this photo shows a small group of people standing in the road outside the Red Lion. George Bennett & Sons at Nos 110-111 is probably the outfitters visible on the far left. Across the street Topp's the butcher can be seen with J Topp himself standing in front of the store. Lewis & Badcock are in the small store to his left at No 21.

The Red Lion

Robert E Groves

The Red Lion by painter and illustrator Robert E Groves, who came to live at Old Coastguard House in Lymington in the 1930s. Also visible in the drawing are Hapgoods, King's butchers at No 114 and a tiny bit of Johnson's cleaners and dyers at No 115.

114 High Street

Charles H Jones, confectioner, AE Green, watchmaker, and G Pardey, brick and lime merchant, all ran businesses from here until Miss King took over the building in the 1910s. It remained with the King family for a few decades, but by the 1950s was Arnolds Bookshop. Local photographer Myles Cooper was based here in the 1960s. It is now Sara Tiara.

115 High Street

The Bennett family were one of many who had butchers on the High Street. They were based here from the 1870s to the 1910s. Later Johnsons cleaners and dyers and then Bon Viveur bakers moved in. It is now Cobblers Kingdom.

116 High Street

Grocer William Hawkins had a shop here in the late 19th century and then Plumbly's Stores from the 1910s to the 1950s. The store was later split in two and now houses Esprit and Rohan.

Plumbly's general store can be seen on the far left of this photo, taken in the early 1900s, with the Lymington Steam Bakery run by Heyworth a few doors down at No 119. A carpenter is working in the window space at No 117 – these buildings were knocked down a few years later to make way for the Town Hall. Across the road the most prominent store is, as usual, Topp's the butcher at No 20 and it's just possible to make

out WJ Rugg at No 18. Notice the awnings outside many of the shops, the early car and the electric light standing in the road rather than on the pavement.

117 and 118 High Street

A chemist, estate agent, dental surgeon, music teacher and bootmaker Isaac Earley were just some of the businesses based here before the Town Hall was built in 1913. When Martha Earley died in 1910 she bequeathed Nos 117 and 118 to the Lymington Corporation for use as offices. As they were unsuitable, the buildings were demolished and a new town hall was built, financed by a gift from Ellen Hewett, Martha's sister-in-law. It was described briefly by Pevsner in his 1967 survey of Hampshire buildings as *"Three bays, brick and much stone. Baroque, with a cupola."* That building too was later demolished and replaced, with the Town Hall moving to Avenue Road in 1966. The new buildings house Fred Olsen Travel Agents and Hadleys Jewellers.

119 High Street

John Dixon, a photographer and seller of fancy goods, had a shop here in 1861. Later businesses included D Elgar (seller of china, glass and fancy goods), Lymington Steam Bakery and the Electric Light Company. The building was demolished, along with the Town Hall, and is now the entrance to Earley Court.

120 High Street

Various photographers including Mr Stephens, CW Bennett, FJ Arnott and Frederick Drew, made this building their home for many years. Arnott travelled around the New Forest from 1903 taking photos of the local area that he would then develop in the glass lean-to at the rear of the building. Drew, the last photographer to occupy the premises, retired in 1951. It is now Clarendon Fine Art.

121 High Street

Charles Carpenter had a hairdressing business here for a long time. Later proprietors were George Jenvey & JC Blachford and then Jack & Jill's baby shop. It is now The Wool Shop.

122 High Street

John Behr, pastry chef and confectioner, ran a business here from the 1850s to the 1880s, when he moved to premises on St Thomas Street. In 1932 Frederick Hall and his wife Victoria acquired the building from Mr Gauntlett who was a bookmaker. The site was taken over by Aldridge's Dairy in 1939. It is now Lounges.

Hall's

M L Keay

Frederick Hall and his wife Victoria sold fruit, vegetables, flowers, eggs, cigarettes and sweets from their shop, drawn

here in the 1930s. Many of the vegetables were grown in their large garden, which stretched back as far as the old police station in Gosport Road. Victoria catered for Cycling Tourist Union members during the summer and also ran a registry office for servants, charging half-a-crown when a vacancy was filled. Their son Jack helped deliver goods by bicycle over a five mile area and collected eggs from a farm near Sway. Victoria died suddenly of a cerebral haemorrhage in 1937 at the age of 49; her heartbroken husband followed a few weeks later.

123 High Street

Dressmakers, milliners, bootmakers and china sellers were some of the businesses here before HE Figgures set up a hardware, china, glass, 'talking machines' and record store in about 1913. He also took over the adjoining building, No 124, and by the 1950s had moved into No 122 as well and was selling radios, TVs and bikes.

124 High Street

For a few decades in the mid to late 1800s, ownership of this building switched between the Elgar and Lobb families, before the arrival of Henry Figgures in the 1910s. It is now Saltrock.

125 High Street

Silas Dore, landlord of the Bugle Inn, owned or resided in this property in the 1860s. In later years No 125 housed a tailor, bootmaker, butcher and building society. It is now Fells Gulliver.

126 and 127 High Street

Charles King, founder of Kings bookshop, came to Lymington in 1805, establishing a printing works and bookshop here while living in a cottage behind the building. The shop was partitioned, with one part used as a reading room. In 1817 Charles was joined by his nephew Richard but following a rift, caused when Richard married Elizabeth Jones who ran the bakery at No 127, Richard left to set up his own business. Although Richard lived at No 128, it's not known where his shop was located. When Kings moved out in the 1850s, tea dealer Thomas Palfrey, set up shop in No 127. By the 1930s the building had become the High Street East Post Office and stationers run by Mrs Sadler and her daughter. It is now Jojo Maman Bébé.

128 High Street

George Jefferd & Son, nurserymen, seedsmen and florists, had premises here in the 1870s while in the 1890s the shop housed the Singer Manufacturing Company. By the 1980s Fairweathers Garden Centre occupied the site. It is now the entrance to Cannon Court.

129 High Street

This building was once the site of various grocers and bakers, including Richard Booker (1870s-80s), Matthew Brothers (1890s) and Morgan Phillips (1910s-50s). It is now the Gilded Teapot.

130 High Street

George Goffe & Co (bootmaker), Mrs J Fifett (tobacconist), Jane Welton (fancy repository and post office), Mrs M Burton (leather seller), the Sunlight Dye Works and Hughes (fried fish) are just some of the businesses that have operated from here. The Barnes family took over the chip shop from 1954-75. It is now Deep Blue.

131 High Street

Also known as 'The Retreat', this building has principally been a residence. Since the 1980s its use has been combined with No 130.

132 High Street

This 18th century town house was once the home of the Oviat family, who had fishing fleets in Newfoundland. They would export fish hooks and salt from Lymington and bring back Mediterranean wine. From 1831 it became the presbytery of the Catholic priest and in 1859 Joseph Weld of Pylewell had a church built in the yard immediately behind the building, for

the growing Roman Catholic community. A Roman Catholic school was also built in 1859, behind the church. The school was replaced, then extended and finally relocated to Pennington in 2003.

133 High Street

Although principally a residence, Oriel House also housed, at various times, the county coroner, registrar and a surgeon. It was also the site of a small school run by Ethel Doman in the 1920s and 30s.

134 High Street

A residential property, this house has been occupied over the years by Joseph Hookey (who also had a bakery at No 100), Mrs S Adams, FJ Bendell and E Woodford.

135 and 136 High Street

WE Laing, bootmaker and outfitter, was based here in the 1890s, followed by Georgina Balls, who managed an outfitter and bootmaker's shop in 1911. She was assisted by her husband's nephew William Laing, implying that the business had remained in the family. It is now Lal Quilla.

137 High Street

James Malser owned Nos 137-9 in the 1840s. Later this building was used as a bootmaker, butcher, grocer and pram shop run

by Balls (whose main premises were across the road at Nos 2-5).

138 High Street

Eli Rickman set up a fruit and fish shop here in 1851, which remained open for over half a century. Now, combined with No 137, it is Quba & Co.

139 High Street

Bakers, confectioners and saddlers were based here before the building was demolished in about 1908 to widen the access to Gosport Street.

The High Street, possibly decorated for Edward VII's coronation in 1902. Oriel House is the tall building, bottom right. Across the road, signs are visible for Haskell's bootmaker which was at No 7 and the British and Colonial Meat Co. Taken by CFW Sage, who had a shop at No 120.

In these photos, taken just after the great snowstorm of January 1881, the pavements have been cleared but the snow is several feet deep on the road. Many local villages were cut off and more problems were caused by flooding when the snow eventually thawed. The photo on the left shows ironmonger

Smith & Hidden at No 90 (now Boots), when the building still had its beautiful bow window and balcony. Among the shops visible in the photo on the right are William Wilson at No 98 (far left) and the unfortunately named Eli Bollock, a baker based at No 100.