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*Louth Town Council*



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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Thanks are extended for assistance in the production of the editorial content of this guide to:**  
**Julie Coates • Jean Howard • David Robinson • Jill Makinson-Sanders • Canon Stephen Holdaway**  
**Jessica Marshall • John Barker • East Lindsey District Council • Louth Photographic Society • Louth Town Partnership**

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 Tel: 01233 643574 • Fax: 01233 641816 • Email: admin@pluspublishing.co.uk • www.pluspublishing.co.uk  
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# A VERY WARM WELCOME

IT is an honour for me, as Mayor of Louth, to warmly welcome you to this town guide and our beautiful town of Louth.

Louth, dominated by the towering spire of St. James' Parish Church, is one of Lincolnshire's leading market towns. Unspoilt Victorian and Georgian buildings give the town its very special character and the town centre still boasts its medieval street pattern.

Award winning independent shops, thriving street markets on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and Lincolnshire's last remaining cattle market make Louth a very special town for residents and tourists alike.

The town enjoys 21st century facilities with a brand new leisure centre, a three screen cinema and a thriving theatre. Louth has one of the area's leading indoor Tennis Centres, two golf courses, indoor and outdoor bowls clubs as well as a cricket club which has played on the same ground since George III was on the throne and numerous football pitches.

Louth is a cultural centre for its large hinterland with a much lauded Choral Society, award winning Male Voice Choir and excellent Ludensian Singers. International musicians play at the Concert Society and the town has its own Chamber Orchestra. There is an active Folk Club and a Jazz Club too. There are frequent art exhibitions in the town and an Art Trail and Louth looks forward to the Mansion House in Uppgate becoming an Arts' Centre in coming years.



*Mayor of Louth 2011/12  
Councillor Brian Burnett*

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The town has another unique claim to fame – half the town sits in the Western hemisphere and half is in the East! The town is the first major centre, going south from the North Pole, to sit astride the Greenwich Meridian from which time around the world is measured. The Meridian is marked by street plaques and metallic strips across footpaths in Eastgate, James Street and Kidgate. Whether you are a discerning visitor or you are fortunate enough to live here, I know you will agree that Louth has much to offer and is a cornucopia of history, art, culture and entertainment and in this guide you will find a wealth of information, things to do and interesting places to visit.

### **An Alternative Lincolnshire Dialect Welcome**

Now then, welcome to Loweth – we hope you enjoy yersens whilst yer here. It's a fairish plaäce, and no mistaäke, and a reckon yar'll ay yersen a rare owd time mantling about in it. But doänt do anything daft and get yersens far welter'd, otherwise you'll end up in a lot of flutherment and botheration.

### **Far Welter'd**

Far Welter'd, AKA the East Lincolnshire Dialect Society, is dedicated to celebrating Lincolnshire dialect, particularly as it is spoken in the east of the county. To do this, we hold informal gatherings four or five times a year to enjoy stories, poems and songs performed in dialect – good company, fine food, wonderful words: what more could you want? We also record local dialect speakers, and we hope eventually to create an archive for the benefit of future generations who may be denied the privilege of meeting some of the wonderful characters who still today use the rich tapestry of language that is Lincolnshire dialect. For more information contact Alan Mumby on 01507 600055 or alan743@btinternet.com



*Lincolnshire Flag*



*Mrs Linda Blankley, Town Clerk  
& Mrs Lynda Phillips, Secretary  
to the Town Clerk & Mayor*

## ***Louth Town Council***

*The Sessions House, Eastgate,  
Louth, Lincolnshire, LN11 9AJ  
01507 355895  
clerk@louthtowncouncil.gov.uk*



### **What is a Town Council?**

A Town Council is the tier of local authority closest to its community as it elects representatives from within that community. Parish and Town Councils are democracy on your doorstep.

### **How is Louth Town Council constituted?**

It consists of 21 elected Councillors, 3 for each of the 7 wards in Louth (North Holme, Priory, St. James', St. Margaret's, St. Mary's, St. Michael's and Trinity) which make up the Parish. Each year the Councillors elect one of their number to serve as the town's traditionally robed Mayor for the succeeding twelve months. Throughout the year the Mayor is engaged in a plethora of civic duties and community events and also operates a special Mayor's Charity Fund from which financial donations are made to local charities and good causes.

### **What decisions do Town Councils make?**

Town councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. The most common topics they get involved with being planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

### When does the Council meet?

The Council meets in the The Old Court Room at The Sessions House (former Magistrates Court) on Eastgate around 30 times a year on a Tuesday evening to deliberate and make decisions on local issues such as planning applications, the management of the cemetery and the maintenance of the town's public amenities including bus shelters, litter bins and Christmas Lights. The public are most welcome to attend any of the meetings of the Town Council and are invited to address the Councillors on any matter of local concern. Members of the Council are also appointed to outside bodies and take part in many working groups of the Council that support the Committee structure in their work.

### How does the Council work?

Town Councils are entitled to levy a tax from their area. This is known as the precept and covers the running costs for the Council. Running costs vary but town Councils are very cost effective, not least because most town Councillors do not claim allowances. Many Councils will also commission local tradesmen, which supports the local economy. Louth Town Council is working towards Quality Status which will enhance and improve the role of the Town Council for the overall benefit of Louth and might enable it to regain extra responsibilities that will broaden its service delivery to Louth.

The executive function of the Town Council is performed by the Town Clerk, Mrs. Linda Blankley who is also the Proper Officer and the Responsible Financial Officer of the Council. She is assisted in her duties by Mrs. Lynda Phillips Secretary to the Town Clerk and Mayor. There are also two further employees – the Cemetery Superintendent Mr. Alan Banks and his assistant Mr. Hamish Lyon based at the London Road Cemetery.



**Alan  
Banks**

**Hamish  
Lyon**

Councillors can be contacted by telephone, or by letter, either directly or through the Town Clerks office, the Town Council operates a website at [www.louthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.louthtowncouncil.gov.uk). Tel 01507 355895 or write to Louth Town Council, The Sessions House, Eastgate, Louth LN11 9AJ.

# GO↑GAS

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E: [gogas@fsmail.net](mailto:gogas@fsmail.net)



# LOCAL AUTHORITY COUNCILLORS

STD Code= (01507)

## North Holme Ward



MS LAURA M.  
STEPHENSON  
21 Ludgate, Louth LN11 ONW  
608620

VACANCY  
Election November 2011



FRANCIS W. P. TREANOR  
Charmwood, 4 Beck Way,  
Louth LN11 8XH  
606678

East Lindsey District Councillor - Philip E. Sturman, Pear Tree Cottage, Church Walk, Legbourne LN11 8LJ - 606965  
Lincolnshire County Councillor - Mrs. Pauline Watson, 35a St. Mary's Lane, Louth LN11 ODU - 607815

## Priory Ward



JAMES O.  
POCKLINGTON  
23 Little Lane, Louth LN11 9DT  
607252



TREVOR F. MARRIS  
Spring Lodge, Lincoln Road,  
Welton Le Wold LN11 0QU  
601404



MRS. SUE LOCKING  
7 Mercer Row, Louth  
LN11 9JG  
609709

East Lindsey District Councillor - Mrs Sarah Dodds, 32 Hawthorne Avenue, Louth LN11 0LD - 07907 775334  
Lincolnshire County Councillor - John D. Hough, The Farmhouse, East Row, South Somercotes LN11 7BN - 358650

## St. James' Ward



ANDREW  
LEONARD JP  
55 Uppgate, Louth LN11 9HD  
606488



MRS. MARGARET  
OTTAWAY MBE  
8 Eastgate, Louth LN11 9NE  
606902



MRS. PAULINE WATSON  
35a St. Mary's Lane,  
Louth LN11 ODU  
607815

East Lindsey District Councillor - Mrs Pauline Watson, 35a St. Mary's Lane, Louth LN11 ODU - 607815  
Lincolnshire County Councillor - Mrs Pauline Watson, 35a St. Mary's Lane, Louth LN11 ODU - 607815



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## LOUTH TOWN GUIDE

### St. Margaret's Ward



JACK F. WOOD  
21 Ludgate,  
Louth LN11 ONW  
608620



CHRIS GREEN  
35 Harveys Lane,  
Louth LN11 8BP  
602390



FERGUS ROBERTSON  
31 Albany Road,  
Louth LN11 8ET  
602586

East Lindsey District Councillor - Ms Laura M. Stephenson, 21 Ludgate, Louth LN11 ONW - 608620  
Lincolnshire County Councillor - Mrs Pauline Watson, 35a St. Mary's Lane, Louth LN11 ODU - 607815

### St. Mary's Ward



BRIAN BURNETT  
6 Southlands Avenue,  
Louth LN11 8EW  
604266



DAVID E. WING  
The Farthings, 46 Tudor Drive,  
Louth LN11 9EE  
602735



MRS JILL  
MAKINSON-SANDERS  
7 Westgate, Louth LN11 9YN  
600743

East Lindsey District Councillor - Mrs Jill Makinson-Sanders, 7 Westgate, Louth LN11 9YN - 600743  
Lincolnshire County Councillor - John D. Hough, The Farmhouse, East Row, South Somercotes LN11 7BN - 358650

### St. Michael's Ward



MRS EILEEN BALLARD JP  
29 Albany Road,  
Louth LN11 8ET  
604975

VACANCY  
Election November 2011



GEORGE E. HORTON JP  
8 Stewton Lane,  
Louth LN11 8RZ  
606578

East Lindsey District Councillor - George E. Horton JP, 8 Stewton Lane, Louth LN11 8RZ - 606578  
Lincolnshire County Councillor - John D. Hough, The Farmhouse, East Row, South Somercotes LN11 7BN - 358650

### Trinity Ward



FABIAN G. COONGHE  
Fourways, Grimoldby,  
Louth LN11 8ST  
328210



MRS GILL BURTON  
37 Wallis Road,  
Louth LN11 8DT  
609282



ROGER FEATHERSTONE  
182 Eastgate,  
Louth LN11 9AG  
07900524021

East Lindsey District Councillor - Mike Preen, 2 Horncastle Road, Louth LN11 9LD - 601142  
Lincolnshire County Councillor - John D. Hough, The Farmhouse, East Row, South Somercotes LN11 7BN - 358650



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[www.enfieldfarmcottages.co.uk](http://www.enfieldfarmcottages.co.uk)

# LOUTH PUBLIC SERVICE LISTINGS

STD Code = (01507)

## Emergency Services

(For all emergencies - Police, Ambulance, Fire & Coastguard ring 999 or 112)

Louth & District Hospice	354545
Louth County Hospital, High Holme Rd	600100
Medical Loan Service (British Red Cross)	608531
Police Station, Eastfield Road	604744
Social Services, Eastfield House, Eastfield Rd	600800
St. Andrew's Children's Hospice	01472 350908
St. Barnabas Hospice	617769

## Household Emergencies

Anglian Water	0845 791 9155
British Gas Electricity	0845 788 8400
Environment Agency	
- 24 hour Emergency Hotline	0800 80 70 60

National Gas Emergency Service	0800 111 999
Yorkshire Electricity	0800 375 675

## Local Government

East Lindsey District Council	601111
Lincolnshire County Council	01522 552222
Louth Town Council	355895
Registrar - Births, Marriages and Deaths	01522 782244
Louth Town Partnership	07917628149

## Public Toilets

Bus Station - Church Street, - Baby changing (in unisex toilet) & disabled facilities.

Eastgate - Baby changing (in ladies toilet) & disabled facilities

Hubbards Hills

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## LOUTH TOWN GUIDE

### Postal Services

Brackenborough Road Sub-Post Office 602717  
 Post Office, Northgate 600424  
 Sorting Office & Parcel Collection,  
 Eastgate 602777

### Doctors Surgeries

James Street Family Practice, James St 611122  
 Kidgate Surgery, Queen Street 602421  
 Newmarket Medical Centre 603121

### Dentists

Bridge Street Dental Care 603081  
 Broadbank Dental Surgery, 2 Broadbank 606506  
 Eastgate House Dental Centre,  
 129 Eastgate 602936  
 Louth Dental Care (Ishak Practices Ltd) 601367  
 Louth Family Dental Practice,  
 23 Queen Street 603200  
 NHS Direct (emergency) 0845 4647

**NB** Access to NHS services may be subject to change.

### Primary Schools

Eastfield Infant & Nursery School 603376/608900  
 Greenwich House School 609252  
 Kidgate Primary School 603636

Lacey Gardens Junior School 602082  
 St. Michael's C of E Primary School 603867

### Secondary Schools

Cordeaux School - A Specialist  
 Engineering College 606555  
 King Edward VI Grammar School 600456  
 Monk's Dyke Technology College 606349

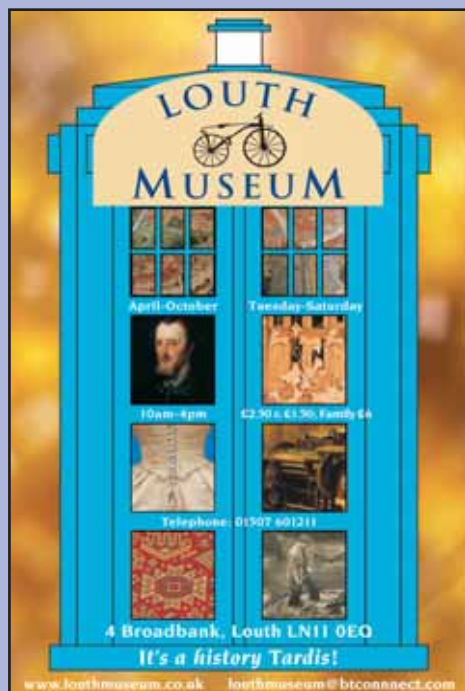
### Special Schools

St. Bernard's Community Special School 603776

### Further Education

First College 601122  
 Lincolnshire Rural Activities Centre,  
 Kenwick Park 608855  
 U3A 609016  
 Wolds College 610204  
 Workers' Educational Association 601072

**NB** A list of recreation, leisure and community groups and their contact numbers can be found at [www.louthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.louthtowncouncil.gov.uk). If you would like your number adding to this list or to request a change to the contact details listed please inform the Town Council on [admin@louthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@louthtowncouncil.gov.uk) or on 355895.



## Louth & District Branch



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# THE SESSIONS HOUSE

THE Sessions House on Eastgate was built in 1874 and was originally home to Louth Magistrates' Court, but following the mothballing of the Court in 2008 the building was left empty and without purpose. However, on 2nd February 2011 Louth Town Council purchased the building and following minimal internal redecoration moved its offices, staff and possessions there in May 2011 to begin a new chapter of its history. This new home for the Town Council provides much improved facilities for both staff and visitors at no extra cost on council tax bills and with the added advantage of providing the town with a community owned asset.



The Council's limited accommodation at the Victorian town hall, once the property of the Town Council transferring into the ownership of East Lindsey District Council on local government re-organisation in 1974, has long been cramped and inadequate and Councillors had been looking out for more suitable accommodation for some time. So when the court service put the building, next to the former Police Station, on the market the Council was keen to explore the possibility of moving.

The old courthouse offers more spacious accommodation and provides security of tenure for the Town Council. The move also allows the Council to take better

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advantage of the opportunities offered by the new Localism Agenda.

Councillors are also keen to explore the idea of creating an information hub at the new premises and a Family History Centre. The former courtroom, is now the main meeting room of the Council and enjoys much better acoustics than the council have previously been privy to. The room will also be used for inquests (commencing January 2012), and has already been used to stage school visits and heritage open days. The old court room is now home to the unique Brown's Panorama and other art works of the Town Council, which can be viewed by individuals and community groups on Wednesday and Friday mornings and at other times by appointment.

The quality of service provided by Louth Town Council has been substantially improved by working from more suitable premises with dedicated parking for service users, elected members and council officers. The increased office space will result in ratepayers enjoying greater privacy in particular when dealing with sensitive matters such as burials.

The Council intends to repay the cost of buying the building within 10 years.

# LOUTH TOWN PARTNERSHIP

FORMED in 2010, the Louth Town Partnership is made up of volunteers working alongside Town Manager Alison Hall and Chairman Peter Atterby.

The members of the Partnership come from a range of backgrounds and are all committed to driving forward improvements for the town.

Alison (right) was appointed in spring 2011, moving to Louth from a similar job in Rotherham in Yorkshire.

Drawing on Alison's experience, the Partnership has produced a strategy for promoting the town's unique offer to increase visitors and to make it even more attractive and welcoming for local residents.

The Partnership has increased its efforts on promoting the distinctive day-time offer and markets, encouraging people to shop locally. Building on its fantastic geographical location and quaint and unique shops, Louth Town Partnership also markets the area to tourists to increase visitor numbers. By promoting the town's offer, the Partnership is ensuring that the local independent shops, which make this town so special, continue to be supported well.



**Town Manager  
Alison Hall**

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*(We are not very posh because we are not very rich)*

## LOUTH TOWN GUIDE

Growing a town centre events' programme forms part of the drive to continuously attract people to the town. 2012 will see the Partnership organising events to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and building on existing popular events such as the Food Festival and Victorian Family Fayre as well as introducing a Summer Festival of events to include art, dance, music and much more... The Town Partnership will also lead on entering Louth in the East Midlands in Bloom competition in this special year.

Once visitors arrive in the town, Louth Town Partnership wants to ensure the area is as welcoming as possible, therefore volunteers are heading up community clean up projects, efforts to enhance planting and floral displays, tidying up vacant and disused buildings and working in partnership with the local Police to ensure anti-social behaviour is kept to an absolute minimum.

Louth Town Partnership also aims to develop and secure a sustainable Manufacturing and Service Industry in the town to grow local job opportunities and the overall economy.

As well as working with the town's businesses, the Partnership also works closely with the local community and particularly young people to reinforce their ownership of the town. Three working groups, which anyone interested can attend, meet regularly to drive and deliver projects.

For more information about Louth Town Partnership and its activities in the town, or to join one of the working groups, please contact Town Manager Alison Hall on 07917628149 or email: [alison.hall@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:alison.hall@e-lindsey.gov.uk)



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# BUSINESS IN LOUTH

BUSINESS in Louth continues to flourish with a high number of new ventures being set up.



The recently completed Fairfield Enterprise Centre, just a stone's throw from the busy A16, is another significant statement of confidence in the commercial future of the town. The centre has been built to support and encourage the growth of new business opportunities in Louth and the surrounding area. It provides 36 modern office units, ranging from 20 to 50sq m, alongside conference facilities and intensive business support for "pre-start, start-up and spin-out" companies in East Lindsey. Industrially, Louth continues to develop consistently and most of the plots developed in recent

years on Louth's Fairfield Industrial Estate have already been sold. The estate has enjoyed a successful decade post-extension, attracting a diverse mix of businesses ranging from plastics and packaging manufacturers to the Honda Super-bike race team. Added to this, a number of exciting commercial and leisure projects have been delivered or are under discussion which could further extend the diverse mix of estate businesses.

In the town centre the Hairy Bikers thought that Louth was "A great foodie centre". With its fine quality traditional food, pride in local produce, award winning food outlets, wide range of speciality shops, street and farmers' markets and its rich agricultural heritage this authentic Georgian Market Town truly justifies its claim as "The Larder of Lincolnshire". Louth offers a

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unique shopping experience with its fabulous array of speciality shops selling everything from fashion to furniture, cookware to crafts. It has a shop to suit all pockets and most are still family owned stores. Its weekly markets have been held since at least King Henry III granted Louth its first charter in 1236 and it is thought that markets existed here even before then. Today markets are held every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday in the Cornmarket and Market Place. Louth also has two farmers' markets a month on every second Friday and fourth Wednesday and it is home to Lincolnshire's last remaining Cattle Market which takes place every Thursday on Newmarket. The Cattle Market is also home to a regular Saturday Auction where everything under the sun comes under the auctioneer's hammer.

Anyone needing any business support information can contact the Economic Development Unit at East Lindsey District Council on 01507 601111. The Louth Town Partnership also has a thriving Business Group who are always keen to recruit new members too.

# LOUTH AS A VISITOR DESTINATION

A number of complimentary tourism and leisure facilities currently exist, including:

- St. James' Church.
- Louth Golf Club and Kenwick Golf Club.
- Town Hall – Imposing mid-nineteenth century building with magnificent ballroom and Compton theatre organ.
- Westgate – A road of fine Georgian houses parallel with the river.
- Mansion House – Mid-eighteenth century Assembly Rooms Grade II\*. Currently not open to the public.
- Spout Yard Park.
- The Gatherums and Springside.
- Louth Museum.
- Hubbard's Hills.
- Westgate Fields – Public amenity area along south bank of river Lud.
- Cinema – 3 screens.
- Louth Art Trail.
- Louth Town Centre Market – on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.
- Farmers Markets – held every 2nd Friday and every 4th Wednesday of each month.
- Livestock Market – held every Thursday at Newmarket.
- Meridian Line – Plaques mark where Greenwich Meridian passes through Eastgate, Louth.
- Riverhead Theatre.
- Riverhead and Canal – A restored warehouse at the canal basin, a Louth Navigation Trust Heritage Centre. Towpath walk.
- Sessions House – displaying Contemporary nationally important town panorama paintings.
- State of the art Leisure Centre.



# ST JAMES' CHURCH

THE Parish Church of St. James is a landmark in the beautiful rolling countryside of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The church is the focal point in the centre of this thriving, historic market town with a Georgian heart.

St James boasts the tallest Parish Church of England spire (295 feet) in the country. The magnificent late 15th century church, which replaced earlier 11th and 13th century churches, is recognised as one of the finest Gothic churches in the country. The chancel and nave were re-built 1430-40 but the tower and the soaring spire were not completed until 1515. Records show that the church was richly endowed with five subsidiary chapels and altars and a 3 storey roof screen. The historic Sudbury Hutch, which dates back six centuries, was presented to the church in 1503 and the oak chest features carved medallions showing Henry VII and Elizabeth of York.



The widespread national discontent resulting from Henry VIII's taxation and ecclesiastical changes culminated in St. James' Church in October 1536 when discontented Ludensians mustered to launch the Lincolnshire Rising. This rebellion, which seriously threatened the Crown, gathered more followers nationwide to become the Pilgrimage of Grace which marched on London. Sadly

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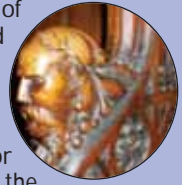
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the repression of the Tudors, coupled with the onslaught of Puritanism, resulted in St. James' losing much of its wealth and treasures and the loss of the rood screen.



The evangelical revival of the late 18th century saw the church filled with seating and galleries to hear the preaching of the Word. The church roof had to be re-built in 1825. A major restoration was undertaken mid-19th century when the galleries were removed and the present pews, choir stalls, font and high altar were added as part of a scheme designed by James Fowler (right), a local architect and five times Mayor of Louth. The impressive stained glass is Victorian and Edwardian, the Nave windows illustrating Old Testament stories and the Chancel New Testament stories. The church interior was cleaned and re-painted in the 1980s when the original 15th century font was recovered from the rectory garden and returned to its proper use and the great East and West windows were cleaned and renovated recently by a Yorkshire company.

The church has a magnificent organ, with thirty-seven speaking stops and three manuals and pedals.

The church bells are a ring of eight recast in 1726 by Daniel and John Hedderley, bell founders of Derby. It is the heaviest eight-bell peal in Lincolnshire and the eighth heaviest in the country.

St. James' Church is a working church. Visitors may see the magnificent church spire as they cross the Wolds to reach Louth but nothing prepares them for the sight of the interior of the building.

Church guides give tours, the church has its own shop and there is a pretty cafe under the tower serving Fairtrade refreshments.

For the fit there is the opportunity to climb the tower (197 or is it 198 steps?) and visitors are rewarded with stunning views of the town and surrounding countryside.

The church has a fine choral tradition which is celebrated at its weekly services.



[www.stjameschurchlouth.com](http://www.stjameschurchlouth.com)

## BROWN'S PANORAMA OF LOUTH

WHEN lightning struck the spire of St James's Church early in Queen Victoria's reign, a local painter took advantage of the opportunity to climb the scaffolding supporting the tower to make a bird's eye record of the town beneath.

William Brown created a series of detailed sketches which he then transferred on to two large linen canvases, a painting which is now known locally as Brown's Panorama.

Now restored by the town council and on display at the Old Sessions House in Eastgate, the paintings are a unique record of life in an early Victorian market town. The detail is exceptional, there are children playing with hoops and tops in the street, a flock of sheep being driven to market and a funeral advancing to the Old Cemetery – there are intricate gardens, haystacks and windmills galore and lots more! Interestingly Louth town's unusual street pattern remains the same today....

This fascinating art form was highly regarded at the time Brown painted his masterpiece, manned flight was very much in its infancy so it brought a new dimension to people's perception of the landscape. Very few have lasted the test of time and with the disappearance of the London Panorama it is thought that the 360 degree Brown's Panorama of Louth is unique in this country. It has been exhibited at the Colnaghi Gallery in London to great acclaim.

The Panorama was unveiled to the public at the Mansion House in Upgate and Brown had hoped to make his fortune from selling prints. Unfortunately this was not to be! The paintings then disappeared for nearly a century and were re-discovered in a poor state of repair by the then Mayor Coun Slack who oversaw their renovation with financial help from the National Art Collection Fund and local donations. More recently the Town Council had further restoration work carried out by one of the country's leading conservators, Kiffy Stainer-Hutchins.

The painting can be viewed on Wednesday and Friday morning between 10am and 12 noon or on other days by appointment.



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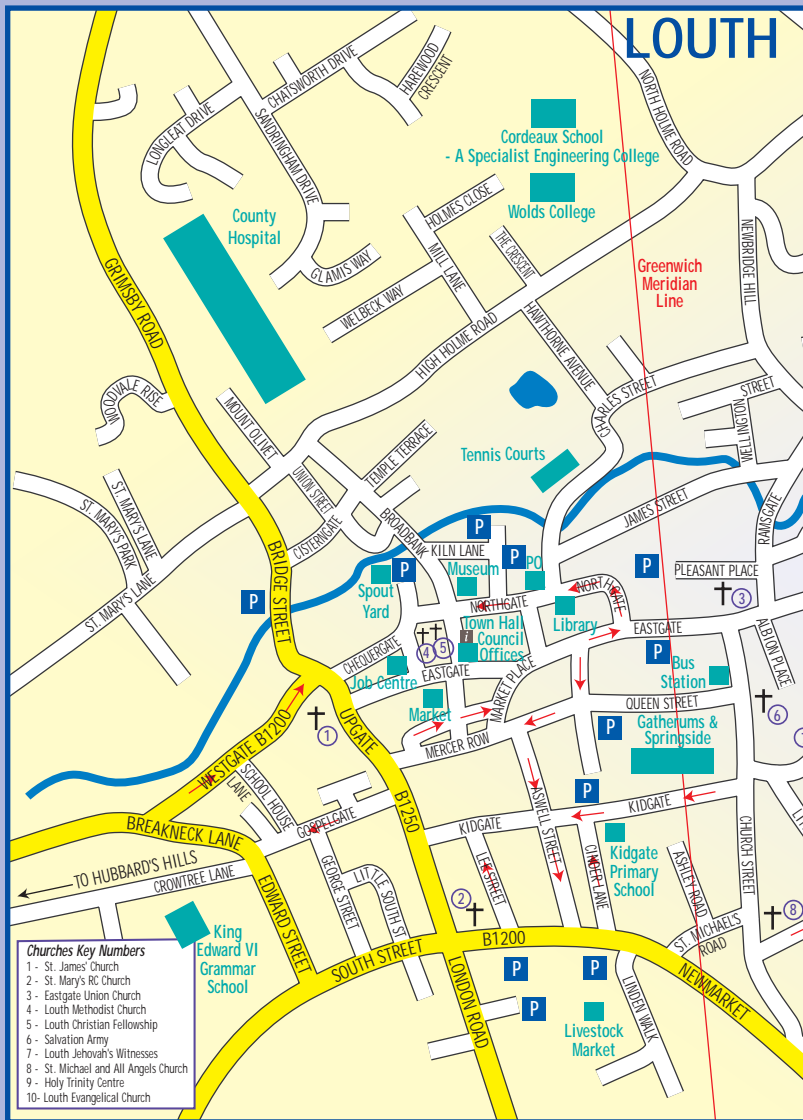
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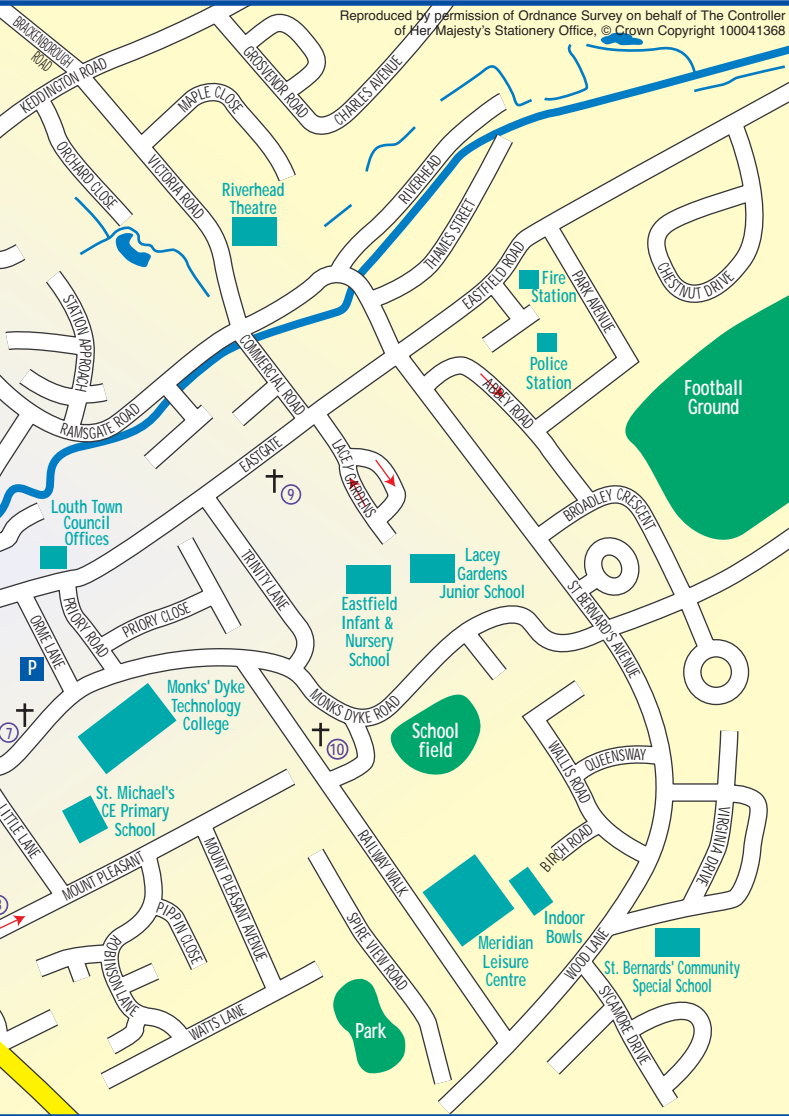


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# HUBBARD'S HILLS

HUBBARD'S Hills on the western edge of the town has a very special place in local hearts.

The Hubbard's Hills Trust, which for the last two years has overseen the restoration of the town's leading beauty spot, has now completed its first public consultation leading up to the finalisation of its first Management Plan.

The plan has been put together by local tree expert Mark Hudson working with Lincolnshire Wolds' Chalk Stream officer Ruth Snelson and is designed to balance the demands of public use whilst respecting the environment. Financing this important piece of work has been possible thanks to a very generous grant from the Wolds Countryside Service.



The Hills, a wooded valley chiselled out of the chalk in the last Ice Age, lies on the edge of the Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It was gifted to the town as a result of a large sum of money left in the will of Auguste Alphonse Pahud to provide a lasting memorial to his beloved wife Annie, a local farmer's daughter. This wonderful living memorial is one of Louth's greatest and most loved treasures.

The town turned out in great numbers on August 1 1907 to celebrate the opening of the Hills and since then generations of local people have flocked in their thousands to enjoy its natural beauty.



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Children have happy memories of playing on the stepping stones and then enjoying a picnic on the water meadow. Feeding the ducks is a popular local pastime and even on the coldest days of winter the dog walkers and their pets are out enjoying a crisp walk.

It is planned to reintroduce water voles, an endangered species, to the Hills and with improvements to the river it is hoped that small fishes will return too. They look cute but sadly the colonies of grey squirrels, along with rabbits, cause a great deal of damage in the Hills. They feast on succulent tree bark and evidence of the damage they cause is easily seen on dead and dying trees. At night there are foxes on the prowl and badgers come out too. Owls and birds of prey are often spotted in the Hills but it is the ducks, moorhens and coots which catch everyone's eye!

The Trust is now working with a professional, locally based fundraiser to pull together a business plan, based on the requirements of the management plan, and then hope to attract sponsorship and grant aid to return the Hills to its former splendour and ensure the future of the beauty spot for the next 100 years.

Anyone who would like more information on the Trust and on Hubbards Hills can find them on the internet on [www.hubbardshills.co.uk](http://www.hubbardshills.co.uk).



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# SPOUT YARD PARK



SPOUT YARD is a town park and gallery 'In the Heart of Louth' which is entirely staffed and maintained by volunteers to an exceptionally high standard. Open all year round, the park has a kiosk selling snacks (opening times vary), gardens, seating and picnic tables and two separate play zones, one with equipment for toddlers and one with equipment for older children. Seating is numerous and sited so that whatever your mood or purpose for visiting there is an area to suit and with its enviable location next to a shallow section of the river Lud the park is perfect to entertain children on hot days with a chance to cool their feet in the refreshing water.

Spout Yard Park Trustees plan a full community programme throughout the calendar year – see the notice board on the wall in Enginegate for further details and events include Carol singing by lamplight a popular fixture before Christmas and holiday art projects run with local artists.

**Performance** in the Park – local groups perform plays and give concerts throughout the summer on the purpose built stage area and **Art** in the Park – Local artists exhibit in The Gallery throughout the year.

Spout Yard Park really is picturesque with something for everyone.



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# THE GATHERUMS AND SPRINGSIDE

THIS unusual name derives from the Danish 'gata' meaning a road or way, and was originally a track between old enclosures and the cultivated South Field of the parish. Today it connects Church Street and Aswell Street, with access also from Kidgate and Queen Street.

The lowly west end, known as Aswell Hole, is the site of a pool fed by the Aswell Spring, originally Ashwell, being a spring near an ash tree, renowned for healing properties in Celtic and Anglo-Saxon times. In the medieval period it was a vital supply for fulling mills along Walkergate (now Queen Street), the name derived from men treading or walking on cloth in running water to full (scour or thicken) it. In the 19th and early 20th centuries the water was used by breweries and a corn mill.



A short distance from the hollow is an iron grating with the sound of the St Helen spring still running. She was a popular saint in medieval times. In the 12th century the Cistercian lay brothers dug a ditch – the Monks' Dyke – from the spring to supply fish ponds at Louth Park Abbey. Both springs are now culverted.

In the 19th century and until the middle of the 20th the Gatherums was lined with tightly packed terraced houses for labourers and workers. The houses stood in an area known as Springside, which has been transformed by the Gatherums and Springside Regeneration Group and is now a pleasant, open grassed area with communal seating area that straddles the Greenwich Meridian. In 2011 the group unveiled plans to restore Aswell Hole and the ancient horse steps that lead out to Aswell Street.

A recent addition to the area are raised garden beds tended by local residents to promote the benefits of organic home grown vegetables.

## Lost in Louth?

In 2007/08 The Gatherums and Springside Regeneration Group funded by ACE East Midlands, LCSi, National Lottery, East Lindsey District Council and supported by Groundwork Eastmidlands began the Lost in Louth Project a series of permanent interconnected

artwork signs (example right) that feature directions to the Gatherums, collected while under the pretense of being lost in Louth (with each sign sited at the place the directions were given).



# TASTES OF LINCOLNSHIRE



**Louth Indoor Market**

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Whether it is a simple snack, a long lunch or a sumptuous supper, taste the Lincolnshire difference in country pubs, cafes, restaurants, delis and farm shops.

Louth is known as the capital of the Wolds, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with locally produced food and drink at its heart.

Regular farmers' markets offer some of the area's finest selection of produce, including Lincolnshire's own rare breeds of Lincoln Red Beef and Lincoln Long Wool.

Louth has some of the very finest butchers in the whole of Lincolnshire, many of them winning national accolades for the quality of their produce. Louth butchers serve up some of the county's finest beef, lamb and pork including Lincolnshire specialties haslet (dark meat minced with bread and sage) and stuffed chine (ham joints deeply scored and stuffed with fresh parsley) eaten in thin slices. Try genuine Lincolnshire sausages homemade by the town's leading butchers as well as some of the best steaks in the country.

The town's independent bakeries offer a tasty selection of homemade bread, cakes and pastries.



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A county favourite, Lincolnshire plum bread, is a spicy fruit filled loaf made to a closely guarded individual recipe. It is especially delicious when eaten with locally produced Poacher cheese or Cotehill, both produced near Louth, and also makes a wicked bread and butter pudding too!

Louth also boasts its own brewery and there are now local ciders on sale too.

Cool down with an ice cream from Applebys', stock up on sausages from Meridian Meats, have a coffee at Kenwick Farmhouse Nurseries, pop in for lunch at Perkin's Pantry or have your evening meal at Melanie's restaurant. All of these establishments proudly boast their support of locally sourced produce within Louth. Or if you are



*Lincolnshire Plum Bread*

holidaying here consider staying at Enfield Farm Cottages, West View B&B and Cottages or Brackenborough Hall Coach House Holidays, all of whom offer a warm, Tastes of Lincolnshire welcome to their guests.

Sit down to eat, as well as buy, in Louth! There are a wide range of places to eat, including traditional tea rooms, restaurants and an extensive choice of pubs. Look out for the Tastes of Lincolnshire logo and head for these establishments for good quality produce.

Louth has a food heritage to be proud of, so if you love food Louth is definitely the place to be.



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# ENJOY THE COUNTRYSIDE ON YOUR DOORSTEP



LOUTH lies on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

This gentle landscape with its gurgling chalk streams, rolling hills and unspoilt villages is the highest ground between Kent and Yorkshire, rising to over 150m to the west.

The Wolds was designated an AONB back in 1973 and as such the beautiful rural area is protected by law. This living landscape, dotted with farms, is crossed by peaceful footpaths and cyclist friendly lanes, offering a very special charm for visitors and residents to enjoy as the seasons unfold.

The Wolds Countryside Service organises events in the Wolds throughout the year and they have also published an excellent series of both walk and cycle trail leaflets. Louth now has Walkers are Welcome status and each year in May the Wolds Walking Festival offers walkers of all abilities an interesting and varied range of local walks to enjoy.

For the energetic there is the 14 mile 'Round Louth' walk. This walk circles the historic town, following footpaths and tracks over fields offering great views of St James' spire from every direction. If the distance is too much for one day, there are links back to the town along the route, making it ideal to complete in sections.

All the walks and rides can be downloaded from the internet on [www.lincswolds.org.uk](http://www.lincswolds.org.uk) or call at the Tourist Information Centre at the Town Hall on Cannon Street or from the Wolds Countryside Service at the Riverhead.

Whatever time of year it is, the countryside around Louth is well worth a visit.

## LOUTH CEMETERY

THE Greenwich Meridian not only cuts through Louth town centre it also dissects the Louth Cemetery – so for over 150 years local families have had the choice of being buried in either the eastern or the western hemispheres of the world!

The town council runs Louth Cemetery and holds registers of burials dating back to the last century, ideal for anyone who wants to trace their family history. A room at the Sessions' House is set aside for anyone wanting to further these studies.

Interestingly there is another link between the cemetery and the Sessions' House. Pride of place in the main room is the magnificent Brown's Panorama and when he was not busy painting the intricate detail, William Brown was something of a campaigner.

Brown was appalled that the Old Cem was full to overflowing and that visitors to the graves literally did get more than they bargained for....The site was past its useful life and it was William Brown, who through his newspaper links with the Stamford Mercury, led the fight to have the land



# HISTORY OF LOUTH

## The Beginnings

LOUTH originated in Saxon times either side of the River Lud where it was crossed by the ancient trackway along the east edge of the Wolds. The name derives from Hlud or Loud, referring to the fast flowing river that powered up to 13 watermills.

The Danes left their mark in today's street names, where gata means 'a way': Chequergate, Cisterngate, Eastgate, Westgate and Uppgate. With Christianity came St. Mary's Church, on the site of the Old Cemetery, and the first Church on the site of St. James'.

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, Louth had a population of about 600, and was one of only five boroughs in Lincolnshire and of only fifty markets in England. As lord of the manor, the Bishop of Lincoln created a planned town east of Uppgate with a large open space for a market, now divided by the buildings between Mercer Row and the Cornmarket.

As Louth's importance grew as the trading centre between Wolds and Marsh, by 1300 the population had grown to 2,000 and there were two annual 8-day fairs. Farmsteads were in the town, the two parish hedgeless open fields, North and South, were ploughed in the furlong strips by the oxen and horses, and there was common grazing and meadow pasture by the river east of the town, all controlled by the Manorial Court. This communal farming system survived until the beginning of the 19th century when Parliamentary enclosure created today's familiar pattern of fields and hedges.

## Louth Park Abbey

The abbey at Louth Park just east of the town was founded in 1139. The Cistercian Order had a reputation as sheep farmers and the income was devoted to building a large cruciform abbey church. Chalk from Louth quarries and sandstone from the Wolds was floated along the Monks' Dyke which carried water from St. Helen's spring in the Gatherums to the abbey fishponds. When completed in the first half of the 13th century, it was nearly as wide as Lincoln Cathedral and 70 feet longer than St. James's Church. The abbey complex housed a community of 66 monks and around 150 lay brethren.

## The Black Death

East Lindsey in the early 14th century suffered famine and distress from coastal flooding and heavy rains. Then came the summer-time disease born by the fleas of the black rat – the Black Death. The chronicler of Louth Park Abbey wrote: 'In the year of our Lord 1349 the scourge in many places left less than a fifth part of the population surviving'. Among them was the abbot, William de Luda.

## Wealth from Wool

The prosperity of Louth merchants owed much to the long staple of sheep reared on the Wolds and grazed on the 'rich fattening pastures' of the Marsh. This led to the building of the great parochial church in the Perpendicular style. The 13th century church of the St. Herefrith was lengthened and widened in the 1440's, and rededicated to St. James. The Bishop of Lincoln, as lord of the manor, and the rector paid for the chancel, and the people's nave held seven chantries and altars, a three-storey rood screen with an organ, and even an equestrian statue.

The crowning glory of the spire soaring to 295 feet was built of Ancaster limestone between 1501 and 1515. The cost - £305 8s 5d – came from collections, burial and bell-tolling fees and gifts from the devout.

### The Lincolnshire Rising

The dissolution of Louth Park Abbey in September 1536 brought home to the people of Louth the meaning of what Henry VIII was doing in seizing property. The parish church, then Roman Catholic, had many precious vessels and vestments, and rumour was abroad that the King wished to seize them also. On Sunday 1st October at High Mass and at Evensong the vicar, Thomas Kendall, warned the congregation of an impending visit by the Bishop's steward.

Next morning an armed and unruly mob was about in the town, and two commissioners who were dissolving the nunnery at Legbourne were seized and put in the stocks. The rising or rebellion – for such it was – rapidly spread to Horncastle and Caistor and 30,000 men marched on Lincoln. Their petition to the King was rebuffed with the famous words 'ye rude commons of one of the most brute and beastlie shires in the whole realm'. Some of the rebels were executed in Louth Market Place, but the ringleaders, including the vicar, were taken to Tyburn on the outskirts of London to be hanged, drawn and quartered.

Only fifteen years later, Henry's successor, King Edward VI, had a different view of Louth. For him it was 'a place most proper and fit for teaching and instructing lads and youth', and in September 1551 he granted the charter to found the Free Grammar School which still bears his name today.

### The Green Lady of Thorpe Hall

Tradition has it that a Spanish lady dressed in green haunts the grounds of Thorpe Hall on the outskirts of the town. Who was she? The story goes back to 1596 when John Bolle of Thorpe Hall was knighted for his valour in the defeat of the Spanish navy at Cadiz. During his thirteen days there a high born Spanish lady was assigned his prisoner, and she fell in love with him – but he remained a faithful husband. When Sir John sailed for home the senorita sent gifts for his wife, among them her portrait drawn in green, and then she retired to a convent.



  
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## Civil War and Years of Sleep

With the 17th century came the Civil War. The King commanded Sir Charles Bolle to raise eighty troopers, but after a skirmish near Louth, Parliamentary troops subdued the town and took a hundred prisoners. As for Sir Charles, he hid under Ramsgate bridge to avoid capture. Oliver Cromwell on the other hand is said to have slept in Louth before the decisive battle at Winceby near Horncastle.

The 1660's to 1750's are sometimes called the years of sleep in Louth. However, law and order was strictly enforced in the House of Correction, the prison on Eastgate (on the site of the almshouses) with a treadmill for miscreants. The town welcomed immigrants from Europe. And the Corporation built the Assembly Rooms or Mansion House on Upgate for their meetings and where there was also entertainment.

## Turnpike and Canal

Louth had for long been the hub of a network of roads, but it was not until the second half of the 18th century that turnpike or toll roads were established. The most important was the Dexthorpe Turnpike – south to Boston and Peterborough and west to Gainsborough and Bawtry. Other turn pikes were to Lincoln, Grimsby, Saltfleet and Horncastle; the toll house for the last is still there near the bypass.

Coal and timber were imported and corn and wood exported through Saltfleet and Grimsby until the opening in 1770 of the eight-lock Navigation Canal from Tetney to the Riverhead. This became Louth's dockland, separated from the town by green fields. Within fifty years it was an industrial suburb with wool and grain warehouses, maltkilns and breweries, ropery and soapery, woodyard and tannery, fertilizer factories and shipyard. Sloops, billy boys and keels were towed by horses or sailed in from the Humber.




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### To Market

Louth was – and is – a major market town serving a wide hinterland of Wolds and Marsh. Before the mid-18th century much of the Wolds were open downland and rabbit warrens. Then came rotation of corn and roots and the wide-verged roads became droveways for beasts on their way to Louth Cattle Market.

At the west end of the Cornmarket stood the mid-19th century Corn Exchange, and some eighty carriers and their carts from fifty villages converged on Louth for the Wednesday and Saturday markets. The horse was the power on the farm and on the road, and most of the town's inns had stabling and a haystack.

### Growth and Decline

The first sixty years of the 19th century saw dramatic changes in the town. The population doubled to over 10,000 the old Corporation was replaced by the Borough Council, industry expanded with foundries and a carpet factory, and the town was lit by gas.

There were also many new public buildings – the first Holy Trinity and St. Michael's churches, six chapels, four Church of England schools, a new grammar school building, a Wesleyan school and the non-denominational Kidgate School. This period also saw the establishment of the Union Workhouse (1837), a new Town Hall (1854) and the Market Hall (1867) which looks like King's Cross railway station.

The railway through Louth opened in 1848 and within thirty years there were branch lines to Bardney and Lincoln (1876) and to the seaside at Mablethorpe (1877). However, the last forty years of the 1800's saw farming depression and emigration to America and Australasia. In fact the town's population fell by nearly a thousand.



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## Culture Capital

Throughout the changing fortunes of the 19th century, Louth became established as the culture capital of east Lincolnshire – in music, literature and the visual arts – a title it still holds today. Thomas Wilkinson Wallis became a nationally acclaimed woodcarver, and in 1844 William Brown sketched the town from the top of scaffolding surrounding the spire of St. James's to create the internationally important Panorama. The artist and architect Thomas Espin built the Priory and his own mausoleum in the grounds. And that most prolific of architects James Fowler was responsible for at least twenty buildings in the town, the design of 26 new churches in Lincolnshire and beyond, and the restoration of many more, including St. James's.

In literature the town is proud to be associated with Alfred Tennyson – through family connections and because he went to the Grammar School here, but, by his own account, he hated every moment of it. His only solace it seems were the wild weeds growing (as they still do) on the wall in Schoolhouse Lane, but his first poems were published in Louth and he rose to be Poet Laureate. In music Charlotte Alington Pye, daughter of a Louth Lawyer, took the pseudonym Claribel from the title of one of Tennyson's early poems, and became the country's most successful and prolific ballad composer.

## Twentieth Century

Edwardian Louth saw the foundation of a girls' grammar school on Westgate in 1903, the gift to the town by the Pahud Trustees of Hubbard's Hills as a riverine public park (1907), a museum provided by the Louth Naturalists', Antiquarian and Literary Society (the 'Ants and Nats') in 1910, and electric lighting superseded gas in 1919. Monk's Dyke School opened in 1929 and three years later so did new accommodation for the Boys' Grammar School on Edward Street.

Teatime on Saturday 29th May 1920 saw the disastrous flash flood when, within twenty minutes, the River Lud cut a swathe of destruction through the town and drowned 23 people aged 1 to 82. Yet at the height of the flood, with water lapping an upstairs bedroom, a baby girl was born. Fifty homes were destroyed and another 250 had to be rebuilt. Flood marker stones on surviving buildings are a dramatic reminder of the depth of the flood water.

Two World Wars claimed the lives of 273 servicemen and women, and 15 civilians from bombing in the 1939-45 conflict. Postwar Louth grew slowly in size and prosperity again: a new secondary school was built – Cordeaux (1956), other schools expanded into new buildings, the Workhouse which had become the hospital from 1938 was extended, and next to the railway station there appeared (1951) a new high-rise and high-tech concrete maltkiln (now disused). Sadly the town lost its rail services between 1951 and 1970, but the A16 bypass (1991) brought traffic relief to Upgate, and light industry spread on the Fairfield Estate on the north side of the town.



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# LOUTH MUSEUM

Louth Museum is one of very few in the UK purpose-built for a learned society. The Louth Naturalists', Antiquarian and Literary Society, founded in 1884 and known as the 'Ants and Nats', is a voluntary charity. The Museum celebrated its centenary in 2010 and now has three galleries and a library/classroom for use by schools, with disabled access throughout. The gift shop has a range of local history books published by the Society. Louth Museum is Nationally Accredited, is a Quality Assured Visitor Attraction and has won several Renaissance Heritage awards.

The **Panorama Gallery** has a backlit replica of William Brown's famous mid-19th century 360 degrees panorama of Louth, rated among the best in Europe, and a virtual flythrough of the town centre today.

The **Ludalinks Gallery** displays local geology (rocks to handle), archaeology (artefacts to touch), brickmaking and natural history. A highlight is the 16th century story of Sir John Bolle and the legend of the Green Lady of Thorpe Hall.

Exhibited in the **Town Gallery** is the largest national collection of the exquisite 19th century woodcarvings of birds and vegetation by Louth's medal-winning Thomas Wallis. On the mezzanine is a walk along the course of the disastrous Louth Flood of 29th May 1920 with interactive interpretation. Also, examples of Louth carpets exported to Europe and America, a print shop, Louth bicycles, weights and measures and a wide range of local commercial and domestic bygone.

Louth Museum is open April to October, Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 4pm, with volunteer guides. Group visits are welcome out of hours. There are family discovery trails and a children's play area. There is a charge for admission (free for Society members and Friends of Louth Museum).

Guided town walks are also available. [www.louthmuseum.org](http://www.louthmuseum.org)



*Thomas Wallis  
woodcarving of  
Partridges and Ivy*



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