

Yeovil in 1933



High Street, Yeovil

► The Borough

☞ In 1933 Yeovil was a bustling Borough, it was served by three railway stations, Yeovil Junction, Yeovil Town and Pen Mill plus a large goods depot at Hendford ☜



► Yeovil Town Station



► George Inn, Middle Street

By 1933, the seeds of Yeovil's prosperity, sown in the previous century, had turned into vigorous plants and were growing strongly. For centuries Yeovil had been one of the agricultural centres of the West, with a thriving livestock market.

Although the early years of the 20th Century had seen Yeovil grow into an industrial centre its development as a thriving market town had a longer history. In 1205 Yeovil was given a charter and in the early 14th Century the merchants of Yeovil had gained the right to elect a 'Portrieve' to run the town.

In 1801. The first census identified Yeovil as having 2,774 inhabitants. By 1830 the Town Commissioners were formed to clean the town, pave the roads and light the streets and by 1834 oil street lamps were replaced by gas.

In 1933 Yeovil was a bustling Borough with many facilities.

It was served by three railway stations, Yeovil Junction, Yeovil Town and Pen Mill plus a large goods depot at Hendford, originally the towns only station. Yeovil's first public housing scheme of 150 dwellings had commenced at Eastland Road in 1912 and by 1933, over 1200 had been built in various parts of the town by the Yeovil Borough Council. The Yeovil Gas Works was owned and operated by the Borough Council who were building a large gasholder at Yew Tree Close. The Council was also purchasing land off South Street for a large car park (now Petters Way Car Park) and was granted a licence for the public to use Nine Springs.



► High Street

1933 - Yeovil Facts & Figures

GENERAL

Yeovil population 19,078
(1931 Census)

- Yeovil District Hospital, Higher Kingston
- Maternity Home, Five Ways
- Isolation Hospital, Lyde Lane
- Fire Station, South Street
- Ambulance Station, Salthouse Lane
- Police Station, Union Street
- Yeovil Electric Light and Power Co. Ltd, Dampier Street – electricity distribution

BUSINESS

- Bakers and Confectioners 13
- Builders 16
- Butchers 22
- Dairies 34
- Dentists and Dental Surgeons 9
- Drapers 13
- Estate Agents 4
- Fishmongers 4
- Fish and Chip Shops 8
- Green Grocers 14
- Grocers and Provision Merchants 53
- Hackney Carriage Proprietors 2
- Hairdressers 31
- Hotels and Licensed Houses 61
- Motor Garages and Repairers 20
- Physicians and Surgeons 11
- Restaurants 11
- Solicitors 6
- Sweet Shops 19
- Tobacconists 16
- Umbrella Makers 2
- Wireless (and radio) 15

SOCIAL

- 90% of people walked or cycled to work
- All children walked to school
- Bread and Milk was delivered by horse and cart
- Many households had lodgers (labour force for Yeovil's major employers)

