



King Edward VI Grammar School

Encouraging Excellence, Nurturing Talent

“The best little market town in Britain” Rick Stein



Why move to Louth? The following is an extract from Daily Telegraph 9th August 2006. To read the full article [click here](#).

Little marvels: Britain's top 10 small towns

In over 25 years on Country Life, as writer, editor and now editor-at-large, Clive Aslet has visited most towns in the UK. Who better to choose the 10 best places to live?

We earn more, we are less happy. As we pace the room in a lather of nail-chewing, go-getting angst, we fail to notice that our quality of life is slipping through the floorboards. The daily commute, the sweltering Tube, the predatory parking warden, the queues, the costs, the over-crowding - surely there must be somewhere we can escape these inner-city ills, and spend more time living for ourselves?

I think there is. Some of Britain's smaller towns still operate as independent centres, capable of supporting everything that is necessary for life. They are waiting to be rediscovered by people who can take advantage of today's more flexible lifestyles.

4. Louth, Lincolnshire

In 1844, the 295-ft spire of St James's Church, Louth, the finest late Gothic steeple in England, was hit by lightning. When scaffolding was put up to repair it, a local painter, William Brown, climbed up to make notes for the panorama that now hangs in the Victorian town hall, with a facsimile backlit and analysed in the newly restored Louth Museum. It shows a Georgian town with orderly streets, neat gardens and a population bent upon its own affairs.

Louth is recognisably the same place today, getting on with life in the green and beautiful Lincolnshire Wolds, little noticed by the rest of the world. Westgate House, recently restored, is sometimes opened to the public to show the elegance that exists on Louth's best street, Westgate. Lincolnshire still has grammar schools. The local primary school is now serving Jamie Oliver school dinners.

Inside the town, four-bedroom period houses can be found for under £200,000. Three-bedroom farmhouses, needing work but within Louth's King Edward VI Grammar School catchment area, sell for £395,000.

John Gummer: "Lucky Louth, left behind to become an almost perfect focus for rural life."

Population: 15,000

Transport links: Grimsby 14 miles – 20 minute drive, Skegness 20 35 minute drive, Lincoln 25 35- 40 minute drive. Nearest Railway Station: Market Rasen.

Average prices in 2006: Detached £190,438, flats £82,868, semi-detached £128,042, terrace £106,680.

Market report: Jenny Stewart of Compass says Louth is ideal for first-time buyers. "It is still very affordable. We sell a lot of Victorian houses and new-build developments with prices starting at £107,000 for a two-bedroom flat. One of our most expensive properties is a large terrace house in the best part of town, on the north-east side, for £449,950." Buyers are drawn by the lack of crime, good schools and transport links.

Useful Links

<http://www.visitlincolnshire.com/>

<http://www.lincswolds.org.uk/>

<http://www.lincolnshirewolds.info/>

http://www.poacherguide.co.uk/special_interests/wolds.php

<http://www.louth.org/>

Shop local – An Extract from the Telegraph Food Section

Author: Rose Prince

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Rose Prince on the best of regional British food. This week: Louth, Lincolnshire

While Michelin and the AA guidebooks continue to dominate food tourism, BMW has brought out a manual to food adventures in Britain that is challengingly original. The Good Food Ride taps into a growing interest in the new style of relaxed eating, in venues where ingredients are all. Thank goodness someone has done it.

The Good Food Ride takes you on a tour of the UK's gems and is particularly good on market-dining: farm shops and delis where you can sit down to eat as well as buy. The book includes 11 tour maps, each offering a different "food adventure". The East Midlands route took me to Louth, an old-fashioned shopping town surrounded by farm shops.

You can buy a picnic in this Lincolnshire Shangri-La to surpass all others - a true antidote to the preciousness of déjeuner à la Michelin.

SUPERMARKETS

There are no major chains in Louth; hence the healthy throb of the town's many shops. There are several butchers and greengrocers competing on the high street, just as they should. The nearest large stores are in, or close to, Lincoln or Grimsby. Sainsbury's Grimsby shop sells asparagus from Kitchen Garden Produce in Owmbly-by-Spital and a large amount of fish from Young's, based in Grimsby. Asda's Grimsby store sells Pocklington's plum bread and other cakes (see later listing) and plum jams made by Myers. Morrisons has a store in Grimsby, but no local produce to report. Tesco's Cleethorpes store sells Lincolnshire potatoes (white and baking). Waitrose's Lincoln store sells vegetables and fruit from several named local farms - check boxes and signage in the store - and Lincolnshire Poacher cheese.

SHOPS, FARMS AND MARKETS

Louth was once home to five abattoirs, but all of them are now closed because of the high cost of the onerous regulations brought in after the BSE crisis. Louth's butcher's shops continue to thrive and all buy from local farms.

Louth Farmers' Market

This is held on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Market Place. For details, contact Susan Smith on 01507 568 885.

Pocklington's Bakery, 2 Market Place, Louth (01507 600 180)

The Pocklington family bake bread and confectionery using flour milled from wheat grown in the Lincolnshire Wolds. Their plum bread is adored by local people and the bakery will send it anywhere by post.

Jackson's Butchers, 118 Eastgate, Louth (01507 602797)

Nigel and Val Wrisdale's shop is a temple to Lincolnshire tradition. The haslet (a loaf made from sausage meat, liver and onion) and chine (cured pork shoulder, boned and stuffed with parsley) is made with Lincolnshire pork. Bacon is smoked with hickory and there's cured fat to lay on top of game birds or venison, which bastes and flavours naturally as it roasts.

Wrisdale's pork pies have beautifully crisp pastry. Nigel used to be a slaughterman and will not make his pies with boar meat. "It taints the flavour and is much too firm."

A Dales & Sons, 120 Eastgate, Louth (0785 2532539)

A poulterer is a rare sight in a market town, but this institution has been going strong since 1896, when it was opened by Peter Dales's grandfather. All chickens are locally sourced and during the season this is the place to go for game birds that have been locally shot, hung and expertly prepared. On the day of my visit, Dales was selling vegetables with roots nicely caked in Lincolnshire mud. Closed on Mondays.

Igloo Seafoods, 15 New Street, Louth (01507 603933)

Lesley Tyler's father was a fish merchant working from Grimsby beach and all the fish is bought from the nearby port. The haddock is smoked with turmeric by Lesley's brothers (trading as Kirwin Brothers) and on the day of my visit there was a good variety of superbly fresh fish on display, including grey mullet, mackerel, mussels, plaice, sprats and crabs from Whitby. Fish pies, fishcakes, and baked soused herring are all prepared on the premises.

RJ Sandy Butchers, 180 Eastgate, Louth (01507 603357)

Richard Sandy buys whole carcasses of Lincoln Red cattle and cuts them himself, so there is an impressive range of cheap cuts such as skirt, thin rib, rising rib and shin to choose from, as well as the prime roasting cuts. The sausages are wonderful: additive-free and cased in natural skins.

Louth Wholefood Co-op, 7-9 Eastgate, Louth (01507 602411)

The place to buy flour milled at nearby Alford's five-sailed windmill, plus local eggs and some organic vegetables.

Lakings of Louth, 33 Eastgate, Louth (01507 603186)

Yet another amazing butcher that has been in the town for 100 years, specialising in Lincolnshire pork: pies, faggots, brawn and black puddings.

Robinson's, 125 Eastgate, Louth (01507 602499)

Fifth-generation grocer Chris Robinson buys soft fruits from a farm four miles away, potatoes from Alford, green vegetables from Wainfleet and apples direct from farmers.

Abbey Farm, Stixwould, Woodhall Spa (01526 351739)

Twenty minutes down the road from Louth, James and Lucy Barclay keep native breeds that include Lincoln Red beef and Gloucester Old Spot pork. They also offer ready-made foods.

Pink Pig Organics, Holme Hall, Holme Lane, Scunthorpe (01724 844466; www.pinkpigorganics.co.uk)

A little out of the way, at the end of The Good Food Ride's East Midland food trail, lies an excellent farm producer and shop specialising in pork, with a good restaurant on site. A must if you are in the region.