

An A to Z of



CHATTERIS

in

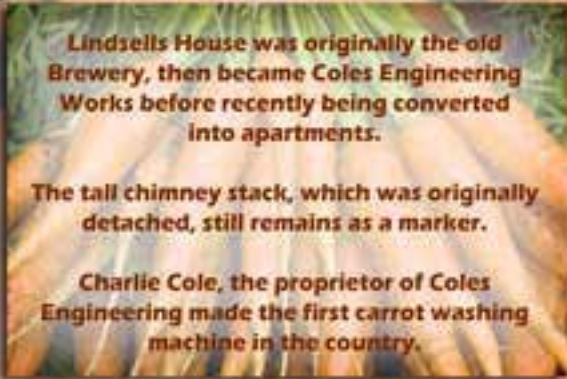
PHOTOS

By Helen Free





is for



**Lindsells House was originally the old Brewery, then became Coles Engineering Works before recently being converted into apartments.**

**The tall chimney stack, which was originally detached, still remains as a marker.**

**Charlie Cole, the proprietor of Coles Engineering made the first carrot washing machine in the country.**



## **Chatteris was once known as the "Carrot Capital"**

From the mid 1940's to the late 1960's nearly everybody in Chatteris was involved in the carrot industry in one way or another.

Workers would leave Chatteris at 6am to go to different areas where the carrots were grown in the Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk Fens.

Hand digging of carrots was very hard work and usually done by the men while the women cut the tops off.

The carrots were then washed in cold water and bagged for markets in the cities.

In the mid 1950's the "bean hoe", a three wheeled machine, was invented which did away with the hand hoeing.

In the mid 1960's it was discovered that paraffin killed the weeds but not the carrots which did away with hoeing altogether.



**Arthur Rickwood was an important man in carrot farming in Chatteris - King George VI gave him the nickname of "The Carrot King"**

# **Carrots**



# K is for




The King Edward School was built in 1902 for 305 boys. It was enlarged in 1912 by the addition of a woodworking centre and in 1928 by the provision of an extra classroom. Central heating was installed at a cost of £495 in 1934.

It was converted into a junior mixed school for 330 children in 1939.


The Headmaster's office was at the end of the building and contained a printing press for the schools use.

The school is now used as a Community Centre. Its rooms still hear the sound of childrens voices from the many groups who use it.






Many of the original features are still there, including blackboards, radiators and beautiful brickwork.



The woodworking centre, now used as a playgroup.



The playground was lined with trees surrounded by benches. The children played five stones and marbles under them.



In June 2009, a campaign to secure the King Edward Centre for the town begun by Chatteris Centre Association resulted in Cambridgeshire County Council agreeing to grant a ninety-nine year lease at a 'peppercorn' rent.





The Chatter's Christmas Lights were established in 1985 and are recognised as one of the best displays around.

The lights were featured in a regional television programme in 1995.

The Lights Committee is voluntary and works hard all year round, both with fundraising and putting up the lights, to ensure a successful switch on a few weeks before Christmas.



Seasons Greetings

Merry Christmas

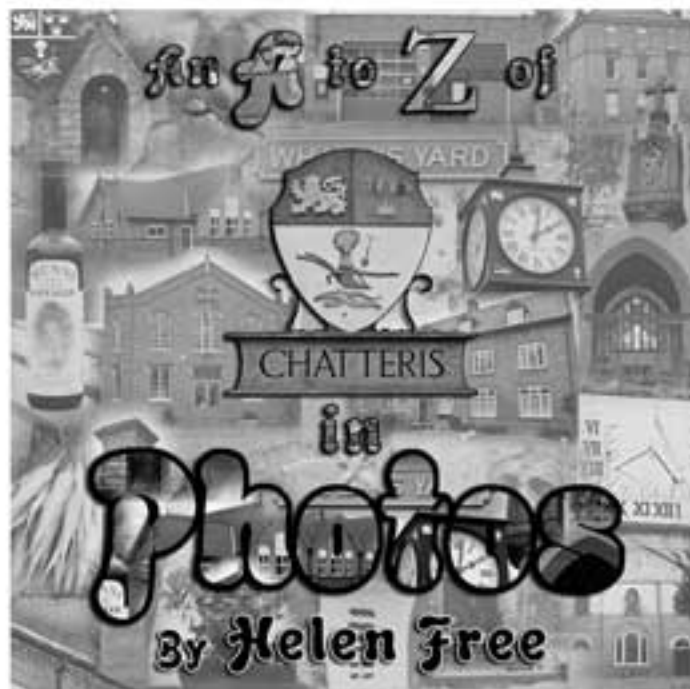




People come from all around to see the official switching on which has become one of the main events of the year in Chatteris.

The Town Centre is packed with street entertainment and local traders open late to entertain with Seasonal Cheer.

Each year a child is chosen to help Santa switch on the lights.



**Price**  
**£8.50**

Available from  
Chatteris Museum  
or  
Chatteris Library.

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Telephone.....

Email.....

For postal orders within the UK, please complete the form and return with an additional £1.50 for P&P to -

Helen Free, 31, Burnsfield Estate, Chatteris. PE16 6ET

For postal orders outside the UK, please go to  
<http://www.enfys.me.uk/a2z.htm>