

The Village of Heytesbury

Samuel Harford came to Australia from the small village of Heytesbury in the County of Wiltshire.

Wiltshire is in the south west of England. It is land locked and bordered by Dorset, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Hampshire. It is essentially an agriculture based county and contains the Salisbury Plain on which the ancient landmark of Stonehenge is located. It also contains the Avesbury stone circles. The county is also the main training area in the UK for the British Army.

Heytesbury lies in the Wylve Valley just off the A36, 3 miles south east of the ancient market town of Warminster. It is quite a small village and in 1931 had a population of about 454 people. This is significantly down on the population in Samuel's time of 1831 when the population was 1412. This reduction reflects the mechanization that has occurred over the years in agriculture. The town has little industry and has one main street, a Post Office, the Church of St Peter & Paul, and two public houses, the Angel inn and the Red Lion.

Most of the town was burned down in 1766 and it was rebuilt so that today most of the buildings date from that time.



Church of St Peter & Paul Heytesbury

The Church dates from the 13th century and was partly rebuilt in 1470. It underwent a thorough restoration in 1866 at a cost of about 5,500 Pounds. It contains the burial place of the a'Court family.



Interior of Church of St Peter & St Paul Heytesbury 2009

The town plan below is dated 1920 and shows, in red, the buildings in the town that were NOT owned by the Heytesbury Estate of the a'court Family. The street running parallel to High St from Little London is New Town.

