

## **PARTIAL LIST OF RESIDENTS 1863 from the Ditmas history of Benson**

A list of residents printed by Dutton, Allen and Co in 1863 is only partial in that it ignores the agricultural and unskilled labourers, but it helps to indicate the social structure of the village in the mid-nineteenth century. The classification into Gentry and Traders is as given in the Directory.

### *Gentry*

*Rev John Martyn Collyne*

*Miss Corsellis*

*Mr Henry Joseph Corsellis*

*Miss Sarah Costar*

*Thomas Edward Field Esq, Paddock House*

*Mr William Freer*

*Mrs Hannah Hicks*

*Mrs Pleasant Hore*

*Mr Henry Newman*

*Robert A Newton, Fifield House*

*Miss Pitman*

*John Powell Esq*

*Alfred Saunders Esq*

*Mrs Mary Smith*

*Miss Mary Withers*

### *Traders*

*Chas Argyle, beer retailer and ferryman, Preston Crowmarsh*

*James Atkins, Castle (Inn)*

*Albert Bailey, coachbuilder*

*John Bailey, baker and grocer*

*Joseph Bird, grocer and boot and shoemaker*

*Mrs Harriet Blay, confectioner*

*John Bosher, baker*

*Charles Brown, master of British school*

*Jno Brooker, book and shoemaker*

*William Brooker, butcher*

*James Burgis, corn merchant*

*John Burgis, grocer, provision meatman and tallow chandler*

*Maria Carr, laundress*

*Thomas Chapman, farmer*

*John Clark, beer retailer*

*William Shuttleworth Clarke, coal and salt merchant*

*Thomas Coles, draper*

*William Cook, Horse Shoe (Inn)*

*Henry Joseph Corsellis, solicitor*

*Nich Caesar Corsellis, surgeon*

*John Frampton, farmer*

*Thomas Gardner, farmer*

*Richard Garratt, Swan (Inn) Preston Crowmarsh*

*Edward Glanville, Crown (Inn) and builder*

*William Bartholomew Goodey, beer and shoemaker and postmaster*

*William Green, road contractor*

*Joseph Harding, Sun (Inn)*

*John Hazle, farmer*

*Mrs Elizabeth Horn, straw bonnet maker*  
*Joseph Horn, boot and shoemaker*  
*Thomas Hutchings, coal dealer*  
*William Hutchings, farmer*  
*Edwin James, grocer and china dealer*  
*Robert James, tailor*  
*James Lane, boot and shoemaker*  
*Wm & Thos Graham Littleboy, millers, Preston Oowmarsh*  
*Henry Munday, saddler*  
*William Newton senior, farmer, Preston Crowmarsh*  
*William Newton junior, farmer, Gouldsheath*  
*Richard Pearce, beer retailer*  
*William Phillips, master of National school*  
*Charles Polley, farmer*  
*Thomas Polley, beer retailer*  
*Richard Powell, farmer*  
*John Rickson, beer retailer*  
*John Sayer, blacksmith*  
*Thos Saywell, boot and shoemaker*  
*William Strainge, beer retailer*  
*William Strondley, White Hart (Inn)*  
*James Tubb, coal merchant*  
*Fred Wadsworth, blacksmith*  
*William Warner, saddler*  
*Joseph Webb, carrier*  
*Frederick Webber, draper*  
*James West, grocer and haircutter*  
*John West, plumber and glazier*  
*Richard Wichelo, butcher*  
*William Woodbridge, baker*

Glancing at this list one is tempted to remark that six inns plus six beer retailers seems a fairly high proportion to satisfy a population of 1157! There are a surprising number engaged in boot and shoemaking, and some strange combined activities such as William Goodey who sold beer, was a shoemaker and acted as postmaster, or James West who is listed as grocer and haircutter. Nevertheless, it offers a fascinating picture of the village just over a hundred years ago — and many of the names are still to be found.