

George Spencer 1868-1946

George Spencer was a businessman who provided numerous benefactions to Lutterworth where his Vedonis hosiery factory was based.

Born in the suburbs of Nottingham in 1868, he set up a cloth-knitting factory in the town on New Street in 1902. The factory struggled to take off and was on the point of closing down in 1908, when a chance meeting allowed George to set up a hosiery factory on Crescent Road.

Things moved quickly from there. A bigger site on the other side of town was secured, and the Vedonis works were born.

Lutterworth provided none of the raw materials and accounted for only a fraction of sales, but its position by the railway was ideal. The workforce was largely made up of women from surrounding villages, who came to the town to work as well as those who lived along the railway line. The factory produced munitions during the Second World War.

George became heavily involved in Lutterworth's politics, becoming a magistrate and commissioning the building of his home, Auburn Place.

He donated land for the cricket club and hospital, and provided other land for recreational purposes.

The philanthropist-industrials also contributed a considerable sum towards providing a clean water supply for Lutterworth.

George died in 1946 and his ashes were scattered in the gardens of Auburn Place.

Nicholas Dawson, *Hinkley Times*