

T. Cook's Sweet Shop

This sweet shop is a replica of the building that still stands at 48 Birmingham Street, Oldbury which was built in the 1840s, with the shop front being added in the 1870s.

The shop, with its back-room workshop, has been named after Thomas Cook, who ran a small confectionery business with his family at 21 Bond Street, Dudley, between the years 1871 and 1901.

In 1871 the Cook family included Thomas Cook, confectioner; his son Thomas, assistant confectioner; his son's wife Martha; and their two children.

The business was a typical family set up where everyone had to help with the preparation of the sweets. The shop was probably run by Martha while the two men made enough sweets to stock the shop and supply to other retailers. Their workshop would have been very similar to the one at the Museum. When Thomas Cook the elder died, his son took over the business.

All the equipment on display belonged to George Hutchings who used it to make home-made sweets at the back of his sweet shop in Stirchley, Birmingham, from 1943 to 1988.