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# JACQUARD

## The Loom

James Churchyard, born in 1827, was a weaver and shawl maker all his life. He is photographed here a year before he died in 1914, operating a Jacquard loom, probably in a factory near his home in Rose Yard.

The Jacquard was invented around 1804 in France and brought to Norwich in 1833. It was initially hand-powered but later mechanised, and here lay the secret of its impact and innovation - the use of punched cards.

Jacquards made it possible to produce unlimited varieties of patterns. The weaver no longer designed the pattern and operated the loom thread by thread. The skill now lay in the operation of a complex machine and correct weaving of the weft.

It was a big step in the journey from artisan weaver to machine operator, and not everybody was on board. For a start, the sheer size of it meant it wouldn't fit in a home. The arrival of the Jacquard was just one of a web of factors that brought centuries of hand-loom weaving in Norwich to an end.



## The Club

The Jacquard was also the name of a famous city club, just north of the square. From 1971 it was a dedicated jazz, folk & blues club, where you might see the likes of Ronnie Scott, Stephane Grapelli, George Melly, Vinegar Joe and Elkie Brooks.

Later in the 80s it became a regular haunt for bands hosting gigs by, among many others: Jayne County & the Electric Chairs, Transvision Vamp, Flag of Convenience (the Buzzcocks minus Pete Shelley), Aztec Camera, Modern English, The Meteors, The Dolly Mixtures, King Kurt, 999 and UK Subs.

The club also played host to well-known local acts such as The Farmers Boys, The Higsons, Serious Drinking, Gothic Girls, Moscow Olympics, Fireball XL5 and Vital Disorders.

The Jacquard finally closed in August 1992 and is now a private house to the right of Hartley's Yard.

Jayne County sings at The Jacquard



courtesy Ruth Kater