

THE TOWN HALL

The Glossop Town Hall and Market were built by Bernard Edward Howard, the 12th Duke of Norfolk, who died on the 16th March, 1842. The Town Hall is built of stone in the Italian style, and was designed by Messrs. Weightman and Hadfield, of Sheffield, and cost £8,500.

The foundation stone of the Town Hall was laid with much ceremony, processions and rejoicings on Queen Victoria's Coronation Day, 28th June, 1838. Within its walls many musical and other celebrities have been heard by Glossopians. Many exciting public meetings have been held in it, and it has been the object of attack by election rioters. Before the Victoria Hall was opened, it was practically the only place where balls, bazaars, sales of work, concerts, and meetings of a public character could be held.

The Town Council meetings have always been held in the Council Room of the Town Hall. The County Court and Petty Sessions for the Borough and the County portion of the Parish are also held here, and many painful scenes have been witnessed at the trials of murderers, coiners, burglars, and other criminals; the four cells have many times been overcrowded before they were condemned and used as a magazine for the storage of Volunteer's ammunition.

The clock is most useful to the public, as it can be seen from practically all sides.

THE MARKET HALL

Henry Charles Howard, the 13th Duke came into possession [of the manor of Glossop] on the death of his father and during the time he was Lord of the Manor, nearly 14 years (he died 18th Feb.1856) he made many improvements in the town. One of his first acts was to obtain the Glossop Market Act in 1844.

The Market was opened on the 12th July, 1845, and proved such a success and convenience generally that it was enlarged in 1854.

The Market on a Saturday was a great contrast to the present. It was then a busy market, people doing all their week's shopping in it on market day. There were 28 shops and 10 stalls, all tenanted. The shops were down each side and the stalls in the centre.

The shops were occupied by; William Allmay, William Buckley, Ebenezer Holdgate, Edward Jones, Thomas Neild, John Ogden, Joshua Simcock, Henry Tarbutt, Edward Winterbottom; the following were butchers; Thomas Fielding, John France, William Mitchell, Joseph Nield, George Patchett, James Schofield, John Schofield, Jos. Schofield, Robert Thornley, and Robert Shaw; Thomas Bennett, blacksmith; John Goodwin, greengrocer; John Irlam, bookseller and grocer; William Natrass, basket and skip maker; James Robinson, grocer; Thomas Swire Clogger; Charles Wood , general dealer.

The stalls were tenanted by Thomas Barclay, George Beaver, James Downs, John Ellis, John Lewis, William Mitchell, James Newton (Grocer), Wm. Robinson, Matthew Walton, and Joseph Williamson (grocer).

The Duke also established another fair on the 10th October, 1854.

The Market Ground used to be very lively at the Old Wakes which

used to be held the first Sunday after the 13th September.

THE DRILL HALL

In June 1875, a number of young men in Glossop discussed the question of forming a Volunteer Corps, and it was eventually decided to take steps to carry out a suggestion that had been made, namely, to obtain the names of suitable young men who would be willing to join. A canvas was commenced, and in a few days over 150 persons consented to be enrolled.

Lord Howard of Glossop promised the use of land for a shooting range and a portion of the Market Hall for a Drill Hall and Armoury at a nominal rental. In October, Captain Egerton visited the sites of the proposed shooting range and drill ground and approved of same.

On the 16th the stall holders were given notice to quit and preparations were made to alter the east portion of the Market Hall to suit the Volunteers.

Hamnett, who eventually became a Colour Serjeant in the Glossop Detachment of the Volunteer Battalion, 22nd [Cheshire] Regiment lists a great many of the events which took place in the Town Hall in his various writings.

During the Cotton Famine in 1865 two musical festivals were held in the Market Hall - the conductor being Mr. Joseph Robinson. There were over 400 performers from the amalgamated musical societies of the district, and the festivals proved a great success.