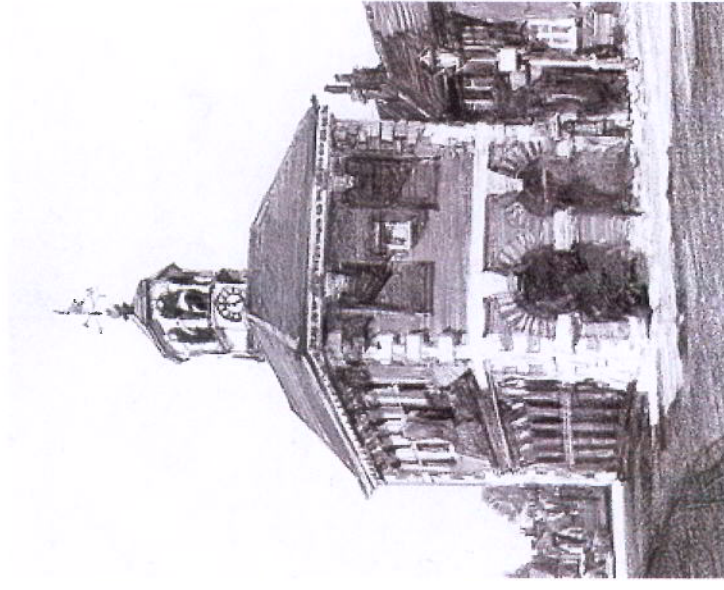


LOCATION MAP

Amersham Town Council

The Market Hall Old Amersham



FURTHER INFORMATION AND A BOOKING FORM
can be obtained from -

Amersham Town Council
The Court House
King George V Road
Amersham
Bucks HP6 5ST

Telephone 01494 586892

*Telephone us for information about
Barn Meadow Pavilion and other halls
and pavilions that are available for hire.*

HISTORY OF THE MARKET HALL

Sir William Drake, Knight, MP for Amersham built his glorious new "Market Howse" widely admired as "a very neat Town Howse or Market Howse which is handsomest in the County, the building being of brick".

By an Indenture of 20th October 1682, Sir William leased to nine good men and true of Amersham "all that howse and the appurtenances commonly cald or known by the name of Markethowse and alsoe the pile of buildings cald the Butchers Shambles ... together with the free liberty to set up upon the Market days ... Stalls, pennes and coopes for tradesmen and cattell". The first year's rent was "one peppercorn only, as an encouragement in procuring an increase in the said Market". The remaining nine years of the lease required a rent of £14 per annum plus "two couples of fat capons on each St. Thomas Day". Sir William reserved the right to use any Market Howse room for "publik busines", to the continuing benefit of Amersham.

The weekly market ceased in the last century, though the people of Amersham continued to ring the Market Bell on Tuesday at noon until the last war, and stalls still open for business in the lower part on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.*

Over 300 years any meeting of import for the whole community was held here - Trade Guilds, School Classes, Law Courts, Penny Readings, political meetings, exhibitions, concerts, Magic Lantern shows, balls and 6d hops, and an Army Sergeant's recruiting base for the young men of Amersham joining Kitchener's Army in 1914.

On 4th January 1895, Amersham Parish Council's first meeting was held in the upper room and Captain T H Tyrwhitt Drake of Little Shardeloes was elected Chairman.

At street level under the hall is the town lock-up, still with its heavy wooden door and rusted grille. Against the exterior wall is preserved the town pump, dated 1785.

The hall was restored in 1911 and in 1961 the Drake family handed over this much-loved public building to the Amersham Rural District Council and subsequently it was transferred by Deed to Amersham Town Council. The hall was completely refurbished in 1993 and particular attention was paid to preserve the character of this historic listed building.

HIRING THE MARKET HALL

The impressive function room on the first floor level of the Market Hall is available for hire. It is eminently suitable for a wide range of events including large meetings, exhibitions, wedding receptions and family gatherings.

HALL CAPACITY - Maximum capacity is 130 people for a buffet function. When set with tables and chairs for a sit down meal the maximum is 90 people and close seated for a meeting the maximum is 90 people.

CHAIRS AND FURNISHINGS - 90 banqueting chairs are provided, upholstered in green to tone with the curtains which hang at the original windows. The hall is lit by three ornate brass chandeliers or by wall lights when a more subdued light is required.

TABLES - 5 tables each 1.6m long and 80cm wide and 13 tables 1.3m long by 80cm wide have been selected to furnish the hall. These can be combined in numerous ways to suit any requirements.

DIMENSIONS - The overall usable space in the hall is 24 feet by 40 feet with a maximum height of 11 feet. In addition to this area there is a screened

space for hanging coats with some further storage space.

KITCHEN - A catering sized gas cooker and a refrigerator are provided together with a selection of kettles, teapots and a 5 litre capacity catering boiler.

CATERING - The Market Hall is offered on a services only basis, leaving the hirer free to engage the most suitable caterer. We encourage the chosen caterer to inspect the facilities prior to setting up the event.

TOILETS - The gentlemen's toilet is situated at ground floor level and the ladies toilets are at second floor level.

PARKING - Parking on the cobbles is permitted for the purposes of loading and unloading. Street parking and an ample public car park are available within easy walking distance.

THEATRE AND MUSIC AND DANCING LICENCE - The Market Hall is not licensed for music and dancing due to the close proximity of other dwellings. Amplified music is not permitted but certain live or recorded background music is acceptable, subject to approval by the Town Council at the time of booking.

JUSTICES OCCASIONAL LICENCE for the sale of alcoholic beverages - For a private function where those present are guests and pay no charge, no licence is necessary. Where a charge is made an occasional licence must be obtained before commencement of the hiring.