

Chipping Norton

TOWN HALL

The History

By 1841 it was decided the Guildhall was inadequate for its purpose and that year a proposal to build a new Town Hall was made. This building was to reflect the "status" of the town and would be sited where the Market Hall stood.

The Town Hall was designed by G S Repton and cost in the region of £1800, and was built by local labour. On 7th February 1842 the Old Elm tree which stood for over 200 years, was sold at Public Auction and shortly after on 22nd March 1842 the Market Hall was also sold.

One of the original Market Hall pillars now stands on the lower side of the Town Hall and a Chiffonier made from the wood of the Elm tree is on display in the Museum. The New Town Hall was built on arches;



The Main entrance to the Large Hall

the entrance to the main hall was, as now on the topside of the building up a flight of steps through four large pillars, the council chamber was also on this floor. In addition to the Town Hall the council decided to install a "weighing machine" underneath the building for collecting tolls, also to include space for a fire engine, later the Council agreed that the magistrate could use the Town Hall for Petty Sessions and later, cells to secure prisoners, eventually the Council re-vamped the lower floor of the Town Hall to provide a reading room, courtroom and facilities for a Judge. On 3rd March 1950 the Town Hall was seriously damaged by fire, the shell of the building was saved, however the interior including the roof was not.

Details...

The Town Hall is situated in the town centre at the southern end of the market place, with ample free public parking (with time restrictions) around the building.



Many oil paintings and watercolours adorn the walls throughout the building.



From the balcony



TO HIRE Contact the Guildhall Tel: 01608 642341

<u>Town Hall Scale of Charges, Regulations and Conditions from 1st September 2005 until further notice</u>		Town Charities & Town Branches of National Charities	Private Parties & Other Organisations	Commercial
Town Hall Facility		Rate per hour £	Rate per hour £	Rate per hour £
1.	Whole Building (excluding Council Chamber)	15.50	26.50	39.00
2	Large Hall including first floor servery.	10.50	18.50	28.50
3	Lower Hall and Kitchen (excluding Council Chamber)	8.00	14.50	20.50

(There is a minimum charge as for two hours regardless of which part of the building is used)

Other Charges

- (a) After midnight - £20 per hour, whichever part of the building is booked.
- (b) Council Chamber - £40 per occasion – Use subject to Council's permission.
- (c) Sound Equipment – no charge.
- (d) Allowances for consecutive bookings – Two or more consecutive days hire 5% off
- (e) The hire charge will commence from the time the hirer, his staff or equipment arrive at the Town Hall and continue until the recognised time for the termination of the function. Fractions of an hour will count as half-an-hour.
- (f) Hire of the Town Hall on Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve will be subject to special consideration by the Council – special rates apply.

Numbers permitted in the Town Hall

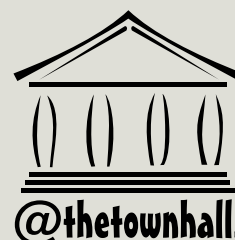
Dancing in the Large Hall 180
 Seating in the Large Hall 250 (including 57 in the balcony) – Theatre productions, etc.
 Lower Hall 40
 Lounge 35
 Total number permitted in the Whole Building not to exceed 250

** Please note. Period of hire is from entry to vacation of building.*

For further details of booking the Town Hall please contact the Town Clerk at:-

***The Town Council Offices
 The Guildhall,
 Chipping Norton
 OX7 5NJ
 01608 642341, Fax 01608 645206***

Email: cntc@btconnect.com.



Information of the Town Hall supplied by kind permission of John Grantham from his book
 CHIPPING NORTON TOWN HALL PAST & PRESENT.

TO HIRE Contact the Guildhall Tel: 01608 642341

The Large Hall



The size of the main hall is approx 8.5 wide x 16 metres long a total area of 136 sq metres, with a ceiling of approximately 10 metres high that allows for the balcony that seats 57 people.

The main hall has a capacity of 180 people for dancing or 250 seated that including the 57 in the balcony. The internal entrance to the hall is through a small vestibule at the top of the stairs. This area includes a bar/serving area, disabled toilets and access to the balcony.

The stage has a useable area of 4.7 x 6.8 metres, approx 32 sq metres with an external door avoiding the need to exit through the main hall.

Dancing & Entertainment

Wedding Receptions

Music Evenings

Theatre & Shows

Exhibitions

Antique Auctions & Fairs

Seminars & Business Functions

Private Parties

Fund Raising Events

Sales



TO HIRE Contact the Guildhall Tel: 01608 642341

The Small Hall



Lower Hall prepared for a naming ceremony



Additional area for lower hall.



Kitchen and Lower Hall entrance.

The building is licensed for alcohol & regulated entertainment.

The second or smaller hall is located on the lower floor with its own entrance, the floor area is approximately 5 x 7.5 metres (37.5 sq metres) and can be made bigger by sliding back folding doors to a separate room, this enlarges the hall by adding an additional 5.5 x 3.6 metres (19.8 sq metres) making a total area of 57.3 sq metres.

A recent addition to this hall is an easy install/remove blackout for showing film or using projectors; this is easily fitted by the town hall caretaker.



Council Chamber

Situated adjacent to this hall is the kitchen, the kitchen comes with a cooker, tall lockable fridge, stainless steel sink and worktops plus a limited amount of cutlery and glasses. The kitchen has a counter onto the hall with a raise/lower serving hatch to isolate the kitchen from the hall.



There are doors leading to the council chamber from this room which can be also used at the discretion of the mayor, there is a large boardroom style table seating approx 16 people, ideal for face to face meetings and small conferences, this room is often used for laying out buffet style food allowing more capacity in the lower hall.

On this level both male and female toilets are situated along with the cloakroom and caretakers office.

TO HIRE Contact the Guildhall Tel: 01608 642341