Welcome to Market Place

We invite you to read on and find out more about the history of this area.



Ripley © WI / RDHT

On 25th November 1251 Henry III visited Darley Abbey while hunting. At the Abbot's request he granted Ripley a weekly market and annual fair by signing a charter later that year. These were held on what was then known as "The Green".

In the early 19th century people generally travelled by stagecoach or on horseback. By the 1820's there were several stagecoaches passing through Ripley on weekdays. The Royal Mail went to Birmingham and London daily. The slower coach "Amity" went from Leeds to Birmingham, the "Champion" travelled from Nottingham to Buxton. In addition, there were carriers' carts and wagons usually going to Derby and Nottingham and back.

Coaching ended when the railway arrived.



Mr F S Allsop's horses on Ripley Market Place. He was the largest dealer of horses in Derbyshire in the early 1900's and his stables were in Slack Lane, Ripley. In the background can be seen the Three Horse Shoes Hotel and the White Lion Hotel.

Ripley Fair has been held on the Market Place since the 1251 Charter. Since the mid 19th century it has always been around the 23rd October. It had a good reputation for horse sales, but there were also many entertainments such as jugglers, melodramas, shooting galleries and a "ghost show". Many different items were on sale, including spices, salt, cloth, wool and linen. The fair was noted for "huge retailing and consumption of pork pie."



Ripley Fair 1956 © picturethepast.org.uk

The Local Board was formed in 1867 and took over the market and fair, constructing the Market Place and a Market Hall. The market flourished and in the 20th century many buses from surrounding areas came into the town, bringing shoppers. The market often stayed open until 10pm!



Market Place and Town Hall 1920s picturethepast.org.uk

This was the home of Ripley Urban District Council until 1974 when it was replaced in the national local government re-organisation by Amber Valley Borough Council. New Council offices were built in the 1990s on the site of Street's fish and chip shop and Scarsdale House on Cromford Rd, the home and surgery of Dr Ryan for many years.

Built on the site of a White House that had stood on the Green for many years, the Market Hall was not successful and was replaced by a new Town Hall in 1880.



Street's fish and chip shop © picturethepast.org.uk



Ripley Market Place showing the Elm tree © picturethepast.org.uk

The top of Lowes Hill, next to the Market Place was renamed Church Street when the new church was built in 1821. Next to the old White Lion alehouse there was a path that led to a pin fold and "Stone Jug", the House of Confinement. This was used to detain those who misbehaved, often drunkards. In 1904 this track became Grosvenor Road.

Slack Lane was a medieval pack horse trail eventually reaching the Roman road at Street Lane. The slabs surfacing it were still in place until 1973.



The Town Centre in 1821 © WI / RDHT

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