

Haverhill
TOWN COUNCIL





On 14th February 1883 Daniel Gurteen (III) and Caroline celebrated their 50th (Golden) Wedding Anniversary.

To celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary Daniel and Caroline paid for this building to be built for the people of Haverhill.

It's gone through some changes since it was first built.





These photos show Daniel and Caroline laying the foundation stones on 11 April 1882. Look for the stones either side of the main entrance.

Constructed 1882 - 1883

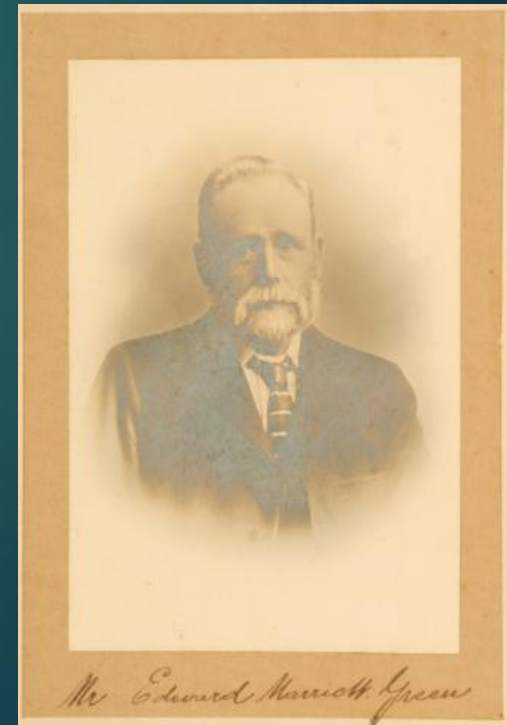
Architect: Mr E. Sharman of
Wellingborough

Builder: Mason & Sons, Haverhill





- Walter Mason entering his yard in the High Street
- Walter Mason
- Walter Mason with his employees
- Edward Marriott Green, his neighbour and stonemason



There were huge celebrations when the Town Hall was opened 18 months later on 2nd August 1883.

OPENING OF THE HAVERHILL TOWN HALL.

The very handsome and costly building which Mr. Daniel Gurteen has so generously erected at his own expense, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Haverhill, was opened amidst great rejoicing on Tuesday. The streets, which were gay with flags and bunting, were thronged with the townspeople and visitors from the surrounding district, and throughout the town the occasion was observed as a general holiday. The new Town



T. STOKOE, PHOTO.

CLARE & HAVERHILL.

Why did Daniel and Caroline build the Town Hall?

to both. (Hear, hear.) The mutual relations of employer and employed, richer and poorer, educated and uneducated, lie at the root of the well-being and progress of the commonwealth—social principles and relations are the secret springs of the management and advancement of the community.

within their reach. My heart's desire is that this building should be an educational centre, to take up and continue the mental development where it is left off by our noble Board Schools; in fact I should like this

building to be the people's college. (Applause.) One principal object more which I should like this hall to serve is the creation and fostering of a healthy public spirit. In a free country like England, where

(Cheers.) We have lived all our lives among our workpeople and neighbours—(cheers)—and we hope to join in many a pleasant gathering in this hall, because we feel sure that the more we meet together as townspeople in various kinds of entertainment or in public effort for the common good, the more the social, intellectual, and religious life of the town will be enriched and enlarged, and we shall become more united and progressive as a community. (Applause.)

The hall was intended to serve the social wellbeing of this town and neighbourhood... providing a place where inhabitants could meet ...irrespective of sect, party or creed.

It should be.....

- A place for people to meet together to enjoy 'high class lectures, concerts and wholesome recreations of various types'.
- A place where social chasms could be overcome.
- An educational centre
- A place that creates and fosters a healthy public spirit.

I hereby give to the people of **HAVERHILL**
the **TOWN HALL** opened this day,
subject to certain trusts and conditions
which **I** or my representatives may
hereafter name.

HAVERHILL,
28th August, 1883.

Daniel Gurneen



herby give to the people of Haverhill
THE ORGAN

opened this day, for their use, upon the same
trusts as the **Town Hall** in which it is placed.

Daniel Curtis junior

H A V E R H I L L,

23rd May, 1884.

In this day **D. Gurteen and Sons Ltd.**
handed the Urban District Council a Cheque to defray
the cost of installing Electric Light in the Town Hall.
This is to commemorate the **GIFG** and to
express publicly the thanks of
the Townspeople to the Firm.

Given under the Seal of the
Urban District Council of
Haverhill.

19th August, 1948.

J. B. Foster

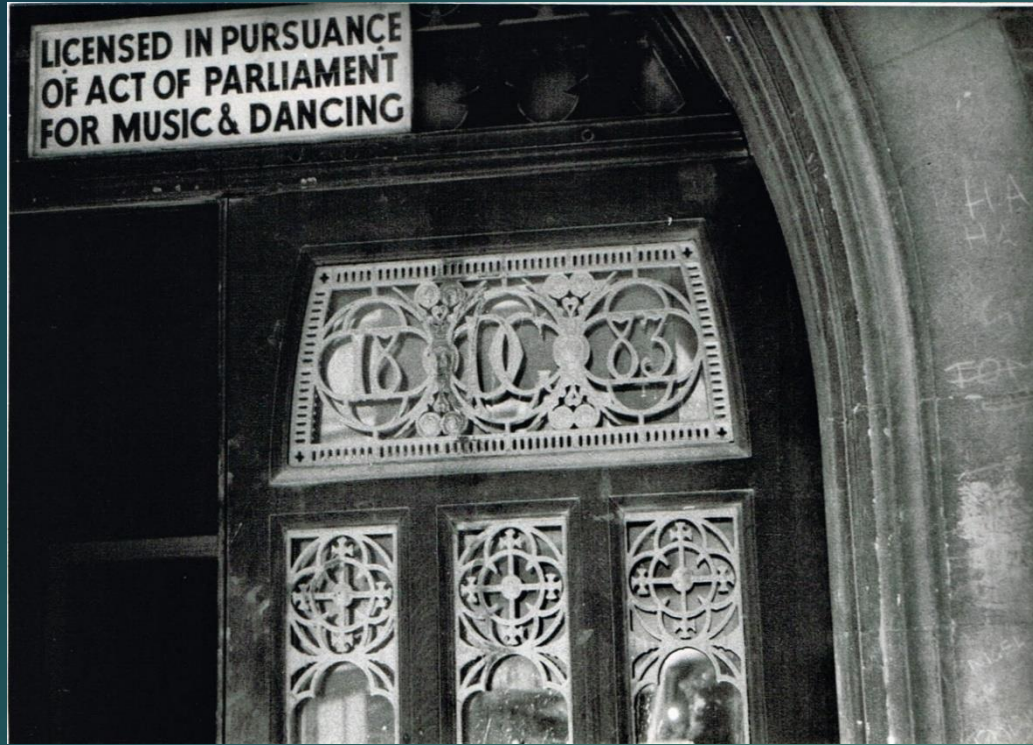
CHAIRMAN.

W. P. Blake

Clerk of the Council.



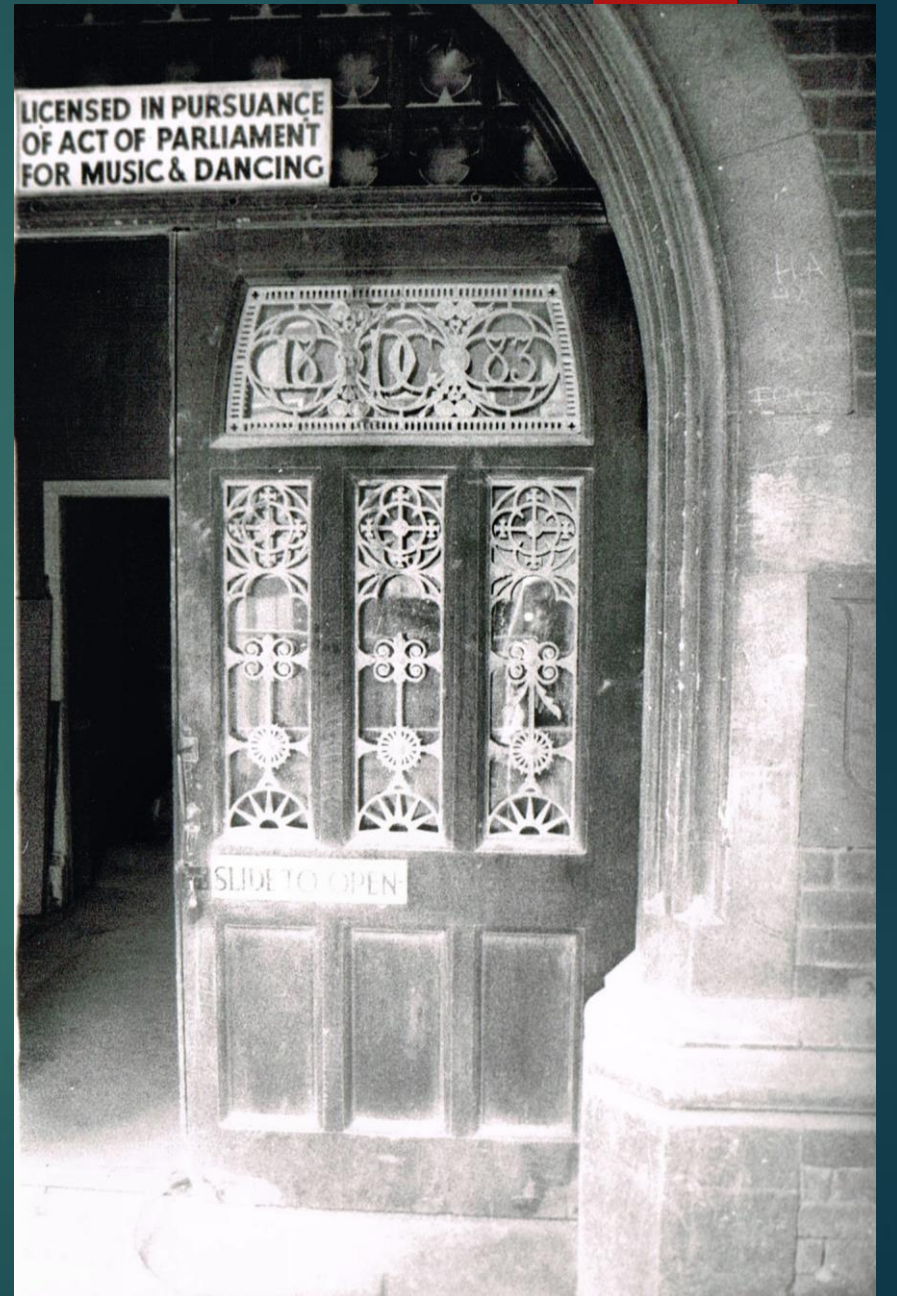
LICENSED IN PURSUANCE
OF ACT OF PARLIAMENT
FOR MUSIC & DANCING

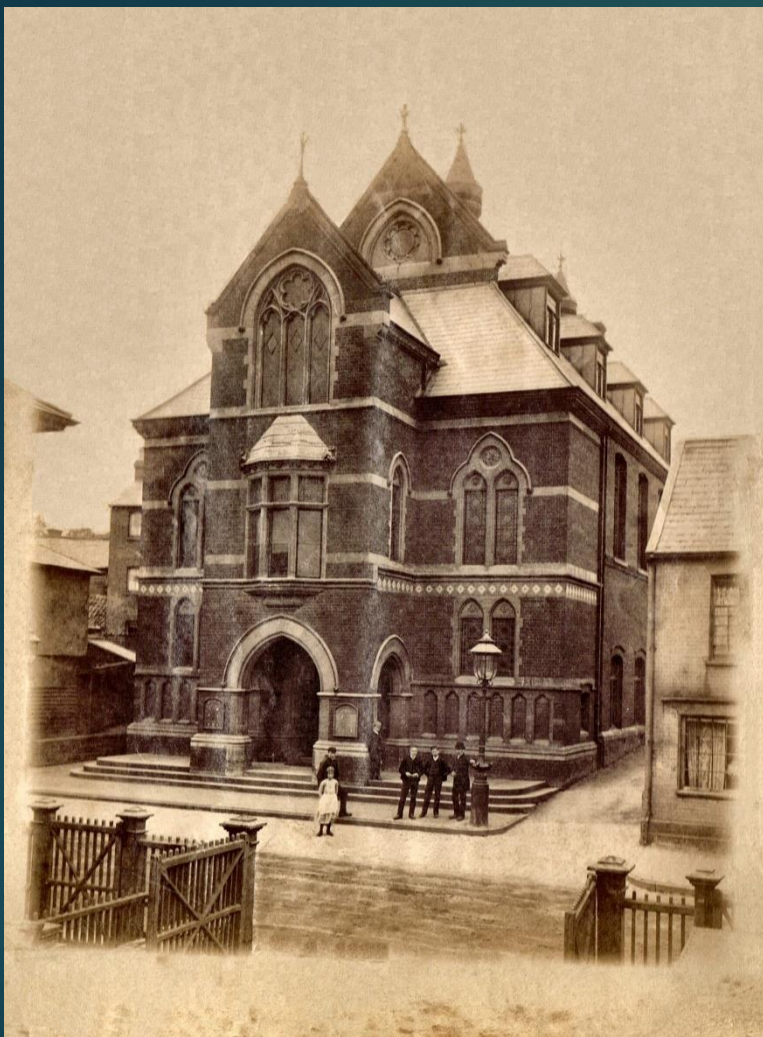


The original main entrance



LICENSED IN PURSUANCE
OF ACT OF PARLIAMENT
FOR MUSIC & DANCING





The building was expected to cost between £4000 - £5000

in its arrangement. The cost is expected to be between four and five thousand pounds. Mr. Gurteen's liberality has not stopped short at the mere shell of a building, but has allowed of a style of treatment, without and within, which, while free from extravagance, satisfies the eye with a sufficient variety of form and colour, and seems to leave nothing to be desired in the way of adornment. The ground floor of the building is about

The organ cost between £600 - £700

disappointed here. An organ, to cost six or seven hundred pounds, is in course of construction, and will be the contribution of Mr. D. Gurteen, jun., to the fittings of the hall. An arched recess is left for it at the back of the orchestra, and it is expected to be put in position there sometime during the winter. The



On the ground floor were rooms

for:

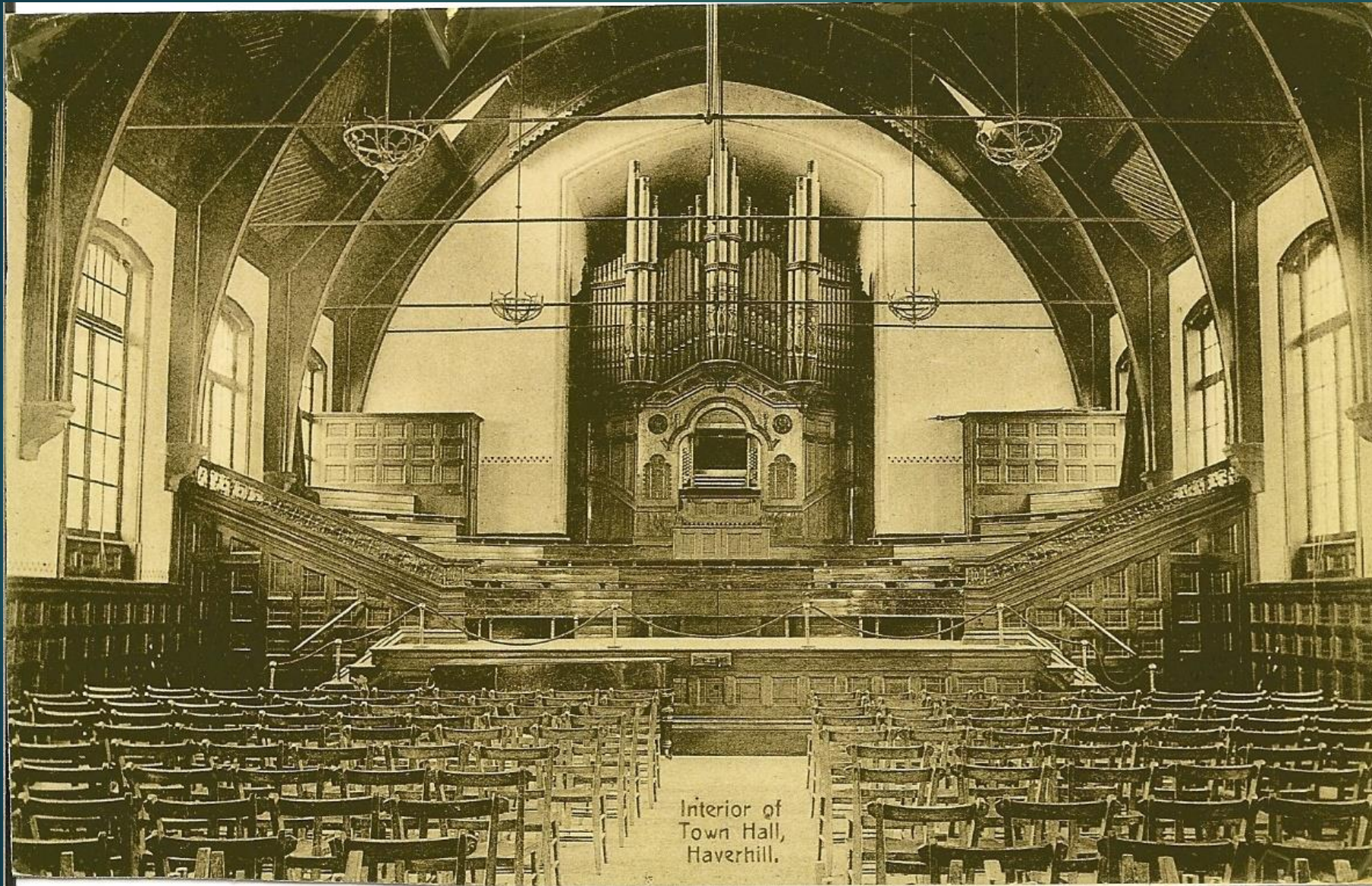
- ✓ a Council Chamber
- ✓ reading
- ✓ lecture
- ✓ chess
- ✓ billiards
- ✓ a kitchen
- ✓ toilets

front porch. On the ground floor there are reading, chess, committee, lecture, and billiard rooms, with a large kitchen, and ample lavatory accommodation for ladies and gentlemen. The rooms are all heated by hot water, the apparatus for which was supplied and fitted by Messrs. Beard's and Son. The gas fitting has been carried out by Messrs. Hart, Son, and Peard. Part of the main roof is finished with a small gable, set back from the front main wall. The windows are glazed with cathedral glass of various tints. The carving has been executed by Mr. Barfield, of Leicester. The woodwork was done by Mr. Atterton, of Haverhill. Messrs. Mason and Green, of Haverhill, were the builders, and they have carried out their contract in a most creditable manner.

built with native red brick and bathstone dressings. The main hall, which is on the first floor, and is approached from the porch by means of two broad and substantial oak staircases, is 72ft. long by 38ft. wide, and 33ft. high. It is a handsome and spacious room. The roof, which is of polished deal boards, is in the form of a decagon, the curved ribs of the principals springing from Coveshill stone corbels 10ft. from the floor. A panelled oak dado 6ft. high is carried round the walls. Eight dormers in the roof give light and ventilation, and these are supplemented by Hill and Hey's well-known ventilators. A large orchestra at one end is approached by two flights of steps from the body of the hall. At the opposite end is a large gallery, running over the entrance hall. Behind this is a small room, with an oriel window above the front porch. On the ground floor there are reading,

- ✓ The main hall was 30m long, 12m wide, 10m high
- ✓ The roof is in the form of a decagon
- ✓ There is oak panelling 2m high around the walls
- ✓ There were 8 dormer windows to give light and ventilation

The main hall was quite something.



Interior of
Town Hall,
Haverhill.

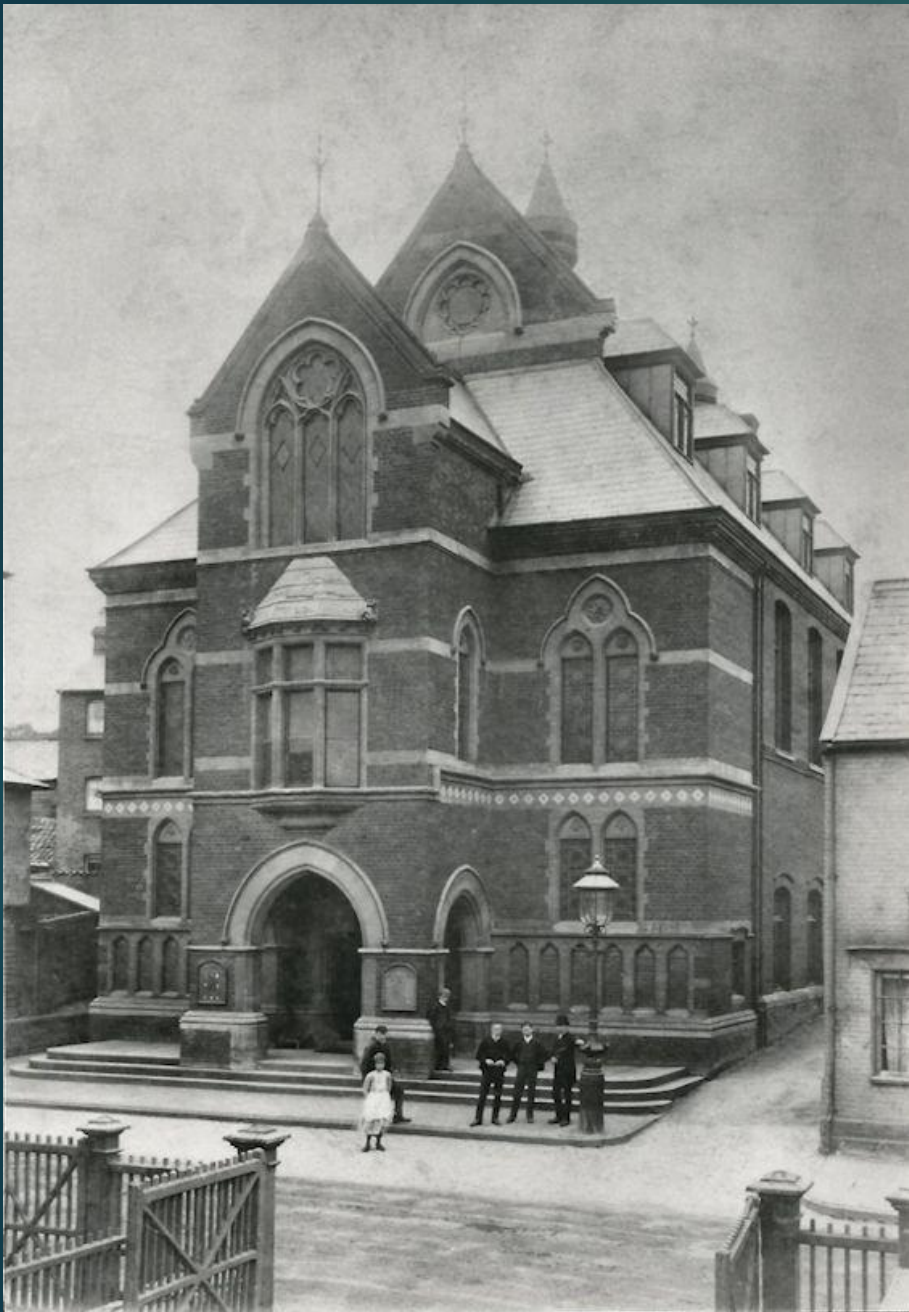
At the back of the stage is the organ which was given to the town by Daniel Gurteen IV. (It is now in The Mechanical Music Museum.)



This photo of the hall upstairs shows what it looked like in 1891 when Haverhill was presented with a plaque from Haverhill, MA.

G. Moss

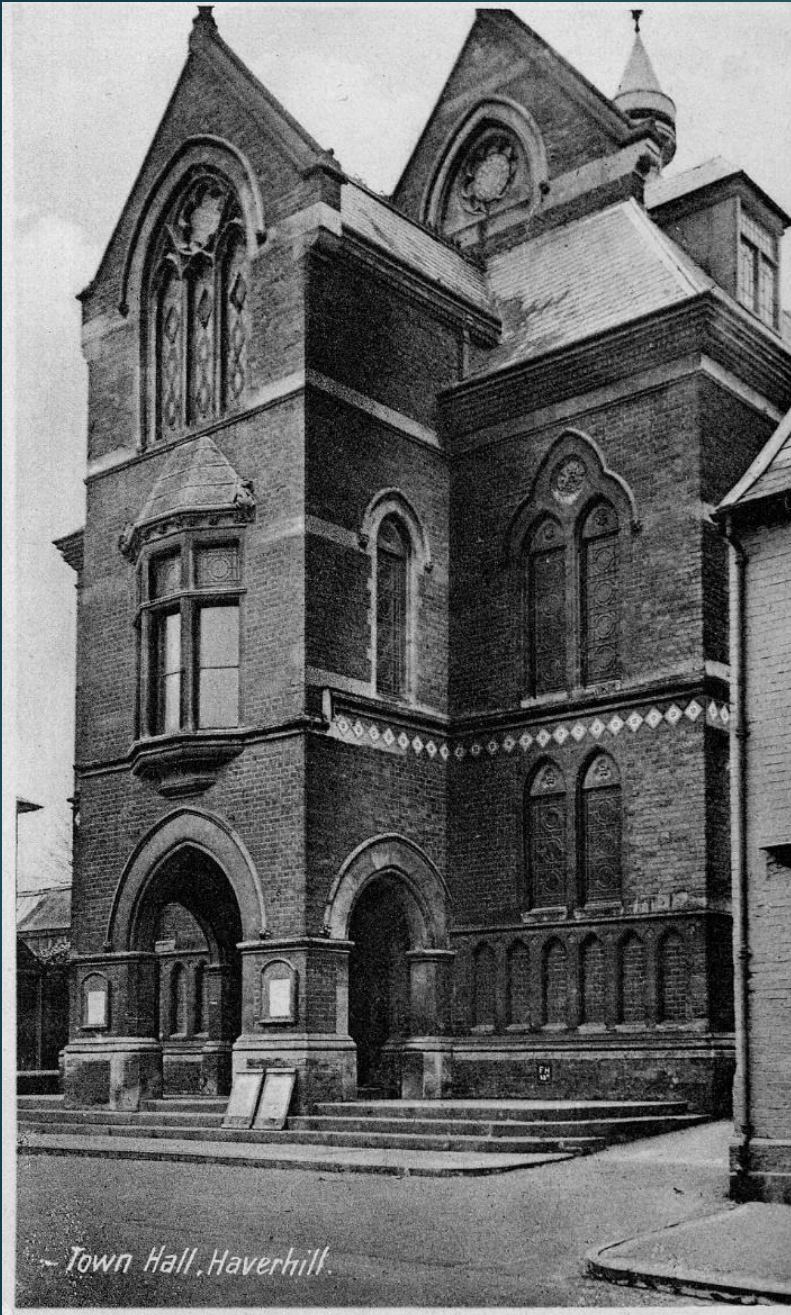
Haverhill



Spot the difference

When it was built there were eight dormer windows for light and ventilation. These were long gone by the time the building became the Arts Centre





Spot the difference

The main entrance has undergone many changes.





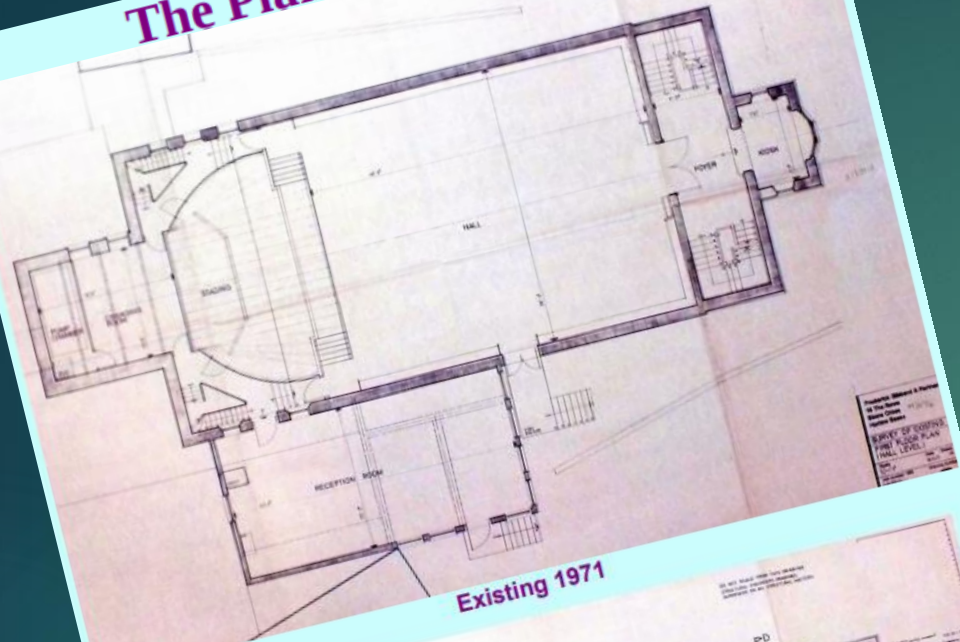
The conversion to Arts Centre, 1994



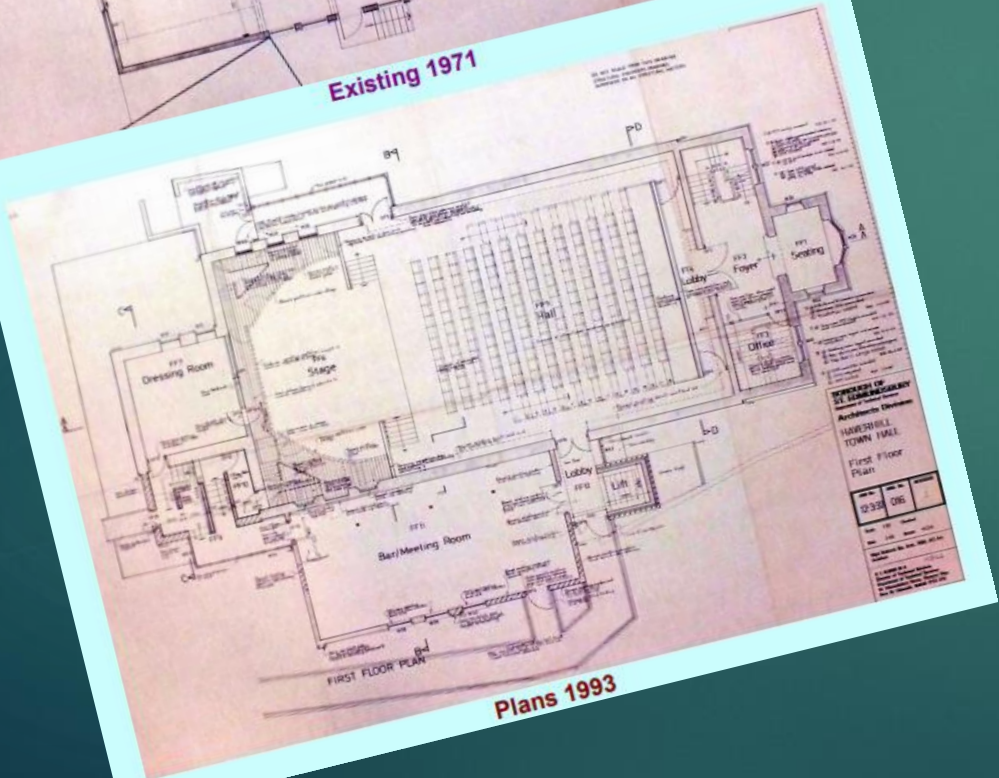
Architect: Mr Nigel Badcock Dip.Arch. RIBA
Architects Division Borough of St.
Edmundsbury

Builder: F.W.Cocksedge & Sons, Ltd.

The Plans – First Floor

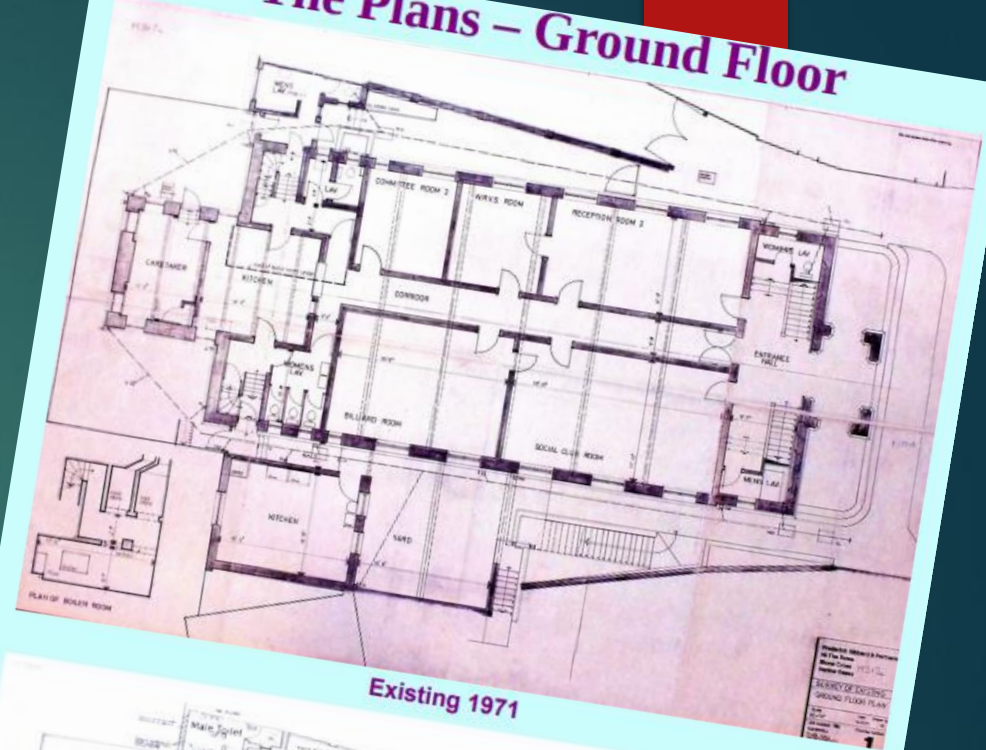


Existing 1971

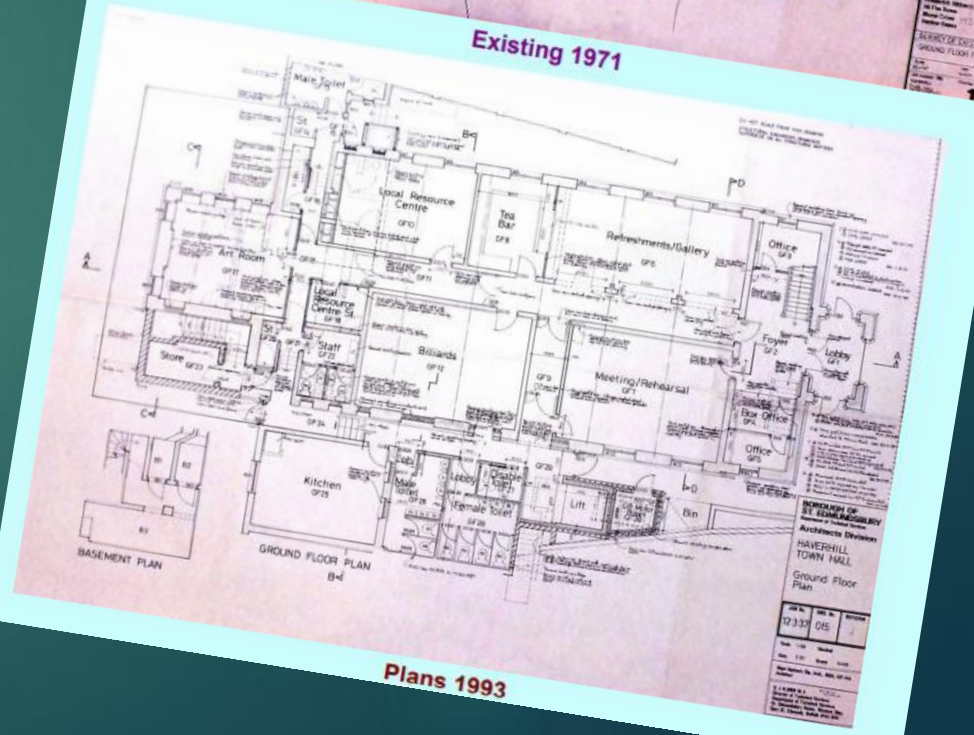


Plans 1993

The Plans – Ground Floor



Existing 1971



Plans 1993

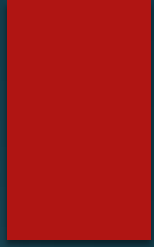


Time has not stood still –



Can you remember when the café was called the Bistro?





The bar has been modernised too.

