

The Market Cross and the Estcourt Fountain

Devizes is fortunate to have two important monuments in its Market Place. When were they built and why?

The Market Cross, although not literally a 'cross' was erected in 1814 and replaced an earlier structure of columns that carried the statue of a bear that is now above the doorway of the Bear Hotel.

A suitably prestigious monument for the town had been sought for some time but who was to pay for it?

Eventually Henry Addington, one time MP for Devizes and later Lord Sidmouth, came up with the money.

The Fountain is a memorial to another Devizes MP, Thomas Sotheron Estcourt. When he died it was generally agreed that he should be remembered with a monument and so the fountain was built with his statue on top. The photograph shows part of the splendid celebrations that accompanied the unveiling in 1879.

