



A **HISTORY** OF NEWTOWN MARKET HALL





FOR MORE THAN 280 YEARS THIS BUILDING WAS THE **CENTRE** OF NEWTOWN'S MARKET



THE OLD MARKET HALL

Newtown's 'Old Market Hall' stood in Broad Street between the present day Castle Vaults and the NatWest Bank. It was built around 1570 and demolished in 1852. No photographs of it are known to exist but it does appear in an engraving of Broad Street made in about 1848.

In about 1570 the Lord of the Manor of Cedewain, John Pryce of Newtown Hall, granted Thomas Turner, one of the towns' Bailiffs, the right to collect the market tolls. For this privilege Turner was required to pay an annual rent of twenty six shillings and eight pence and also to build at his own expense, on the site of an old court house in the middle of Broad Street, a booth hall, tolls shoppe and a prison house. This he did. The open space below the hall was used as the town's market place for corn, butter, cheese and wool.

For more than 280 years this building was the centre of Newtown's market, but with the rapid expansion of the handloom weaving industry in the early nineteenth century the old market hall quickly became inadequate for the weekly sales of wool and flannel. In 1832, under the leadership of William Pugh of Brynllwarch, Kerry, local businessmen got together to erect a fine new building at the end of Broad Street, to serve as the town's flannel exchange. Although purpose built, the building only operated as a flannel exchange on Thursdays which meant it was also regularly used as a public hall. In 1890 it was altered and enlarged to enable the front of the building to become a post office.



THE BRISCO FAMILY

THE NEWTOWN HALL ESTATE HAD BEEN
DISSIPATED IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY...

..the hall itself had, in 1804, passed to the Rev George Arther Evors, a direct descendant of Sir John Pryce. Evors invested heavily in the burgeoning wool industry and set about recreating the ancient estate. After his death his property passed, through his sister, Lady Diana Evors, to the Brisco family, who owned numerous large estates all over Britain and Ireland, their principle seat being in Hastings. They became owners of the Newtown Hall Estate in 1849 when Arthur Brisco inherited it from his mother's family, who were direct descendants of the Pryces of Newtown Hall.

On Arthur's death the estate passed to his father, Wastel Brisco snr. On his death in 1878 the estate passed to his son also named Wastel. Up to the time of Wastel junior's death in 1891 the family were absentee landlords delegating the running of the estate to local agents (T Sturkey) who kept a close watch on all of their interests, ensuring they gained the maximum return on what they owned.



OPENED A FEW DAYS BEFORE **CHRISTMAS** IN 1870

THE NEW MARKET HALL

IN 1868 WASTEL BRISCO INSTRUCTED HIS AGENT IN NEWTOWN, THOMAS STURKEY, TO HAVE SOME OF HIS PROPERTIES IN HIGH STREET AND MARKET STREET DEMOLISHED AND AN IMPOSING MARKET HALL BUILT IN THEIR PLACE.

In 1868 Wastel Brisco instructed his agent in Newtown, Thomas Sturkey, to have some of his properties in High Street and Market Street demolished and an imposing market hall built in their place. The Liverpool architect, David Walker, was engaged to draw up plans which included imposing yellow brick and terracotta facades open at both Market Street and High Street entrances. Mr Williams of Llanidloes was the builder. Dennis Taylor was appointed Caretaker/Superintendent for the Market Hall. He lived at 8 Frolic Street with his wife Harriet and his three sons and two daughters (Dennis, George, Robert, Rose and Lily).

The new building was opened a few days before Christmas in 1870. The key was turned by Thomas Sturkey's young son Owen.

Not wishing to have the expense of running the building himself, Wastel Brisco immediately offered the Market Hall to Newtown Local Board, either for sale or rent.

The asking price was £5,000. The Board asked Evan Powell to do a valuation of the building. He came up with the remarkably precise figure of £3,868 12s 8d.

Although Brisco reduced his price, many in the town felt the amount that he was asking was still exorbitant. In addition to this they were outraged that they had not been consulted over decisions such as where the market would be built, how large it would be and how much it would cost.

As discussions continued, the opinions of those who lived in the town began to divide. Those who felt the Market Hall should be purchased believed that Mr Brisco was a generous benefactor to the town and should be shown gratitude for providing the people of Newtown, not only with a fine Market Hall, but many other buildings in the town. Others were violently opposed to this view, convinced that Mr Brisco was only out to make a profit for himself.



In March 1871, these contradicting views eventually lead to violence on the streets of Newtown. Unable to come to an agreement on the 'Market Hall Question' a poll had taken place asking the ratepayers in the Newtown district if they wanted to purchase the building. Canvassing on both sides was rowdy with many accusations of cheating. Eventually, the people voted in favour of the Newtown Local Board buying or renting the hall from Mr Brisco. However, this was not the end of the matter. Many were not happy and the scene that followed was one of chaos with crowds shouting, fighting and running along the streets, hurling stones through windows and generally causing trouble.

Eventually, after calling for additional policemen to calm the situation, the streets gradually began to empty. A decision, it seemed, had been made.

The Council now sought to come to a financial arrangement with Mr Brisco for the purchase of the hall. Many letters were written and offers made but the gap between seller and purchaser could not be closed and it was to be another 50 years before the matter was finally resolved.

In the meantime, the Market Hall was soon pressed into service as a public meeting place for events and entertainments. In 1876 the floor of the hall was regularly used as a roller skating rink with community teas, dances and political speeches all taking place in this new large public space.

The row over the proposed purchase of the market hall continued over the years with 'The Market Hall Question' rarely out of the local news. In July 1893 there was an 'uproarious' meeting of ratepayers. They decided not to do anything for six months but still 'the meeting then broke up in confusion'. At the end of six months, in January 1894, another attempt was made at a meeting in the Victoria Hall.

There were 'uproarious scenes and general ructions' and the matter was again adjourned, this time for a year. Despite this resolution another meeting was held the following March. Once again there was considerable interruption and uproar and the meeting was of a most animated character from beginning to end. Again no decision emerged.

The Brisco family raised the matter again in 1913 when the owner of Newtown Hall estate, Captain R J W Arbuthnot-Brisco offered to sell the Market Hall to the Urban District Council for £5,850. The Council remembered that 40 years earlier the asking price had been £5,000. To increase the price 'after all those years of wear and tear' the councillors considered to be outrageous. The offer was refused.

The Great War changed everything. When it ended in 1918 the country's great estates were left with huge land taxes to pay. The Newtown Hall estate was no exception, much of its property had to be put on the market to raise the cash to pay what was owed. With so much property being put on the market at the same time prices were seriously deflated. The UDC was able to get the Market Hall for £3,500. Stamp duty, legal costs and repairs brought the total up to £4,273 12s 8d, less than they had been asked for the Hall 50 years earlier.

The building that the council took possession of was, however, no longer in its original condition. To celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 Miss Sarah Brisco of Newtown Hall had decided to demolish some of her properties in The Cross and replace them with the present Cross Buildings. This involved the removal of three shops. One of these had been empty for some time but the other two housed long standing tenants. W H Lambert, Chemist and Jones Brothers, Ironmongers. When the building was completed they would be able to return to the premises but meanwhile temporary accommodation had to be found for their businesses.





FOR MORE THAN 280 YEARS THIS BUILDING WAS THE **CENTRE** OF NEWTOWN'S MARKET



BUILDING A **FUTURE** FOR NEWTOWN MARKET HALL

This was achieved by brutally hacking away most of David Walkers' lofty arcade at the High Street end of the Market Hall and inserting shop fronts on either side of the entrance. In 1900 Messrs Lambert and Jones Bros returned to the Cross. Their temporary shops in the Market Hall remain.

Once under municipal control the Market Hall ceased to be a matter of front page news until 1939 when the outbreak of the Second World War again brought a change to the Market Halls' circumstances. Many of the town's buildings were requisitioned for government or military use. In 1941 a partition wall was built down the middle of the building and the eastern side of the Market Hall became one of five buildings in town housing an Admiralty Victualing Depot. During the hostilities the Royal Navy's stock of Rum was said to have been kept in Newtown. When the war ended that part of the building then became a Ministry of Food Buffet Depot.

In 1954 the building was derequisitioned and the space rented to G.H.Rees, corn merchant, who had his business next door at 30 Market Street (now BJ's). The entire Market Hall was not returned to public use until 1959, when the Urban District Council undertook refurbishments and had 12 lock-up shops built inside, which they rented out.

During successive local government reorganisations the building has passed from Newtown and Llanllwchaearn Urban District Council to Montgomery District Council to Powys County Council, then finally Powys County Council transferred the property for refurbishment on a 99 year lease to Mid Wales Food and Land Trust in 2014.



THE MARKET HALL TIMELINE

1279	
	Original Market Hall Charter granted.
1570	
	In about 1570 the Lord of the Manor of Cedewain, John Pryce of Newtown Hall, granted Thomas Turner, one of the towns Bailiffs the right to collect the market tolls. For this privilege Turner was required to pay an annual rent of twenty-six shillings and eight pence and also to build a 'Booth Hall' (the old Market Hall) at his own expense, on the site of an old court house in the middle of Broad Street'.
1852	
	The old Market Hall, situated in the middle of Broad Street was demolished.
1863	
	There was a disagreement about where the site of the new Market Hall should be. The Bull Inn site was the best but also the most expensive, particularly at the High Street end. Land at the junction of Park Road and New Church Street and the Buck garden were also suggested.
1868	
	The Bull Inn, which stood on the site of the current Market Hall, was closed and demolished.
1869	
	The Market Hall was to be erected at the sole expense of Captain Wastel Brisco of Newtown Hall. Wastel instructed his agent in Newtown, Thomas Sturkey, to have some of his properties in High Street and Market Street demolished. The Liverpool architect David Walker, was engaged to draw up plans which included imposing yellow brick and terracotta facades open at both Market Street and High Street entrances. Mr Williams of Llanidloes was to be the builder. The hall would cost £4000 to build. The foundation stone for the new Market Hall was laid by Mr Owen Sturkey on the site of the old Bull Inn.
1869	<i>8th September 1869</i>
	The Bull Inn licence was transferred to the New Market Hall Vaults, Market Street.
1870	
	Dennis Taylor was appointed Caretaker/Superintendent for the Market Hall. He lived at 8 Frolic Street with his wife Harriet and his three sons and two daughters (Dennis, George, Robert, Rose and Lily).

The new Market hall opened.

The local paper reported the following:

"The new Market Hall in High Street and Horsemarket Street, erected by Wastel Brisco, Esq., the proprietor of the Newtown Hall estate, was opened for public use on Tuesday, December 20th.

At daybreak the event was ushered in by the ringing of the bells of the parish church, and this was kept up with great spirit through the day.

In addition to the hall's being open free of charge, tea and cake were provided ad libitum for the saleswomen attending the market, and not a few of the residents of the town partook of the generous hospitality of the worthy donor.

During the whole of the day the hall was densely thronged, and the farmers' wives and others were loud in their praises of the building and the arrangements made for their comfort, and we think it will not be an easy thing to persuade them to return again to the mire and discomfort of the street. During the afternoon the pleasure of the attendants at the market was enhanced by the cheering strains of the 1st Montgomeryshire Rifle Volunteer Band, stationed at the High Street entrance. Each entrance was nicely decorated with evergreens, surmounted with a flag, and the mottoes, "Success to the New Market Hall" and "Pro Bono Publico". The building is 180 feet long and 50 feet wide, the walls being 19 feet to the wall plate, and 28 feet from the floor to the ridge. At the High Street end there are two large rooms, 20 feet square each, for the sale of corn, and on the sides of the hall are shops for different trades, the centre being occupied with standings for the sale of poultry, eggs, butter, while at the Horsemarket entrance there is a residence for the superintendent of the market, and a large refreshment room.

The interior of the building is light and airy, and well ventilated by means of louvres in the roof and windows in the side walls. The floor is made of hydraulic cement, presenting both a neat and warm appearance.

The hall was erected from plans prepared by Mr David Walker, Liverpool. The contractor for the general building is Mr Evan Williams, Llanidloes; for the iron-work, Messrs Howarth, Rochdale, and for the market fittings, Messrs Black and Readdie, Liverpool. We may safely pronounce the opening a great success, and hope the speculation will prove highly remunerative".

A second report stated:

"At an early hour on Tuesday morning, the bells of St Mary's burst forth with a merry peal and continued to ring at intervals during the day. The doors of the new market place were thrown open at early dawn and as soon as daylight appeared the country women with their baskets of poultry dressed and undressed, came pouring in till a large array was seen. We were not curious enough to enquire what the first article sold within the hall was, nor who was the seller, or who was the purchaser; but incidentally we heard it, and as incidentally we may mention it, that Mr Edmund of Newtown gas works has the gratification of knowing he was the purchaser of the first goose which was sold in that building. To poultry succeeded butter, eggs cheese, bacon, fruit, vegetables, cakes, hosiery, haberdashery, grocery, ironmongery, saddlery, shoes, crockery ware with the thousand and one other articles which constitute a miscellaneous market.

At or about ten o'clock the entire space became full and many opinions were ventured as to the capacity of the edifice, whether it was equal to the requirements of the town, some asserting that when the two late morning trains were in, that it would be found far too small. Though tightly fixed, the market place did not at any time appear to be inconveniently full, excepting in the neighbourhood of the refreshment room and just at the time set down for tea to commence. Then it was and then only that anything like inconvenience was felt, but tea for the market women comes but once in an age, and the Christmas market only once a year, from which it is to be inferred that when all has been duly organised and arranged that sufficient space is provided for the present, that the market must be an exceptionally large one, which will see parties taking space without who could not be accommodated, with the room within.

So far as the feeling of the public was concerned, it appeared to be that of unqualified satisfaction, indeed, of gratitude for the convenience. Judging from appearances, it must be a dread alternative that would drive parties from the convenience of this hall into the open streets again."

The following artistic description of the building was also reported:

The new building is situated upon the site formerly occupied by the Bull Inn, extending the full length from High Street to Horsemarket Street, and being in a central situation with good approaches, is easy to access from all parts of town.

The form of the building is an irregular parallelogram, which is caused by a break in the site about 80 feet from the high street end. The entire length of the market is 180 feet by a uniform internal width of 50 feet, the walls being 19ft from floor to wall plate and 28 feet to the ridge. The east and west sides of the market are fitted up with commodious shops for different trades, two large rooms;

20 feet square each, for the sale of grain by sample and in sacks being provided at the High Street end.

Standings for the sale of fruit and vegetables are also arranged towards High Street in the centre of the market, the remaining space being devoted to the sale of butter, eggs and other produce in baskets. All usual conveniences for those attending the market are provided, in addition to an efficient water supply. A large refreshment room for the accommodation of those attending the market, with dwelling house attached for the superintendent, is arranged towards Horsemarket Street in an angle of land forming the roadway to the Sun Inn.

The interior aspect of the market is particularly light and airy. The roof, which is of iron and glass, and broken into two spans, is supported by girders divided into two bays the entire length of the market resting upon iron columns of an ornamental character, the roof and columns being decorated in colours.

Ample ventilation is provided by means of louvres in the roof, and through windows in the side walls, and the floor of the market being of hydraulic cement has a clean and warm appearance, and possesses the advantage of being readily cleansed. The elevations towards High Street and Horsemarket Street are executed in Edwards light yellow patent brick with terra cotta decorations, the style being Lombardic, the character exterior perfectly expressing the purpose of the building. The front towards High Street contains a pediment for a clock flanked on either side by a balustrade with small shafts, and enriched caps and fascias.

SUCCESS TO THE **NEW** MARKET HALL

10th January 1871 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"According to notices which appeared in these columns, Mr Whitehall attended a meeting for the purpose of offering public competition for the 22 shops in the Market Hall. The sale was largely attended but it was understood from the very commencement that few (if any) would be let, the sum stated to be the reserve price placed upon them by the proprietor being fully, or nearly as much again as the public estimate of their real value.

After a series of explanatory remarks the business was preceded with and shop number 1 was put up. A sharp competition ensued but the cause was very evident – the whole arising from competition of the 'rival cheese men'. Ultimately it was struck down to Mr Burton at an annual rental of £9. Numbers 2 to 6 were afterwards successfully offered without any bidders and numbers 7, 8, 9 and 10 followed suit. At number 11 a change in tactics of the sale took place, biddings for the preference being taken, one being struck down at the reserve bidding for which Mr Charles Morris of Welshpool had bid £7. From numbers 12 to 21 there were no bidders. For number 22 the sum of £6 10s was bid, but of course it was not accepted.

The result of the days preceding was such as justified the opinion advanced that rates expected were too high for Newtown, where in reality only one market in the week is held and where it is impossible that the rents obtained at the Covent Garden and other leading markets of the kingdom can be exacted.

The probability is that the duties of Tuesday must fall again on Mr Whitehall whenever the proprietor will come to the conclusion that lower terms must be accepted. On Thursday a letter was received from Mr Brisco in answer to one forwarded by the Market Hall Committee asking him his terms for the sale or lease of the market hall."

17th January 1871 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"So far as we understand the matter of objections to closing with Mr Brisco appear to be these:

First considering the relationship held by Mr Brisco to the town that his demands are exorbitant and secondly that it would be to the public advantage to build a market place rather than to rent or purchase one.

That Mr Brisco's demands are exorbitant may be as shortly disposed of. The only question at issue is that of ground rent and surely the sum of £25 per annum is not that overwhelming an obstacle which should disbar the town receiving an advantage, which by all is considered essential to its welfare.

It is impossible to shut our eyes to the fact that by some, great stress is laid upon the well-known liberality of a family whose generous deeds are deserving of the highest recognition and deepest gratitude.

As to the cost of the building we must confess to being amongst the greatest of novices of the day, but yet, with the estimates at command it is not possible that even we can make very gross mistakes. Estimating trade of the town to require a market place of some 1,500 superficial yards and taking a general estimate of £3.10s per yard as that at which a good erection can be made, how does the matter stand? ...why thus: without site, compensation, parliamentary costs and another hundred and one matters that enter the calculations a suitable market place cannot be provided for Newtown for less than £5,000 for which our mind disposes of the assertion that the whole including site can be provided for £4,000.

From our neighbours, we may learn something even on this subject and it would not be well satisfied if they have a market hall of equal capacity and so well situated as our own for double the sum at which it is said it can be provided for Newtown."

1871

24th January 1871 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

Rent	£250.00 per annum
Taxes	£40.00 per annum
Gas	£10.00 per annum
Superintendence	£30.00 per annum
Incidentals	£10.00 per annum
outgoings	£340.00 per annum
Refreshment House	£40.00
End Rooms	£24.00
Shops	£132.00
Central Stands	£48.00
Side Stalls	£24.00
Other Sources (butter, cheese etc.)	£100.00
Income	£360.00
Net Profit	£30.00

1871

2nd February 1871 (Llangollen Advertiser, Denbighshire, Merionethshire)

"A meeting of ratepayers was called by the churchwardens of Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn to resolve to build a Market Hall. Previous to the meeting a proclamation was issued informing the public that they were required to attend for the purpose of 'defeating cunning and trickery, and to secure the triumph of justice and right'. This proclamation, as may have been expected, caused a considerable amount of laughter and sport. The meeting was well attended. Mr Jones was elected chairman.

Mr Williams (rector) proposed that the Local Board be authorised to 'purchase or take a lease, or purchase the Market Hall for the sum of £5,000 or an annual rent not to exceed £250'.

Mr John Hall proposed 'That under existing circumstances, judging from the extravagant rent which Mr Brisco asks for his Market Hall, it is not desirable to rent, purchase or lease the Market.

Hall for the present'. The Chairman then put the two propositions to the meeting. For Mr Williams about two dozen hands went up.

For Mr Hall a forest of hands went up. Mr Williams then demanded a poll which was granted. The Chairman said he would consult parties as to the proper time that was required and issue voting papers accordingly. Three cheers for John Hall brought the proceedings to a close."

1871

14th February 1871 (*The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard*)

A letter from an interested Newtown citizen;

"Mr Brisco has made two offers to the local board. He will sell them the Market Hall for £4,000 reserving to himself a ground rent of £50 per annum or he will let it to them on a lease for a term of years for £300 per annum. Undertaking to guarantee a gross income of £400 and if deducting £100 per annum which the net income should not amount to £300 then he will abate the rent so as to meet the deficiency.

I say nothing about the first offer as it is well known that the government will not sanction borrowing powers for anything other than freehold. These terms the editor of the Express urges the rate payers to accept and says that if they offer less it will appear as if they wanted the Market Hall for nothing.

I entirely object to this arrangement. Mr Brisco and his friend the Editor have made the mistake of believing that he is entitled to the profits of the market. On the contrary, I maintain that the market is the Property of the ratepayers and that after the collection of fair and moderate tolls there is a surplus profit in it, it rightfully belongs to they and should not be frittered away to swell the rent-roll of a wealthy landowner, or promote selfish interests of any party."

1871

21st February 1871 (*The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard*)

"On Saturday evening at 8.00pm a meeting was called and held in the anti-rooms of the hall:

The meeting was conducted by Mr Thomas Rowlands, who, in opening the proceedings, said that he hoped that they had not come together in the spirit of opposition but that they would try to do what is best for the majority of ratepayers.

He continued:

'The Market Hall had been erected in this town and built by private speculation; the ratepayers had never been asked whether they wanted such a convenience, neither had the local board determined upon the site, the expense, or the size of the building. Every man had a right to speculate, but if the hall built by Mr Brisco could only be made to yield a profit by using compulsory powers to force people into it, and the rate payers agreed to give the local board those powers, then they would drive the market away to Rhayader and other places where people could enjoy the privileges of an open market'.

The assembled crowd cheered in agreement."

1871

4th March 1871 (*The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard*)

Letter from 'A Spinner' pointing out what a benefactor to the town Mr Brisco was... "I need not remind you that Mr Brisco is able and willing to assist Newtown if he is only dealt fairly with..."

1871

6th March 1871

A meeting was held in the Unicorn of those opposed to buying the market Hall

1871

21st March 1871 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"As reporting is more our object than remark we may state that with the exception of canvassing the houses by the opposition party nothing of importance transpired until Thursday evening when a large meeting of the promoters was held in the Buck Inn and a public meeting of the oppositionists in the public rooms. Upon Friday morning the voting papers were distributed and as each party determined to be early at work considerable animation was displayed in several portions of the town and where the opposition party were the strongest – especially on the green – some of the promoters got rather usage so far as words were concerned.

About dusk a meeting of the John Hall party was held on the Canal Basin and another meeting of the promoters in the Buck Inn and during the evening considerable excitement was manifested and noise made, the chairman of the Promoters committee being treated with an ovation of a peculiar kind. This although not over pleasant was not all, as about midnight one malignant fellow honoured Mr Parry with a stone through a bedroom window.

Upon Saturday night everything went quiet. Monday will undoubtedly be the great day of the fight."

1871

24th March 1871 (Montgomeryshire Express and Radnor Times)

"The poll on the Market Hall question has caused great excitement throughout the week. On Thursday evening the "Promoters" held a meeting at the Buck, and the "Oppositionists" at the Public Rooms, and on Friday, on which day voting-papers were distributed, there was some rather rough work in some parts of the town.

In the evening meetings were again held, and towards midnight the demonstrations assumed a very unpleasant shape, Mr. Parry, and Mr. T. Turner, being disturbed by stones thrown through their bedroom windows.

On Saturday morning Mr. Parry offered £5 5s. for the conviction of the offender and the Chief-constable took steps to increase the force at his disposal in Newtown. On Saturday morning the excitement reached a great height, in consequence of the hearing of the assault case reported in another column; and in the evening the "Oppositionists met in the Pool-road, and addresses were delivered amidst great cheering. Another assault took place, and another magisterial investigation is expected. On Monday great excitement again prevailed; yesterday the voting-papers were collected and to-day the scrutiny commences."

MR BRISCO'S DEMANDS ARE EXORBITANT

28th March 1871 (*The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard*)

"From returning our report on this subject which from what has appeared in these columns will be allowed to be the most absorbing topic ever brought before the Newtown public in their municipal capacity. That we expected a noisy time of it may be inferred but we barely expected what transpired, and which may now be considered matters of local history.

We were scarcely prepared for what took place, and which we should be doing wrong if we did not unhesitatingly attribute it to the exciting and irritating addresses and the gross misrepresentations made which were delivered between the time the subject was first mooted and its culmination on last Wednesday evening.

From early dawn until midnight hours were reached the time was incessantly employed canvassing. The 'free independent' opposition were the most noisy and belligerently disposed – the promoters most practical and successful.

Not a stone was left unturned upon both sides and it is confessed among the opposition party that many were well versed in election tactics – men who could well sustain the position of 'man in the moon' if asked to do so. Several meetings were held by them during the day, in which the phrase 'we have them whipped and we will give them a greater whipping yet' was heard.

To find a parallel for this day we must look back to ancient Rome and in the proceedings and fate of Rienzi that a parallel will be found.

Upon Tuesday the duty of collecting the papers fell to the distributors. Within this group, it was said that the collector was seriously interfered with by the leader of the opposition and a gang of satellites, so much so, that a complaint was made and the services of the police was requested.

The rest of the day passed in comparative quietness.

In favour of Mr William's motion **510**

Against **359**

Majority for the promoters **151**

The scene that followed may be best imagined than told – for some time the streets were in the hands of the crowd who spent their fury in shouting, crahing, speech-making and the like. The residences of the principal promoters were visited and indulged with a considerable amount of 'chin music' but in only two instances were forcible means resorted to, the first being an attack on Mr Davies, Crown Vaults, whose friends had to hurry him off the streets for fear of personal violence.

The other case was of some malignant fellow who put a stone through a shop window of Mr Richard Francis, Park Street, and sent three or four bottles spinning to the floor."

April (*The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard*)

"The Chairman read a letter from the returning officer Mr J.H.Blythe, informing the board that a poll had taken place on a motion to the effect that it was the wish of the ratepayers in the Newtown district that the local board rent the hall at £250 per annum or purchase at £5000. The poll voted in favour of the resolution.

Mr Parry moved – It is the opinion of this board that it is desirable to provide a market hall and other conveniences for the holding of markets within the local board district. Mr Humphreys seconded the resolution.

The curriculum proposed and Mr R Morgan seconded 'that before any further steps be taken by this board to provide a market hall for the district, that a clerk be instructed to communicate with Mr Brisco, the owner of the market hall, to ascertain from him whether he is willing to dispose of the same either at an annual rental or by purchase and what are the least terms he would accept."

1871

6th April 1871

The Local Board write to Mr Brisco to ask if he was prepared to sell the Market Hall to them.

1871

15th April 1871 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

The Local Board received a letter from Mr Brisco.

"Sir, in answer to your letter. On the part of the local board, respecting the new Market Hall lately built by me, I beg to state that I am willing to make it over to them on them reimbursing me for the money laid out there, which I understand is £4,000 including gas pipes and various other extras. I do not wish to make any profits on the building, but, as the ground on which it stands has been valued at more than £1,000, I beg to reserve a ground rent of £50 a year and grant a lease for 500 years to the local board. This, I believe is as good as any freehold. My object in retaining the ground is to show that the proprietor of the Newtown Hall estate built the Market Hall as well as the Butchers Arcade.

Should the Local Board prefer to take a lease for 21 years, I will name £300 as a fair rent and will guarantee that the refreshment rooms and shops will produce much more than that sum when the tolls are collected'.

Mr Powell asked if there was any legal reason preventing Mr Brisco selling out and out. The Clerk said that Mr Sturkey, Mr Brisco's agent in Newtown had said that there was not, but Mr Brisco would not do so."

1871

21st April 1871 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"Mr I. Morgan observed that a very great deal of angry feeling had been engendered by the Market Hall question, and had found a great number of 'vent holes' in the town of late that he regretted, and he thought every well-meaning citizen would also regret it.

He could only hope and trust that those angry feelings, and the abominations that had taken place in Newtown, would be repeated no more and that they would live in harmony with one another and do the best for the town in which they resided. He was not a "Market Hall man at any price" and he wished to disclaim what had been mentioned concerning himself, that he would give any money for the hall. That he strongly denied, and as to the propagators of the statement, he would "hurl it back to their teeth and give them the contradiction." He agreed that they should enter carefully into this matter, as men of business, having due regard to the ratepayers' pockets. He could not, and would not, propose negotiating with Mr Brisco unless they knew what they were negotiating for, and unless they had the experience of a practical man to estimate the actual worth and the actual cost of that hall. He had great pleasure in expressing his opinion on the matter, and in supporting Mr Powell's views. It would not do for the Board to rush blindly and say ' We will give you what you ask'. They must consider the wishes of the people. He thought it was fair he should make these few remarks, to settle the minds of the people in Newtown of the idea that he was a market-hall-man at any price. If some steps could be taken to purchase the lease or to buy the hall, he thought it was the duty of the Board to negotiate, so long as it could be done justly. Let justice guide them, and then they would not be afraid to appear in the streets in the future."

1871

9th May 1871 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"Mr Powell said he had prepared a report upon the valuation of the market hall high street.

He produced plans of the hall. His valuation of the hall as it stood was £3.100 13s and 2d, the site 1,156 yards, 6 superficial feet at 10s per yard, £700, valuation of Old Bull buildings £122, making a total (inc site) of £3.922 13s 2d.

1871

16th May 1871 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"Mr Powell presented his valuation. The general opinion of the board was it would be better to purchase than rent. If the board could borrow money at a certain percentage repayable in 30 years to cover all expenses he thought it would be a better plan, but if they rented at £250 the board would have to do all the repairs.

The market hall at present, so far as covering for the market people, was of no advantage to the town at all, in so much as the railway offered facilities for people to come and buy produce that was brought-price for the inhabitants. He hoped the Board would do the best they could to come to terms with Mr Brisco as the site was a good one and the board would not be in the position to build a market hall elsewhere.

Mr Hall said he had no doubt that the farmers suffered, and they as individuals suffered in themselves and their families, because the best of everything was bought up before it entered the market, however he entertained very grave doubts indeed whether £7 or £8 per week could be made out of that building.

The markets at some periods of the year were small and when they considered that it would take 240 pence to make a pound, it would require a great many baskets to make £7 or £8. The shops, they said, clearly would not let at any price when they were offered to let at auction. He did not know if this would be the case when the stall holders were removed from the streets but he had been told that persons who had taken shops in the hall had done infinitely worse than were taking a mere shilling in the market hall. He thought that they should consider the matter carefully before voting a sum of money that would entail an increased burden on the taxpayers."

1871

23rd May 1871 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"The Chairman read a copy of the letter sent by Mr Brisco

In answer to a former letter, as to the price of the market hall, I recollect I stated I was willing to make it over to them on them reimbursing me for the money laid out, which I understood was about £4,000 including gas pipes and several other fittings and as the land had been valued at £1,000, I should receive a ground rent of £50 per year.

It now appears to be the wish of the board, as well as the rate payers generally to purchase the site as well as the building. I will therefore name £5,000 as a fair price for the hall and I am quite certain that you could not procure a plot of ground of the same extent and convenience in Newtown for £1,500. Should the local board be of the opinion that the present hall will be inadequate to the requirements of the town I will have no objection to treat them with the purchase of the Sun Inn and adjacent property. In fact the board might make a very extensive addition at small expense by raising another story over part of the front entrance, so as to have ample accommodation for a corn and wool market as well as for country butter and cheese market.

I am sir yours obediently,

The board failed to come to a conclusion as to the amount to offer Mr Brisco."

1871

30th May 1871 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"If we are not greatly mistaken, modern times do not present an instance in which proceedings have been so unique, we believe so adverse to the easy settlement of the matter, for beginning with the beginning and carrying the matter down through successive stages, we believe there never was a case in which such groundless opposition was manifested or maintained with greater acrimony than the discussion and vote upon this subject.

That this feeling should be transferred from outside to the floor of the local board is a matter of greater wonder still.

We do now hope that Mr Brisco will be disposed to accept the terms now offered even if it is at the sacrifice of a few hundreds."

1871

20th June 1871 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"I will thank you to inform the local board that I beg to decline accepting their offer of £4,300 for the new Market Hall.

£5,000 was the original sum. In this estimate interest was charged for the money invested, but as I happened to have the money in my banker's hands at the time and certainly paid no interest for it perhaps I ought not to charge the board with that sum. I shall therefore deduct £200 from that sum making the sum for the hall and site £4,800. I will thank you to inform me of it at your earliest convenience, as I propose making some alterations in the building immediately and wish to have this business settled one way or the other.

I am sir, yours very obediently,

Wastel Bristo"

1871

31st October 1871 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"It may be gratifying to those parties who laboured for the adoption of Mr Brisco's market hall to know that although having to contend with many drawbacks which its being the property of the local board would have prevented, there is every probability that its returns will pay 4 per cent upon outlay."

1871

19th December 1871 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"We have seen a statement which we believe to be authentic, which shows that, judging from the receipts of the last four months, the proprietor (Mr Brisco) will receive a return after payment of expenses of collection of 7 per cent upon £4,500. We leave our readers to draw their own conclusions on this matter!"

NO DOUBT THAT THE **FARMERS** SUFFERED

1872

14th June 1872 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"A meeting took place with the view of effecting an improvement in the Butchers' Market Hall. The Inspector reported that he had ordered the butchers using the Market Hall to clear off the fat the first thing on the morning of the market. It was pointed out that the current state of the market has always been the case, and that it is unlikely there will be any improvement. The Chairman said the intended improvement was that the fat should not be taken into the Market Hall at all, but taken to the places in the town where it is sold. Mr Goodwin thought the skins were a great nuisance also. The Chairman was in no doubt. If they were left outside it would be better than taking them inside. Mr C. Morgan advised the Board to deal strictly with all offal in the Market Hall. It was highly injurious to health and bad fat contaminated the meat. Mr J. Hall did not think there would be any difficulty if the Inspector kept a sharp look out. Ultimately the Board instructed the Inspector to give general directions to the butchers."

Reports in the local papers of the 1870's and 1880's show the market hall being well used. The market hall at this time did not have a central partition. The stalls and benches in the centre were movable and the building was frequently used for social events such as parties, concerts, auctions and political meetings. On market days several butchers occupied the stalls on the right hand side of the market while farmers' wives would be seated on central benches with their baskets of eggs, butter, poultry and rabbits for sale.

1872

10th October 1872 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"On Monday evening, October 2nd, a lecture on 'Modern Science and the Scriptures' was delivered in the New Market Hall, by the Rev. T. P Bellingham, of Tredegar. The chair was ably filled by Mr Richard Williams, Solicitor. The lecture was delivered in an interesting manner to a very fair audience. At the close of the lecture a collection was made on behalf of the funds of the Primitive Methodist Chapel."

1873

10th January 1873 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)

"The annual dinner to their employees was given by the Directors of the Cambrian Flannel Company on Friday afternoon, January 3rd, in the New Market Hall. The dinner was provided by Mrs Whittaker, of the Sun Inn, whose efforts were very successful. After dinner the evening was spent in dancing, music, and other amusements."



1874

13th February 1874 (*The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard*)

"The Market Hall Urinal Question. The Clerk read the following letter from Mr Brisco:

Sir, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your note. Although I should be very sorry to have any dispute or law-suit with the Local Board of Newtown, yet as I feel so satisfied that the Act in question was never intended to be put in force for so confined a passage (I may almost call it from one street to the other) where meat is put up for sale twice a week for a few hours, I must decline complying with your request. I have been informed that all the butchers consider I should be putting up a great nuisance if I ordered privies to be erected inside the hall, as they had good accommodation already in the King's Head Yard, close to them and much more private. In fact the Inspector of Nuisances reported to the Local Board that there was good accommodation there last summer, and I believe some fresh privies were ordered to be erected there.

I am told that on an average there are never so many as twenty butchers selling meat in the hall, and this alone would be quite sufficient to show that the Act in question was not intended to apply in the present case.

I am, sir, yours very obediently,
Wastel Bristo,

P.S. Perhaps you will be good enough to let me hear from you soon, as to whether the Local Board are satisfied, as I am going to town next week, and will take the first counsel's advice if they wish it."

The Inspector who had, in obedience to instruction, visited the hall on different market days, reported on the Saturday he was present there were sixteen butchers employed, and on the Tuesday twenty-two, but as the Act, with regard to which the advice of Messers Williams and Gittins has been taken, requires the employment of twenty persons, and Mr Griffiths was not included in his report, it was determined that he should, in order to obtain more trustworthy statistics upon which to proceed, visit the hall again and get the average for a month of all employed there, taking with him some person who would be able to speak in confirmation of his evidence before the magistrates."

1878

17th May 1878 (*The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard*)

"C. Jones was charged with stealing certain knives, brooches, rings, and other articles, on the 11th April. Mr. Williams appeared for the boy. The Prosecutor, who is a hardware dealer, said he had a standing in the Market Hall, and four boxes there full of goods. On the 11th April he left a box there fastened with straps, but without a lock, with jewellery in it. On the 13th April he found that the box had been opened, and ten penknives, and other knives, earrings, finger rings, locketts, and other articles were missing.

He gave information to the police. The two knives and five rings produced as evidence were similar to those missing.—Jane Beedles, wife of last witness, corroborated the previous evidence.—There were a great number of witnesses. The Bench ordered the prisoner to be whipped with twelve strokes, and then go to goal for a month."

1879	<p data-bbox="264 196 981 223"><i>13th June 1879 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)</i></p> <p data-bbox="264 240 1805 331">"On Tuesday, June 3, Martin Allen had some putrid fish exposed for sale in front of the Market Hall. The fish were condemned by the medical officer, but some were sold after he had notice to desist from selling and for this he was summoned. Sergeant Hudson took charge of the fish and he demanded 2s. as compensation for the time he was in charge of them.</p> <p data-bbox="264 349 1075 376">He did not pay the amount, not being aware if the charge was legal or not.</p> <p data-bbox="264 394 448 453">Yours obediently Fred Castle"</p>
1881	<p data-bbox="264 472 1115 499"><i>Saturday 15th January 1881 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)</i></p> <p data-bbox="264 517 1592 544">Co-operative Society Anniversary. A tea meeting was held in the Market Hall to celebrate the annual festival of the society.</p>
1881	<p data-bbox="264 563 999 590"><i>19th March 1881 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)</i></p> <p data-bbox="264 608 1451 635">A great sale of glass, china and earthenware (bankrupt stock) was held in the Market Hall by Mr WM Fortune.</p>
1881	<p data-bbox="264 654 969 681"><i>7th April 1881 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)</i></p> <p data-bbox="264 699 1171 726">The Working Men's Liberal Association held their yearly meeting in the Market Hall.</p>
1881	<p data-bbox="264 745 987 772"><i>22nd April 1881 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)</i></p> <p data-bbox="264 790 869 817">Montgomery Liberal Association met in the Market Hall</p>
1881	<p data-bbox="264 836 976 863"><i>28th July 1881 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)</i></p> <p data-bbox="264 880 1823 940">Annual Sunday School Demonstration. Immediately after the procession the tea parties commenced. The Baptists held theirs in the market hall where the 'cheering cup' was dealt out to about 750 persons.</p>
1881	<p data-bbox="264 927 1008 954"><i>10th August 1881 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)</i></p> <p data-bbox="264 971 1794 999">Cymanfa Maldwyn, General Assembly of the Welsh Congregation. Refreshments for strangers were laid out in the Market Hall by Mr E Bebb.</p>
1881	<p data-bbox="264 1018 1008 1045"><i>19th August 1881 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)</i></p> <p data-bbox="264 1062 1814 1249">"Annual tea meeting given to scholars of Llanllwchaiarn Sunday School. The scholars met at schools where a procession formed and they marched through the town to the Market Hall where tea was provided for 400. The tables were a fine display of excellent cake and other good things and tea was of an excellent quality. The Newtown Brass and Reed Band were in attendance and performed a selection of music at the Market Hall. After tea the procession was again formed and proceeded, headed by the band to the Gro where they indulged in all kinds of old English games."</p>
1881	<p data-bbox="264 1268 1010 1295"><i>23rd August 1881 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)</i></p> <p data-bbox="264 1313 1800 1372">Laying of the memorial stone, New Baptist Chapel." Immediately after the close of the service a rush was made to the Market Hall where tea with the usual accompaniments was provided. 700 people partook the cheering beverage."</p>

1881	<i>2nd December 1881</i>	Political Education – “The object of the meeting was to afford the Rev G Brookes the opportunity of answering speeches delivered at Welshpool by Mr Pryce Jones (Newtown) and Mr Touchstone (Manchester) upon the policy of the government.”
1891	<i>2nd January 1891 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)</i>	Mr Cornelius Morgan proposed that the Local Board buy the Gasworks, the Waterworks and the Market Hall.
1893	<i>3rd February 1893</i>	The Local Board resolved to look into the purchase of the Market Hall, and include The Sun Inn in the purchase. It was said the Market Hall would not be big enough without buying the Sun Inn.
1894	<i>8th June 1894</i>	The Local Board debated the Market Hall question yet again.
1894	<i>22nd January 1894 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard)</i>	Meeting of ratepayers took place in Victoria Hall to consider purchasing, or taking a lease on the Market Hall. There were uproarious scenes and general ructions. Edward Pryce-Jones was in the chair. After much shouting the matter was adjourned.
1894		The Local Board agreed to lease the Market Hall with the option of giving up the lease after 3, 7, 14 or 21 years.
1898		Two “fine shops” were erected at the north end of the Market Hall.
1913		Newtown Council yet again rejects terms given to purchase the Market Hall. The Market Hall had been offered to the Urban District Council for £5,000 40 years ago and now they were asking £5,850 after all those years of wear and tear. The Council found this to be outrageous. ‘Usually negotiations for a purchase, like those for a peace, are characterised by a certain amount of give and take, but the give was all on the side of the Urban Council and the take all on the side of the property agents... with the result that at Mondays’ special meeting it was decided by a major majority to drop the whole affair like a hot brick’

A SELECTION OF **MUSIC** AT THE MARKET HALL

1919

When the war ended many large estates found themselves in serious financial difficulties due to wartime taxes exacted by the government. Major Arbuthnot-Brisco (of Newtown Hall) needed to sell a large amount of his estate, including the Market Hall to settle his debts despite a severe depression in prices. At last the Urban District Council was able to buy the Market Hall.

The Urban District Council agree a loan with Barclays Bank after agreeing a price of £3,500 for the Market Hall along with two lock up shops.

Stamp duty, legal costs and repairs brought the total to £4,273 12s 8d.

1921

The Urban District Council received complaints of excessive heat in the Market Hall due to the warm weather. The surveyor suggested that the roof windows be lime washed although this would make it dark in winter... curtains would be better. It was said that the butter was melting and the cheese was running to wax.

1923

Alterations to the Market Hall. Small removable stalls are being substituted for the central portion, which, whilst increasing the accommodation, will also allow the building to be used for competitive and social purposes.

1926

The Urban District Council lets out 30 wall spaces in the Market Hall for advertisements.

1937

Reports that the roof of the Market Hall was 'in a fearful state'.

1941

The Admiralty Victualing Depot take over three shops in Newtown (Peacock's and two others), The RWW Factory, the Horse Repository and half the Market Hall. A partition wall was built down the middle of the building and eastern side of the Market Hall used by the Royal Navy.

1942

The Urban District Council paid the final instalment on the loan for the Market Hall.

1945

Repairs to the Market hall roof cost £200. The Urban District Council pay 75% and the Government pay the rest.

1946

Market Hall derequisitioned. The Admiralty Victualing Department closes. At one time 150 men were employed in the depot. The Ministry of Works take over half The Market Hall for the storage of food.

1955

A plan for lock up shops in the market hall was drawn up.

The Urban District Council attempt to get itinerant traders to move into the Market Hall but they declined. The scheme for lock up shops was too expensive so it was decided that half the building should be let for storage purposes. The Chamber of Trade protest against the use of the Market Hall for Storage.

1955

Notice that rents of the lock up shops in the Market Hall would be set to 12/- per week. Size of the shops were to be 16ft long by 8ft wide.

1956

The Urban District Council deferred the matter of lock-up shops for six months.

1958

Proposals were made to turn Newtown Market Hall into a swimming pool. The proposal was based on a five point plan developed by the newly formed swimming pool committee. The points were:

- present Market Hall to be renovated and made into a swimming pool.
- the old Peacocks store (now Spar) to be renovated to make a new Market Hall. Land at the back of Peacocks to be cleared under 'slum clearance' and an open market to be held there.
- the front of Peacocks to be altered to make two lock up shops.
- a car park for traders at the back of Peacocks

There was a lot of discussion about this topic with various points of view being put forward. The committee then made its decision. This was that a swimming pool should be built, but not within the Market Hall building.

1959

The Town Council wanted to encourage the traders and their stall off of the streets and into the hall. In 1945, the half of the building that had been requisitioned for military use had been de-requisitioned and taken over by G.H.Rees, corn merchant. Notice was given and Rees moved out.

1960

March

The Urban District Council accept a tender of £850 to provide 12 lock up shops in the Market Hall. They would be available on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at a rent of £1.00.

1960	December			
<i>The 12 lock up shops were let:</i>				
A Airley, Manchester		Umbrellas and Bags	C P Morgan	
William Evans		China and household goods	J Parry, Oswestry	
Miss FM Jones		Homemade foodstuffs	J F Rowlands	
Sydney Joseph		Fruit and flowers	Shuker & Sons	
P.J. Knowles, Wolverhampton		Fancy goods	Eric Thomas	
J & A Leschnik, Wolverhampton		Fancy goods	R Wiseman	
			Fruit and vegetables	
			Bedding and towels	
			Outfitter	
			Gardening sundries	
			Pet foods	
			Furnishings	

1984

A £150,000 scheme to improve the Market Hall was stopped on account of the financial situation.

1985

Improvements made to the façade of the Market Hall.

1988

Montgomeryshire District Council resolved to sell the Market Hall. They had already had an offer of £322,000

1993

The Market Hall needed repairs after hygiene test failures.

1994

The Market Hall received a new roof.

1997

A new sign put up on the High Street end of the Market Hall read 'Merched-Market' rather than 'Marchnad-Market'. Powys County Council admitted that it was a mistake by the sign writer. The sign was removed.

2005

Market Hall closed for two weeks for emergency repairs costing £42,000.

2008

Market Traders under threat of closure have implored council decision makers to 'do the right thing' and save their livelihoods. The plea, backed by a 360 signature petition, came as Powys County Council's board prepared to make a decision on the sale of Newtown's Market Hall. Newtown Market Hall was not sold after councillors voted to defer a decision on offers to buy the building. The decision, taken by Powys County Councils board, was that no sale would be considered until the future of Newtown's Smithfield livestock market (subject of an application by supermarket giant Tesco) was confirmed.

Newtown's five County Councillors, despite their differences, formed a group to fight for a better deal for Newtown, following a successful deal to 'Save the Market Hall'.

Mid Wales Food and Land Trust completed a draft feasibility plan for the renovation of the Market Hall, which was given a positive response by most of the market traders.

NEWTOWN MARKET HALL 2008 TO THE **PRESENT**

Powys County Council had become increasingly concerned at the poor state of repair of the Market Hall, and could not invest in the substantial major repairs required whilst the market hall continued to operate at a significant loss.

In late 2008, Powys County Council put the building up for sale by sealed tender. It was then that a local not-for-profit organisation, Mid Wales Food and Land Trust, saw the potential to return the building to its original use as not just a market hall, but also as a general hub for wider social and community activities, including the opportunity to widen community access to fresh, seasonal local food as part of the market activities. The Trust submitted an Expression of Interest in the building, asking Powys County Council if they could be allowed time to raise the funding required to undertake a full Options Appraisal and Feasibility Study.

Other tenders had been submitted offering to purchase the building from Powys County Council, but all of these alternative offers would have resulted in the loss of the building as a market hall. Councillors therefore voted to defer a decision on the tenders received, and a few months later Mid Wales Food and Land trust was invited to raise the funding required for a full feasibility study and Options Appraisal Report. The Trust raised the funding required for the study from Welsh Government and the Architectural Heritage Fund (through a new charity which it helped to establish for this purpose, the Newtown market Hall Building Preservation Trust).

Powys County Council took a number of months to consider the report, in part due to the internal political and decision-making processes, and in 2010 the Council gave an informal in-principle agreement that the building could be transferred to the Trust if the Trust could raise the significant amount of funding required for the full restoration and repairs of the building .

The long, arduous process of seeking grant funding progressed over a period of several years, and in 2012 a complex package of funding was brought together with grants from Heritage Lottery Fund, Big Lottery Community Asset Transfer Programme and Welsh Government Community Facilities and Activities Programme.

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL TRANSFERRED THE PROPERTY TO THE TRUST ON A 99 YEAR LEASE IN APRIL 2014, AND THE RESTORATION WORKS STARTED ON SITE IN JUNE 2014.

The architect on the project is DafyddTomos of George + Tomos, Machynlleth and the main contractor is C Sneade Ltd. of Montgomery.



SOMETHING **NEW**
HAS HAPPENED TO
NEWTOWN MARKET HALL

