

DEDDINGTON FIRE ENGINES.

Where are they now?

On Page 7 of H. M. Colvin's 'A history of Deddington, Oxfordshire' published in 1963 there is a paragraph which - among other items, - states "Originally the Town Hall stood on open arches beneath which were three stalls used by butchers on market days, but in 1858 these were bricked up in order to form a shelter for the parish fire engine, hitherto kept in the church."

The minutes of a meeting of the Trustees of Deddington Charity Estates held on 18th. January, 1926 contain an item which reads "The Clerk read a letter from the Clerk to the Parish Council asking for the use of the whole of the lower part of the Town Hall for the purpose of keeping the Steam Fire Engine therein, and it was proposed by Mr. Bolton and seconded by Mr. Tucker that the application be granted, and that the rent for the same should be £5 per annum subject to six months notice to quit or of quitting. Carried."

There would appear to be no doubt that these two items refer to two different fire engines - engines which played a prominent part in the history of Deddington, - and - if they are still in existence - it is felt that the great majority of the present residents of Deddington would like them to be returned to Deddington.

Thus the question is posed "WHERE ARE THEY NOW?"

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From W F M Hunt, Deddington Charity Estates 14.10.88

Some months ago you very kindly included in your columns the fact that this Charity was interested in the present whereabouts - if they still are in existence - of the two fire engines which were stationed in Deddington Town Hall many years ago. As a result of the publicity you gave to our interest we have received a letter from a lady and gentleman\* who live in Oxford. I have sent a copy to the Chairman of Deddington Parish Council and asked if I may be permitted to inspect the records of the Parish Council if that body possesses documents going as far back as 1896. I will keep you informed of developments. In the interim may I thank you for the ready way in which you publicise the many aspects of life in Deddington. I am sure the great majority of the inhabitants much look forward to perusing the contents of The Deddington News each month.

[\*Mr and Mrs Brian Mobley. Brian, who has written articles for The Deddington News, sent a cutting from the Oxford Times of 29 August 1896 "DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL. To be disposed of - THE OLD FIRE ENGINE by Private Tender. Can be seen at any time by applying to the Clerk, to whom Sealed Tenders must be sent before the 7th September next." - EDS/