

Deddington Fairs

The notices in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* 1800-1819 reference the holding of three annual fairs:

- a fair on or about St. Lawrence's Day on 10 August;
- a hiring fair on the Saturday following Old Michaelmas Day on 12 October;
- a winter fair on Old Martinmas Day on 22 November.

The Victoria County History believes that the August fair was the less important of the three, and that it probably lapsed in the early 19th century, although it appears in the weekly list of fairs in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* in 1819.

The October hiring fair was a statute fair, established in 1780, for the hiring of farm labourers and servants for the ensuing year. It was the custom to roast a whole ox in the Market Place.

The most important of the three fairs was the Winter Fair, otherwise known as the '[Pudding-Pie Fair](#)', in the Market Place each year on 22nd November (Old Martinmas Day).

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the Pudding-Pie Fair had become principally a fair for the sale of horses (e.g. Welsh cart colts), as well as cattle, sheep and pigs. In addition, there were various stalls or bazaars, selling all kinds of toys, small wares, cakes etc.

For more information about fairs in Deddington, see:

Chapter 6, Deddington Fairs in *The Story of Deddington* by Mary Vane Turner, 1933.

<https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/publishedhistories/mvt/6.deddingtonfairs>

Sub-section on 'Markets and fairs' under 'Parishes: Deddington' in the Victoria County History of the County of Oxford, Volume XI (Wootton Hundred, Northern Part), ed. Alan Crossley (London, 1983), pp. 81-120.

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol11/pp81-120#h3-0007>

7 August 1802, page 4

COUNTRY FAIRS.

TUESDAY next, *Auguft* 10. - Deddington, *Oxon*; and Warminfter, *Wilts*.

5 October 1805, page 4

COUNTRY FAIRS.

SATURDAY, *Oct.* 12. - Deddington, *Oxon*; Aylefbury and Buckingham, *Bucks*; and Swanfea, *Glamorganfhire*.

15 November 1806, page 2

COUNTRY FAIRS.

SATURDAY, Nov. 22. - Deddington, Oxon; Marlborough, Wilts; and Pembrige, Herefordshire.

1 October 1808, page 2

DEDDINGTON HIRING FAIR.

The High Bailiff of Deddington thinks it proper to inform the public, that this Fair will be holden on Wednefday the 12th day of October inft.

Deddington, 1ft October, 1808.

28 September 1811, page 3

DEDDINGTON STATUTE FAIR, for Hireing of Servants, will be held on *Saturday the Twelfth of October*, being the day after Old Michaelmas Day.

► An Ox will be roasted as usual.