

Friends of Brighouse Station



Brighouse Civic Hall

The history of what is now the Civic Hall in Brighouse dates back to 1866 when a group of the Town's business people came together and agreed that Brighouse was in need of a building that would not only provide an assembly room but would also be suitable for educational purposes as well. The Town's Mechanics Institute which had been formed in 1846 but had no permanent location was to be based there.

The founding group of local business men had donated over £2000 between them and The Brighouse Town Hall Company was formed with Sir George Armytage as Chairman and an initial capital of £7000 based on the issuing of £1 shares . The issue was well received by the general public and the Company was able to proceed with the building.

The architects were Mallinson and Barber of Halifax and the building was completed in 1868. The total cost, which included 8 shops as well as the Town Hall itself, was £6000 and the official opening, by Sir George Armytage, was on October 14th 1868.

By the 1880's the building was in regular use as a theatre and in 1888 a Grand Concert was held in the Hall to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Susan Sunderland better known as 'Mrs Sunderland' or 'The Calderdale Nightingale'.

In 1898 Brighouse's first Magistrates Court was held in the hall (the Court later moving to what is now the Salvation Army Building)

In 1902 the Hall became the Savoy Cinema (the Hall and shops were also known as the Savoy Buildings) and it remained a cinema until the closure in 1959.

The buildings were bought by Calderdale Council (for £20,000) in 1960 and after some delay the building was restored and made available for concerts and light entertainment. It was given the title of 'Brighouse Civic Hall' on 23rd January 1967 and officially opened in April 1968.

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