

# Cirencester places

This exhibition explores some of Cirencester's historic places and what past use can tell us about the present? How can much loved places continue as vibrant living places today? What happens when historic spaces become unloved places?

Please use the comment board to let us know what you think of these places, how can we best use them now? We'd also like to hear about your memories of them.

This exhibition is drawn from the historic collections of the Bingham Library Trust and includes early paintings of Cirencester and more recent images from the rich collection.

The exhibition links to the new developments in the town, such as the improvement scheme for the market place, and thinking about the future of the public spaces in the town which builds on the 'Our Future Cirencester' initiative being delivered by the Town Council and Cirencester Community Development Trust.

The exhibition is organised by the Bingham Library Trust, for more information visit the website: [www.binghamlibrarytrust.org.uk](http://www.binghamlibrarytrust.org.uk)

## Public spaces

Public spaces have historically been important in towns as places at the heart of the community, the focus for trade and public events. In Cirencester a 'new' market is mentioned nearly 1000 years ago in the Domesday book (1086). The Market Place and the streets around were the site for this. The buildings in the Market Place developed to reflect its role at the centre of the community, with the inns where people would stay, main civic buildings and trading venues sited

there. The photographs and painting of the 'Mop' Fair show how public spaces can be transformed by their use for public and special events, and how temporary structures such as the 'mop' fair and 1953 Coronation pavilion can change our view of these places and create community memories. In a digital age, with the decline in town centre shopping do public spaces have the same function as in the past?



Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, 1897.



Decorations for 1953 Coronation in the Market Place.