

## THE DUCHESS ANNE



In its lifetime the Duchess Anne Hall has been a school, a furniture store, a drill hall/armoury, a restaurant and a parish hall. For part of its life the downstairs was a house.

It was built in 1854 between 16 May and 4 September and cost £1,139. The schoolroom was upstairs with the schoolmistress's house below. The school closed in 1899 and the pupils moved to the Royal School. The empty building was then used as a furniture store.

In 1903 the upstairs became the Scottish Horse Drill Hall and the downstairs was used as a house for an instructor. It continued to be used by the Scottish Horse through the First World War and in the 1920's and 30's.

The upstairs was used temporarily in 1938 by the United Lodge of Dunkeld.

In the Second World War the upstairs was used by the Home Guard for their base. Judging from the foundations at the back of the hall the Army must have built huts there for extra accommodation.

In 1948 the building was put up for sale and in 1949 it finally ceased to belong to the Atholl family and Restaurant Wilson from Dundee bought it for £1,500. It was presumably at this time that the downstairs house was turned into a single hall, the back premises extended and the kitchens installed. It changed hands and was renamed The Duchess Anne.

In 1970 it was sold to the Parish for use as the parish hall and on 17 July that year a Sale of Work raised £2,500 to pay for the conversion of the hall into a full-time parish hall.