

DUDLEY: PROUD OF THE PAST, POSITIVE FOR THE FUTURE

Stone Street Square



The medieval Horsepool circa 1300



Stone Street Square in 1883



Now the Museum and Art Gallery, this building was erected as an Art School and Library in 1883. Many people studied here including James Whale, the Hollywood Director.



Trolley Bus in Stone Street Square, when the square was used as a bus terminal.



The public weighbridge opposite the Museum entrance was used to weigh a variety of objects, none so strange as Meena, an elephant from Dudley Zoo in 1949.

Stone Street Square started life as a medieval suburb to the town of Dudley. In those days it had a huge pool in the middle of it called the Horsepool, which was the main water source for the town. The area around the pool was an open area called 'Horsepool Green' where the stock gathered before being taken to drink the water.

Horsepool Green began to be developed by nail makers during the late medieval period and by the 17th century the pool was surrounded by buildings. In 1786 Abiather Hawkes filled in the remains of the pool and built the Dudley Flint Glass Works on the site.

The Glass Works came to the end of its life in 1842, but the buildings were used as a Hide and Skin Market. The glass cone fell in 1885 and the Corporation built a fire station over part of the site in 1892. The open area was still used as a fruit market until it became a trolley bus terminus in the 20th century and when that came to an end it was used as a car park. Today the area is used for public events.



Dudley Flint Glassworks before it was demolished in 1886. The glass manufactured there was fine gold and coloured pieces, most of which were exported abroad.



*The earliest structure in the square was Dixon's House built in 17** for Hugh Dixon, a glassmaker, when his business was prospering.*



The fire station was built in 1899. Fire engines came out of the double doors that still existed in this 1959 picture.

Right: Dudley Fire Engine in 1902. The fire crews were all serving police officers at the time.



The Police Station was built in 1844 as a lock-up, station and police accomodation. It continued to play this role until a new station was built in Tower Street in 1943.



Above: The Saracens Head Public House replaced an earlier one called The Hen and Chicken in 1840. A number of Societies like the Dudley Book Club (the oldest in the world) and the South Staffordshire Iron and Steel Institute (the first of its kind in the country) held their meeting's here.

