

OLD HALL/THE SQUARE



DON'T BE CROSS

Hadfield Old Hall, built in 1646, was likely the first stone house in the village, said to have been erected by the ancestors of George Hadfield of Old Hall near Mottram - minor gentry were amongst the few people who could afford stone.



Hadfield Old Hall

Opposite the Old Hall are cottages built in the early 1800's.

Whitehouse was originally a farmhouse owned by the Dewsnap family. The farmer's cows grazed on fields where today's Higher Barn Road is. The cows made two trips each day back to the farm on Hadfield Cross to be milked, up and down Hadfield Road.

'The Cross' was another open area separated from the square by houses and a farm. The cross base is not in its earlier position and may have moved more than once. The square is still called Hadfield Cross by some villagers. The name 'Old Hall Square' was probably first used in the late 19th century.

Medieval Hadfield was a busy place, on the road to Old Glossop. It was also on the southern line of the saltway, the main route through Longendale until the late 17th century.



View from Old Hall Square looking down Hadfield Road



Farmers adapted to changing economic conditions by 'multi-tasking' – they supplemented their income by using imported wool for spinning and weaving. Several centuries ago, a few houses were clustered around here and nearby Sparrow Park, plus surrounding farms including Noble Farm and Nimble Nook. Farmers made a meager living from the land, with cows, chickens, pigs, sheep and a few arable crops.

Life changed dramatically with the advent of 'King Cotton' in the 19th century. A plentiful supply of running water and high rainfall and Hadfield's proximity to key markets and ports including Manchester and Liverpool meant that the village flourished.

Improvements to Old Hall Square/Cross were completed in 1967 to create a village green.

Images courtesy of Sue M. Dickinson, Michael H. Brown. Illustrations by Nature Sign Design.

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