

Hulls Market Place.

This is the area at the bottom end of Lowgate near to the “King Billy Statue” – the Gilded (gold) coloured statute is of King William 3 (William of Orange) dressed in the manner of a Roman Emperor.

The statue was designed in 1734 by someone called Scheemaker and was erected in that year in memory of “our great deliverer”. The delivery was from Catholicism and included support in ridding protestant Hull of its imposed catholic governor. Rather as Victoria sits on the thrown in Victoria Square, here King William 3 sits on another thrown, a magnificent set of toilets, once referred to in a TV series on the subject by historian Lucinda Lampton.

Here, North and South but mainly on the right hand side of Lowgate was the site of the original outdoor market. This continued until the late 1960's and post war almost anything could be purchased from stalls here. In 1806 a man sold his wife here to a man called Houseman. The price was 20 guineas, a huge sum then – nearer £2000 in today's money. The wife was delivered to the purchaser in a halter. In those days a wife was regarded by a husband as a chattel (goods he owned) and he could have her charged with being a scold or gossip.

This was not the usual purchase at this market – pots, pans, clothing and similar items were standard purchases.

And so this area was a commercial hub, close to the River, to Merchants Houses and Warehouses. It was also the site of a Monastic Church and graveyard where a modern car park and Magistrates Court now stands on the East side of the road and more information can be obtained from the Want to Know More section under Hulls Monastries.

In the Photo gallery – now and then- section is an interesting photograph of how the market here used to look.