

Sir Baptist Hicks - Generous Benefactor or Show-off?

It is well known that Sir Baptist Hicks was a kind-hearted, generous man. Everyone is aware that Chipping Campden is filled with his name, as he did so much for this town and we owe him great thanks. The Chipping Campden History Society have been trying to figure out if Hicks was generous or a spoilt show off, I am here to tell them the truth!

It is clear that Baptist Hicks was a noble man and a true Campden hero, for he generously bought the heroic market hall, as a worthy gift for the impoverished Campden citizens. This fine gift was, and still is, very much appreciated, as it enables sellers to sell under a shelter away from the rain.

Surely, he was a selfless gentleman, for he also built The Almshouses for the poor and even pumped fine, fresh water from a nearby field for them to slurp! In the seventeenth century, it was known that having water in your home was a luxury and sign of wealth, so the residents of The Almshouses were very fortunate to have such a wealthy thing.

There is no doubt that Baptist Hicks was a gracious man, as he gave money to the careless grammar school when money was taken from it fraudulently. The heroic Hicks found out how the priceless money was being misused, and won a court case on their behalf. He also kindly donated more of his own money to the bankrupt school. This just shows how pleasant and generous Hicks was, doesn't it?

In conclusion, Sir Baptist Hicks was clearly a generous man and you have now seen the evidence! Hicks has led Campden to be the luxurious, historic town it is today, don't you agree?

By Oscar Briggs (Year 4)

St Catharine's Catholic School

Chipping Campden