



All Change on the High Street

Heritage Open Days
Organised by Salisbury
Civic Society

Shop 12 **Prezzo** 52 High Street

An exceptionally well preserved 14th century structure near the Cathedral Gate. Originally a row of three 14th century houses, the building still has picturesque timber framework and tiled roofs. There are two bays in the lower storey and three in the upper storeys. It is jettied and the original brackets remain. There are gables and a 16th century attic dormer window. Access to a flat roof dining area can now be gained from the 1st floor which gives a closer view of the roof. The building is an excellent example of the flexible nature of timber framing. Were the building made of less flexible material, it would be unlikely to have tolerated the structural changes which can be clearly seen on the High street side from across the road.

On the ground floor there are oak posts and beams. At the back of the restaurant, near the kitchen entrance, turn right up the staircase. On the 1st floor there is a 16th century brick fireplace, some original partitions and panelling. The plaster panel has 16th century painted decoration. Looking up through the glass panel in the ceiling some of the original loft construction can be seen. The upper room has a small stained glass window set high in the wall. This room also offers access to the roof terrace which gives interesting views of the surrounding roofscape. Weather permitting, you may wish to go out and have a look!

History

In 1341 John de Shaftsbury, a Spicer, leased the row to Walter de Upton. From 1357 to 1815 the buildings belonged to the Vicars Choral of the Cathedral. In 1649 it is known to have been occupied by John Langley, a watchmaker.

In the late 19th century, William and then later Reginald Mullins leased the building to trade as furniture and antique dealers. In 1935 the family firm of D. M. Beach Booksellers took over the building and the shop is still often referred to as Beach's by locals, the family having traded and lived there for 60 years. The firm closed in 2000 and a restaurant, also known as Beach's took over for a short period.

This business was taken over in 2002 by Prezzo and trades successfully whilst keeping the special atmosphere of this building.

