



All Change on the High Street

Heritage Open Days
Organised by Salisbury
Civic Society

Shop 15 **Fisherton Mill** 108 Fisherton Street

Built as a grain mill in 1880, the site was chosen as it sat beside the Market House railway siding, now removed, which ran from the Station to the Market House, now the City Library. The Mill had several functions, which included the cleaning of seed corn and crushing of other grains, together with supplying the Company's shop in the Market Square. Goods were transported by horse and cart. The stables in the Mill courtyard are now used as Fisherton Mill's studios, housing independent creative businesses.

Inside the Mill, the first floor gives a flavour of the original business with its high beamed ceilings, original cast iron pillars, track markings on the wooden floors and old pieces of machinery.

History

The Mill was built by William Main for W. Main and Sons. As the building was passed down through the Main family, social change made its mark. When William died, the business was inherited by his son, Leonard.

Trading was interrupted from 1914-18 when the Mill was requisitioned by the War Department as bonded warehousing for the Australian Army. Business flourished between 1920 and 1950, but when Leonard's son Ronald, took over in the 1960's, mechanisation and changes in farming methods forced the family to diversify into horticulture. In 1984 the decision was taken to close the business. Over the following ten years the building was largely out of use although it was used as a Carpet Warehouse for a short time and as an illegal Rave venue.

In 1994, Michael and Leonard Main, great grandsons of the original owner, rescued the building and opened the Gallery. Michael and Deborah Fox successfully established the Gallery Cafe alongside the Gallery and in 2005 bought Fisherton Mill from the Main family. The Foxes developed it into the business it is today, adding studios for Artists on the first floor and in the Courtyard, expanding and improving the Gallery shop and exhibition space and running creative workshops from a dedicated studio on the first floor. In 2011 the exhibition space on the first floor was renamed 'The Main Gallery' in recognition of the role of the Main family. This space is dedicated to the display of three dimensional art and wall art.

