



All Change on the High Street

Heritage Open Days
Organised by Salisbury
Civic Society

Shop 4 **Crew Clothing** 8 Queen Street, Cross Keys Chequer

8 Queen Street is a fine example of a 15th century half-timbered structure, of which three storeys and a second floor jetty survive. The windows have been replaced over the centuries. Inside there are old beams on the ground floor and a 15th century fireplace built with chalk blocks. Above the fireplace is a Merchants mark. A corridor leads to a back room with a 19th Century range and a window onto the courtyard with an 18th century staircase.

On the first floor there are two rooms with Jacobean panelling and decorated plasterwork. A carved oak mantelpiece over the fireplace is attributed to Henry Beckam (Chamberlain of Joiners Guild 1620). The carving represents Moses about to sacrifice Isaac. This is said to be the original template for stonework in St. Thomas's Church. On the second floor the rooms are half-panelled in oak and there is a view through Butcher and Fish Row. The disadvantage is the feeling that the building is leaning outwards as you stand there and you could easily fall out! Unfortunately these upper floors are not generally available to view for security reasons.

History

Part of the medieval "Chusecorner" or "Cheesecorner", the 13th century dwelling was rebuilt in the late 14th century. The timbers were later covered and preserved in layers of plaster for several centuries so that when restoration was carried out in 1930 no timber replacements were required. The house is traditionally known as John A'Ports House, though this is not entirely accurate.

In 1306 the dwelling was owned by William Russel (see No 9, Cotswold Outdoor clothing). Russel was a Wool Merchant. He leased the property to various shopkeepers including John Camel, Grocer. In 1494 the house was rebuilt and occupied by Robert Cove who owned many of the Chusecorner properties. From the late 16th to 19th centuries the building was leased to and altered by various hatters, grocers and outfitters before being acquired by Watson's China and Glass merchants (in business since 1854) who had previously traded from Ye Halle, the present Odeon cinema in New Canal. Watson's used both No 8 and No 9 Queen Street and carefully restored the buildings. When they left the buildings were separated once again.

Crew clothing have been in the building since at least 2009.

Ghost Story

Shop staff have reported feeling suddenly very cold on the ground floor and sense a 'presence', which is said to be that of Ollie, a 17th century cavalier. They have been told that when Watson's were there, a glass was seen to be thrown across the floor and cutlery set tinkling.....

