



All Change on the High Street

Heritage Open Days
Organised by Salisbury
Civic Society

Shop 9 **Anokhi** Mitre House, 37 High Street, Mitre Chequer

This building near to the Cathedral Gate and part of the Mitre Chequer was one of the first buildings to be built in the city. Outside the timber frame is part plastered, part tile hung and part colour-washed brick. The old tiled roof has a gable and a small attic window. The Bishop's Mitre is on the plasterwork just below the eaves. The second floor has long brackets overhanging New Street. Windows are at irregular heights and some have been bricked up.

Inside, original beams can be seen on the ground floor, there is an old staircase and beams in the upstairs salesrooms. The cellar for safety reasons cannot be visited, but has a medieval stone sink with a lead piping outlet and pump. Water was pumped from the river. The cellar floods at times and underground tunnels are thought to lead from this area to the Cathedral grounds...an escape route perhaps? The cellar has part of the original walls and two window outlets now vent to the street.

History

One of the first dwellings to be built in the city it is thought cathedral workers drank here. In 1220 it became Bishop Poore's home before the Cathedral was consecrated. In 1452 it is documented as being used for the induction of the Bishop and the tradition carries on. At one time the Bishop was robbed here and would put on the Mitre.

The Dean and Chapter still meet the new Bishop here and conduct him through the Cathedral Gate.

The building has had a wide range of uses. Towards the end of the 19th century it was a second hand bookshop, followed in 1889 by a pork butcher. In 1925 it became Madame Norel's, a dressmaker and milliner. By the 1930's and until after the second world war the building was used by Herbert's the hairdresser. In 1932 fire broke out in Mitre house and significant rebuilding was required. Mr Herbert and his wife and family who lived above the shop escaped by going onto the roof and over to the roof next door. Later the building became an exclusive Ladies Gowns shop for nearly twenty years. Thereafter it housed Mitre House gifts and, in the 1980s, the House of Tweed. It was then occupied by three successive tea merchants before once again becoming a gift shop. Anokhi had operated from premises in Castle Street for ten years from 1989. In 1999, Anokhi moved to Mitre house. This made the building once again a source of quality ladies wear and is now the longest lasting ladies clothes shop in town.

