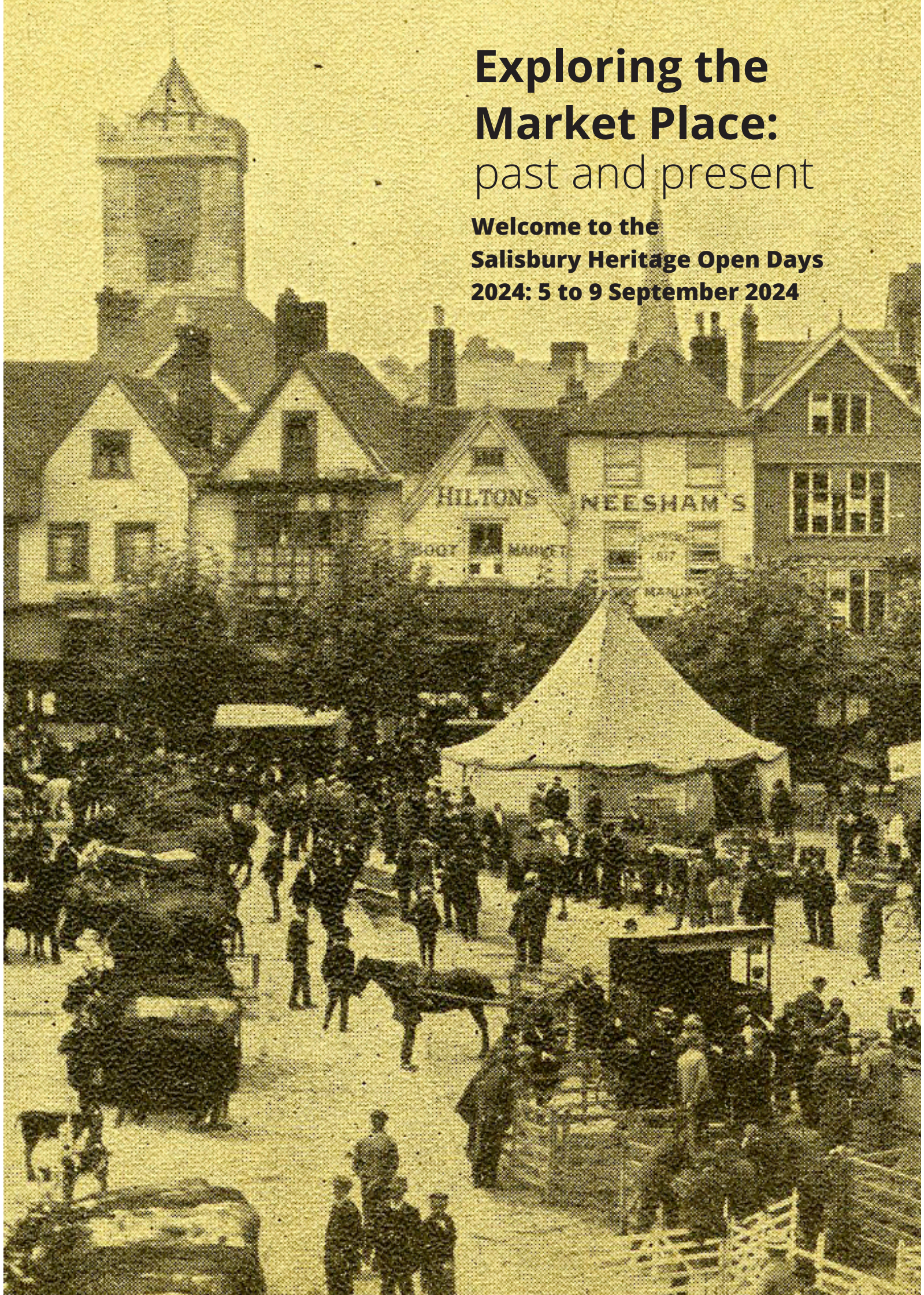




Exploring the Market Place: past and present

**Welcome to the
Salisbury Heritage Open Days
2024: 5 to 9 September 2024**



Welcome to the Salisbury Heritage Open Days 2024: 5 to 9 September 2024 Exploring the Market Place: Past and present

Salisbury is almost unique in having a large active market place in the centre in a space which dates back over 800 years. We encourage you to walk the perimeter of the original Market place and developments around and within the space over time. The market space is slightly less than half the size of the original market. Temporary stalls gave way to more permanent buildings which were mainly built in Rows that encroached upon the early market. They are a mix of public buildings, houses and commercial premises (sometimes house and shop in one). The entire market area has many aspects: buildings, places and spaces for the community's various functions including commercial, social, celebration, punishment, remembrance, announcements, festivals, fairs and many others. There is much to explore!

- *A talk on Sept 5th (6.30 at The Methodist church, St Edmunds Church street) by Geoff Lang*
- *The brochure this year contains a map with aspects of the market (including the market crosses, old water courses, viewpoints) marked on it to help you find your way round, some history on the market and other information.*
- *Three viewpoints to help you to gauge the original size of the market area,*
- *Fifteen participating buildings*
- *Each participating building has a poster with QR code to access the history of that building (also available on the Civic Society website) and hard copies of the leaflet.*
- *Displays related to the Market place in the Library and Young Galleries*
- *Guided tours of the Hall of John Halle/Odeon cinema will take place on Friday Sept 6th at 10am and 11am. Tickets (limited number) available from the Salisbury Information Centre.*
- *The brochure and all historic leaflets are also available online from the society website at <http://www.salisburycivicsociety.org.uk/>*

Viewpoints

To help build a sense of how large the original Market place was we have identified a position where you can see both the width and depth of the old market place (A) and two positions (B and C) where you can see right across to the opposite side of the medieval market, avoiding the various rows of buildings which later encroached upon the space. **These viewpoints are all marked on the map with a V.**

These may help you to imagine what it would have looked like originally: a vast space of some x acres. The remaining open space is still large and almost unique in England.

Viewpoint A The North East corner

At the junction of Endless Street, Queen Street and Blue Boar Row, in front of the Regis building and by the Pickled Frog. The Millennium sculpture, Turning Point by John Maine sited nearby is where the Wool Cross was in the early days of the Market. Look WEST past Bradbeers to the clock and arches of the old Market house, now the Library and Young Gallery. From the same point look south down Queen Street past the Guildhall to the bollards at New Canal which mark the end of the pedestrian area.

This viewpoint gives the width and depth of the Old Market place.

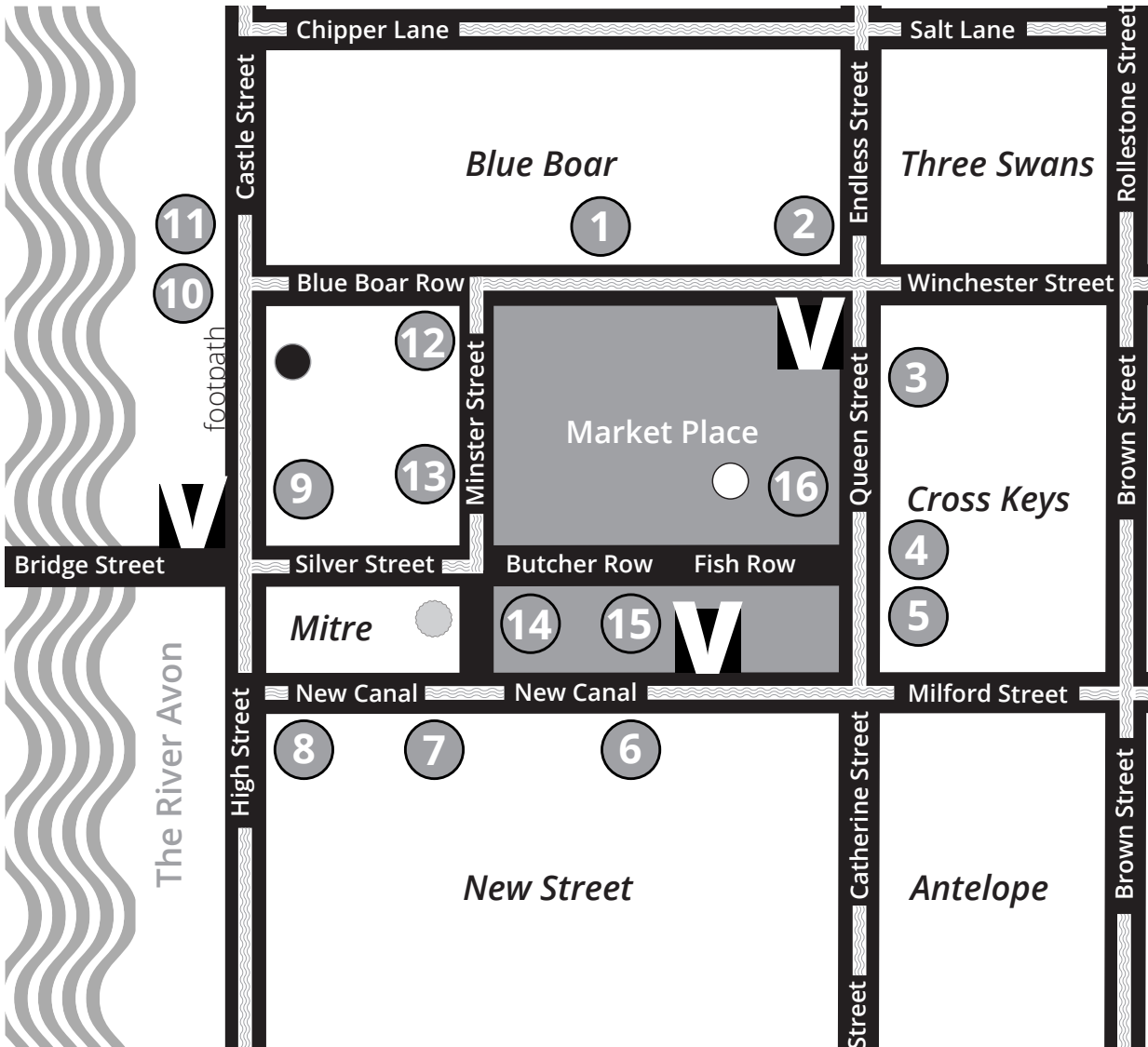
Viewpoint B South-North

Part way along New Canal, stand between Mountain Warehouse and the former Ice cream parlour Sprinkles and look NORTH, through the gap by Sarum jewellery on the north side of New Canal and beyond the fish shop on Fish Row through Rutherford walk, which runs between Reeve the baker and the Guildhall to the current market place and beyond the trees to Blue Boar row.

Viewpoint C The South West corner

At the junction of the High Street, Bridge Street and Silver Street, by Barclay's bank, Carwardines, Cafe Nero and Bubble tea look EAST to 8 Queen Street, the Crew Clothing building.

If you would like another sense of the distance you could walk diagonally between the NE corner and the SW corner.



● Cheese Cross ○ Wool Cross ● Poultry Cross

© Jamie Hobson

Visiting the participating buildings

Open 7 days

- 4 Cotswold Outdoor** 9 Queen Street
- 5 Crew Clothing** 8 Queen Street
- 14 Goldsmiths** 33 Butcher Row
- 7 Heaven Hair** 49-51 New Canal
- 6 Hall of John Halle/Odeon** 15 New Canal
- 9 St Thomas's church** St Thomas's churchyard
- 8 Waterstones** 7-9 High Street
- 15 White Stuff** 13 Butcher Row

Closed on Sunday

- 1 Bradbeers** 41-44 Blue Boar Row
- 13 W Carter and Sons** 3-5 Minster Street
- 10 Dinghams** 28 Cheesemarket
- 11 Library/Young Gallery** Market Walk
- 2 Pickled Frog** Blue Boar Row
- 12 Allum and Sidaway** 22 Oatmeal Row

Closed on Monday

- 3 Gallery 21** 20 Queen Street
- 12 Allum and Sidaway** 22 Oatmeal Row

Closed during the Open Days

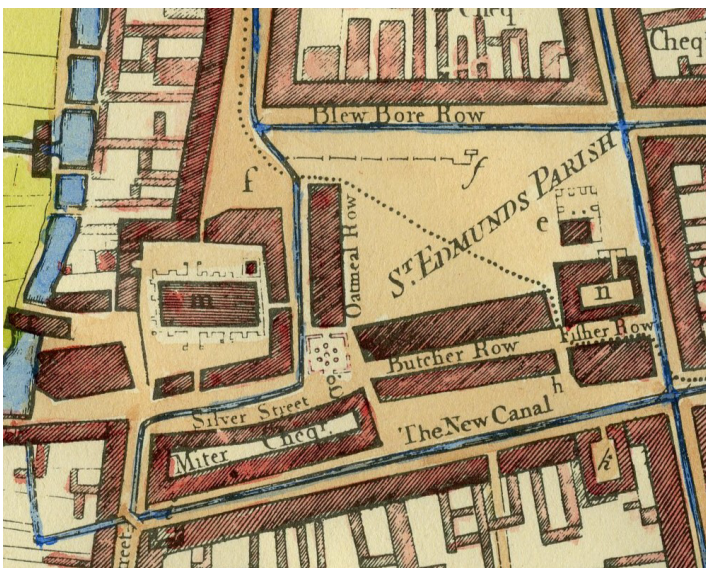
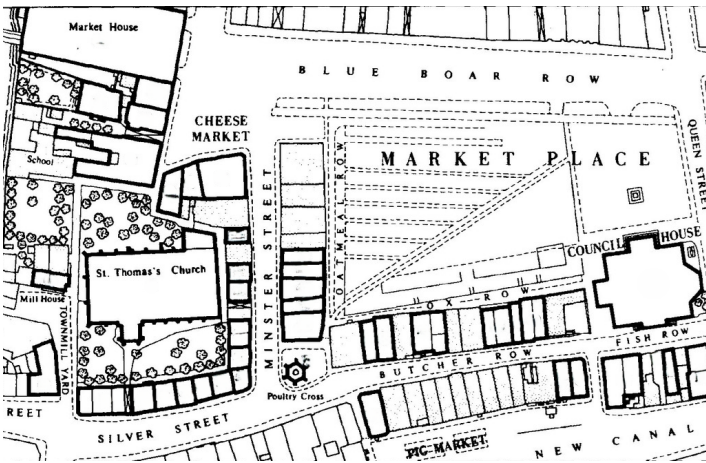
- 16 The Guildhall** Market Square



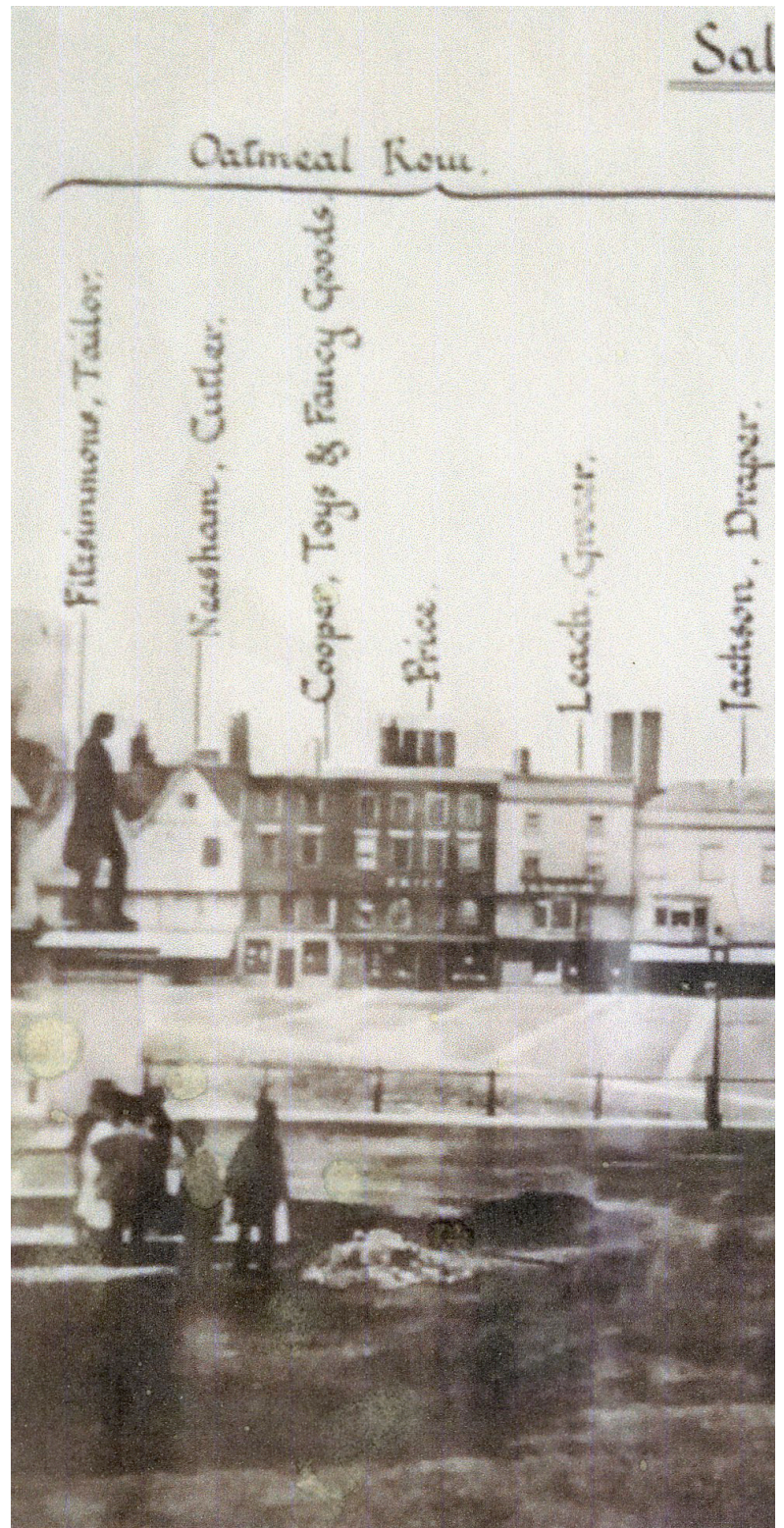
Some History

Difficulties encountered by the clergy at Old Sarum led to the establishment of a new Cathedral on the Bishop's estates. The Cathedral was the key goal but opportunities for trade were not ignored and a city was laid out at the same time. Access was enhanced by the building of both Fisherton and later Harnham (1244) bridges bringing income from tolls and diverting some traffic from Wilton through Salisbury. So great was the effect on Wilton that merchants travelling to Salisbury who had to pass through Wilton were at times molested.

Most early trading activity took place in temporary stalls within the Market Place, with the surrounding streets



Top: OS 1880
Above: Naish 1716 map of the Market Place
Right: Courtesy of Salisbury Museum



occupied by houses and tenements. By 1300 open fronted shops and buildings with living accommodation above began to replace stalls resulting in new streets and encroachment on the original Market Place. Fish Row, Butcher Row and Oatmeal Row, amongst other streets were all in place by the end of the 14th c. Livestock slaughter took place behind Butcher Row. Milk, cheese, fruit and vegetables were all sold in the Cheesemarket at Cheese Cross, and poultry and fruit and vegetables at Poultry Cross. The Wool Cross was near to the official scales for judging the correct weight of bales of wool, and Barnards Cross, some distance from the Market Place, was the site of the cattle market.

Later (until 1952), the cattle market moved to the Market Place and by the 18th c. the animal market held each fortnight was huge with upwards of 400 cattle and 2000 sheep and lambs up for sale.

The grandest buildings around the Market Place were built of stone but most were of timber. Roofs were covered with tiles. Buildings fronting New Canal comprised some of the largest in the town and belonged to wealthy citizens. Merchants often lived in courtyard houses each with an open hall and ancillary buildings

Strife between the merchants and the bishop was a particular feature of the City's early history. In





Above: Poultry Cross, R. Grundy Heape

establishing the City, Bishop Poore had granted a charter in 1225 to the citizens. The document set out the plot size and rents and was followed by a Royal charter that allowed for an annual fair and a weekly market as well as granting the bishop full powers over all the citizens. It allowed annual elections of a council that reported to the bishop's bailiff who acted as local judge and revenue collector. The council, over time, assumed responsibility for day-to-day running of the city, but power remained with the bishop. The bishop's domination was finally ended in 1612 when James I allowed the incorporation of the city. The decline in the bishop's power, however, was evident earlier such that the town council felt able to build a new Council House in the Market Place between 1579-84. The new Council chamber was built alongside the existing Bishop's Guildhall. The new Council House burnt down after a mayoral banquet in 1780. The opportunity was then taken to demolish the adjacent Bishop's Guildhall as well as some houses and shops, and a new Council Chamber was built combining the civic and judicial functions of its two predecessors.

Change typically came slowly to Salisbury. The watercourses running down the streets of Salisbury and round the Market Place were, almost certainly, major contributory factors to outbreaks of disease such as cholera. Despite this there was much opposition to removing them. An independent inspector compelled the city to install a modern water supply and sewage system. By 1860 the task was largely complete allowing the street channels to be filled in along with the ditches.

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The city was also affected by the advent of the railway. After much discussion agreement was reached to build a Market House with a direct train connection to Fisherton station. This opened in 1859 on the west side of the Market Place where the library is now, and provided space for trading in corn, cheese and wool. The Market Place became in large measure a cattle market. The market continued in this fashion until the 1930's when once again change occurred. Less agricultural produce was sold and a revival took place in more general sales of goods.



SALISBURY RECORD SNOWSTORM. APRIL 25. 1903.



Fortunately, war has played little part in the development of the Market Place. The City was lucky. It lacked proper defences and a military garrison, so it was never subjected to siege and played no part in any major campaign. The war memorial was dedicated in 1922 by Lt. Tom Adlam, a resident from Salisbury who won the Victoria Cross, and has been the scene of services of remembrance since. The Market Place continues to be used for military parades as it has for much of its history.

In the past, hangings and other punishments were something of a spectator sport. So much so that stocks, where brawlers and drunkards were pelted with filth and rotten fruit, were situated on the Market Place. The stocks disappeared in the mid-19th c. A whipping post was adjacent to the stocks. A Royalist rebellion in March 1655 against Cromwell's Protectorate resulted in seven of the Salisbury rebels being hanged in the Market Place.

The gentrification of the Close saw a gradual influx of gentry into Salisbury. The result was a city in which the manufacture and sale of luxury goods thrived as well as entertainment and other services. In 1727 Salisbury acquired its first streetlamps. Four were erected in the Market place. By this stage the Market Place was surrounded by cookshops and inns, and on market days filled with farmers and their families and workers as well as livestock and carts. Long trains of pack horses could also be seen and were used to transport bales of raw wool or bolts of finished cloth. By the middle of the 18th century coffee houses, a theatre and Assembly rooms had all opened to serve those with wealth and time. The most fashionable coffee house was the 'Parade' situated in Blue Boar Row.

Processions and fairs have long been a part of City life. The annual fair, first established in 1270 was, in its earlier days, a major opportunity for buying and selling household items. It was also associated with entertainment and much eating and drinking took place. In more recent times it has been a fun fair, filling the market space.

Public dinners were held in the Market Place whenever a cause for celebration presented itself, particularly royal visits and national events. Celebration of a victory by General Wolfe in 1758 gave an excuse for celebration with the ringing of bells, flags hoisted, a volley of musket fire and strong beer given to the Common People. Peace with the French in 1814 was marked by processions and fireworks and by a great public feast in the Market Place. In 1902 the coronation of Edward VII was celebrated with a dinner for men in the Market Place and tea for women and children in Victoria Park. The last seated meal for guests was held for George V's

coronation in 1911 although the Market Place continued to host events. Particularly notable was the dancing on VE day in 1945 that continued under the lights that were no longer dimmed. Large scale eating may be less popular, but the Market Place continues to provide food and drink for its citizens. In addition to the many pubs, coffee houses and eateries that have flourished over the centuries, voluntary organisations including those supporting veterans or raising money for the local hospice still flourish.

The Market Place over the centuries has seen many changes. The market endures as do the surrounding shops and buildings, but the nature of the shops and the market continue to change. It is not so long since much of the Market Place was used as a car park several days a week. Its functions have evolved and will continue to evolve. We do not know what the future will bring but we can be certain that it will be different from the past and the present.

Grateful thanks are due particularly to Jamie Hobson for the graphics, layout and many other aspects of the brochure and other material.

Thanks are also due to:

Staff in all participating buildings, **Alan Clarke, Richard Deane, Geoffrey Lang, Jean Lunn, Spencer Mulholland, Julie Smith, Stephanie Siddons-Deighton, Salisbury Information Centre, Salisbury Library, Salisbury Museum, Salisbury Printing.** Without all their help these open days would not have happened.

Key sources

We are indebted to the research of many people. Among the books consulted the following were particularly useful.

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Goat maps of businesses in the City Centre (1969-2015)

Post Office Directory of Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorsetshire. 1875

Kelly's Directories of Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorsetshire (various dates 1880-1974)

Brochure and posters photos

Photos courtesy of Geoff Lang, Alan Clarke Salisbury Museum, Spencer Mullholland and R Grundy Heape (1934)

Follow up:

If you wish to explore further, the new Salisbury Gallery in the Salisbury Museum in the Cathedral Close has a wide range of information and exhibits on the City and the Market Place (admission charges apply). The library also has extensive holdings on the history of the City,

SALISBURY
CIVIC SOCIETY