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Exploring the Market Place: past and present

Heritage Open Days
Organised by Salisbury
Civic Society

Goldsmiths

33 Butcher Row

33 Butcher Row is a timber framed building, probably built in the first half of the 16th century. It has two storeys and an attic and is jettied on three sides. The plan is rectangular and was originally of five bays but was later extended on the south side. The timber framing is of oak and incorporates close studding on the north and west sides. The building appears to have been altered in the 17th century further modified in the 18th century and in the 19th century extended by one further bay on the south side.

History

It is thought an earlier building existed on the site in the 14th Century. Thomas Belcher an ironmonger is known to have traded here in 1416. Many of the houses in this area were rebuilt in the 16th and 17th centuries and would have been merchants' houses, the family living above the shop. There are architectural features which indicate that the residents of this building were of a relatively high status.

Over the centuries a variety of businesses have traded here. In the 20th century it was to become a Linen shop, a men's outfitters (Dunn and Co.), a Video shop and a cafe. It is remembered as an ugly, unremarkable building until the renovation in the late 1990's revealed the medieval building we see today. During the renovation, the old timbers were found to have been traditionally lime washed, the only building in Salisbury known to have had this ancient treatment. Goldsmiths started their business here in 1997.

There is a wealth of exposed timbers to view on the ground floor. On the left hand side as you enter the shop note the glass case displaying examples of decorated and moulded timbers found during the renovation.