

1. SCAPLEN'S COURT

currently Poole Museum

This grade I listed medieval building dates back to the 1300s. The building now outlines a 1500's courtyard inn called The George. Graffiti made by Parliamentarian soldiers who were lodging here in the 1630's can be seen carved into one of the stone fireplaces.

2. THE ANTELOPE HOTEL

currently The Antelope

There has been an inn on this site since the 1200s. During the 17th & 18th centuries, many women in Poole held the position of inn-keeper or alehouse-keeper including Elizabeth Melledge & her daughter, Alice at The Antelope Hotel. In the 1890's, Councillor Simon Whittle, was dared as a bet to walk down the high street everyday for a week to The Antelope 'without wearing trousers'. He happily appeared everyday in his kilt & won the bet!

3. CORN MARKET

This area has always been important for trade since merchants sold their goods from wooden market stalls to a row of Georgian shops & by 1911, the census listed 200 high street businesses including 17 grocers, 16 butchers, 9 drapers, 9 shoe makers, 12 hotels or pubs & 7 tea rooms!

4. SYDENHAM'S PRINTERS

currently Frontline Army Surplus

Moore's nephew, John Sydenham produced the first edition of the Poole & Dorset Herald on presses behind the shop in 1846. By 1861, the newspaper employed 7 men, 3 boys, 13 apprentices (3 of them were girls). Back in the 1700's Joseph Moore, a stationer, bookseller & printer here also sold lottery tickets 'Moore's Lucky Lottery Office'.

5. PHILIP HENRY GOSSE

take alleyway next to Toast 2 Roast

Gosse (1810-1888) spent his childhood living at No. 1 Skinner Street (opposite his blue plaque) developing his love for marine life with the help of his aunt, Susan Bell. In 1827 he sailed to Newfoundland to serve as a clerk and also studied wildlife. In the mid-19th century, Gosse built the first successful long-term tank for studying marine life and invented the word 'aquarium'.



6. BARFOOT MANSION

currently Ginali's Italian Restaurant

This was once a magnificent mansion belonging to a Newfoundland merchant, William Barfoot, it was built in 1704, & was originally twice the size - so you can imagine how many staff were required to run it! In 1574, a quarter of households had at least one maid servant, 65 maids listed in total.

7. LONDON HOTEL

currently Butler & Hops

Previously, The London Tavern Inn, merchants could take coaches to London or Bristol from here. In 1897, as The London Hotel, it was highly decorated with lights, flags & the letters 'VR' for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee & later hosted a royal visit by her daughter, Princess Beatrice, in 1905.

8. J.A. HAWKES & SON

currently Rapid Mobility

A family-run shoe shop & workshop for 150 years, started by making oiled skin fisherman boots for those fishing locally in Poole & on the larger ships in Newfoundland. Hawkes were the first High Street shop to be lit by electricity, they installed their own gas engine and dynamo which also powered the shoe repair machines.

9. AMITY HALL

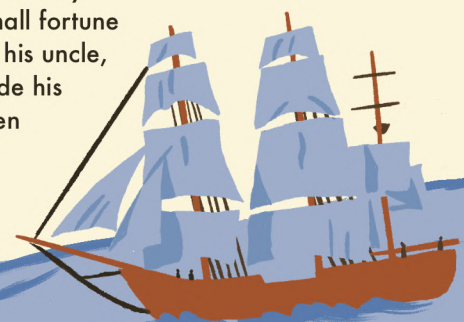
currently Poundstretcher

Amity Hall, used for talks & lectures, hosted Poole's first moving picture in 1896 & in 1897 hosted 'Myriorama' accompanied by performing foxes, rats & ducks. The cinema survived for over 60 years until it closed in June 1959.

10. BEECH HURST

currently Jacobs & Reeves

Beech Hurst was built in 1798 by Samuel Rolles with the small fortune Rolles had inherited from his uncle, Samuel White. White made his fortune as one of the seven family firms that are said to have controlled the Poole-Newfoundland trade.





STEPPING BACK INTO POOLE'S PAST

It is 1798, huge sail ships return to the harbour laden with goods from Spain or France after a treacherous trip across the Atlantic with salt cod from the Newfoundland fisheries... The crews have been away for months, and the alehouses are full of mariners with the strict landlady keeping order and children cart the goods along the muddy high street to the Corn market to stock the traders' stalls.

Rows of mail carriages with eager horses wait outside the coaching inns to take merchants to London or Bristol. Poole has a population of about 5000 people, while the ship owners build elegant mansion houses, most people live over their family-run shops or workshops. Poole was described as 'the most considerable port and populous town in the county. The buildings are generally mean and low, but of late years many elegant houses have been erected.' (The Universal British Directory)

Poole is one of 60 English towns to have been awarded funding to improve and celebrate its town centre as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone initiative. Poole is an established visitor attraction and has a lively sense of place with a mix of Georgian houses, fine Victorian commercial buildings and 1930s art deco shop fronts. From its origins as a medieval fishing harbour, the town became a major port by the late 17th century and its High Street links the historic Quayside with the town centre.

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