

The String of Horses

One of the first buildings you see at Avoncroft is the String of Horses. The striking black and white structure has some interesting tales to tell.

Where did this building come from?



The String of Horses Inn came to Avoncroft from Frankwell, Shrewsbury. It is believed that the building dates from 1576 and is a fine example of a timber framed building with rested wood mullion windows on the second floor.

Did you know? This building was built when Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne.

The building was dismantled in 1969 to make way for the creation of the Frankwell roundabout, but in 1971 it was brought to Avoncroft to be restored and re-erected. It was completed and opened in 1976.

The building now houses the museum's tearoom in what was the shop area.

Upstairs there a number of rooms including 'The Long Room', which runs for most of the length of the building and is a particularly impressive space.

What was this building used for?

As with any building of this age, it has had lots of uses through time as well as lots of different owners. The building was originally a mansion for a wealthy individual in Frankwell, on the outskirts of Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

At some point it became an Inn and served this purpose for over 300 years.

The Inn has been known as 'The Royal Oak' and at one stage 'The Cross Keys'. Ultimately, in 1828, it became known as 'The String of Horses'.



Crime at the String of Horses Inn

On 11th Aug 1871 in the Shrewsbury Chronicle it was reported that a stabbing had taken place in or around the String of Horses yard. Abigail Hughes was charged with stabbing John Morris, a hawker and fellow lodger at a registered lodging house. Abigail was sentenced to 4 months hard labour in October 1871.

From coaching Inn to shop.

In 1907 the building was offered for sale by public auction, and The String of Horses Inn was sold for £500. The new owner changed the property's use to a shop with dwelling house over. Then in 1911 was it bought by Messrs. F. Davies & Son for Shrewsbury Co-Operative Society and became Branch No. 4 of the Co-Op. The Co-op signage can still be seen above the front windows today.

