



## The rediscovery of the Tudor Room.

During the nineteenth century Fishers Tudor Restaurant occupied the building, and in 1890 Mr. J. Ambrose Fisher, proprietor of the restaurant took over another room from the proprietor of the Gloucester Journal. He was fascinated to find a series of carvings showing through the accumulated layers of whitewash and paint, and, removing the whitewash and paint, he found heraldic bearings and devices with proper tinctures, monograms, initials and portraits. From these archaeologists were able to identify the original guest room of Thomas Payne.

Mr. Fisher invited Mr. G. A. Horvitt, a skilful carver and authority on mediaeval art, to replace some of the carvings which were missing or damaged beyond repair. The Tudor Room's splendor was restored.

## The Room today.

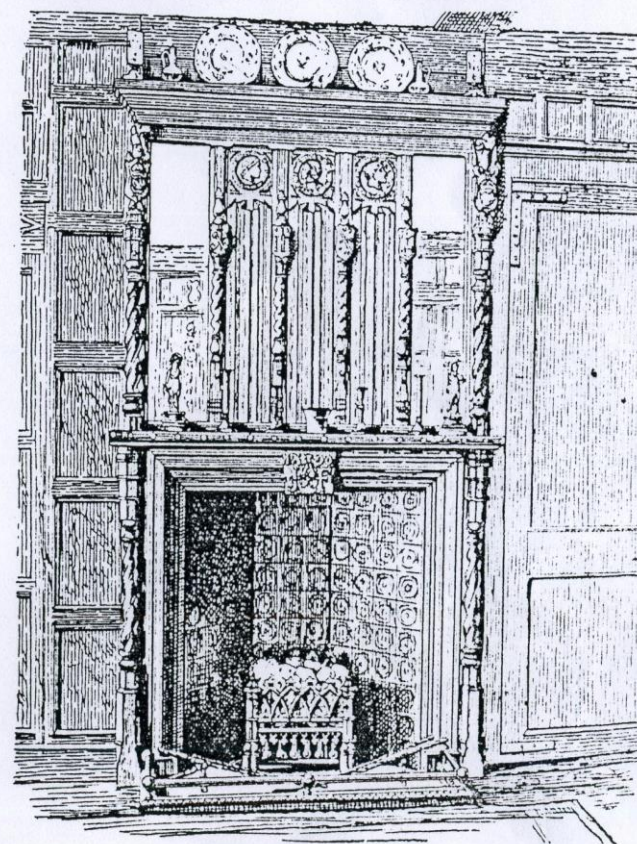
Today's guests will see a handsome mantelpiece cleverly constructed from old woodwork found in this part of the house at the time of its restoration by Mr. Fisher. It contains three of the original linen fold panels with carved medallions representing the heads of two females and a male, and six twisted balusters or rails from the staircase which led up from the room below. The carvings at the heads of the balusters by Mr. Horvitt are imitations of ancient carvings. In the centre of the mantelpiece immediately above the fireplace, Mr. Horvitt has carved the monogram of J. Ambrose Fisher.

At the opposite end of the room an overmantel was constructed from five original panels and six balusters. The carvings at the head of each baluster were the work of Mr. Horvitt. There are twenty one panels along the inside wall, all of which are original sixteenth century, except for the first, third, part of the seventh and the last two (looking at it from the left).

Factual details for this leaflet have been taken from "Tudor Carvings" by the Rev. William Bazeley, MA.

Presented with the compliments of Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society.

# The Tudor Room

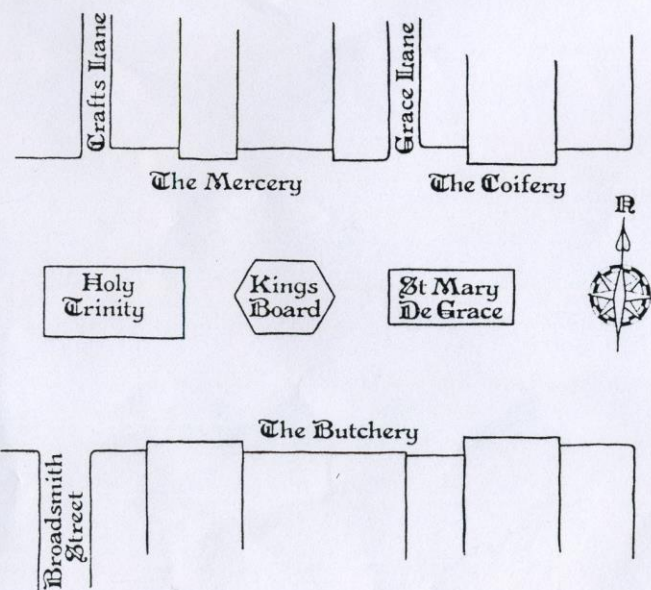


A part of  
Gloucester's heritage.

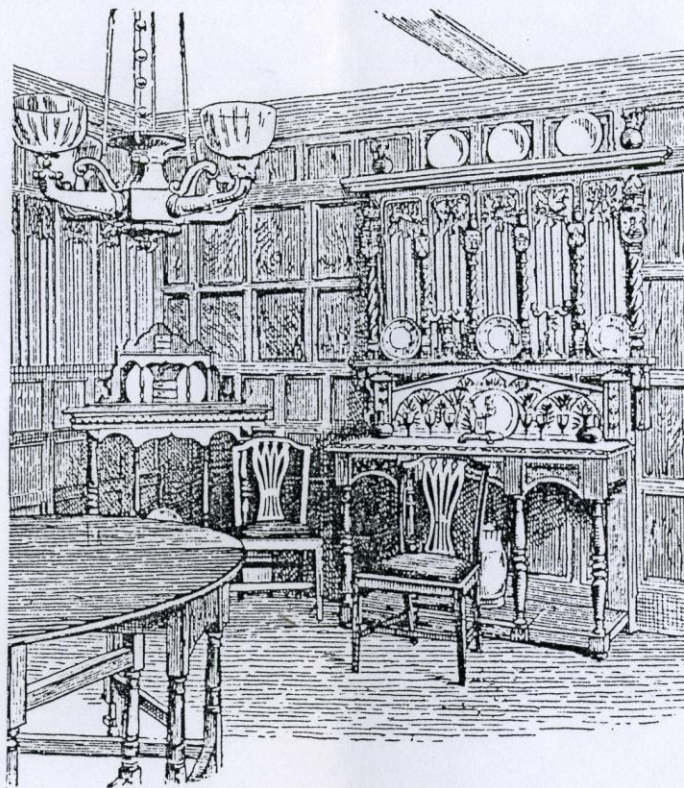


## The restoration of over seven centuries of history.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society's Westgate Street office has taken a step backwards (in history). The splendid oak panelling of its Tudor Room has recently been restored to reveal the full glory of the original guest room of Thomas Payne, who was elected Sheriff of Gloucester in 1534.



The mansion from which the Cheltenham and Gloucester office was built, and which they have occupied since 1918, must have been one of the finest in Tudor and Stuart times. Its history goes back to at least the early part of the thirteenth century.



## Hatmakers Row.

The building was one of a row of four or five houses known as the Coifery, or Hatmakers Row, to the east of Grace Lane, the old name for St. John's Lane.

During the early part of the thirteenth century, when Henry III ruled, Mr. Peter Peytenny lived here. His daughter and heiress Christiana married into the Brown family and ownership passed into their hands. Stephen Brown was Bailiff of Gloucester in 1295 and 1317, and Stephen Brown the younger was Bailiff in 1332.

Occupancy passed to the Thoky family with the marriage of young Stephen's heiress to John Thoky. The famous Abbot Thoky of Gloucester, who reburied the body of King Edward II at the Abbey of St. Peter in 1327, was an ancestor of the same family.

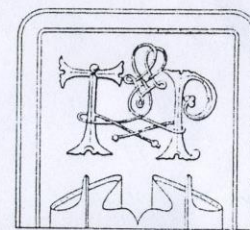
Later the Bisley family took over the premises. *Thomas Bisley the confirmed tenant in 1455 was*

Gloucester's representative in Parliament during 1429-30. Thomas owned the two shops next door which were occupied by John Kirby, and he was flanked by distinguished company at both ends of the row. John Strensham, Bailiff of Gloucester in 1428, lived in the first house near the High Cross. Walter Banknot, who was Bailiff in 1442, lived at the other end, and the Prior of St. Osvalds owned a booth at the entrance of Grace Lane.

## The rebuilding of the mansion.

It seems that the mansion was rebuilt in the reign of Henry VIII. Ownership of the mansion is recorded in a deed as follows: "the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter on 1st July 1530 leased to Thomas Payne and his wife, Joan, a tenement between Grace Lane and Northgate Street."

Thomas Payne used oak panelling and carvings in his guest chamber, now the Tudor Room, to tell his life story and affirm his loyalty. He was elected



Sheriff in 1534, and in his year of office he had the honour of meeting Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, his second wife, at Churchdown and escorting them to their lodgings in the Abbey. In 1540 Thomas became Mayor and had the pleasure of being in office when the King's Charter on September 3rd 1541 enacted that "Our town of Gloucester shall henceforth forever be a city and be called the City of Gloucester."

Many generations of Paynes lived here and now lie buried in the ancient cemetery in College Green.