

# The Historic Buildings of Mere

## *Dewes House*



Dewes House in Salisbury Street, was built about 1600. It has a finely proportioned front with mullioned windows and a classical pedimented doorway; until 1963 it was roofed with massive stone tiles, some of them larger than paving stones.

It was offered for letting in 1795 in the Salisbury and Winchester Journal:

“1795 Mere Wilts. To be Lett or rented immediately. An exceedingly convenient Family House in good repair, consisting if an entrance hall floored with oak, two parlours well furnished, with handsome marble chimney pieces, two large cellars with wine vaults, fine bed-chambers, with dressing rooms, three garrets, kitchen, brewhouse, and all other requisites; stabling for four horses, coach house and other buildings, a piece of land adjoining, containing two acres exceedingly rich, now used as garden ground, partly walled in and planted with fruit trees, Part of the buildings have been recently erected and the whole cost about £1,500 in building.”

In the nineteenth century the house was considerably enlarged by the addition of rooms on the south side of the main building. From this time the garden was opened to the public for many occasions and can often be seen as the background to group photographs of the period.