



## History of the Globe and surrounding area

### The History of Warwick

Warwick is a historic settlement with Saxon origins dating back to 914 AD, when a fort was established by Æthelflæd to defend against the Danes on the River Avon. The town was subsequently fortified with walls, of which the Eastgate and Westgate still remain.



*Eastgate 1922*

It is dominated by the medieval Warwick Castle, originally established as a wooden motte-and-bailey fortress by William the Conqueror in 1068 to control the Midlands. The castle was rebuilt in stone in the 12th century, with major additions like Caesar's Tower and Guy's Tower added in the 14th century, reflecting advancements in military architecture.

Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick, known as "The Kingmaker" for his role in the Wars of the Roses, owned the castle during its peak medieval influence. It was then granted to Sir Fulke Greville in 1604, when the fortress was converted into a luxurious mansion, later hosting royal visits from Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. Today it features a mix of Medieval, Stuart, and Georgian architecture and is a very popular tourist attraction owned by Merlin Entertainments (we urge you to visit if you haven't, it's a wonderful day out).



The Great Fire of Warwick on September 5, 1694, caused significant damage to the castle, destroying over 460 buildings. It was started by a stray spark on a windy day and the blaze sadly severely damaged the Collegiate Church of St Mary and swept through the majority of the town centre, particularly on both sides of the High Street and Church Street and left over 250 families homeless, the medieval town was destroyed.

An extract from The Commissioners Order Book, describes the day "a sudden fire, which broake out about two of the clock in the afternoon on the fifth of this instant September, in the western part of the towne of Warwick, which by the violence of the wind was soe swiftly carried through the principall parts of the same that noe opposition could be made to hinder the fierceness of its progress, till it had in few hours consumed almost all of the Highstreet, the Church Street and the Sheepstreet intirely, part of the Jury Street, Newstreet, and many buildings about the Market House, together with the great and antient church of St Maryes and severall other buildings on other parts of the towne..."



The town was rebuilt with brick, rather than timber-frame and thatch, leading to the elegant, uniform look of the current town centre. Rebuilding efforts created a more uniform townscape and boosted the career of mason Francis Smith. Working often with his brothers and later his son, Smith of Warwick was highly regarded for delivering projects on time and within budget, cementing his reputation among the Midlands gentry (Kevin McCloud would have been shocked and proud!).

## The Globe

The Globe is Grade II-listed and first opened as a Coaching Inn in 1788, named then as the “Globe Inn Commercial & Posting House”. We are located in the medieval heart of the town and until the 1960s it was famously accessed via an iron bridge over a steep street known as The Holloway. It sits on Theatre Street and did indeed transition into a theatre in the early 1800s, hosting plays and pantomimes. We are named after Shakespeare’s theatre in London.



William Shakespeare was born and raised in Warwickshire (just down the road in Stratford-upon-Avon). He consistently identified himself as a “gentleman of Stratford-upon-Avon in the county of Warwick”.

His work is deeply influenced by the area, many of his plays, such as *The Taming of the Shrew*, feature Warwickshire villages like Barton-on-the-Heath and Wincot and his works are dotted with West Midlands and Warwickshire dialect words, such as “geck” (fool) and “wappered” (tired). He also utilised the history of the Earls of Warwick in his plays, particularly the Henry VI trilogy. We have adopted his family coat of arms as our sign, it seemed fitting!



The Coat of Arms was granted to William Shakespeare’s father John in 1596 and was a visual declaration of gentility and status, featuring a gold spear on a black band (“bend sable”) with a falcon holding a spear on top. It functioned as a pun on the family name and a symbol of honorable service and social aspiration, summarised by the motto “Non Sanz Droict” (Not Without Right) which reflects the family’s claim to “gentleman” status following John Shakespeare’s work as a bailiff (mayor) in Stratford-upon-Avon.

The crest was acquired during a time when Shakespeare was a successful playwright, allowing him to officially elevate his family’s status to landed gentry.

We acquired the Globe in 2025 and were thrilled to, at long last, be able to offer the folk of Warwick a Brunning and Price pub. We’d been looking for a while in the area and we do love a building with history and the room to be able to offer bedrooms, keeping the spirit of the Inn that it once was alive.