



The Carpenter

You have forgotten my name but the frame I built still stands even if the houses and lands around it have gone and no one remembers the jitty as “Little Lane”, all the same, that’s where you’ll find real wood beams of good oak, not like the planks stuck on the front to no purpose. Why do you suppose they do it? Mine hasn’t moved much, weathered to the touch, painted black, but still sound.

Have you found the marks on the third upright that fit it together? My signature just as if I could write.

4A Beveridge St There are not many timber-framed buildings in Barrow upon Soar. The timbers on the side, down the jitty known as “Little Lane”, are original, possibly 300 – 400 years old. The timber frame holds up the house. The bricks between the timbers are just to make it weatherproof. The timber frames were prefabricated by a carpenter in a workshop and taken to the site to be erected. Each joint was marked to show which fitted where. These “carpenter’s marks” are often chisel cuts as here. On the third upright are the “3 cuts” shown. The section of house between a pair of uprights was called a “bay” – hence, a “bay window” is a window that fills a whole “bay”.

