

Doctor Giles Roberts



Dr Roberts lived from 1766 to 1834. He ran a chemist's shop in Bridport where he made and sold medicines for all kinds of illnesses.

Dr Roberts started out with no medical training. When he opened his shop, most of his medical knowledge came from books. It was also rumoured that he'd once lived with gypsies where he'd learnt many herbal secrets.

He used some very strange ingredients and kept a jar of live toads, who's legs he'd chop off and give to people as good health charms.



He was also interested in electricity and when a group of boys annoyed him he made a machine and gave them an electric shock!

After 3 years in business, he went to London to train as a doctor, before returning to Bridport and his shop.

Dr Roberts was known for his generosity; he often helped the poor, either with clothes, free meals, or by giving them free treatments. The 'Poor Man's Friend' ointment was his most famous medicine. It was first sold in 1798 and was still being made until 1950.

After Dr Roberts' death, the Chemist's shop was run by his apprentices Thomas Beach and John Barnicott, and after that, by Thomas Beach's descendants. The shop closed in 1946.

Downstairs

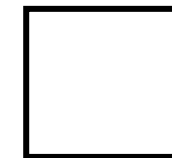
1) Stuffed animals were very popular in the 1700s and 1800s. Dr. Roberts enjoyed stuffing animals himself and even had a Museum displaying his creations in his Chemists shop!

How many can you count?



2) Queen Victoria once came to Bridport and Dr. Roberts sent her an invitation to visit his museum, but sadly she didn't have time!

Can you find her? *(Tick the box when you have!)*



3) In Bridport in the 1800s most children didn't go to school. Instead they would have worked long hours each day turning the wheel at the end of a ropewalk, like the one in the museum.

Dr. Roberts would have treated many children who did this.

How do you think it made them feel?

Upstairs

1) **Can you find a top hat like Dr. Roberts would have worn?**
(Tick the box when you have!) Why not try it on!

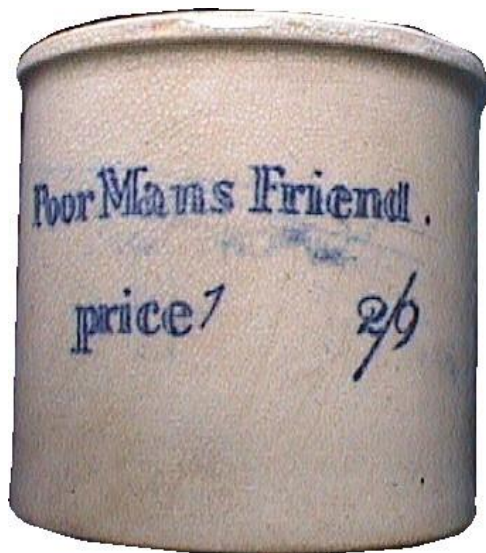
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2) The Cancer Research shop was once Dr. Robert's Chemist shop, **can you find it on the build a town game?**
(Tick the box when you have!)

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3) Dr. Robert's Poor Man's Friend was used to treat cuts, bruises and burns.

Can you find this medicine? *(Tick the box when you have!)*

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4) Write down or draw some ingredients Dr. Roberts used in his medicines.
