



The word "lych" means corpse and it was here, beneath the Lych Gate roof, that the corpse and mourners stopped and the priest would read the first part of the service before moving to the graveside.



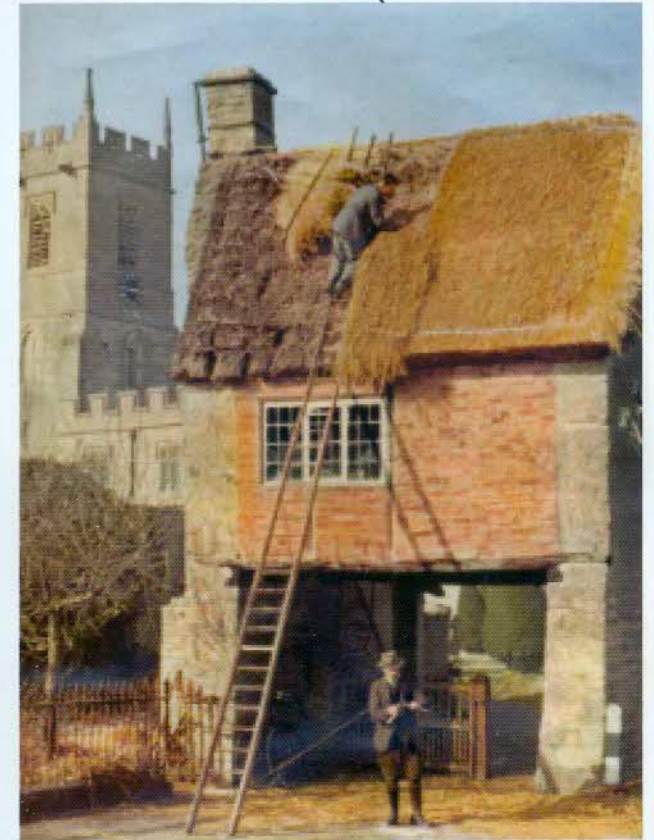
The building was originally the end of a row of cottages eventually being reopened to form the entrance to the church and churchyard

This photo shows the Lych Gate around 1880 attached to one of the cottages which had been recently re-thatched.

By the 1920's the cottages had fallen into disrepair and were pulled down leaving the Lych Gate standing alone. During the next fifty years the upstairs was used as a cobbler's, antiques shop and later a museum.



A local man, George Latham, bought and restored the Lych Gate and created a small museum of farm implements. When he died in 1964, his wife gave it to the church in his memory.



Since 2000, it has been used by the Compton District History Society to hold its archive of maps, photographs and documents relating to the history of the village and surroundings. The Society opens its archives to the public on occasional weekends during each year.