

## Howe lodge

East Howe Lane is joined by Brook Road, then a lane, leading westward to a stream which drained down the valley between Kinson Road and Poole Lane and on through the village. There were two houses of note along here. Howe Lodge an elegant 18th-century house of simple design with fine windows. It is said that Isaac Gulliver lived here; perhaps he had it enlarged, adding the two wings and porch ornamented with crenelations. The house contained a concealed room reached through a door ten feet up inside a chimney. A trap door in the dining-room led to the basement from which a neatly bricked tunnel extended away from the house. A more recent tenant came upon the tunnel and was able to follow it, walking upright, for thirty to forty feet before coming to its bricked-up end. It is presumed that it extended further when in use, probably out to the heath to the south of the house. Thomas Stone, a Newfoundland merchant, lived here at the end of the 18th century. He, in common with many of the Poole merchants, brought back a native Indian from Newfoundland. The Indians did not survive for long, mostly contracting tuberculosis, and Oubee, the young girl brought back and adopted by the Stones in 1792, lived only until 1795. Her grave, if in the parish at all, has not been located. Howe Lodge has housed a variety of characters, from a professional gambler from Monte Carlo to the Reverend Sullen, and including troops of the Pioneer

Corps during the Second World War when they were stationed on Brownsea. The property was eventually bought by the Bournemouth Corporation and demolished in the early 1950s to make way for road widening and a block of flats.