



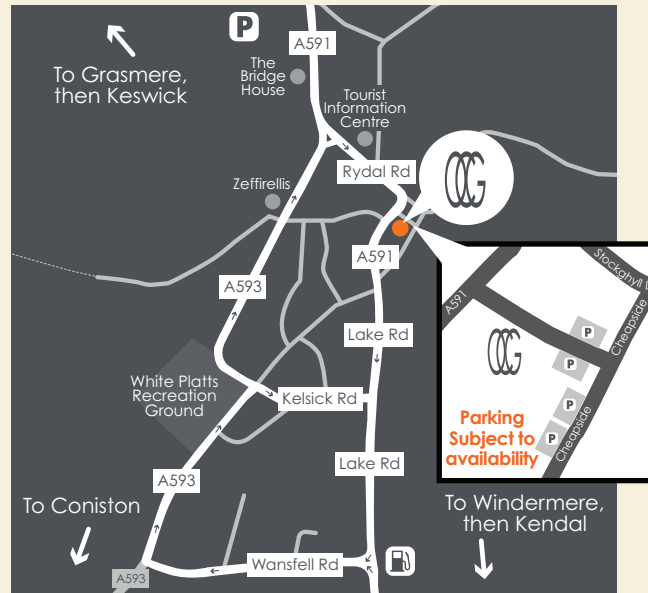
The gallery today

In 2016 **the gallery** moved over to a new team of owners: Paul and Caroline Jones and Andy and Rebecca Thelwell. In 2022 full ownership of the gallery passed to Paul and Caroline. During the lockdown period an opportunity arose to extend the Gallery into the neighbouring retail space. The new Ruskin Room has increased the area available to showcase our wide range of paintings. We proudly represent over 100 artists and makers. The gallery is spread across three floors of the town's historic court building, providing a bright and welcoming space to showcase the best arts and crafts available from the Lakes and around Britain today.

On display are a wide range of original wall art from paintings & drawings to textiles & linocuts. We also display wood craft & furniture, glass and sculptures in bronze & ceramic. Our jewellery section includes collections that are both beautiful and very wearable.

Special exhibitions are held in "Chambers", the old judges retiring room.

HOW TO FIND US...



Based in the historic Old Courthouse in Ambleside market place, this beautiful Gallery has been an institution in Ambleside since 1994.

OPENING TIMES

Monday - Saturday: 10am - 5pm
Sunday: 10am - 4pm

OLD COURTHOUSE GALLERY

MARKET PLACE, AMBLESIDE, CUMBRIA LA22 9BU
TEL: 015394 32022 EMAIL: gallery@ocg-arts.com

oldcourthousegallery.com



Acknowledgments:

At Lakeland's Heart, John M. Carnie (2002)
Ambleside OnLine & the late Joan Newby www.amblesideonline.co.uk
Richard Attenborough, www.ambleside-history.co.uk/
Mike Williams

The History behind OLD COURTHOUSE GALLERY Ambleside

Proudly representing over 100 artists and makers



Market Place, Ambleside, Westmorland, photograph by HERBERT BELL of a painting by J Scott, 1848
Showing the building which was demolished to make way for the new civic buildings. © Martin and Jean Norgate: 2016 Armit Library:ALPS15.

Many visitors ask about the fascinating history of the OCG building so we decided to write a guide!

Ambleside Courthouse

Ambleside was granted a Charter in 1650 to hold a market which traded in cloth, corn and paper. By 1854 the area around the lake was gradually developed and several large villas were built. The population of Ambleside at this time was 1,592. In 1856 the area around Ambleside's Market Cross was redeveloped. The original Market Hall had an open ground floor with pillars and a building above. The development consisted of two civic buildings, paid for by the Benson-Harrison family and costing £2,500; the Mechanics' Institute/Town Hall and the Old Court House (1858). Three shops traded from the ground floor, whilst the Court Room was on the first floor having an external staircase with the door being just behind the existing gallery upper sales desk. The cells were in the rear basement and prisoners were escorted outside, up the stairway and into the court. In 1888 the Court was moved into a combined facility including a Police Station and Cells in Church Street.

Contemporary Courthouse Reconstruction. David Ross
www.BritainExpress.com



Ambleside Civic Trust



The Ambleside Courthouse served as both the law courts and cells. Quarter and Petty sessions were held at Ambleside Courthouse. These were courts in which cases involving non-capital offences were tried by magistrates. Courts were designed to allow the magistrates and barristers to enter by a front door, solicitors and witnesses by a side door and prisoners delivered to the cells through a gate. Members of the public had their own entrance. The arrangement of stairs and corridors was ingeniously designed to ensure that the four categories of users did not have to meet.

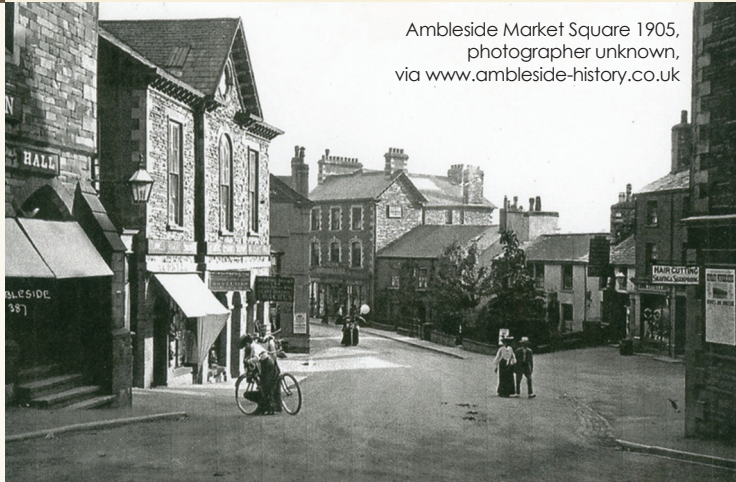
THE ALLEGED CHILD MURDER AT AMBLESIDE

DEAD BODY OF A CHILD FOUND AT AMBLESIDE.
—On Thursday afternoon, the 8th inst., the dead body of a full grown female child was found at Waterhead, Ambleside. C. G. Thompson, Esq., the coroner, held an inquest on Friday, when the following evidence was taken:—Mrs. Tyson, who on the following Friday afternoon, about half past four, I went into a field belonging to W. Pritt, Esq. for the purpose of seeking a closed runner or stream, the lower portion of which, for the space of a few feet, had been left open for the purpose of serving cattle with water. At this place I discovered the body partly in the water, and folded up in a kitchen towel. Mr. Harrison, surgeon, examined the body: there was a scalp wound on the head, and the brain protruded a little. It was a new-born child and had lived, and from all appearance might have been in the water a fortnight or longer.—P.C. Scott asked for an adjournment of the inquest, so that he might investigate the matter further, which was granted till the 2nd inst.

details of the case were reported in the Westmoreland Gazette. On February 8th 1872. The body of a newly born child was found in a field in Waterhead. Sarah Rawlings, age 23, who was a housemaid to Mr Pitts at Waterhead House was taken to the cells in the Courthouse at Ambleside and accused of murdering her own child. She was taken from the cells to the Mechanics Institute next door for the hearing. She was represented by her advocate Mr R.F Thompson who cross examined the many witnesses. After hearing the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of 'wilful murder against a person or persons unknown' but Sarah was not charged and she was released. She left to tremendous cheers as her case had been of great interest in the town!

Retail

Ambleside Market Square (1905) showing the Courthouse Building used by a number of shops. Including Tyson's owned by Mary Tyson (sweets, gifts and tobacco). The neighboring shops included: Edgar Sawford, Barber and Edmond Fleming selling souvenirs. Hicklings sold postcards and took railway and coach bookings.



Ambleside Market Square 1905, photographer unknown, via www.ambleside-history.co.uk



F.Penrice Drapers, Market Place 1919, photographer unknown, via www.ambleside-history.co.uk and the late Joan Newby.

Frederick Penrice, one of 11 siblings, opened his drapers shop in the Courthouse building in 1919. After training in London he moved to Ambleside. Several members of the Penrice family shared in the running of the business as it evolved from a general drapers to a specialist clothing outfitter. It closed in 1994 having served residents and visitors for 75 years.

The Old Courthouse Gallery

OCG was founded by the Brammall family. In 1994 a conversion of the first floor provided the mezzanine level and the original tall windows now bathe the exhibits in natural light.

The premises were totally renovated and the shop fittings and ironwork were created by Chris Brammall (www.cb-arts.co.uk) one of the leading architectural and sculptural metalworkers in Great Britain. OCG stayed in the Brammall family until Sylvia and Andrew retired in 2016.



Renovation work in progress