

# Surviving the wrath of a king

**Welcome to Cartmel Priory Gatehouse.**  
**A historically important building, situated in the heart of the village.**



Cartmel Priory Gatehouse circa 1900

## Why is the Gatehouse important?

The gatehouse and church are the only buildings in the village that once belonged to an Augustinian Priory. The Priory was established in Cartmel during the twelfth century (1189).

Building was completed in 1233 but the Gatehouse was a later addition. It was built around 1340 along with an outer wall for the Priory.

## What happened to Cartmel Priory?

In 1536 it was closed by the orders of Henry VIII. Large sections of the Priory buildings were sold and/or dismantled. Henry VIII was responsible for the closure of all the monastic communities in the country at this time. This is known as the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

## How did the Gatehouse survive?

It is suggested that the Great Room (in which you are standing) was the location of the manor court for the Priory.

The manor court dealt with disputes about land in the area owned by the Priory. It probably continued to be used for this purpose for some time after the monks left and the Crown managed the manor.



Henry VIII, King of England (1509 -1547)

Throughout the following centuries the Gatehouse had many uses.

Between 1624 and 1790 it was owned by the local parish and functioned as the village grammar school. During this time the adjoining cottage was built.



# Don't miss ....

For the whole of the nineteenth century the Gatehouse and adjoining cottage housed various village shops.

During the early twentieth century the Gatehouse was bought and restored by a local solicitor, Reuben O'Neill Pearson. It was the Pearson family who gave the Gatehouse to the National Trust in 1946. They also offered to sell the adjoining cottage. The National Trust bought the cottage for three hundred pounds.

Since being in the care of the National Trust the Gatehouse and adjoining cottage have had a number of uses. In the 1980s the Great Room was used as an art gallery.

In 1997, the two buildings combined were opened to the public.

They were for some time managed by the Cartmel Village Society as a local heritage centre.

Today, the Gatehouse and adjoining cottage are let to tenants as accommodation.

The National Trust is keen to maintain public access to what is an important and fascinating building in the village.

The tenants have kindly agreed to open up the Great Room six afternoons a year.

## The Photograph Album

See photographs of the Gatehouse and adjoining cottage as village shops.



## The Wall Cupboard

This may have been used to keep important papers when the Great Room was used as the Manor Court.



## The Fireplace

Added in the 1920s by Mr Pearson. His repairs were usually well-researched and sensitively done but the model on which this is based is about 150 years too early for Cartmel.



## Names on the Sills

Look out for the etchings made by children when it was a grammar school. There are also plans showing how the Great Room functioned as the school.

