



All Change on the High Street

Heritage Open Days
Organised by Salisbury
Civic Society

Shop 2 **Gallery 21** 20 Queen Street, Cross Keys Chequer

Part of the Cross Keys Chequer, the outside of the building has a much restored 18th century town house frontage. Inside are Georgian plasterwork ceilings and a fine Hall and Staircase, carved and inlaid, with newel posts and balusters. There was some 19th century stained glass including the 15th century Walmsley Coat of Arms in the window on the stairs. Unfortunately it was stolen during the Second World War and had to be replaced. It used to overlook a passage way between buildings but once alterations were made this no longer existed so the mirror glass window was put in its place. Two small palm prints reappear on the glass whenever the window is cleaned! There is an excellent view across the Market place from the elegant first floor front room windows.

History

In 1400 the building was a tenement and three shops. In the 18th century it was re-built as a dwelling for a wealthy merchant and became the birthplace of Henry Fawcett, whose father was a draper and also the Mayor. Fawcett, born in 1833, was blinded in a hunting accident in 1858. Despite this he became Professor of Political Economy at Cambridge in 1863. He was elected as a Liberal MP in 1865 supporting Women's Suffrage and equality for the working classes. He helped pass the Reform Act of 1867 and in the same year married Millicent Garrett, sister of Elizabeth, a pioneer in education for women as well as female suffrage. In 1880 Henry was appointed Postmaster General and was instrumental in significant change in the postal service introducing the parcel post, postal orders and the sixpenny telegram. He died of diphtheria in 1884 at the age of 51. A statue to him stands in the Market Place.

After its use as a dwelling house the building housed a number of businesses including a corn and seed merchants, Woodrow & Son, for more than 50 years. It was leased in the late 1970's by Allum and Sidaway, the jewellers until 2019.

The multi award winning Gallery 21 took over the premises in 2020, moving from next door, where it had been located since 2014. The impressive staircase and ceiling, located to the rear of Gallery 21, are both listed features, providing the perfect backdrop for original contemporary art work and the high ceiling allows the gallery to hang very large pieces. It is a family run independent business, and part of Salisbury's Indie Business Group and the Federation of Small Businesses.

