

Watford Museum

1902 Coronation riots

In 1902, people in Watford rioted when their bank holiday to celebrate Edward VII's coronation was cancelled.

The king had fallen dangerously ill with appendicitis!

Over a hundred prisoners were arrested for taking part



What can you see in this photo?

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Watford punishment methods 1

The stocks stood under the old market house.

The stocks were probably removed during the early part of the 19th century.

Offenders, usually poachers and drunks, would be put in the stocks where they would be pelted with rotten eggs, mud, stones, and water.

The photo is an example of what the stocks may have looked like.



What do you think it would be like to go in the stocks?

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Watford punishment methods 2

There was a 'cage' or 'lock up' by St Mary's until the early 1800s.

The cage was strongly built with a door bearing many locks and bolts.

There was also with a small window to allow light, air, conversation.

Food and drink could be passed through.

also allowed the throwing of mud by children at the offender!

This is a picture of St Mary's Church. The cage was said to be next to this Church.



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Watford's first police station

Watford's first police station was built in 1888.

In 1956, it moved to Shady Lane.

In 1892 Hertfordshire appointed one plain clothes officer was appointed to be based at Watford

Watford was said to be the main trouble spot for country.

The first woman police officer at Kings Station was appointed in 1928.

She had to be unmarried or widow, not under 22 or over 35 and not be shorter than 5'4".



Do you know what this building is used for now?

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The tragic story of Mary Money

Mary Money was a 21-year-old who lived at Beechen Grove.

She was found dead in 1905 in the Merstham Railway Tunnel.

A coroner's jury could not decide what had happened to her.

Her story went on to inspire the Sherlock Holmes story The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans.



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Highwaymen in Watford

Highwaymen worked in Watford in the 18th and early 19th Centuries. They held up coaches at gunpoint.

They liked Hertfordshire because it was close both to London and the passages North.

There were gangs of thieves who robbed houses. This is how Dick Turpin started.

Dick Turpin said to have stayed at the Green Man pub.

An early 19th Century resident of Watford wrote that "Richard (Turpin) when a footpad, eased a traveller coming into Watford of a large sum of money "

The photo shows the Green Man pub



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Former Watford County Court House

This was the Judge's entrance to the Court House, marked by the Royal Coat of Arms over the doorway. It was built around 1858. It is located in Kings Close. It once contained a juror's room and cells.



What is this building used for now?