

Watford Museum

Nairn's Abernathy Biscuits

These are named after Doctor John Abernathy.

He suggested to James Caldwell, that he should add some sugar and cardamom to biscuits.

Caldwell originally made them for sea travellers.

They were thought to help your digestion. This tin dates to about 1950.

Would you like to have a food named after you?



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"The Household" Plate and Polishing Set

This has everything you would need to make your plates or jewellery sparkle.

The box came with plate powder, polishing soap, a brush, chamois leather, a ring holder and a stud, link and solitaire holder.

These were typically quite inexpensive and sold in most shops.

This set could date back to the first half of the 20th century.

Do we still polish plates and jewellery?



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Beehive Rug Wool Gauge for knitting or sewing.

Wooden gauges were used to help a straight cut through a piece of cloth.

You would wrap the cloth around the wooden blocks, or gauges.

Then you would use a knife or scissors to run along the groove.

With the two gauges are three latch hook tools.

This kit is most likely from 1940 and manufactured by Patons and Baldwin.



Where do we get our clothes today?

Watford Museum

Wooden Shoe/Foot Rule

This was used to measure people's shoe size this.

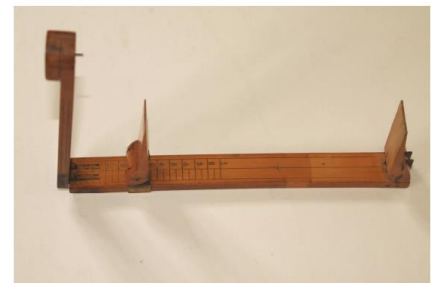
It is from George Barnsley & Sons, Sheffield.

These works were once the biggest suppliers of measuring and cutting tools for the leather working and shoe making industry.

The works were founded in 1836 at a factory called Cornish Works in Sheffield.

The building was closed in 2004.

How do we measure feet today?



Watford Museum

World War 2 Special Constable Truncheon

In World War two many people volunteered as reserve constables.



This gave them all the powers of the police.

Their main aim was to look out for enemy action on the home front.

They were armed with a rifle and a truncheon like this one.

At the height of the war there were around 17,000 war reserve constables.

Watford Museum

Laundwell Premier Electric Iron

This was made in Birmingham around the 1930s and 40s.

It weighs 5 and a half pounds, about almost triple the weight of most modern-day irons.

It was heavy to allow it to press out the creases.

Steam releasing irons had not been manufactured around this time.



How is this iron different to the irons we use today?