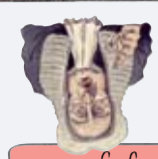


These three sets of semi-detached houses were built for the Rutland Constabulary in 1951 for local Police Officers. Houses were in short supply after World War II. Quality homes were therefore provided for key personnel so that they could concentrate on their work.



Why do you think there are five holes?



Whose horseshoe is over the judge's seat?

1 Stocks
These stocks, which are under the Butter Cross in the Market Place, are Grade I listed. They have five holes rather than the usual four. Criminals would sit with their feet and sometimes their hands trapped in the stocks. They were then left to suffer the scorn of passers-by and the effects of the weather.

2 Stocks
The use of the Great Hall as a court is the main reason the castle has survived to this day. The use of the Manor of Oakham by visiting peers of the Lord of the Rutland Constabulary on the wall were donated to the Lord of the cells are still used during trials. is sometimes used as a Crown or Coroner's court. The castle and Petty Sessions have been held here. Today the Great Hall oldest working courts in England. Assizes, Quarter Sessions This castle dates from the 12th century and has one of the Drop Gallows in England, all within a short walk. linked to crime and punishment and the last remaining New continually active courts in England. There are numerous sites Oakham is a unique place as it has one of the oldest

1 Oakham Castle
The royal gaol for Rutland was originally in the castle grounds. However, it does not seem to have been very secure as there were numerous escapes.

2 The Workhouse
This workhouse was built between 1836 and 1837. Designed by William J Donthorn, it housed up to 167 paupers from Oakham and the surrounding area.

3 Police Station
This was the site of the original Police Station and the Chief Constable's House.

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6 New Gaol
The New Model Prison was built in 1810 at the corner of Northbackway (now Station Road) and Cemetery Road (Kilburn Road). It cost £9,351 and had room for 96 prisoners. However, as the average number of inmates in any year was 21, it was too expensive to run and it was closed in 1878. In total five public hangings took place at the prison. The last one was John Perkins in 1833. The former men's ward, the treadmill house, the stable block and some of the boundary wall are now part of Oakham School.

7 Old Gaol (Site of)
Around 1498 the county gaol was moved to the corner of High Street and Gaol Street. It was a two storey thatched building with the keeper's house overlooking the High Street. The gaol housed felons, debtors and other groups of prisoners. Each group had their own courtyard. In the felon's yard there was a whipping post.

8 Pillory (Site of)
A pillory once stood opposite The Crown Hotel at the South end of the Market Place. It was used as a punishment for crimes such as embezzlement and fraud. In 1816 the use of the pillory was restricted to perjury only. It finally was abolished in 1837.

9 Yule House
This house is also known as the Judge's Lodgings and dates from 1700. The Judge for the assize court would stay here. Every morning there would be a procession to the castle court with the judge arriving to a fanfare of trumpets. When one of His Majesty's judges stayed at the Judge's House, the local police force was responsible for his safety. A guard would stand outside 24 hours a day.

10 Gibbet Gate (Site of)
Gibbet Gate was at the junction of South Street and Catmos Street. Criminals were often hanged in gibbet irons as a warning to others.

THE CRIME & PUNISHMENT TRAIL

Follow our trail and learn more about Crime and Punishment in Oakham and discover some extraordinary characters.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT



A TRAIL AROUND OAKHAM



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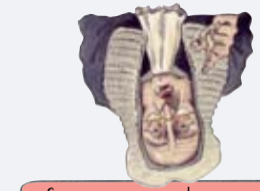
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What would be a fair punishment today?



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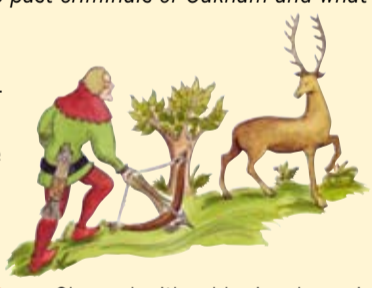
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Recorded Felons at Oakham

Read about some of the past criminals of Oakham and what happened to them.

1250 Peter de Neville - Keeper of the Forest. Charged with taking the King's deer and misappropriating forest fines due to the King.



1290 Nicholas de Weston - Charged with robberies, larcenies and homicides. (Took the privilege of clergy and purged his innocence before the Bishop of Lincoln).

1349 Geoffrey Cockerel - Convicted of false accusation and larceny. Sentenced to death in 1349 but after being cut down from the gallows started gasping for breath, jumped to his feet and ran into the church. Freed by Edward III and given a Royal pardon.

1599 John Lyons - Hanged at Mount Pleasant and disembowelled for being a Catholic. He had been frequently fined for not attending church. Became one of the 'English Martyrs'. A ballad, probably written in Elizabethan Times, commemorates his journey over the Swooning Bridge to his death.

1747 Francis Clarke - A tailor from Uppingham, whipped at the market cross for stealing a piece of Irish cloth.



1775 William Haines - Privately whipped by the Keeper of the House of Correction, imprisoned with hard labour for fourteen days for stealing a peck of barley (about two gallons).

1800 William Frisby - Oakham tailor and Thomas Fox, labourer, tried to free prisoners in Oakham Gaol and caused a riot. Fined five shillings and imprisoned for a month.

1813 John Holmes and William Almond - First executions on the New Drop Gallows at Oakham Prison - for burglary at the vicarage in Great Casterton.

The Trail Continued

11 Swooning Bridge

This grade II listed bridge is thought to date from the early 19th century.

It is said that when crossing this bridge, the condemned would first catch sight of the gallows on Mount Pleasant and that ladies would faint or swoon on seeing bodies hanging from the gibbet.

John Doncaster (1808-46) headmaster of Oakham School would allow boys to attend the assizes to 'learn how the law was administered and to take warning from sad examples'.

Names of Oakham School boys are etched into the stonework of the bridge including J Atlay, Bishop of Hereford 1868-94.

Can you read some of the names?

12 Mount Pleasant

This was the site of the gallows before New Gaol was built. The Weldon brothers were the last people to be hanged here.

13 Gallows in Rutland County Museum

The gallows date from 1813 and are the only surviving example of a 'New Drop' dismountable gallows in Britain. This type of gallows was designed with two horizontal doors that would open to drop the condemned to their death. It was an attempt to make death quicker and more humane but in reality the drop was not usually long enough to break the neck cleanly.

The first men to be hanged on these gallows were Almond and Holmes who were found guilty of burglary. They were in use until 1833 when John Perkins, the last man hanged in Oakham, was executed for wounding a gamekeeper.

Can you find the old police equipment and the Workhouse clock?





WORKHOUSE

POLICE HOUSES

STOCKS

BUTTER CROSS

OAKHAM CASTLE COURT

SITE OF PILLORY

OAKHAM CASTLE

JOHN LORD CARPENTER

GIBBET

RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM

SITE OF GIBBET GATE

YULE HOUSE

COUNTY MUSEUM

SWOONING BRIDGE

SITE OF MOUNT PLEASANT GALLOWS

SWOON!

GALLOWS