

My Name.....

## Prison History Trail



The Castle Museum is housed in two prison buildings.

**The Debtors' Prison** was built between 1701 and 1705.

The ground floor cells were for those who had committed the most serious crimes such as coin clipping, arson, horse stealing, murder, and highway robbery.

Conditions inside the prison were bad and many prisoners suffocated in the packed cells. In an attempt to create better conditions the **Female Prison** was built between 1780 and 1783.

## Follow the trail and discover the secrets of the Museum's prison past!



### Look in the Period Rooms

There is an original prison cell door in one of the display rooms. Where is it? (The door isn't labelled, so you'll have to look closely!)

In the Victorian Parlour

In the Moorland Cottage

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century Dining Room

Tick the right box!



### Look in the Cradle to Grave Exhibition

What do you think this large space was used for when the building was a prison?

A chapel

A concert hall

A café



Look in Kirkgate, the Victorian Street

This area was originally two open air exercise yards. You can see the original walls at the back of the shops.

One of the shop steps in the start of the street is made from an original paving stone from the yard. It has carvings on it made by a prisoner - where is it? You'll have to look VERY closely! Is it:

By Edward Allen's taxidermists

By The Little Dustpan

Find the location of the door in the photo.  
What do you think this door was used for originally?

The door to the enclosed exercise yard

The Castle Gatehouse

A cell door



From 1868 there was a scaffold at the end of this building for executions by hanging. A bell was used to announce an execution in the exercise yard.

Where can you find the bell hanging up high?

In the toy shop

Above Leak and Thorp's

Above the gold beater's sign near the chemist

Go into the police station; what things can you spot that are originally from the prison building?

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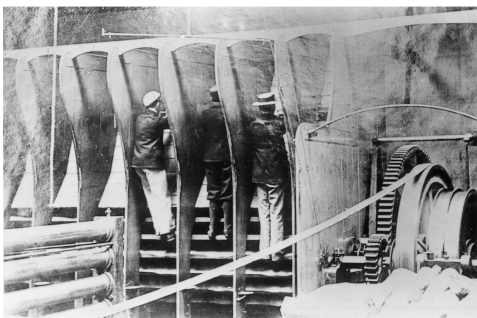
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Walk through the Concourse and Shop Area. You are now entering the Debtors' Prison.



### Look in the Exercise Yard

As you walk outside, look at the building. The first class debtors and the gaoler lived on the first floor which had tall glazed windows.



The second class debtors were kept on the second floor which had smaller glazed windows. The criminals were kept on the ground floor which had small unglazed windows with one or two sets of bars.



### Look in the Cells

The small cells were called the low grates and were used for the felons; those who had committed the most serious crimes.

Find one of the cells with a wooden door and look inside.  
How do you think air came into these cells?

Holes in the door  Fans  External windows

You can see prisoners' graffiti on the paving stones displayed on the walls. Sometimes the prisoners recorded their names, ages, crimes and their sentences.

How old was the prisoner Joseph in 1831?



### Look in the **Condemned Cell**



The punishments of the prisoners ranged from serving time in the cells to hanging. Some were deported (sent) to the colonies; countries such as Australia. The most famous prisoner of York Castle was the man known as Dick Turpin. What was the crime for which he was eventually hanged?

Horse Stealing

Highway Robbery

Coin clipping