

# Westgate & One Pound Lane timeline

The life of this intriguing cluster of historic buildings has passed through five fascinating phases:



Medieval fortification  
(c.1380-1453)  
73 Years



Early modern prison  
(1453-1868)  
415 Years



Victorian and 20<sup>th</sup>-century  
police station (1870-1965)  
95 Years



Museum (since 1906) and  
music school (1966-2010)  
100 Years ongoing (Museum)  
44 Years (Music School)



Mixed use heritage  
complex (since 2011)  
Now

c.270-290 The Romans build Canterbury's first walls to protect their city.

597 St. Augustine brings Roman Christianity to Britain and makes Canterbury his headquarters.

1066 Battle of Hastings – arrival of Norman French who build Canterbury Castle.

1170 Archbishop Thomas Becket murdered in Canterbury Cathedral, which becomes a major European shrine and centre of pilgrimage.

1337-1453 Anglo-French 100 Years' War.

1363 Enquiry into Canterbury's defences finds the walls in poor condition; rebuilding begins.

1378 King Richard II grants 'murage' tax to improve Canterbury's defences.

c.1380 **Westgate Towers under construction, featuring first gun loops in an English gateway.**

1382 Henry Yevele, England's top mason, working in Canterbury.

1450 Severed head of rebel Thomas Cheyny, aka Bluebeard the Hermit, displayed on Westgate.

1453 **King Henry VI authorises Westgate's use as city prison.**

1485 Arrival of Tudor dynasty ends the 'Wars of the Roses', a period of civil conflict.

1603 Robert Cushman, future agent of Mayflower refugees who settled in the New World, is imprisoned in Westgate gaol.

1637 The City buys house for gaoler on corner of Pound Lane.

1642 At start of English Civil Wars (to 1648), Canterbury occupied by Parliamentarian troops.

1648 Royalist riot leads to the slighting of Canterbury's city walls; Westgate is spared.

1776 American Declaration of Independence.

1789 French Revolution.

1794 World-famous artist JMW Turner paints Westgate.

1799 Margaret Hughes hanged on 'New Drop' gallows erected beside Westgate.

1812 The Neild Report condemns gaol as a 'wretched place', unfit for its purpose, where 'debtors and felons, male and female, ... mix indiscriminately.'

1815 Battle of Waterloo ends long years of French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars.

1829 Iron bridge links Westgate to the Gaol under construction in Pound Lane.

1830 **New Gaol and Gaoler's House opens in Pound Lane next to Westgate.**

1842 Queen Victoria enters Canterbury through Westgate.

1847 Plaster maquettes of Magna Carta barons created for the statues in the House of Lords.

1849 Westgate Guard Chamber used as prison chapel.

1868 **Pound Lane City Gaol closed.**

1870 **Police station opens in former gaol, with new cells and accommodation for Chief Constable.**

1906 **Westgate opens as museum in the now unoccupied Westgate.**

1914-18 World War I Westgate used as lookout post for aerial attacks by enemy Zeppelins and bombers.

1939-45 World War II Westgate used as Air Raid Precautions (ARP) station.

1942 Canterbury the target of devastating 'Baedeker' air raid.

1965 **Police leave Pound Lane for new station near the old Riding Gate.**

1966 **East Kent Music School (later Kent Music School) opens in Pound Lane.**

1969 Apollo 11 Moon Landing.

1989 Fall of Berlin Wall.

2010 **Pound Lane closes as a music school.**

2010 **A ten-year programme of restoration and transformation begins with the opening of the City Gaol Cafe in 2011 (closed 2012).**

2015 **One Pound Lane phase begins and opens to the public.**

2016 River bridge installed linking North Lane to One Pound Lane.

2019 **One Pound Lane mixed use heritage complex restoration is completed, combining a museum, escape room experience, cinema, event space, bar and restaurant.**