



# Crime & Punishment

*Codford*



## Committed to the Old Bridewell, Devizes

A “bridewell” was a nickname for a village lock-up. The original Old Bridewell at Devizes was finished in 1579 and remained the only bridewell in Wiltshire until 1631. The Bridewell at Devizes was damaged by fire in 1619 and again in 1630. Between 1770 and 1806 various improvements were made after an inmate died of cold and hunger whilst in custody. By 1806, the prison had 12 cells, 6 yards, an infirmary and a chapel. In 1817, the new Bridewell was opened and the Old Bridewell was left almost defunct, occasionally being used to detain pre-trial suspects, until it was officially closed in 1836.

The building was then used by Wiltshire Constabulary from 1839 to 1855 as a police station. After then the building was used as residences for Superintendents and Constables until 1871.

The Old Bridewell was used again from 1882 and renamed the Grange. It was used as an Infants Day Nursery from 1895 to 1903 and later a home for old women.

In 2009 Devizes Town Council awarded the building an historic plaque.

Surname	Given Names	Crime	Newspaper report
Turner	John	Charged with buying goods that were stolen from a dwelling-house in Codford St. Mary.	<i>Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette</i> 14 <sup>th</sup> May, 1835