**LAW MAKERS and LAW BREAKERS Top of Form**

**Visit Ripon and the Skell Valley**

**Please see the bottom of this sheet for ideas on how to use this information.**

Ripon’s buildings, customs and stories are a reminder of a fascinating history of law makers and law breakers.

Ripon’s market square, and nearby Markenfield Hall were both focal points for the ‘Rising of the North’ in 1569, a plot to rise in revolt against Queen Elizabeth who had chosen to crack down on Catholicism.

Three buildings held by the Ripon Museum’s Trust tell fascinating stories of life in the 19th and early 20th century. Discover what it was like to be truly poor at the Workhouse Museum and Garden, which is said to be the most complete workhouse remaining in England. Learn about crime and punishment at the Prison & Police Museum, where children can dress up or be a detective. At the Courthouse Museum you can stand in the dock and imagine waiting for a guilty or innocent verdict.

A former Skell Valley resident had a lasting impact on divorce laws in the UK: Caroline Norton successfully campaigned to bring about divorce and child custody laws in Victorian times, giving women some rights.

The tradition of the Ripon Hornblower continues to this day. It dates back to less peaceful times when the ‘watchman’ would blow the horn at 9pm and then keep watch until daybreak. Local residents would pay for the service, and be compensated if they were burgled. Apparently the price was halved if the property was entered via a side door. Supposedly this accounts for the large number of properties in Ripon with side entrances via passages as wily residents had an eye for a discount.

**HOW TO USE THIS INFORMATION**

We’d love you to use this information, or any of the other sections, in your own promotional activity – on your website, mailings or social media.

You can edit it and change it as much as you want.

You can use all of it, or just small snippets.

You’re welcome to add your own angles, and customise the info.

This is just a starting point.

We’ve created this information to encourage more collaborations between businesses.

For example, if you run a visitor attraction you might talk about other activities in the area to show there’s a critical mass of things to do and Ripon is worth the journey.

Accommodation providers might use some of this information to talk about their location and encourage longer stays.

See the other information on [www.tourismknowhow.com/Ripon](https://www.tourismknowhow.com/ripon).

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