

What is it?

- The Cockpit was built in the yard of the Hawk and Buckle Inn, Denbighshire, in the seventeenth century.
- It was used, of course, for cockfighting – a violent and extremely cruel activity by today's standards.



Who used it?

- Cockfighting was a popular activity among all social classes, and people would gamble their money on their favourite cockerels. The 'Royal Battle' was a contest where a number of cockerels would fight against each other. At other times there would be contests between two cockerels, the winner going on to face the next fighter.

Points of interest

- The building is round and has a thatched roof and ten openings to let in the light.
- Cockfighting was very popular in Wales until it was banned in 1849.
- The cockerels were bred and trained to fight, and fed on a special diet. Some owners poured holy water over their birds, and others made them wear lucky charms. They would often wear spurs that would injure and sometimes kill their opponents.
- Imagine how noisy the Cockpit would have been with everyone shouting in support of their favourite cockerel!

Where can I find more information?

- Go to see the spurs used for cockfighting, in Oriel 1.