

We got occasional visits from travelling circuses and menageries, usually in the 'Crown Yard'. One I remember well included the lion trainer entering the Lion's cage. This was very exciting, as there was a build-up of men with red hot iron bars in case of emergency. The lights were lowered and after one or two unsuccessful attempts, the trainer slipped into the cage with a whip in one hand, a pistol in the other, and drove the lion around the cage a time or two just before the lion sprang at the gate. The final item was always the same, i.e. Dick Turpin's ride to York. After cantering round the ring a few times Turpin in a red coat on his famous mare jumped a gate and disappeared. We had a good six pennyworth.

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