

Katherine Ferrers (1634 - c. 1660)



Fact File...

Katherine was a wealthy orphan

Katherine's stepfather arranged a marriage between her and his nephew. Katherine was 13 and Thomas 16. It was a loveless marriage.

Katherine met a local farmer called Ralph Chaplin. He was a highwayman by night.

Katherine disguised herself as a highwayman and left her mansion by a secret passage.

On Nomansland Common, she held up and shot a waggoner who was travelling to Gustard Wood.

That night she was shot and her dead body was found by her servants the next morning.

There is a pub called the Wicked Lady on Nomansland Common where she was supposed to have been shot.

Imagine...

Pretend you are the 'Wicked Lady'. Describe what it is like to dress up as a highwayman and creep out of your house to rob people. How do you feel about being called 'Wicked'?

Imagine you are travelling in a coach that is held up by the 'Wicked Lady'. Describe what happens.

Design a wanted poster for this mysterious highwayman.

Make a mask for Katherine that would help her disguise herself.

Find Out...

What other crimes might she have committed? Why did Katherine turn to robbery?

What do you think that Katherine did with her treasure?