

History



Find out about Beamsley Hospital's past...



An Elizabethan beggar woman.

When I was two or three, my mother took me on a walk in to town. We saw some women who were so poor they had to beg each day for their food on the streets. It was a freezing cold day and one lady was huddled under a thin shawl, shivering with cold. Her dress was in tatters and she had nowhere to live. I started to cry but mum told me not to worry and that she had a plan to help. Perhaps you have seen homeless people in your time too?

Facts:

An **Almshouse** is a house founded by a charity offering accommodation to the poor.

A **widow** is a lady whose husband has died.

Hello! My name is Anne Clifford and I lived in Yorkshire over 400 years ago. My mother was Margaret Russell, daughter of the Earl of Bedford. She married my dad, George Clifford Earl of Cumberland and became Margaret Countess of Cumberland. Dad was really rich – he owned lots of castle and land in the north of England. Queen Elizabeth I really liked him too, so that helped!

Mum was a good and kind lady. When she married dad, she decided that she wanted to use her new riches to help other people.



In 1593 mum built Beamsley Hospital, a home for **widowed** ladies like the one we'd seen begging on the streets when I was a girl. Mum very sadly when the building was only half finished, so I took over and finished the building in her memory.



By the time Beamsley was completed, there were rooms for twelve poor women, most of the rooms surrounding the centre chapel and the rest were at the gateway where you come in.

Each of the women who lived here were called 'Sister' and they had a lady called the 'Mother' who would look after them. It was quite silly that she was called Mother as some of the women were probably old enough to be her grandmother!

The Sisters each had their own room but they gathered every day in the chapel with a Reader, to say their prayers and read the Bible. Mum and I were very religious.



The chapel at the centre of Beamsley Hospital – the ladies would have come here every day to pray.

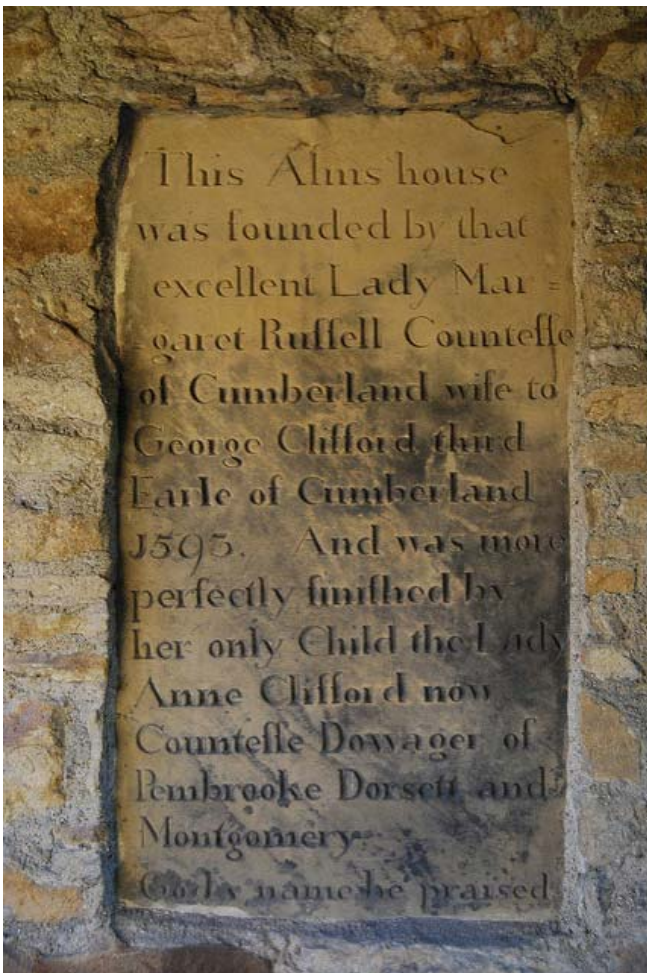
The Mother at Beamsley was always quite strict but very kind – she was there to make sure that all the rules I had set were obeyed. Before any Sisters came to live in the house, they had to agree to follow the rules.

These rules included not arguing, being quiet and keeping their rooms clean and tidy. If the women went into town, they were only to spend a little of their pocket money.

Do any of these rules sound familiar to yours at home?!

If any of the rules were broken, they would lose two weeks' pocket money. If they broke the rules for a second time, they were thrown out of the house.

These rules were unchanged for 390 years. The last old lady left the hospital in 1980, shortly before The Landmark Trust restored it so that you could take a holiday here.



Unruly Rulers

Who were the Tudor and Stuart kings and queens?

This lot were a blood thirsty bunch, always chopping off heads. **Tudor** and **Stuart** are the family names of the kings and queens. The first Tudor was Henry VII in 1485 and they lasted till Elizabeth I. Then the Tudors' cousins, the Stuarts, ruled from James I to Anne.



King Edward VI

Henry VIII's only son, he had some big shoes (and clothes) to fill! King at nine and dead at 16. Poor Eddie.

1509

King Henry VIII

6 wives, only 1 son. Angry at the Pope horrible Henry made himself Head of the Church destroying all the Catholics churches.



1547

Lady Jane Grey

Only 16 when she became Queen for just 9 days before Mary Tudor took the throne. Off with her head!



1553

Queen Mary I

Back to Catholics again. Bloody Mary was her name, burning Protestants was her game.

1553

Queen Elizabeth I

Good Queen Bess knew leaving religion alone was best. (Unless the Catholics attacked!) Had lots of boyfriends but married none.



1558

King James I

What a silly king, he kept thinking witches were trying to kill him! He even wrote a book on witches.

1603



King Charles I

Bad King Charlie wanted to rule without Parliament. That started a civil war which he lost. Onto the block went Charlie's head. One chop and he was dead.



1625

Oliver Cromwell

Not a king but still a ruler. He didn't like the royals and made himself Lord Protector of England. He didn't last too long.

1649



King Charles II

A merry monarch who brought back fun and games Oliver had banned!

1685



King James II

A bit dim was this king. He tried to make everyone Catholic again, then ran away when they said no.

1660



Queen Mary II & William III

She and her husband took her dad, James II's throne in the Glorious Revolution. Not so glorious for James.

1688



Queen Anne

A sickly queen who loved to eat!

1702-1714





Meet Queen Elizabeth I

– who ruled when Beamsley Hospital was first being built.



Hi Lizzie!

So when did you become queen?

I became Queen on 17 September 1533 when I was 25.

What are you most famous for?

I defeated the Spanish army who tried to invade England. How dare they?

What is your favourite thing to do?

I loved having a bath and being clean, I have 4 baths every year! I was the cleanest woman in England. And I LOVE sweets.

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I pretended to be a Catholic when my half-sister bloody Mary was queen; once she was dead I turned England Protestant again!



What does Beamsley Hospital look like?

Can you walk all the way around it?

Can you use any of these words to describe the building? Draw a circle around the ones that do.

Does Beamsley Hospital look like other buildings in the area? What's different?

Glass

Tall

Pretty

Industrial

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Round

Friendly

Low

In 1601 - that's over 400 years ago! - Queen Elizabeth I set up the 'Poor Relief Act'. This meant that if you were too old or too injured to work, you were to be cared for in an almshouse (that's a home for the poor and needy). Margaret Russell started to build her almshouse to help the poor, widowed women of Skipton in 1593, so she was ahead of the times. More and more almshouses were built after the 'Poor Relief Act'.

Did you know that Beamsley Hospital is the only round almshouse in the country? The round plan is a very old design in Christian **architecture** (say *ark-ee-tek-ture*) It can be traced back to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and other Early Christian churches in Italy.

Why do you think it was built in this way?



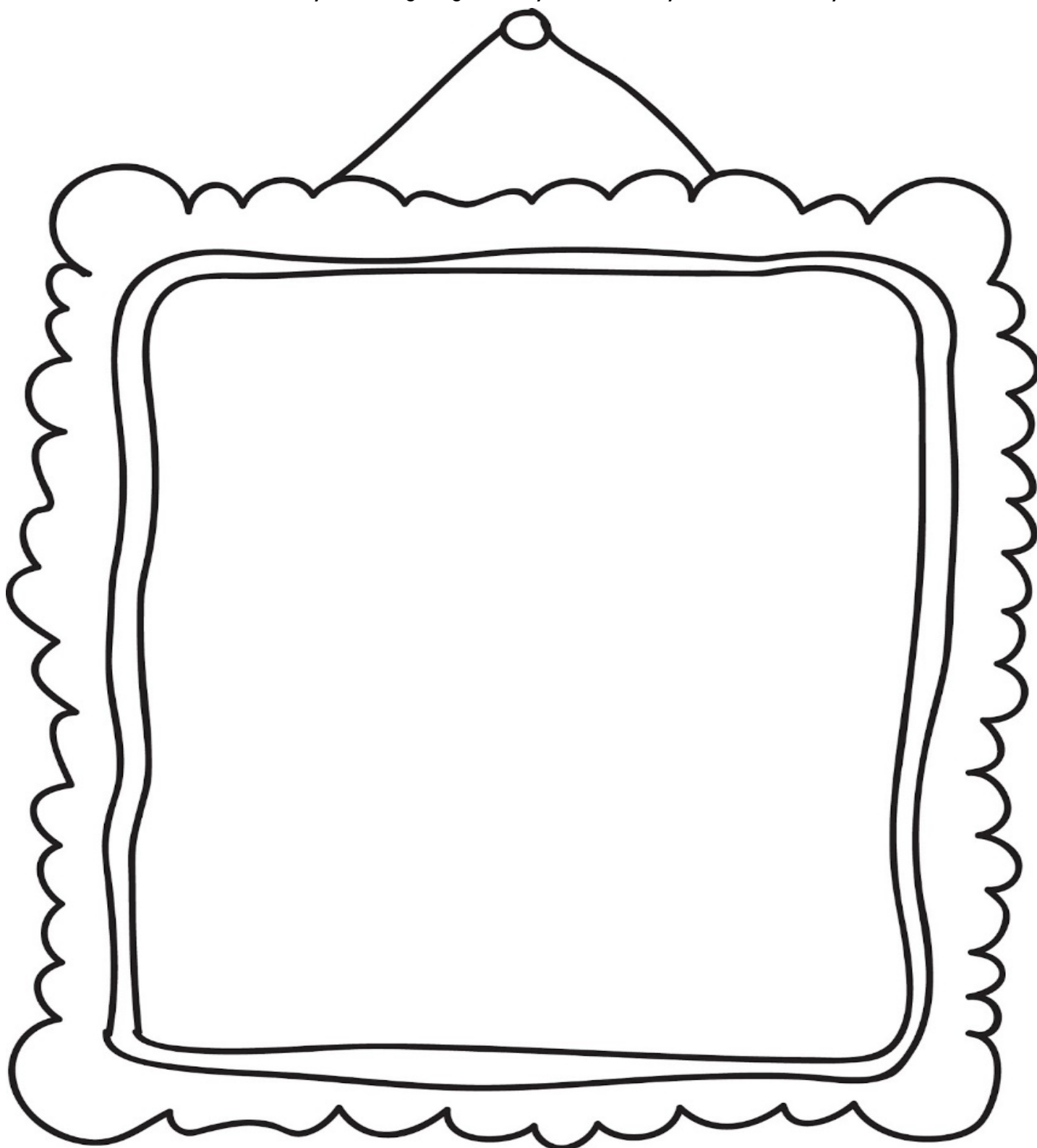
Look closely at the building. You can see that it's made up of two drums, one inside the other. The smaller drum rises up out of the roof of the larger drum and contains all the chimneys and the windows for the Chapel.



Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up of lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

Have a go at drawing Beamsley Hospital. Try to work out where your bedroom is and draw the hospital from that side.

Please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry about where you are!





What is Beamsley Hospital built from?

Fact:

Some buildings were built from stone that was dug out of the ground when farmers ploughed the fields, other buildings were made from stone that was quarried and cut into neat shapes and sizes. There are still many stone quarries around the country today, where people get stone out of the ground.

Stone buildings were once cheaper to build than brick ones. Once we could transport bricks up and down the country on the canals and railways, brick buildings became cheaper and more popular – but stone still looked smart!

Stone is the solid foundation of the earth. It exists as huge mountains, rocks, stones or small pebbles washed smooth by water. There are lots of different types of stone, with different colours and textures. Some are better to build with than others.



In medieval and Tudor times, stone was taken out of the ground by hand. Beamsley Hospital is built from stone taken from the ground locally. Today a quarry is a place where stone is blasted out of the ground with explosives! The one in the picture shows what quarries look like now.



People who work with stone are called stonemasons. They build walls, carve the stone into shapes or add patterns to its surface. They use a mallet and special tools called chisels to shape the stone. The picture on the left shows a stonemason hard at work.

Mallet

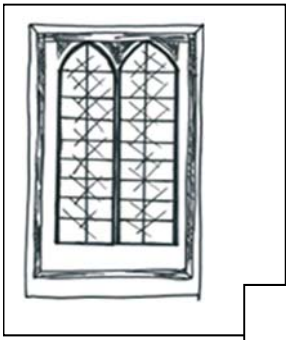


Chisels

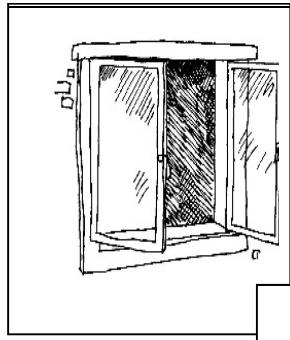




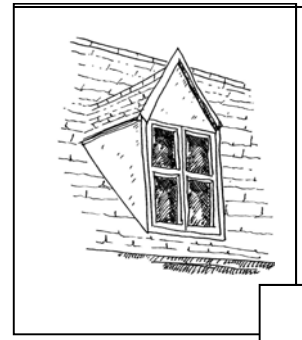
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Beamsley Hospital have?



Pointed or Gothic



Casement (it opens)

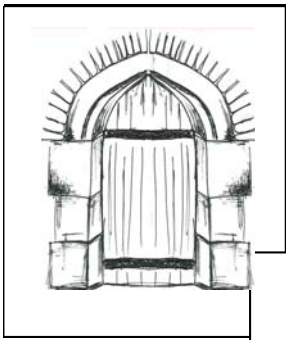


Dormer or attic (in the roof)

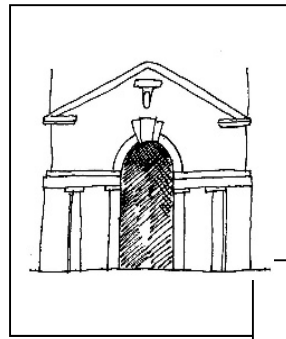
Fact:

Have you seen that in some very old buildings the windows don't open? Imagine how hot it got in the summer! When the casement window was invented it was the first type of window to open.

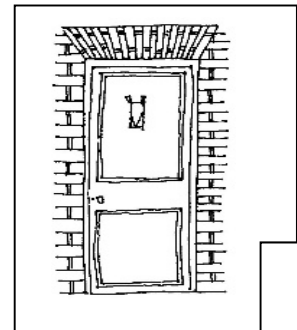
Entrances can be grand or simple. Which front door is most like the one at Beamsley Hospital?



Tudor arch



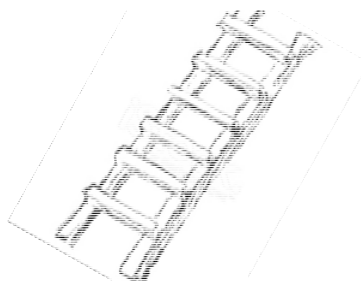
Porch



Doorframe

There are no stairs at Beamsley Hospital. Homes with no stairs are often referred to as **bungalows** (say *bung-ah-lohs*). Does your house have stairs, or is it all on one level?

The ladies who lived in the rooms by the gateway to Beamsley Hospital had a small second room in the attic space, they had to use ladders to access them instead of stairs – dangerous!



Quest



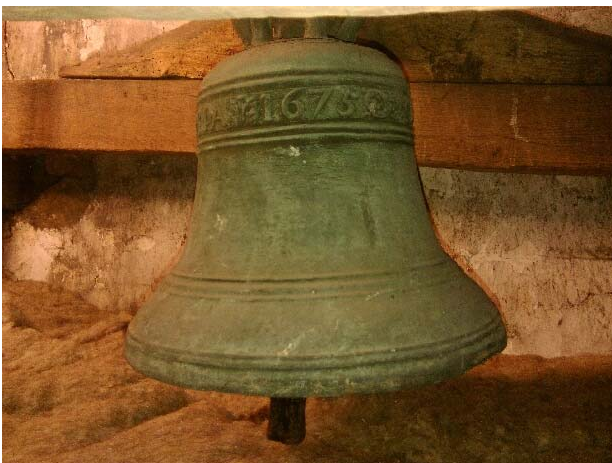
Discover more about Beamsley Hospital

Beamsley Hospital has been here since 1593 – that's over 400 years! Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Go outside and have a look at the roof. What is the roof made from? _____

It's made of stone tiles laid in continuous circles on wooden **battens**. Laying square tiles in a round pattern is very tricky and must have taken the roofers a very long time to perfect.

When Landmark repaired the roof at Beamsley, they were able to take this photograph of the Beamsley Bell. It's up in the roof space above the chapel, so you can't see it now. When the bell was rung, the poor women had to come and pray together.



Can you make out the date on the bell? Have a go at calculating how old it is.

Why don't you try to find the bell rope and give it a pull? Just don't pull it too early in the morning – you'll wake everybody up!

Can you find the chest in the picture to the right? It's in the largest bedroom – this is where the Mother lived.

The chest belonged to the Mother and Sisters at Beamsley. It was used for storing valuable letters and **seals** (not the animal, silly!)



How many locks are on the chest?

Fact:

A **batten** is a long strip of wood used to hold building materials in place.

A **seal** is a special mark made in wax by a personalised stamp on a document or letter. It's used to show that something is really from someone or has been approved by them.

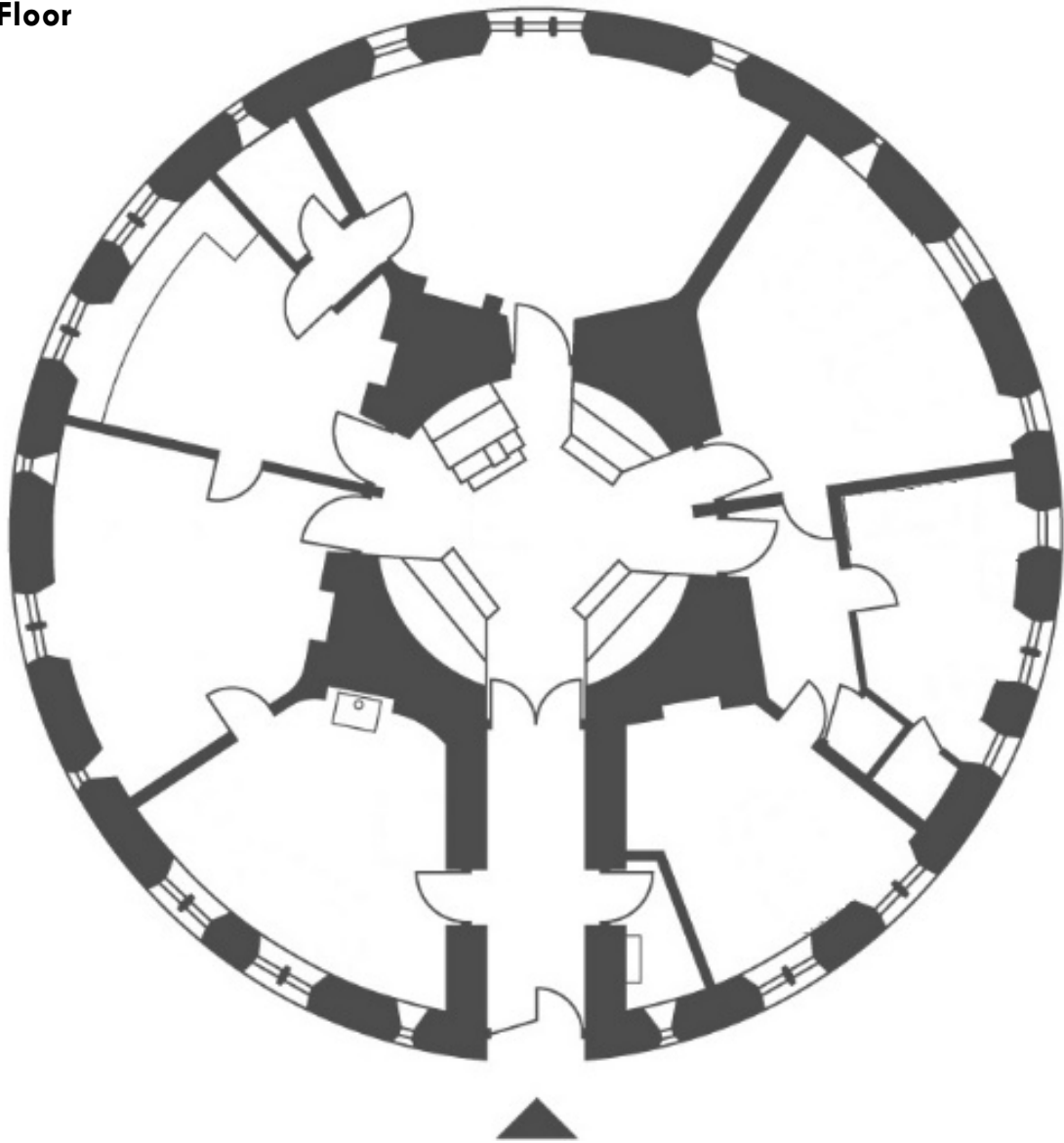


Living in Beamsley Hospital

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Beamsley Hospital only has one floor. The plan below shows you the shape of each room. Take a walk around and write on the plan what each room is used for. Can you find your room? Mark it on the plan with a star.



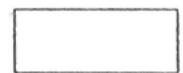
Ground Floor



We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Draw the symbols on to the floorplans to show where the furniture is.



Bed



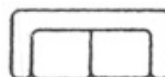
Rectangular (or a round) table



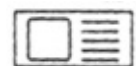
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Beamsley Hospital. Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite chair

A large empty rectangular box for drawing or describing a favourite chair.

The fireplace (is it an open fire or does it have a stove?)

A large empty rectangular box for drawing or describing a fireplace.

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

A large empty rectangular box for drawing the pattern of a rug on the floor.

In the box below, draw the view from your bedroom window. What can you see in the distance? Are there any animals in the fields or any trees that look very old and interesting?

A large empty rectangular box for drawing a view from a bedroom window.



Beamsley Hospital Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building and what might have been here in the past. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

S I S T E R S U A A S P E W
 C B O Q Z R K B C F E Q I N
 Z H A V E H I E X W L N Y M
 C G I H K J P L L R D K C N
 P H T M A W T L J O N S E Y
 J O A Y N D O F W I A L L H
 M W O P T E N S P T C A B L
 L V R R E I Y U E W D T I A
 W O D I W L R S O D W E B T
 S R E Y A R P A E R K S S D
 R U L E S Y G R H M D E E A
 A L M S H O U S E C H B X H
 N D C S T R J T N C V T M U

SKIPTON

ROUND

CHARITY

RULES

WIDOW

SLATES

CANDLES

SISTER

PRAYERS

BELL

MOTHER

CHAPEL

CHEST

ALMSHOUSE

WINDOWS

BIBLE

POOR

CHIMNEYS

PEW

LADDER

How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

20



Can you answer these questions correctly? You'll need to read all the sections first...

1. Which year was Beamsley Hospital built?

1200

1452

1593

1748

2. What is a widow?

An insect

A lady whose
husband has died

A church worker

A teacher

3. Who was on the throne when Beamsley was built?

(Psst... Check Unruly Rulers)

Elizabeth I

George III

Victoria

Henry VIII

4. Which room is at the centre of Beamsley Hospital?

Bathroom

Playroom

Kitchen

Chapel

5. What is the roof made of?

Thatch

Stone tiles

Tiles

Glass

6. How many round almshouses are there in the UK?

One

10

100

1000

7. The Beamsley Bell was cast in which year?

1593

1675

1803

1980

8. Who was Lady Anne Clifford's father?

James Bond

Earl of Cumberland

Earl of Sandwich

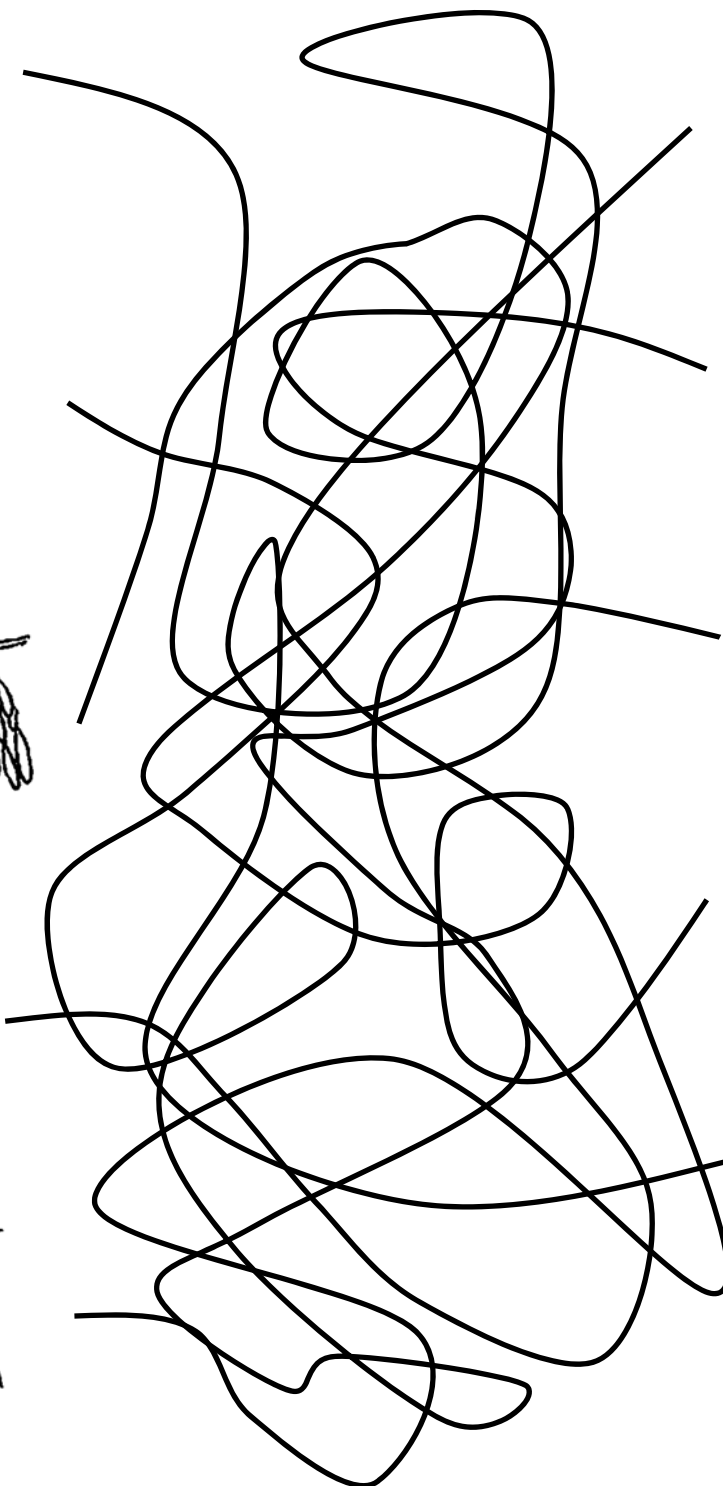
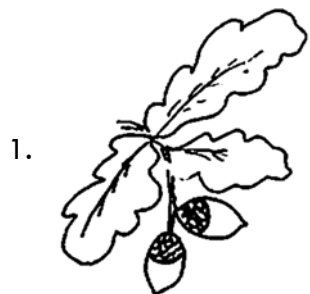
William Shakespeare

To find the answers skip a page...



Which leaf belongs to which tree?

Match the leaf to the correct tree.



Horse Chestnut

Willow

Pine

Ash

Oak

Did you match them correctly? Put your score in the box.

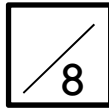


Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

1. 1593
2. A lady whose husband has died
3. Elizabeth I
4. Chapel
5. Stone slates
6. One
7. 1675
8. Earl of Cumberland

How many did you get right?



Fact:

Did you know, in Elizabethan times if you were found able to go to work, but were too lazy to go, you'd be thrown into a House of Correction (jail) to correct your attitude!

Complete this number quiz...

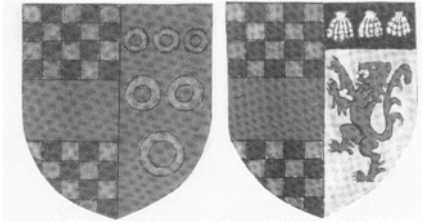
Match the correct number with the number of objects, which are all found in the Chapel.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 | Candles |
| 2 | Door latches |
| 3 | Windows |
| 4 | Brass cross |
| 5 | Roof segments |
| 6 | Brass vases |
| 7 | Doorways |
| 8 | Lightbulbs |

Create

Design your own coat of arms

Coats of arms were like badges hundreds of years ago, they helped identify a family. You can find the Clifford family coat of arms on the wall near the arch as you enter Beamsley Hospital.



Coats of arms were usually brightly coloured in reds, blues, gold, or black and contained little pictures of objects, which were important to the family.

In the space below, design your own shield. Use the herald's list to help you. Use your imagination and draw something that you feel describes you!

What colours will you use?

- Purple = Purpure
- Orange = Tawny
- Black = Sable
- Green = Vert
- Blue = Azure
- Red = Gules
- Gold = Or



Bars
=
Religion and honour



Pale
=
Military Strength



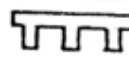
Fess
=
Honour



Bend
=
Defence



Bendlets
=
Protection



Label
=
First son



Crescent
=
Second son



Mullet
=
Third son



Martlett
=
Fourth son



Annulat
=
Fifth son



Fleur de lis
=
Sixth son



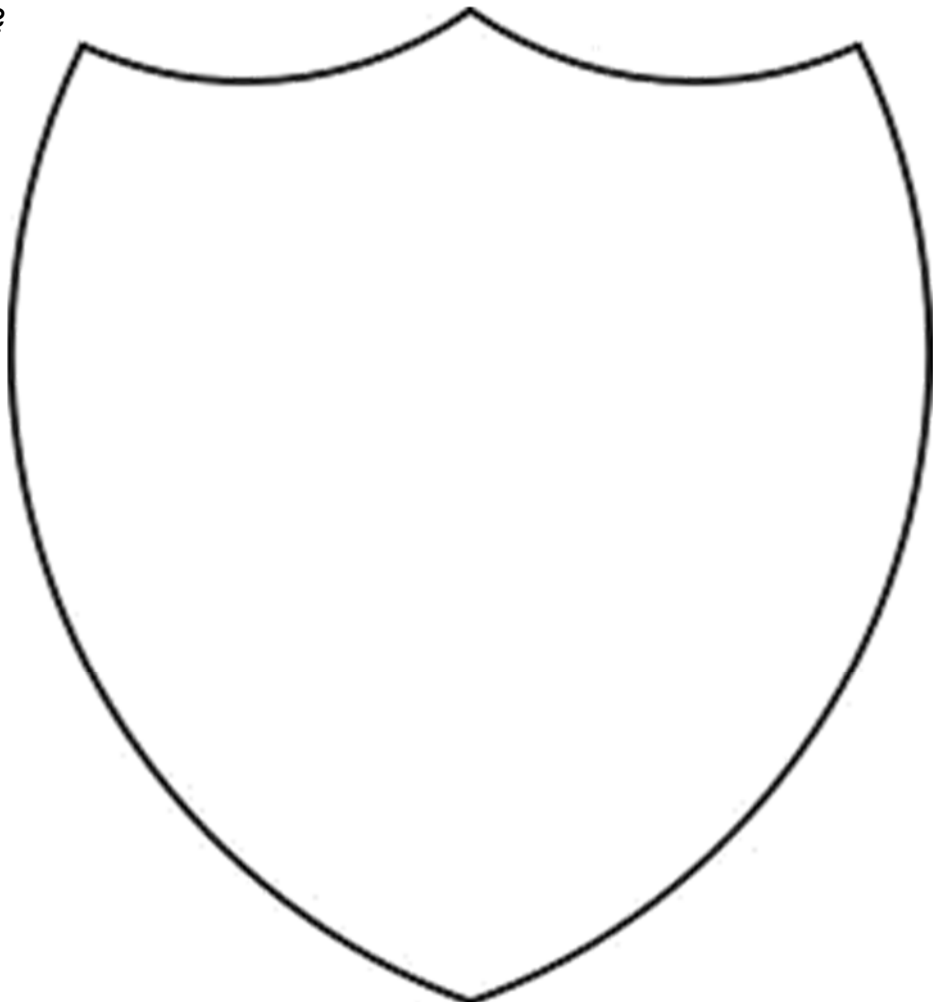
Rose
=
Seventh son



Cross moline
=
Eighth son



Octofoil
=
Ninth son





Bake a honey cake

In Elizabethan times cakes were quite simple. People either bought the ingredients in a market or grew their own. Honey was used to make things sweeter as sugar came from the Middle East (and later Europe) and was very expensive.

Here's a simple recipe for you to try. You might need the help of an adult.

250g clear honey, plus extra 2 tbsp to glaze	100g dark muscovado sugar
225g unsalted butter	3 large eggs, beaten
	300g self-raising flour

Remember to pre-heat the oven: fan 140 °C or electric 160 °C: Gas 3

- Butter a 20cm round cake tin and line it with baking paper
- Cut the butter into pieces and drop them into a medium pan with the honey and the sugar, let it melt slowly
- When the mixture looks like liquid, turn up the heat under the pan and boil for about 1 minute
- Leave to cool for 15-20 minutes (important - this stops the eggs cooking when they are mixed in!)
- Beat the eggs into the melted honey mixture using a wooden spoon
- Sift the flour into a large bowl and pour in the egg and honey mixture. Beat until you have a smooth, quite runny batter
- Pour the mixture into the cake tin and bake for 50-60 minutes. You can tell it's ready as it will be golden brown and spring back when pressed. Push a skewer into the centre of the cake and it should come out clean.
- Turn the cake out on a wire rack
- Warm 2tbsp honey in a small pan and brush over the top of the cake to give it a sticky glaze, then leave it to cool.
- If you want, serve with vanilla ice cream! This is making me feel hungry...



Colour in this picture of Queen Elizabeth I

Queen Elizabeth was a great follower of fashion. The Queen had dresses of all different colours but her favourites were white and black as they symbolised purity – it wasn't often that you saw her in these colours though. Which colour will you choose for her gown below?

