

History



Find out about Causeway House's past...

Hello! Welcome to Causeway House! My name is John Thompson and I lived here over 200 years ago! Dad was a **yeoman** farmer here at Causeway House in 1775. I had two younger brothers and a sister. We farmed about 50 acres (that's a lot of fields) and grew lots of wheat, oats and corn. We also had 12 cows, some pigs and a few sheep.

Facts:

Byre – is an old fashioned word for a cowshed.

Chaff - is the husk of corn or other seed that is separated from the grain. The farmer lets it blow away in the wind.



Fact:

A **Yeoman** was a farmer who was quite rich. He was usually an important person in the village. He could have other duties such as looking after the church.

We lived together in one room that was a kitchen and a living room. The **byre** was next to it and the cows helped keep us warm in winter. We didn't really notice the smells but I couldn't wait until my younger brothers were old enough to do the mucking out!

In the summer, Dad worked hard in the threshing barn beating the wheat with a flail. This tool had a wooden handle with a heavy stick swinging at the end. We had to separate the grain that gives the flour from the stalks. We threw the grain in the air and the **chaff** blew away through the open door.

Our **granary** was above the byre. I helped Dad store the grain there. We carried the sacks filled with grain up a steep ramp on the side of the house. It was heavy work! It stayed nice and dry there but the mice still found a way in. Mouser, our cat kept a check on them!

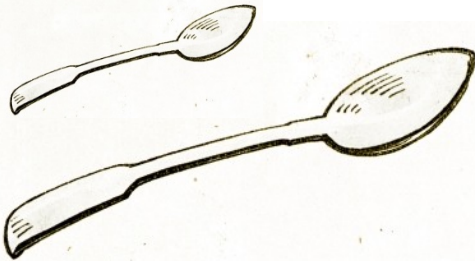
Facts:

Granary – is a building or a room on a first floor used as a store to keep grain dry and away from rats – grain is a tasty snack for them too!

A **granary** loaf is made from whole grains in flour. This makes it taste nutty. The grains and seeds in it give it a different texture than sliced white...



Sometimes I played a game with my brothers and sister called hide the spoons. Mum wasn't too happy about that as they were her best pewter ones. There were lots of nooks and crannies around the house that were good hiding places. We usually found them all in time for tea! Except for the spoon I managed to tuck inside the thatched roof...



What's your favourite hiding place at home?



"Where are my spoons?"

When I lived at Causeway House, King George III was king. Colour in this picture of King George III.

Causeway House was a working farm for 200 years until the last people who lived there moved away. Sadly, it was empty for 20 years and only used as a store. Sometimes that can be good thing! Can you think why?



It meant that lots of historic features stayed as they were. This is interesting to historians! A thatched roof made of heather was found beneath a metal cover put there to protect it from rain many years earlier. Heather is a wild plant that grows on the moors (so is free). A roof made of heather is very rare today.

In 1988, the Landmark Trust repaired Causeway House and since then many families have enjoyed staying here in these beautiful surroundings. I hope you will too!



The Romans were here...

In the summer, my brothers and sister would race down the Roman road, outside our front door. The last one to the big Roman **milestone**, had to help Mum sweep the house (yawn).

Do you know how to spot a Roman road? Here's a clue: If it's long and very straight, there probably were Roman soldiers marching on it. Travel was faster on a straight road and they could see the enemy from far away. That's not easy on a winding road – people can hide behind bushes and trees!

Fact:

A **milestone** is a stone put by the side of a road to show the distance to a particular place. This Roman one is down the road from Causeway House.



The Roman milestone on the Stanegate Road.

Who were the Romans?

The Romans invaded Britain from Rome over 2000 years ago in AD 43. They wanted to expand their empire (a group of peoples ruled by an emperor) and so their army came north.

The people living in Britain at that time were called Celts. They lived in small tribes and each tribe had a chieftain. Some of the tribes were welcoming but many were not. It took 20 years before they conquered southern Britain.

The Romans couldn't conquer the far north of the country (Scotland). The tribes were so fierce that **Emperor Hadrian** had a **wall** built across the country to keep them out and to control the movement of goods.



What would you build if you were the most powerful leader in the world?

Fact:

Hadrian's Wall – is a huge wall, 73 miles long and very near Causeway House. It was built to keep the angry tribes coming south from Scotland. It was the northern boundary of the Roman Empire in Britain.

You can still see sections of the wall and walk along it today.

Here's a picture of a Roman soldier standing guard on Hadrian's Wall. He's looking out for the enemy. What is he wearing? _____

It's not a dress – it's a tunic! Women wore them as well.





There is even more Roman history near Causeway House but I didn't know all about it when I lived there. It is a group of Roman forts and settlements called **Vindolanda**. We sometimes played in the ruins there. Little did we know what secrets were beneath the soil!

Many years after I lived at Causeway House, **archaeologists** discovered that the Romans had lived here for nearly 400 years.

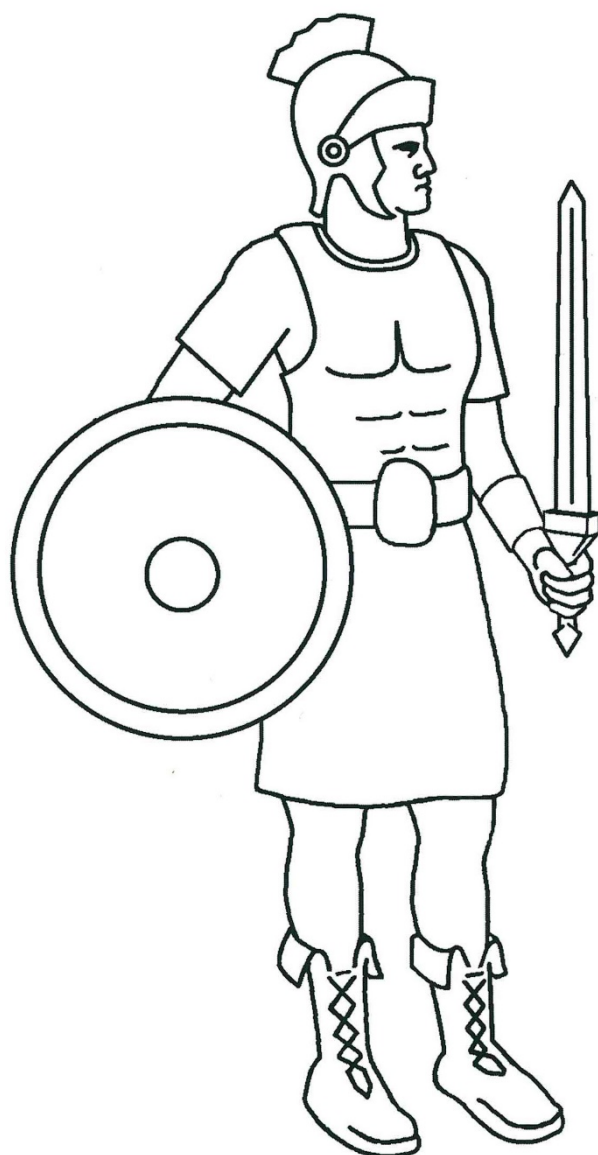
They are still making discoveries about the way the Romans lived in northern Britain.

Facts:

Vindolanda – is a huge site that has been studied and worked on by **archaeologists** (say 'ark-ee-ol-oh-gists') for many years.

Archaeologists study human history by carefully digging the ground to search for things humans have made and left behind many years earlier.

You can visit Vindolanda and see what they dug up: everything from writing tablets, to hair combs, to shoes, jewellery, jugs and spoons.



Why not colour in this picture of a Roman soldier?

Unruly Rulers

Who were the Georgians?

The **Georgians** were nobles from Germany. George I was King James I's great grandson. So when Queen Anne died with no heirs George became king. They are called **Georgians** because they are all called George (apart from William – but he wasn't meant to be king anyway!) Their surname was **Hanover** so this time is also called the **Hanoverian** (say 'han-o-ver-ee-an') period.



King George II

A boring king who only liked to fight battles. He died on the toilet of constipation, pooh!

1714

King George I

A king from Germany who couldn't speak much English. He kept his wife in prison for 32 years - how mean!



1727

1760

King George III

A popular king who went mad. He started talking to an oak tree in Windsor thinking it was Frederick the Great! Poor Georgie, he had to stop ruling as he was so mad.



George III's son George IV had to step in and rule as Prince Regent. This was called the **Regency Period**.



King George IV

A bad king who ruined all his dad's hard work. He loved to drink, eat and party!

1820

1830

King William IV

A simple king who wanted to be a sailor but was too stupid to command a ship. He would sometimes offer people a lift in his carriage!





Meet King George III **– who ruled when John lived at** **Causeway House.**



Hi Georgie!

So when did you become king?

I became King on 25 October 1760 when I was just 22.

What are you most famous for?

I went mad, don't you know!

What is your favourite thing to do?

I like playing with my youngest children. I had 15 in all!

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I tried to tax the Americans in the colonies and do you know what? They declared their independence!



What does Causeway House 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.

Can you see other buildings in the area that look like Causeways House?

Tile

Farmhouse

Stone

Symmetrical

Square

Friendly

Tall

Industrial

Brick

Home

Elegant

Low

Fact:

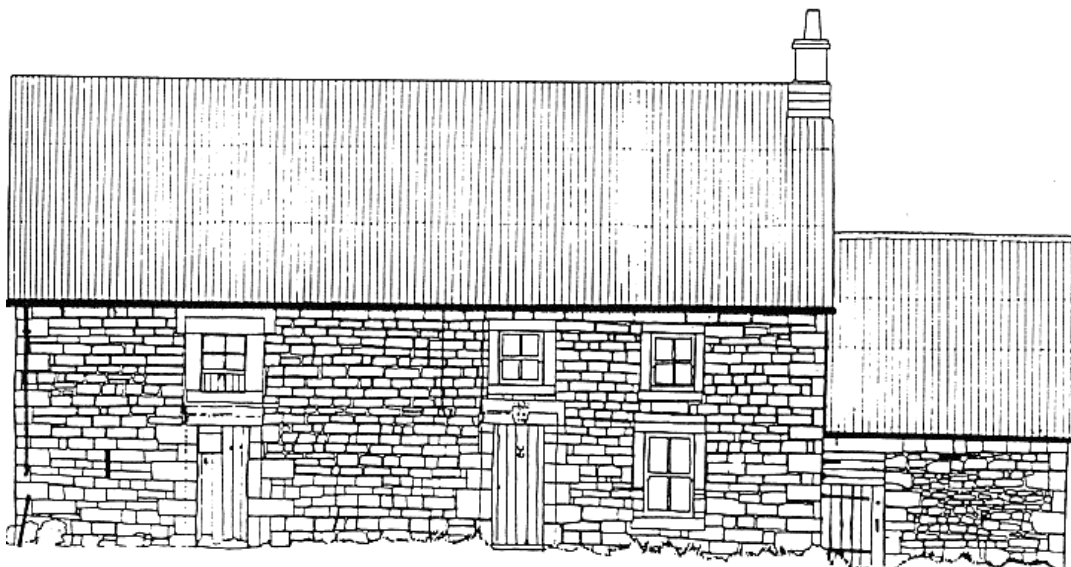
Vernacular means a building built using ordinary methods & local materials. It is a building for living in.

Causeway House is a **vernacular** (say 'ver-nak-yuh-ler') building. Changes were made over the centuries.

Causeway House was built in 1770. It was smaller than what you see today. It was only one room deep. The sitting room today was the original kitchen/living room. There was a sleeping loft above. To one side was the cow byre. The granary was above that! (That's the room with the big bed and the canopy above it to catch spiders!)



This picture shows one side of the house. This is called an **elevation** (say 'el-ee-vay-shun'). Why not colour in this drawing and add some sheep and people too!





What is Causeway House 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 houses 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 become cheaper and more popular.

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. Causeway House was built from sandstone.



Causeway House was built when stone was still taken out of the ground by hand. 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





What is the roof made from at Causeway House?

How to make a thatched roof:

It's hard work making a thatched roof (and scary if you're afraid of heights!)

1. Thatchers carry bundles of heather, straw or reeds on their shoulders up ladders onto the roof.



2. They lay the heather out along the roof starting at the bottom, they use special thatcher's pins to hold the straw in place. They build the roof layer by layer until they have covered the roof. The thatcher smooths each layer of heather using a **leggit**.



3. After completing the layers for the roof the thatcher will put a layer at the top of the roof to make the ridge.

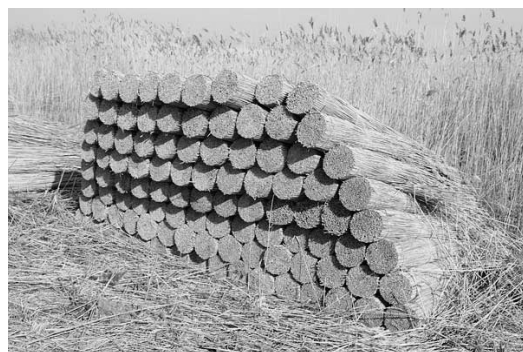


FACT:

A **Leggit** is a hand tool that pats the ends of the heather, straw and reeds to make the roof smooth.



Thatch is a very old way of making a roof. It was very common up until the 1800s. After railways and canals were invented, it was quicker and cheaper to make roofs from slate which could be transported around the country more easily by trains and canal boats.



What makes the roof at Causeway House special?

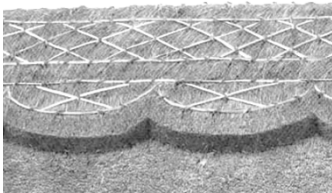
The thatch roof at Causeway House is made from heather! You'll discover another fact about this roof in the **Quest** section but hold on. For now:

To make thatch all you need is lots of dry long stems of heather or reeds or straw. Because it is made of a natural plant thatch doesn't last forever, it starts to decay just like any other plant. Who wants a soggy roof?

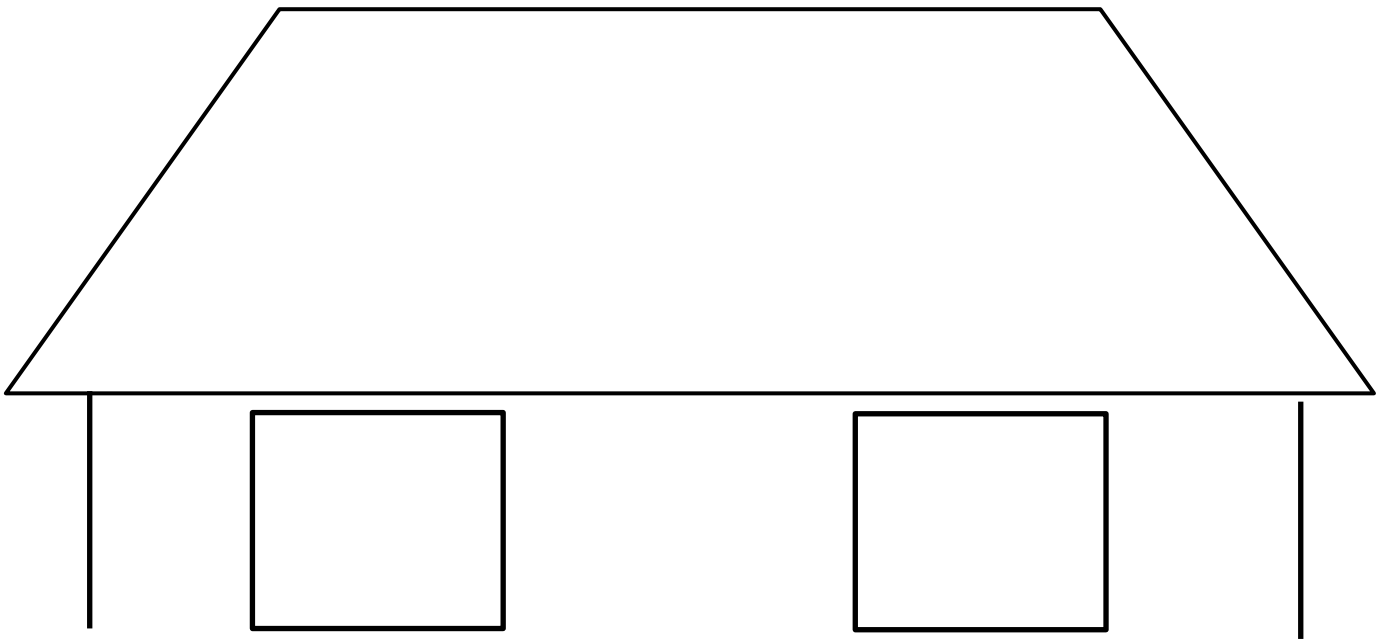
A thatched roof will last 50-100 years before it has to be re-thatched.



The top of a thatched roof is called a ridge. Some thatched buildings have fancy ridges that have an extra layer of straw cut into a pattern. They fix sticks into the thatch to make the pattern on top. Here are some examples:



Design your own pattern for the ridge on the roof below, you can make it as fancy as you like! Sometimes people even put straw animals on the top of the roof, like a hen or an owl.



I know what you're thinking – how does a plant keep the rain from getting in? A thatched roof has a steep slope and many layers making it thick. This means that the water runs along the straw dropping from one end of straw to the other. Because the roof is steep the water doesn't have a chance to work its way through the layers before it runs off. Next time you go outside, have a really good look at Causeway House's roof!

Quest



Discover more about Causeway House

Causeway House has been here for over 200 years. In that time, many things have changed both inside and outside. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

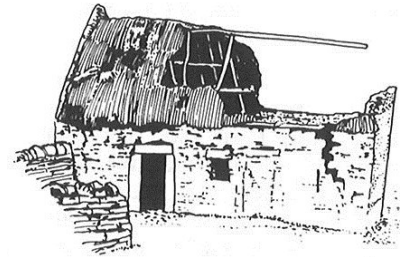
Go outside and have a look at the roof. What is the roof made from? _____

This type of thatch roof was called **black thack** locally. Notice how steep the roof is. The heather makes the roof look thick and rounded above the stone walls.

Sometimes people hid things in a thatched roof - small shoes, keys, spoons or even dresses. All of these things were found in the roof at Causeway House. They may have been good luck charms. No one knows for sure - but **you** may know why the spoon was hidden there! Write down your reason below.

Fact:

Black thack is made from heather. It is now rare to see a heather thatch roof. Slate tiles became much cheaper to use and easier to install.



Isn't it amazing how John's spoon was replaced by different thatchers over the years – to be discovered over 200 years later by Landmark!



Have you seen this window? _____

It is the sitting room window. Go outside and have a look at it. Can you see that the stones around the bottom look different from the rest of the surround?

Why do you think that is? _____

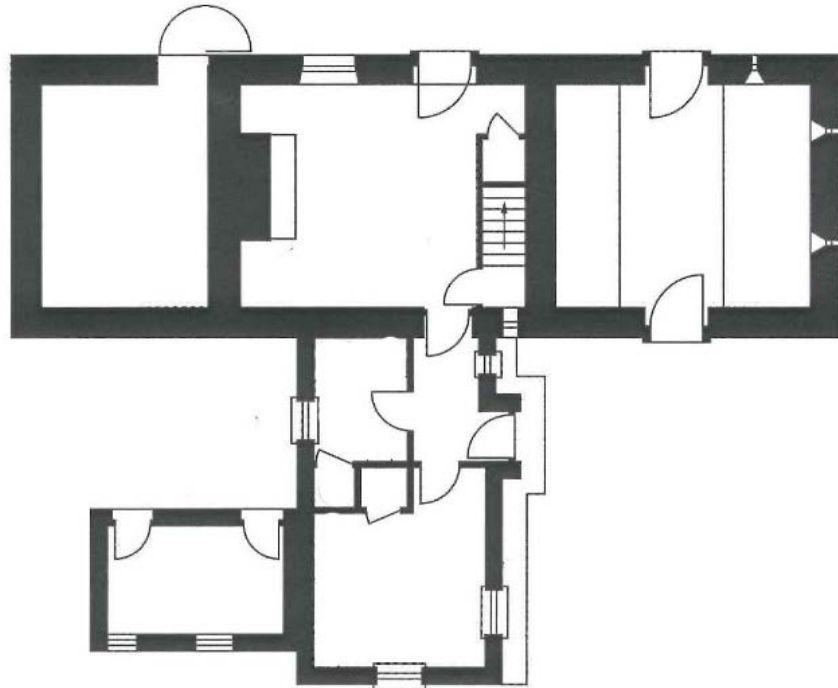
The original window was smaller. They only had the one window letting light into the room so they made it bigger. You can often see changes made to a building over time if you really look!



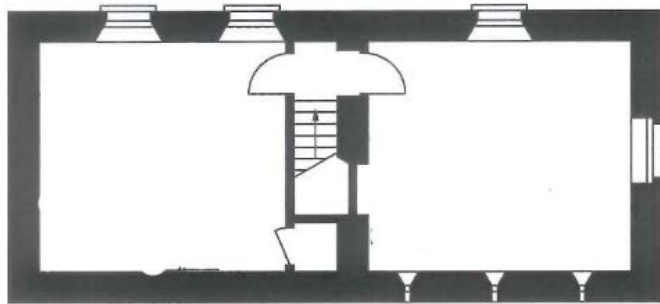
Living in Causeway House

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Causeway House has two floors. 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.

Ground Floor



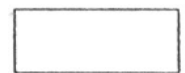
First Floor



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



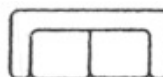
Rectangular (or a round) table



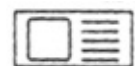
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What is the roof at Causeway House made of?

Slates

Straw

Heather

Tiles

2. Which of the following would you not find near Causeway House?

Hadrian's Wall

Pasture

Sheep

Elephants

3. What does a thatcher do?

Makes cloth

Mends shoes

Works on a roof

Cuts hair

4. Which one of these foods is not made from milk?

Rice

Butter

Yoghurt

Cheese

5. What is a stile?

A ladder

A fashion design

A walking stick

Steps in a fence for
walkers but not
animals

6. What was the name of the King when John was living at Causeway House in the 1775?

Charles

George

Henry

John

7. Which of the following do you not find at Causeway House?

Stained glass

Beams

Flagstones

Spiders

8. Causeway House is near a settlement called Vindolanda. Who built it?

Ancient Greeks

Cavemen

Ancient Romans

Bob the Builder

9. What is a female sheep called?

Ewe

Mutton

Lamb

Ram

10. Which of these names has a King of England not had?

George

Simon

James

Edward

To find the answers skip two pages...



Causeway House Word Search

Now have a go at the Causeway House word search. When you were exploring the Causeway House did you see any of these? The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

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

LIMEWASH
RUBBLE STONE
CANDLESTICK
COBBLESTONES

BEAM
CRUCK FRAME
THRESHING BARN
FLAGSTONES

RANGE
BYRE
MANGER
RAFTER

STALLS
FIREPLACE
TILES
CHEST

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

Turn to the answer sheet to find what the words mean.

/
16



Carpenter's marks and Roman Numerals

Timber framed buildings and roofs were put together almost like kits. To know what went where, **Roman numerals** were marked on the beams and posts by the carpenters. Each timber (that's wood) in the frame of a house or barn was specially cut and sawn by hand. Each piece had to be in the right order when they were put up on site. As the carpenters cut the timbers, they marked them in order with Roman numerals by carving the numbers with a chisel or knife. The straight lines of Roman numerals make them easier to carve into wood or stone.

Fact:

The Romans used their system of numbers, **Roman numerals**, to help them price goods for trade. They used just **seven** letters (I, V, X, L, C, D and M) to make thousands of numbers.

The numbers we use today are from Arabia and called Arabic numerals.

Roman Numerals

1	I
2	II
3	III
4	IV
5	V
6	VI
7	VII
8	VIII
9	IX
10	X
50	L
100	C
500	D
1000	M



Because Romans only used 7 marks (we use 10) sometimes they had to combine marks into a little sum. For example, have a look at number 4 (that's IV.) Can you see how the Romans said '4' by putting 'I' in front of 'V'? It's like saying "5-1=4".

So they put a '1' in front of another number when they mean 'take away this number from the next'. Have a look at a Roman's '9'. Can you work out what they've done?

The year 1600 in Roman numerals is MDC (1000+500+100).

The year 2015 is MMXV. Can you see why?

Have a go at writing the year you were born in Roman numerals

Write what you think the numbers below are beside each:

VII	XI	XX	CC
IX	XV	XL	CD

Make up some sums on the next page to test your Parents!



Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

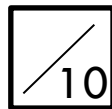
1. Heather
2. Elephants
3. Works on a roof
4. Rice
5. Steps in a fence
6. George
7. Stained glass
8. Ancient Romans
9. Ewe
10. Simon

Fact:

A **stile** is an arrangement of steps that lets people but not animals step over a fence or wall.

A stile is also a vertical piece in the frame of a panelled door or sash window.

How many did you get right?



Here are the meanings of the words in the Puzzle:

Limewash is used to paint walls, usually white.

Byre is used to shelter horses and cattle.

Range is used to cook food and heat water.

Flagstones are large flat stones used for floors.

Rubble stone is rough pieces of stone which are not laid in regular lines.

Cobbles are small rounded stones used for paving.

Manger is a long open trough for horses or cattle to eat from.

Stall is a compartment for one animal, a horse or a cow in a stable or byre.

Rafter is a beam supporting the roof.

Threshing barn is where grain was separated from the chaff from stalks of wheat, oats or barley.



Bake some singin' hinnies for tea

A singin' hinny is a type of scone or cake cooked on a hot griddle pan (a sort of frying pan with ridges). They are well known in Northumberland. They get their name from the hissing sound when they cook on the hot griddle. It sounds like singing! Hinny (meaning 'honey') is a nickname for someone you like in Northumberland – and these scones are a local favourite.

Here's a simple recipe to try. You'll probably need the help of an adult.

450 g flour

$\frac{3}{4}$ tsp of baking powder

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt

170g unsalted butter, cubed

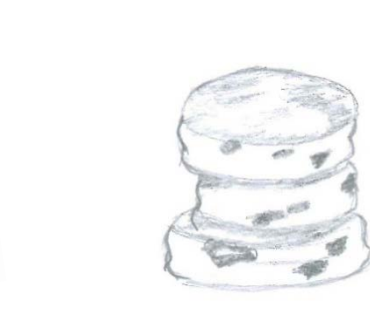
50g lard, cubed

175g raisins or currants

3-4 tbsp milk

Vegetable oil or butter for frying

- In a mixing bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and salt. Rub the butter and lard cubes into the mixture until it looks like breadcrumbs.
- Stir in the raisins or currants, then add enough milk to form a soft dough (say 'doh'). Use your hands to bring it together into a ball. Tip the dough onto a floured board, then knead 2 or 3 times until smooth.
- Put some flour on the work top and then put the ball of dough onto it.
- Roll the dough into a circle (about 1.5cm thick). Then cut out the scones. If you don't have a cutter use a glass, making sure it too gets flour on the rim so the dough doesn't stick.
- Grease a heavy-based frying pan or griddle with a thin layer of oil or butter. Set over a low heat. Fry the cakes in batches for about 5 minutes on each side or until they are golden.
- Let them cool on a rack and then serve with butter and/or jam! They're best when still warm. Yum!





Colour in this modern farmyard scene below. Can you spot what makes it modern?

