

History



Find out about Dunshay Manor's past...

Hello! Welcome to **Dunshay Manor!**

My name is Mary and I'm 10 and $\frac{3}{4}$ years old! My parents, George and Hilda, bought Dunshay Manor from a farmer called Mr Holland in 1923. We now spend most of our time here but travel up to our house in London from time to time.

We all love it here – my dad is a very good painter and started painting lots of pictures of Dunshay and the gardens as soon as we arrived. The picture on the right is one he painted of me reading a book on the lawn. I love reading, don't you?



George Spencer Watson's painting of Mary on the lawn at Dunshay.

Fact:

To **convert** means to change something. The Dairy was originally built to produce and store milk products but George changed it into his studio for painting, putting in the enormous window to have lots of light.



Dad has **converted** the old Dairy into his art studio – the big window lets in lots of light which I'm told is very important for a painter! He also made the big pond so I can watch the frogs and newts in the springtime, as well as building a stable block for our horses. My pony is amazing – we go for long gallops across the countryside when the weather is fine, our dog Maggie always runs alongside us too with her big tongue hanging out! Do you have any pets?

I persuaded mum and dad to let us have goats at Dunshay too. They are brilliant but ever so noisy and they eat anything and everything. Only last week one tried to eat my shirtsleeve when I was feeding them!

I get up early to feed them and let them out into the fields surrounding the manor. I also try to train them to do tricks.





The land here is full of lumps, bumps and hollows; it's hard to keep track of the goats sometimes.

Dad says it's because this area is used for opencast **quarrying** (say *qwar-ree-ing*). There's a type of stone in the ground here called Purbeck Stone, although a lot of people call it Purbeck Marble because it can be polished up to look just like marble. Isn't that fascinating? It'd be amazing to visit the quarries one day and find out how they get the stone out of the ground and polished up!

Facts:

Opencast quarrying is the removal of stone or minerals from a pit rather than an underground mine.

Flamboyant can be used to describe someone who is very confident in their behaviour and likes to attract attention with the way they act or the clothes that they wear.

Mime is a type of theatrical technique, which suggests an action or emotion using only gestures rather than sounds. You may be familiar with mime artists with painted white faces and striped jumpers!



A photograph by a family friend, Helen Muspratt, showing Hilda and Mary in costume for one of their shows. Mary is the one on the right.

When I'm not playing with all the animals at the manor, I help mum out with her shows.

My mum adores **theatre** (say *th-ear-ter*); she's a **mime artist** and dancer. She makes up her own plays based on poems she loves and nursery rhymes!

A lot of people call my mum **flamboyant** – she loves costumes and dressing up. I enjoy it, but not quite as much as her!

She and I used to perform together in London and at a little theatre in Bournemouth during the summer. Mum has now made the stables into her very own theatre and works very hard to invite people to come and watch us perform. Imagine that, having your own theatre at home?!

We make all of the sets and props for the shows ourselves which is great as I really enjoy making things. In fact, I enjoy that part far more than the actual performing, but shhh! - don't tell mum that!



The Spencer Watson Family

From 1923 to 2006, Dunshay was home to a trio of very artistic characters.

George Spencer Watson, R.A was a very successful painter and his wife Hilda was a mime artist and dancer who made up her own dance shows based on poems and nursery rhymes.

They had a daughter called Mary who often took part in her mother's shows, but she grew up to be a well-known sculptor.

Mary gave Dunshay Manor to The Landmark Trust when she died so that the memory of their art and happy times here didn't disappear.



A painting by George Spencer Watson titled 'Four Loves I found, a Woman, a Child, a Horse and a Hound.' It shows George, Hilda, Mary and their animals.



Mary working on one of her sculptures in the Dunshay studio.

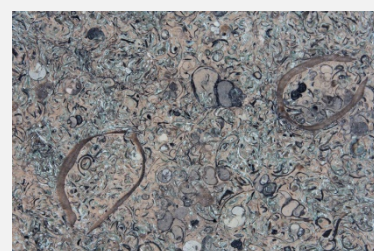
Mary's younger life

The Spencer Watsons moved to bought Dunshay when Mary was ten years old. The family split their time between Dorset and their home in London. After George died in 1934, Hilda and Mary spent most of their time at Dunshay.

Mary was fascinated by the Purbeck stone that the area is rich in. She spent a lot of time at the nearby quarries and at 13, one of the quarrymen gave her a chisel and told her to have a go at chiselling the rock – from then she was hooked! Mary studied at Bournemouth Art College, the Royal Academy, the Central School of Art and also in Paris. Mary became very successful and she was asked to make many public sculptures.

Fact:

Purbeck Marble isn't actually marble – it's just a really hard, dark limestone that can be polished up to look like marble. It saved money on importing marble from the Mediterranean. Can you see all the little fossils it contains? When the stone formed under the sea millions of years ago, lots of little creatures and shells were trapped in the mud that made it. Now they're part of the stone too!



A close up of Purbeck Marble.



Farmer Benjamin Jesty...

Another important person who lived at Dunshay Manor was a farmer Benjamin Jesty, who was a pioneer in **inoculation**. He lived here with his wife and children in 1796.

Smallpox was a common and dangerous disease then. On his earlier farm in Yetminster in 1774, Jesty noticed that the milkmaids were not becoming infected with the virus. He decided that it was because they had already had the milder version of the virus, cowpox.



Unfortunately, Jesty didn't ever get the true recognition he deserved for his discovery because he didn't publish his results, although he did receive £10,000 for his efforts and had his portrait painted too. (above)

Inoculation has been always been credited to Dr Edward Jenner since his work in 1796 when he infected a young boy with cowpox to prevent him from catching the more deadly smallpox. Jenner's experiments were some 20 years later than Jesty's – so really, Farmer Jesty was the true pioneer. Today, inoculation jabs are used against lots of diseases – you've probably had some yourself!

Facts:

Inoculation is giving a person a weak form of a disease in order to build their immunity and protect them from getting a more serious form of the disease in the future. Have you had injections at school?

Small pox is a very serious illness that can cause disfigurement or death. In the 1700's many people died as a result of the virus because there is no cure for the disease.

He decided to experiment by putting fluid from an infected cow's udder into scratches on his wife and children – yuk!

The family all caught cowpox, with the mother becoming quite ill, but none of them caught the dreaded small pox – their bodies had become resistant to it.

Many people were not happy with the fact that he was willing to infect his family with a virus, but in doing so he saved their lives!

Smallpox fact file:

Smallpox was so dangerous because it is spread on the air by sneezing, coughing and contact with bodily fluids! Eww!

The last naturally occurring case of smallpox was in 1977. The World Health Organisation declared that the disease had been wiped out by 1980 – phew!

Unruly Rulers

Who were the Saxe-Coburgs and Windsors?

Saxe-Coburg was the surname of German Prince Albert who was Queen Victoria's husband. When Victoria died **Saxe-Coburg** continued as the royal family surname. It changed to **Windsor** in 1917 because England was fighting against Germany in World War One and the King was worried British people wouldn't like a German royal family anymore - so he changed them to **Windsors**, after the castle.



King Edward VII

He loved shooting game and had an eye for the ladies! A grandad by the time he became king, he wanted peace not war.

1837

Queen Victoria

A good queen who was never 'amused'. She ruled more than a fifth of the earth's population as Empress – Wowza!



1901

1910

King George V

A boring but good king. He loved stamps but also loved his country, always trying to do the best for it.



1936

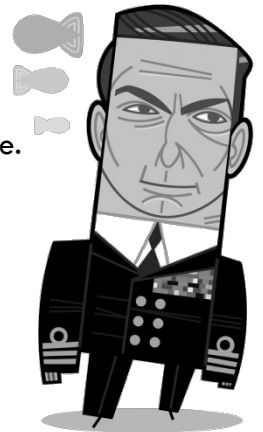
King Edward VIII

A romantic and selfish king. Married the woman he loved and 6 months later gave the throne away to his brother, George.

1936

King George VI

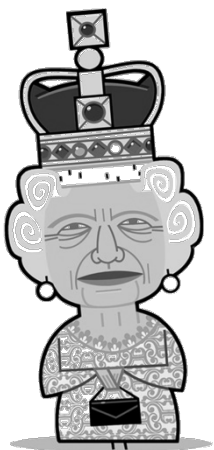
A very good king who loved his people. Even when Buckingham Palace was bombed in World War Two he stayed in London with his family to show that everyone was in it together!



1952

Queen Elizabeth II

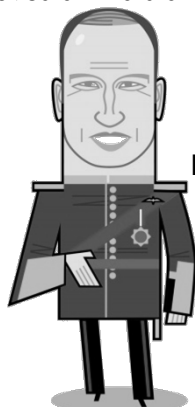
Good queen Lilibet has been on the throne the longest of all the rulers! She loves animals and has 5 corgis. Woof woof!



Who's next???

Prince Charles

Prince William





Meet King George V

– who ruled when the Spencer Watsons bought Dunshay Manor.



Hi Georgie!

So when did you become king?

I became king on the 6 May 1910 after my father died. I was 45 and set in my ways. I married Mary of Teck who was engaged to my older brother but he died before they could marry. We had a happy marriage.

What's your nickname?

My granddaughter, now Queen Elizabeth II, called me "Grandpa England".

What is your favourite thing to do?

For excitement, I like collecting stamps and sticking them in albums.

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

Well, I smoked an awful lot of cigarettes and especially fine cigars after dinner!

Design



What does Dunshay Manor 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 Dunshay Manor look like other buildings in the area? What's different about it?

Castle

Tall

Pretty

Industrial

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Low

Dunshay Manor was originally built in the 16th century as a farmhouse but was added to during the 17th and 20th centuries to create the house that we see today.



The oldest part of the house is the rear range, with the two gabled ends being added on in 1642 by owners Anne and John Dolling. Can you find the rainwater hopper on the south gable with their initials on? The north gable we see today is actually a replacement which was built in the 1900's to replace the 17th century one which had fallen down.

The building is made of local Purbeck stone, even its roofs. Have you seen the buttresses on the south gable? A buttress has nothing to do with your bottom! It's actually a building technique used to strengthen the walls and stop them from falling outwards.

There are different types of buttresses but the ones we see at Dunshay are called 'flying buttresses' – they have an archway that you can walk underneath.

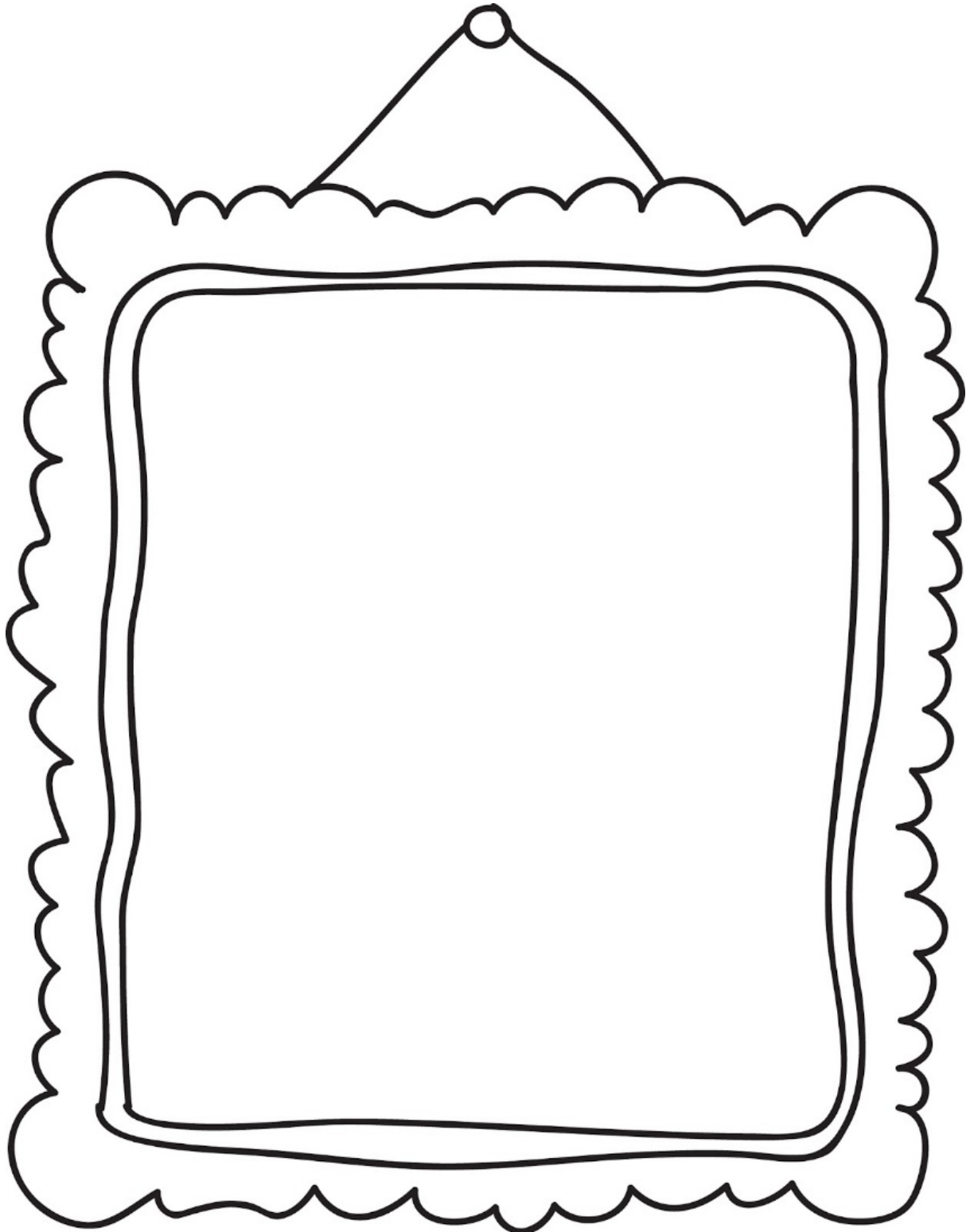




Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up of lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

Have a go at drawing the front of Dunshay Manor.

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





What is Dunshay Manor 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 become 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. The stone used to build Dunshay Manor was taken from the ground nearby. 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

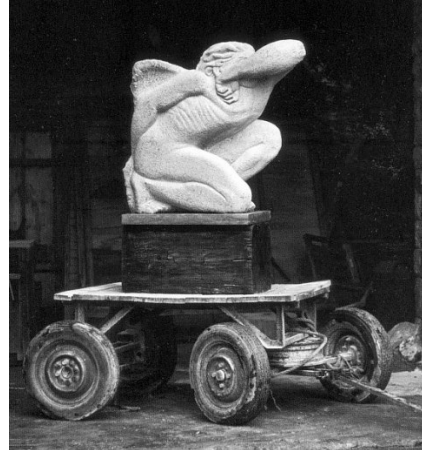


Chisels





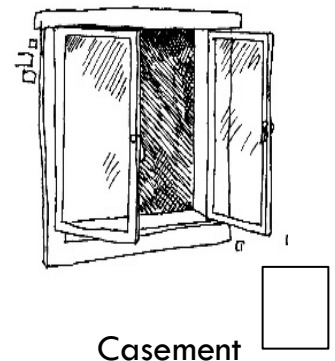
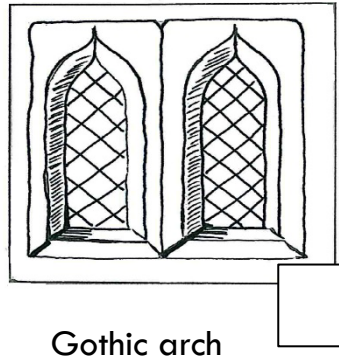
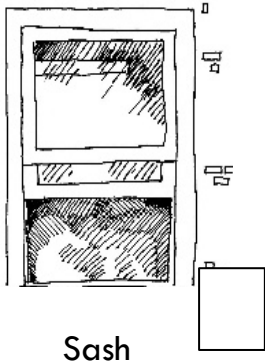
Sometimes stone masons carve beautiful designs into the stone. Look at the finials on the gateposts at Dunshay Manor. These designs have been hand carved into the stone using chisels and mallets. Mary Spencer Watson who gave Dunshay Manor to Landmark was a famous sculptor; she used mallets and chisels to create her designs too. Why not design your own sculpture in the box below?



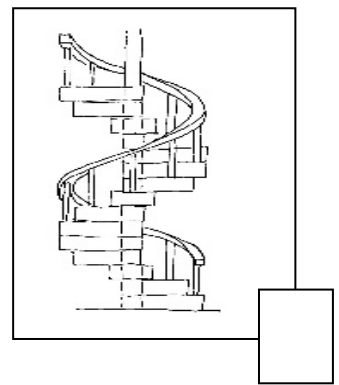
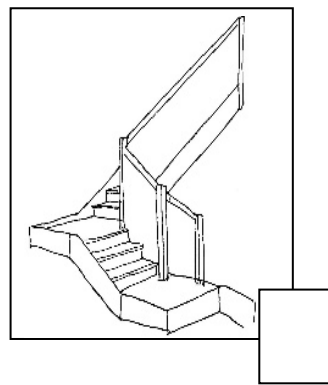
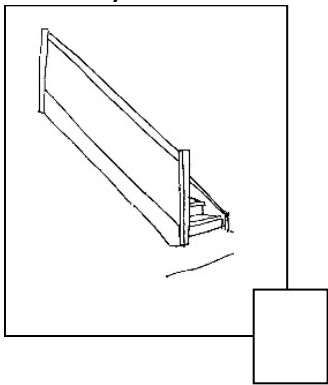


The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building.

What type of windows does Dunshay Manor have?



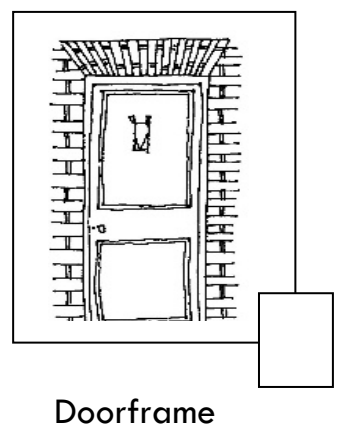
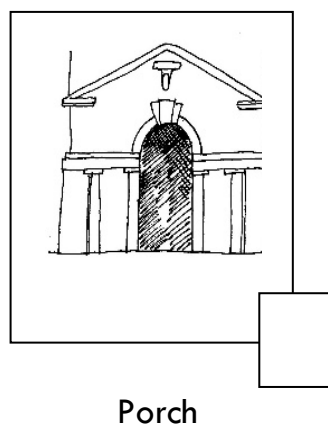
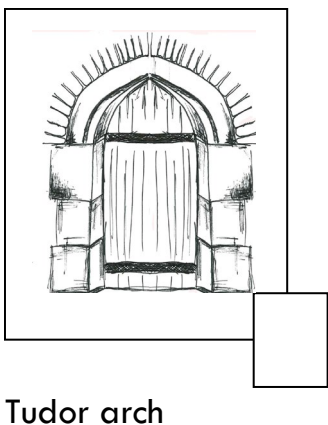
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Dunshay Manor?



Fact:

Have you noticed that spiral staircases go clockwise when you're going up and anti-clockwise when you're going down? This is because most people are right handed so if there was an attacker with a sword coming up the stairs they had to show more of their body to fight. The swords man above had the wall on his left leaving more room to fight with his right arm.

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



Quest



Discover more about Dunshay Manor

The oldest part of Dunshay Manor survives from the 1560's – that's over 400 years ago! It's changed a lot over the years, read on the discover more about it.

Can you find the cheeseroom?

In the 18th and 19th Century a windows were taxed!. You had to pay a sum of money for each window in your house unless you could prove that the room with the window was used for making goods (such as cheese). People had to clearly mark these rooms so that they wouldn't be taxed. How many windows does your house have?



Go outside and see if you can find the rainwater hoppers. What initials can you see on each one?

You may even be able to see where farmer Jesty's son has cheekily scratched in his initials too!



Can you draw the other hopper in the box below?



Find the headless figure...

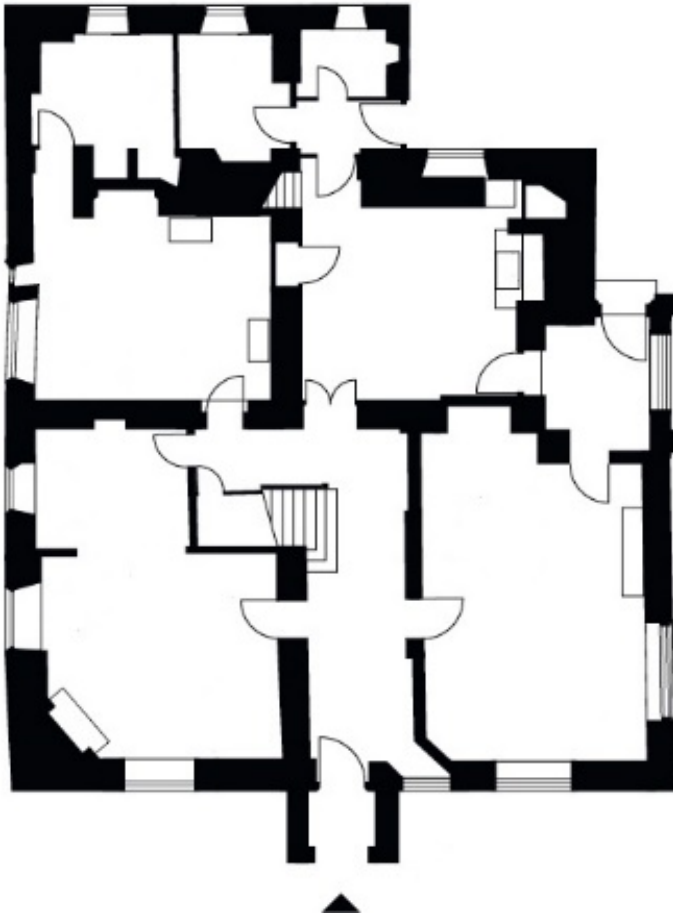
A **niche** (say *neesh*) was built in when the replacement wing was put up in the 1900's. The figure is sometimes known as 'Old Pyke' after an owner in the 18th century. However, the clothes seem to be 17th century and so could this be Major John Dolling – who lived here in the 1640's and got into trouble with Parliament for siding with the King during the English Civil War?



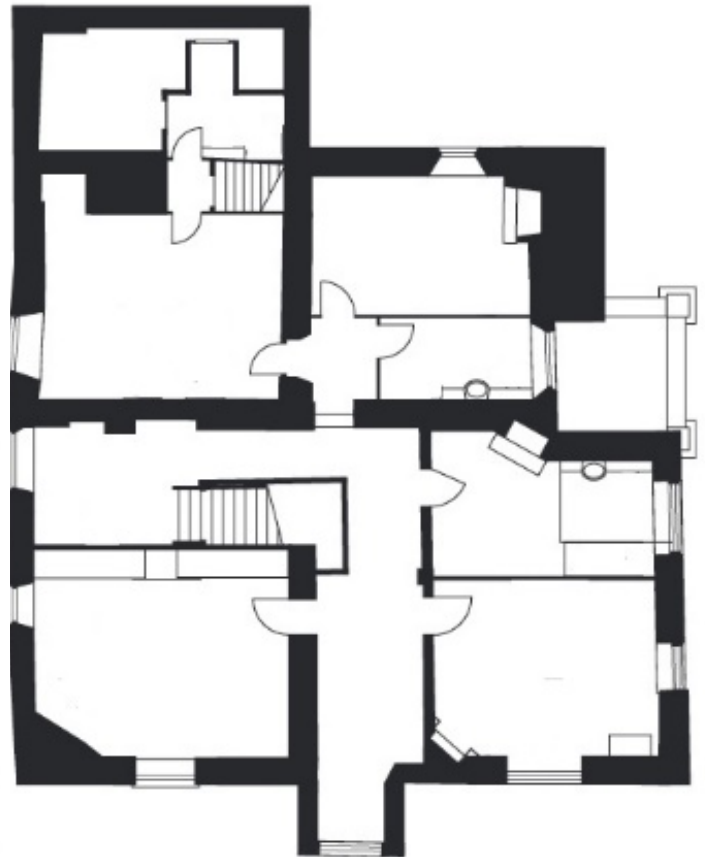


Living in Dunshay Manor

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Dunshay Manor has two floors. The plans below show you the top two floors and the shape of each room. Take a walk around and write on the plan what each room is used for. Mark the room you are sleeping in with a star. ★

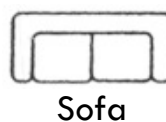
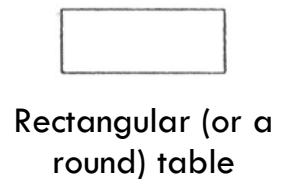
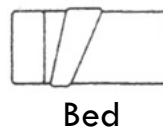


Ground Floor



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.





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

Your favourite chair

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

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

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

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

Puzzle



Can you answer these questions correctly?

You'll need to read the history sections first!

1. When was the oldest part of Dunshay Manor built?

1480's

1560's

1630's

1750's

2. What job did George Spencer Watson have?

Painter

Blacksmith

Baker

Architect

3. In which year did the Spencer Watsons buy Dunshay?

1899

1901

1923

1996

4. What animal did Mary NOT own?

Dog

Goat

Pony

Warthog

5. Who did Farmer Jesty test his inoculations on?

His family

Local children

Farmworkers

Milkmaids

6. The North wing at Dunshay fell down, which year was it replaced?

(Hint – the date is on one of the rainwater hoppers!)

1900

1902

1906

1910

7. What are the roofs at Dunshay made from?

Slate tiles

Thatch

Corrugated iron

Purbeck stone

8. Hilda Spencer Watson was a mime artist and dancer. Which seaside town did she perform in with her daughter Mary?

Brighton

Bournemouth

Bognor Regis

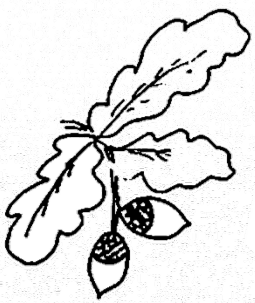
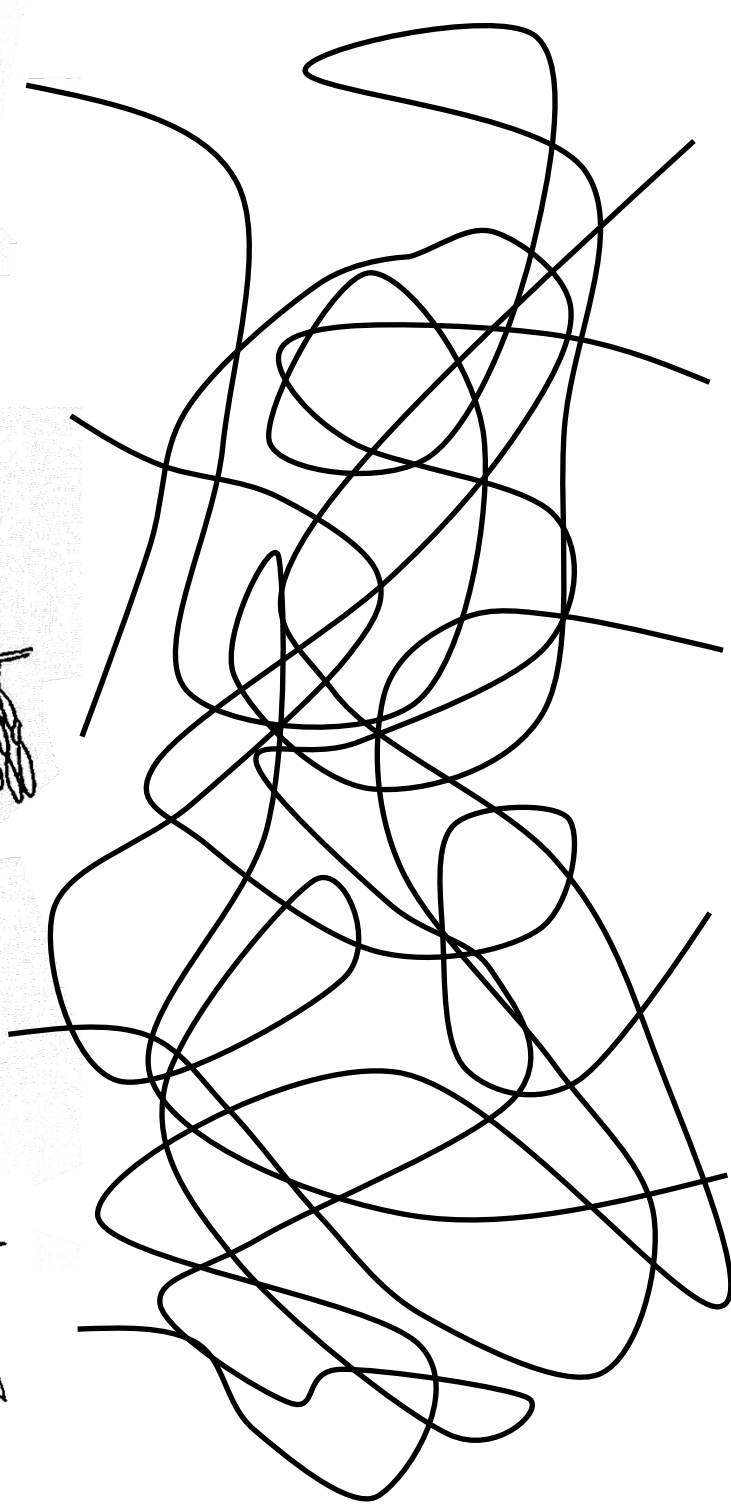
Blackpool

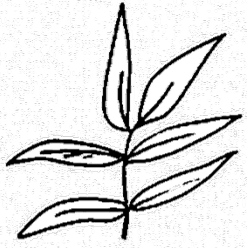
To find the answers skip two pages...

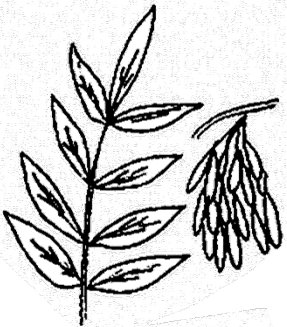


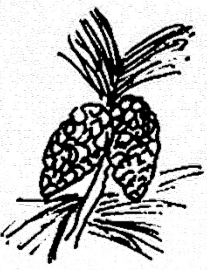
Which leaf belongs to which tree?


Match the leaf to the correct tree.

1.  

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

Horse Chestnut

Willow

Pine

Ash

Oak

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



Dunshay Manor Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building when filling in the word search. The words to find are at the bottom of the page. Put a ring round them when you find them in the grid and tick them off the list as you go.

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

PURBECK

SCULPTOR

PAINTER

GOATS

GATEPOSTS

PONY

THEATRE

STUDIO

DAIRY

QUARRY

CHEESEROOM

DANCE

DORSET

INOCULATION

FARMER JESTY

SMALLPOX

OLD PYKE

POND

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

18

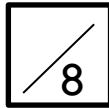


Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

1. 1560's
2. Painter
3. 1923
4. Warthog
5. His family
6. 1906
7. Purbeck Stone
8. Bournemouth

How many did you get right?



Did you know?

The Isle of Purbeck where Dunshay Manor is situated isn't an island at all! It is only bordered by water on three of its sides but it has the feeling of an island because of its geography.



Go into the garden and see if you can see Corfe Castle in the distance.

Corfe Castle was built by William the Conqueror in the 11th century – wow that's a long time ago!

It was destroyed in 1645 during the English Civil War. It was one of the last Royalist strongholds in the south of England, before Parliamentarians launched their attack and destroyed it.

It is now owned by The National Trust and is open to visitors. Have you been?

Design your own farmhouse

Have a go at designing your own farmhouse complete with your outbuildings for horses, pigs and any other animals that you'd like. Would your farmhouse have gabled wings and a porch like Dunshay? Would you have a pond in the garden too?



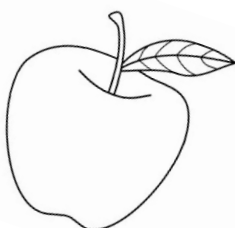
Make a Dorset Apple Cake

Apple cake is a really popular cake which hails from Dorset. It's really delicious when served slightly warm with some custard or a big dollop of cream!

Ingredients:

225g self-raising flour	1 large egg, beaten
2 tsp ground cinnamon	6-8 tbsp milk
115g unsalted butter – cubed and chilled	225g peeled, cored and diced Bramley apples
115g light brown sugar	100g sultanas
2tbsp demerara sugar	

- Preheat the oven to 180C/ 350F/ Gas Mark 4. Grease and line a 20cm cake tin with baking parchment
- Place the flour & cinnamon in a large bowl and mix well. Taking a few cubes of butter at a time rub into the flour mixture. Keep rubbing until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the light brown sugar
- Beat in egg, followed by milk – you want to achieve a smooth, thick batter
- Add apples & sultanas to the mix and combine. Pour batter into tin and level out.
- Sprinkle over demerara sugar and bake for 30-40 mins or until golden.
- Allow to cool in tin for 15 minutes and then turn out onto a wire cooling rack. Enjoy when it's still a little warm – yum!





Showcase your artistic talent...

Which of the three Spencer Watsons are you most like? Do you enjoy painting like George? Getting your hands dirty and sculpting like Mary, or perhaps you are a dancer like Hilda? Showcase your talent below. Paint or draw a picture of Dunshay Manor, plan a sculpture (or even make one out of treasures found during your stay – sticks, feathers, fur etc. and stick in a photo of it.) You could write a poem and plan a performance based on it to show your family.



Make an origami rabbit

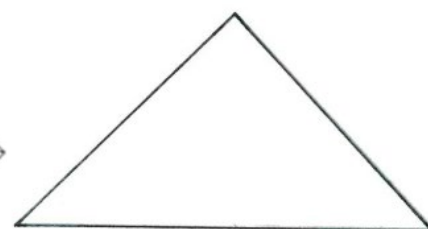
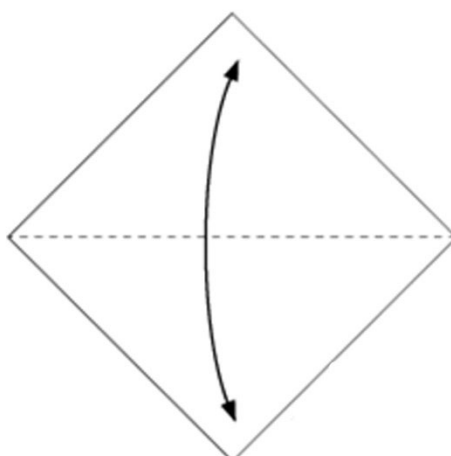
Have a go at making your own origami rabbit with the paper on the next sheet.

You will need:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Colouring pencils

Step One:

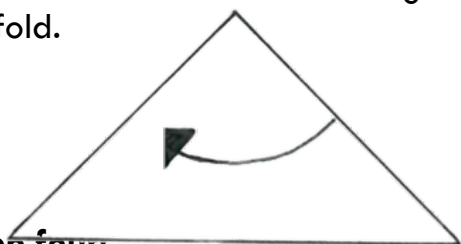
Cut the A4 piece of paper into a square. Follow the dotted lines on the sheet on the next page.



Then fold in half from top to bottom to make a triangle.

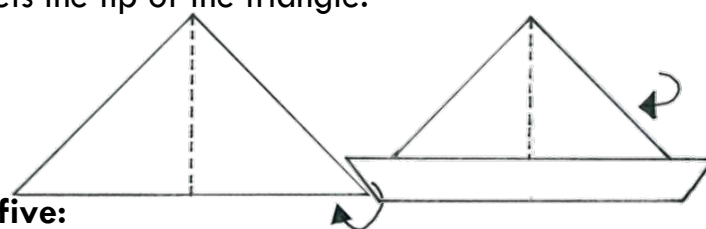
Step two:

Now fold the paper from right to left to make an even smaller triangle then unfold.



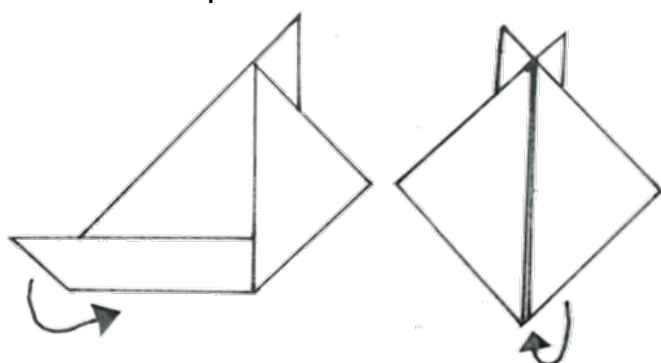
step three:

Fold the bottom part of the paper up slightly. Then fold the right side so that the bottom edge meets the tip of the triangle.



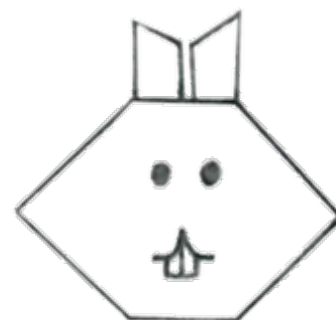
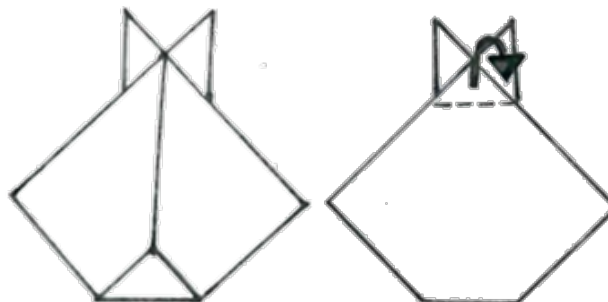
Step four:

Now fold in the left hand side, it should look like a diamond with two ears. Then fold a little bit of the bottom up to make the rabbits chin.

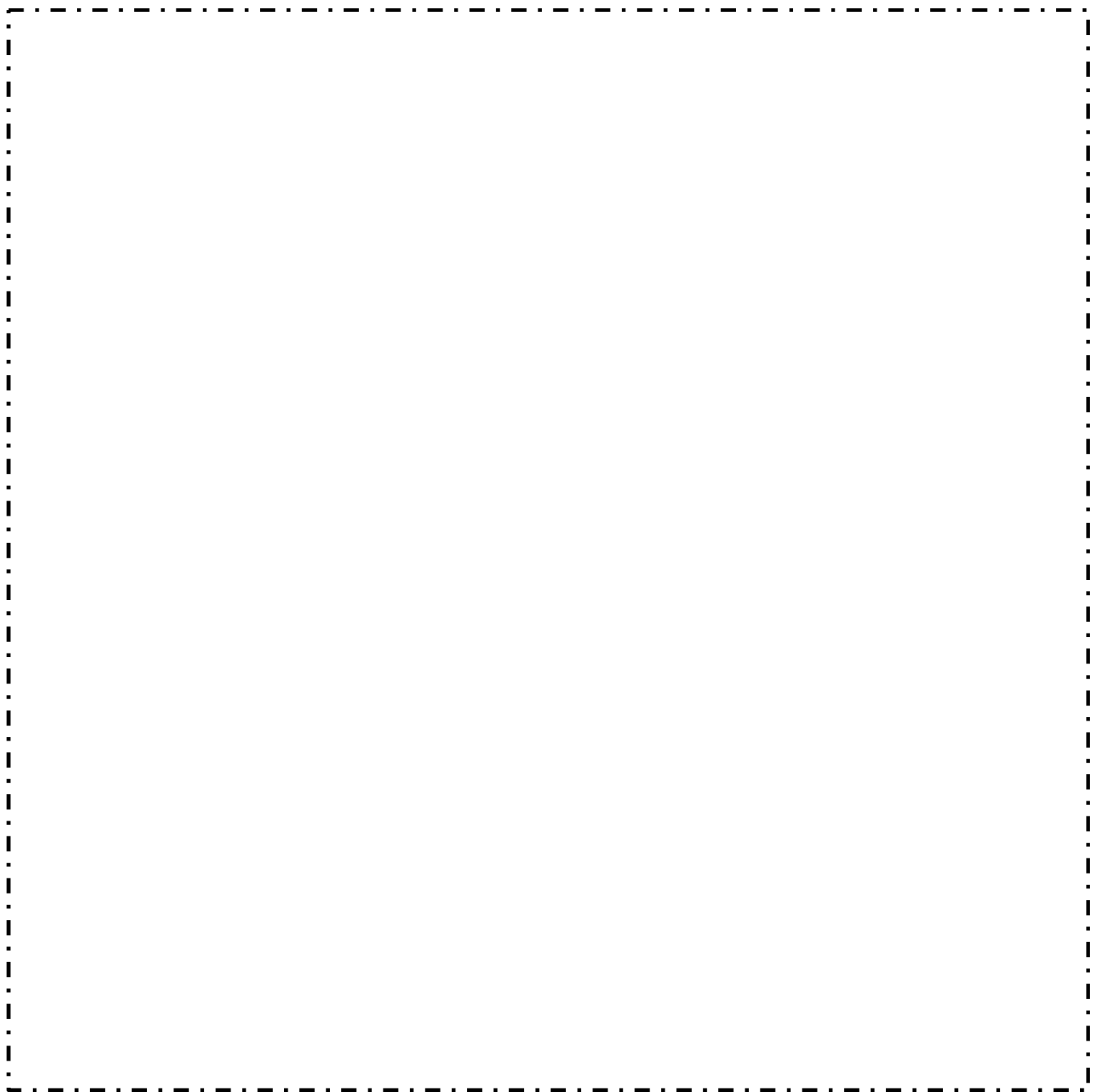


Step five:

turn the paper over and fold the top part of the paper away from you, tucking it in between. Now you have your rabbit you just need to colour it in and give it a face!



CUT OUT TO MAKE YOUR ORIGAMI RABBIT





Colour in these seashells.

Dunshay Manor is close to the beautiful Dorset coastline. Have you been to the sea during your stay? Did you find any shells?

You can make them as colourful as you like...

