

History

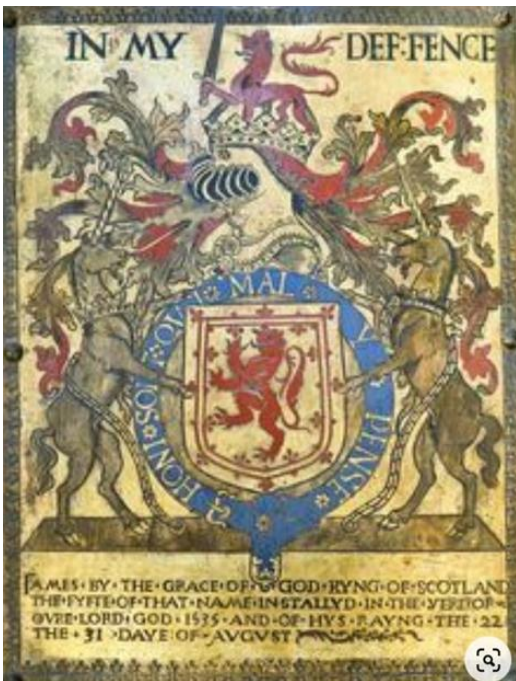


Find out about Fairburn Tower's past...

Hello, welcome to Fairburn Tower! Are you a Mackenzie? If you're not, I might not let you in! (Only joking, it's just that things used to get a bit rough round here in the Highlands.) My name's Sandy Mackenzie, short for Alexander. My father is Murdo Mackenzie and he's the one who built this tower. He got the land straight from the king in 1542! That's when King James V ruled Scotland and before I was born (I'm ten now). Dad was one of the king's personal attendants – he often talks of those fine times with the Court.

Fact:

Scotland and **England with Wales** only got the same king in 1603 with James 1st (of England) & 6th (of Scotland). England and Scotland were separate kingdoms until the Act of Union in 1707.



Henry VIII of England made James V this coat of arms when he was trying to get in his good books. It's in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. Can you see the Lion of Scotland in the middle? And the lion with a sword standing on a crown? Look out for them in the tower today!

What are the other two animals in the picture?

.....

King James wanted to keep control of the Highlands so he gave land to people he could trust to build castles on. Clans (families) like the Mackenzies could get into big fights, and not everyone supported the king. So our Fairburn Tower is really a mini castle as well as a comfortable home.

You can see for miles here, so if any of those pesky Sinclairs show up, we'll see them coming! We've got the latest firepower just in case – ask a grown up if you can have a look in the basement (careful on those steps!) and you'll see all the gunholes for our little cannons. When I lived here there used to be little piles of cannon balls in each corner. **What else about Fairburn Tower do you notice that's like a castle?**

.....

.....

.....



Fact:

A **Laird** is a Scottish word for an important landowner – a bit like a lord. Sandy grew up to be 2nd Laird of Fairburn and there were 10 lairds before the Mackenzies finally died out in 1853. That's 300 years of the same family owning one house!



Highland cattle

Look out for our Highland cattle. If you see a black one, that's just like the ones I have. They have long shaggy coats to keep them warm and big wide horns. The Sinclairs sometimes come and try to steal ours when they think we aren't looking – mind you, we do the same to theirs, that's just the way it is! In my day the cows were black, but in your time you'll see brown ones too.



Are you wondering what we look like? Well, here's my dad on a good day. Pretty big sword he's carrying, eh? He's wrapped all around in a huge plaid shawl – you'd probably call plaid 'tartan'. And yup, those are bare legs. Sometimes in winter we wear trews (like trousers) but most of the time we don't bother, a kilt and a belted plaid are enough to keep us warm. I think the plaids are a really good idea – they can be used as a cloak to keep the rain off and you can wrap yourself up in them like a blanket.

I hope you have a wonderful stay in our tower!

I love living in a tower, though you have to get used to running up and down stairs all the time! My dad Murdoch is the 1st Laird of Fairburn and when I grow up I'll be the 2nd Laird 'cos I'm the eldest son. My little brother John isn't too happy about that... I reckon I'll make the tower bigger when it's mine – I'll make a better staircase and a proper room on the top floor and I might even add some little roof turrets so we can keep a better look out. Maybe by the time you stay here they'll be in place.

Have you noticed how Fairburn stands between two rivers? They're called the Conon and the Orrin. Dad says some of the stones for building the tower and for the cobbles in the yard came from the rivers. I like to catch fish in them in summer but you have to be really patient. In winter, the waters can be very fierce so take care if you go paddling!

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. Fairburn's James V was from the Scottish royal family of Stuarts. When Elizabeth I had no children, the throne of England went to Elizabeth's cousin, James V's grandson. He was another James Stuart, known as King James 1st and 6th – cos he was the 1st King James of England but the 6th King James Scotland.



TUDOR 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

TUDOR 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

TUDOR Lady Jane Grey

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



1553

1553

TUDOR Queen Mary I

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

TUDOR Queen Elizabeth I

Good Queen Bess knew leaving religion alone was best. (Unless the Catholics attacked!) Had lots of boyfriends but married none – and had no children.



1558

1603

STUART King James I & 6

Invited south from Scotland to be king of England too – he couldn't believe his luck but made the most of it!

STUART 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

1649

COMMONER 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.

STUART King Charles II

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



1660

1685

STUART King James II

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

Artwork © David Lyttleton





Meet King James V of Scotland (1512-1542)

– he ruled Scotland when this Landmark
was built.



Hi James!

So when did you become king?

I became King in 1513 when I'd only just learned to walk, after the English killed my dad at the Battle of Flodden.

What are you most famous for?

I sorted out all those fighting clans – and I married two beautiful French princesses.

What is your favourite thing to do?

I love building palaces and decorating them with the latest fashions – and I love big guns and ships!

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I married my second princess only a year after my first one died. No point being miserable – plus I was glad of her cash!



What does Fairburn Tower look like?

Can you walk all the way around it?

Draw a circle around any of these words which you would use to describe the building.

Does Fairburn Tower look like other buildings nearby?

Safe

Pretty

Stone

Symmetrical

Square

Friendly

Tall

Industrial

Brick

Home

Elegant

Low

Fact:

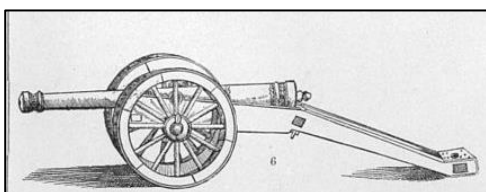
Fortified means that it is designed and built to protect from attacks.

Fairburn Tower was built around 1542. Tower houses are very popular in Scotland. Fairburn Tower is a **fortified** (say 'fort'if-eyed') tower house. Lairds (or lords) liked to build tower houses to show that they were strong and powerful (and scare enemies!) There was lots of fighting in Scotland at this time so a tower house helped protect you and your family from enemies. Colour in Fairburn Tower below. The picture shows how it once had outbuildings all around.

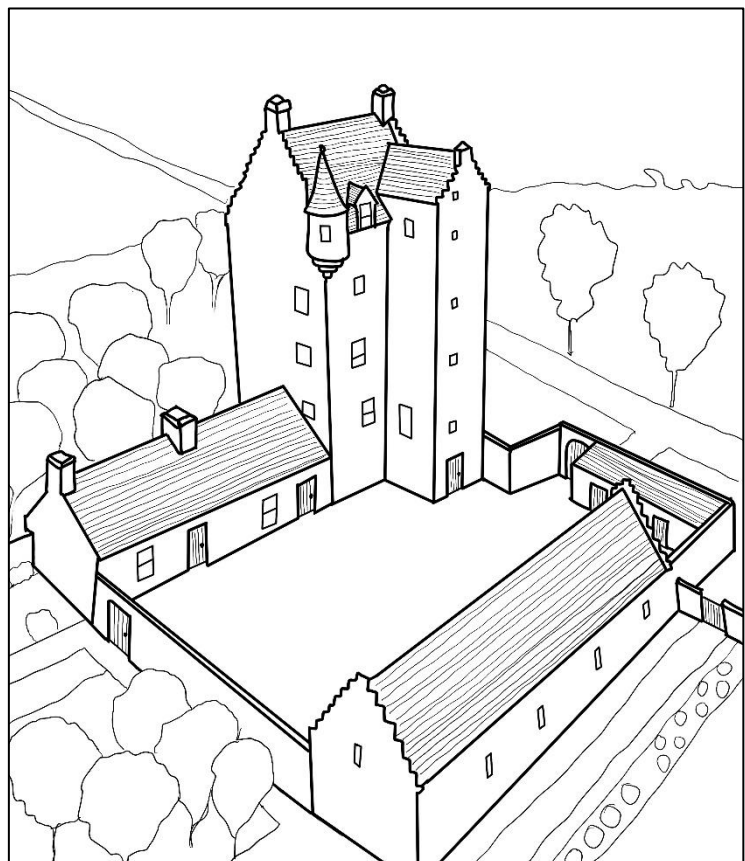
Have you noticed all the small windows and the spiral staircase? This makes it harder for attackers to get inside and to get upstairs.

The walls are also very thick and strong. This makes it difficult for attackers to break into the building.

In the basement there are gun-ports – that's holes for small cannons to be fired through. This was very up-to-date when the tower was built.



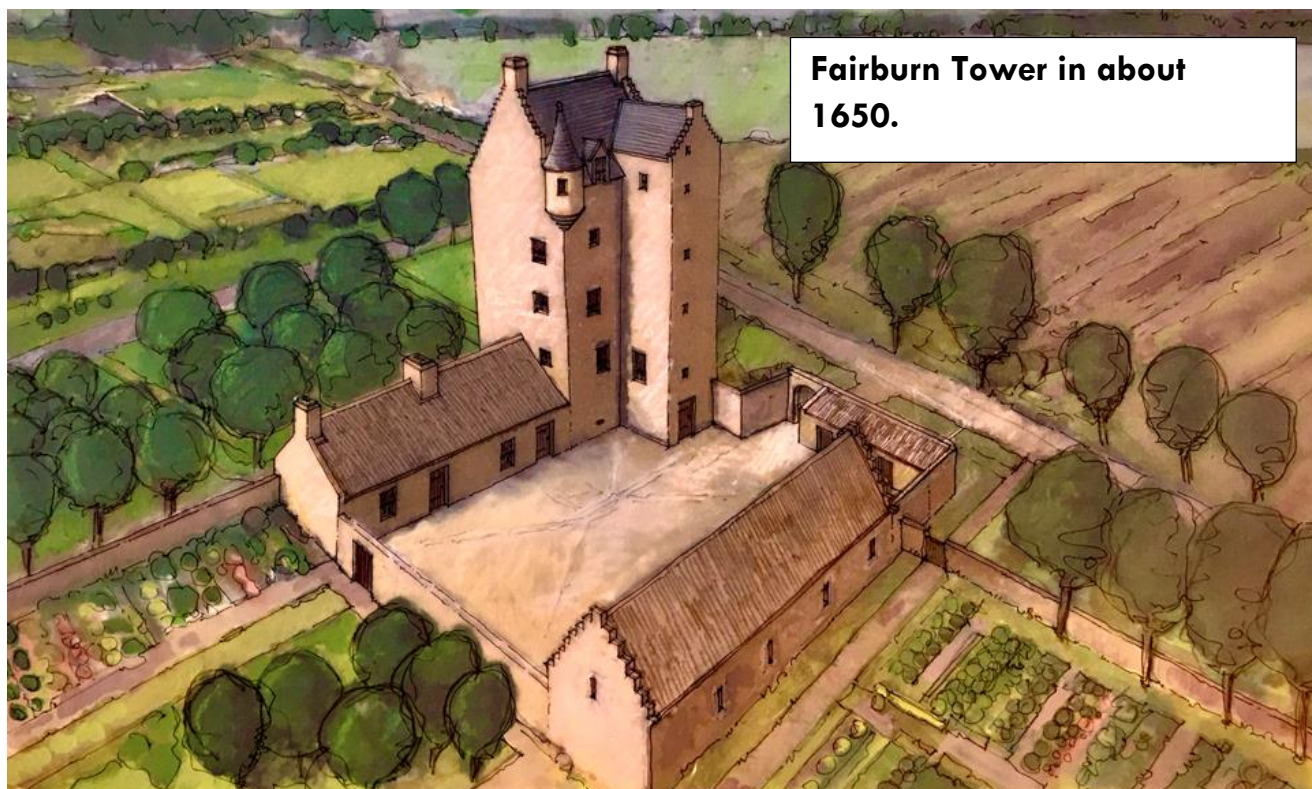
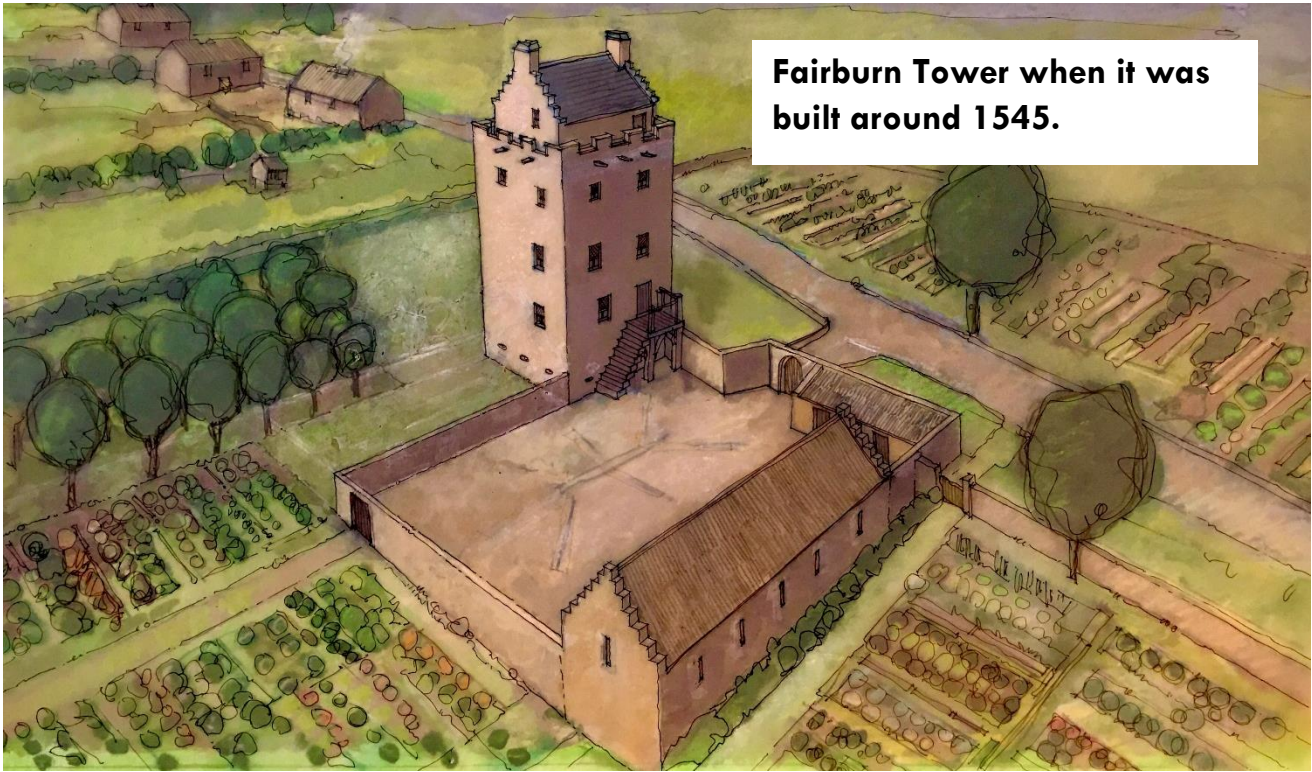
A cannon from the 1500s.





Fairburn Tower – spot the differences

When Murdo Mackenzie's son Sandy grew up to be 2nd Laird he made Fairburn Tower bigger and made some other changes. Compare the two pictures below, and put a circle round all the changes you can see that Sandy had made by about 1650.





What is Fairburn Tower 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 dug out of **quarries** 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.

Fact:

From outside, Fairburn Tower doesn't look like it's made from stone. To protect it, the building has been covered in **lime**. No silly, not the juice from the fruit! Lime is burnt limestone that looks like chalk. To make a plaster, lime is mixed with sand and water. To make paint, lime is mixed with water. Sometimes, the lime plaster then has small pebbles pressed into it to make it even stronger, like here at Fairburn Tower. This is called **Harling**.

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 Stuart and Tudor times, stone was taken out of the ground by hand. Today, a quarry is a place where stone is blasted out of the ground with explosives! This picture shows what quarries look like now.

People who work with stone are called stonemasons. They build walls, carve stone into shapes or add patterns to its surface. The stone window below has been carved into shapes called **ogees**. They use a mallet and special tools called chisels to shape the stone.



Mallet



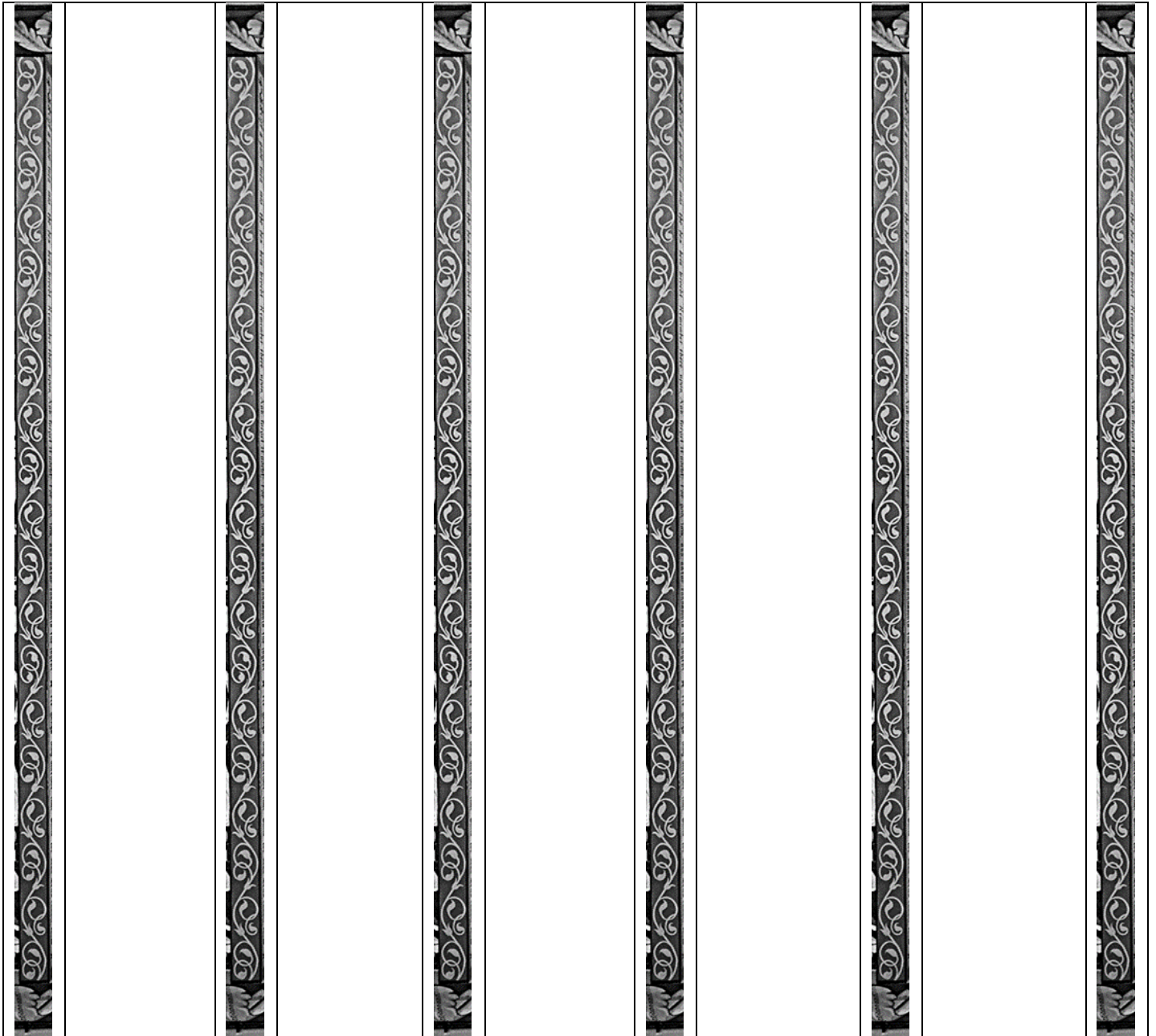
Chisels





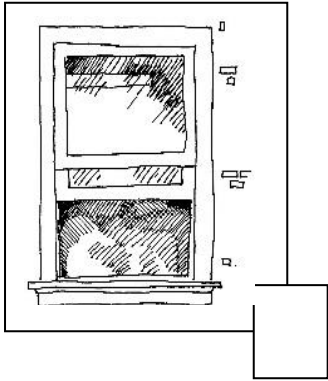
Design a painted ceiling

Can you see how all the animals, plants and people on the Fairburn ceiling are carefully painted to fit between the wooden joists? (say *joy-st*). Have a go at designing your own painted ceiling below. Use any creatures or designs you like below – just make sure they all fit between the joists!

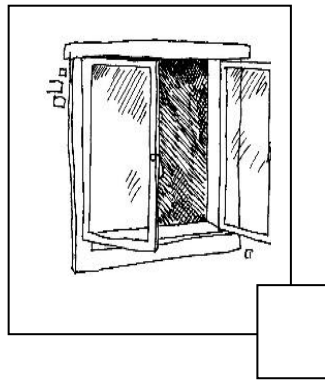




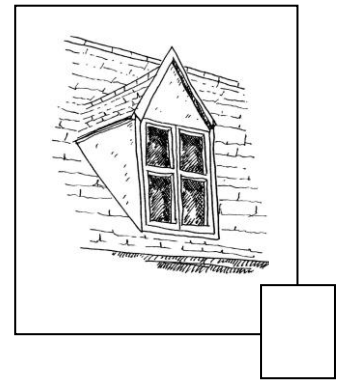
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Fairburn Tower have?



Sash

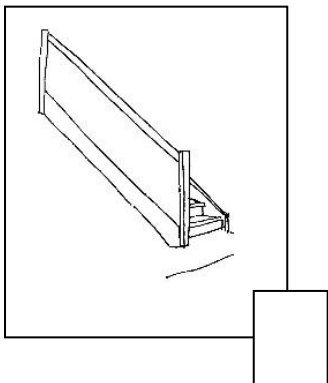


Casement (it opens)

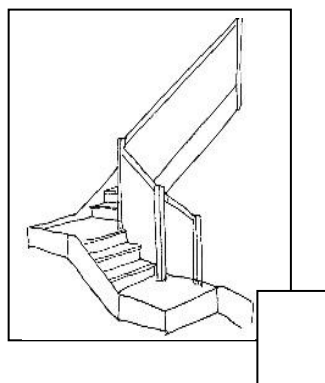


Dormer or attic (in the roof)

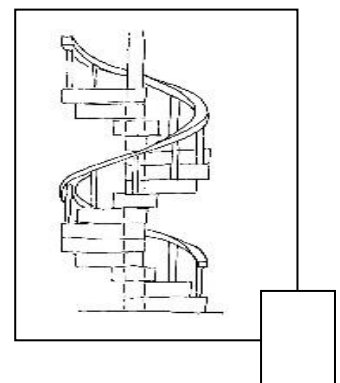
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Fairburn Tower?



Straight



Quarter turn

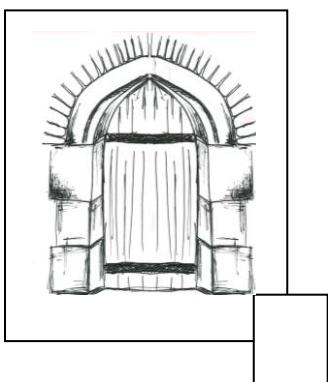


Spiral

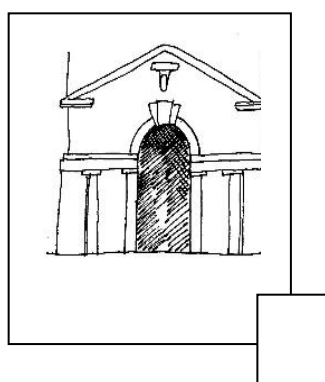
Fact:

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

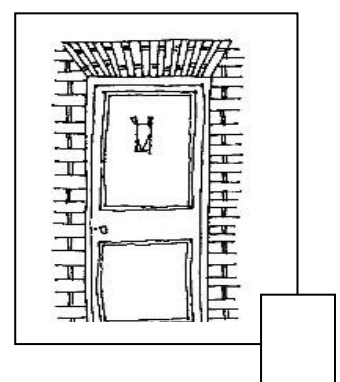
Entrances can be grand or simple. Which front door is most like the one at Fairburn Tower?



Tudor arch



Porch



Doorframe



Discover more about Fairburn Tower

The land that Fairburn Tower was built on was given by King James V to Murdoch Mackenzie in 1542, that's over 450 years ago! In that time, many things have changed both inside and outside the building. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

How many gun-ports can you count in the basement? (Be very careful going down the stairs – better take a grown up with you)

I found [] gun ports

How many steps are there in the stair tower? Count carefully!

There are [] steps

Do you notice how the stair tower is added on to the main tower? When the tower was first built the stairs were *inside* the walls! The walls are thick – but imagine how narrow the stairs must have been!

Have you been inside the bartizans on the top floor? (say *bart-ih-zans*)

You can see for miles up there and they're a great place to hide away or make a den! Bartizans come in different shapes and sizes. Not all of them have a roof like at Fairburn.

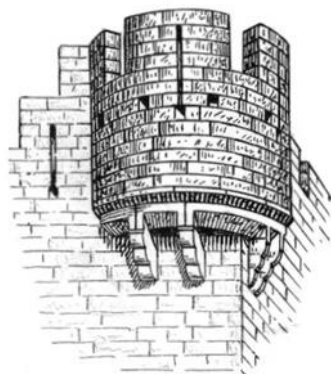
Fact:

A **bartizan** is a tiny tower built at the corner of the roof of a castle that sticks out over the wall of the castle. It was used as a lookout – or sometimes to shoot from!

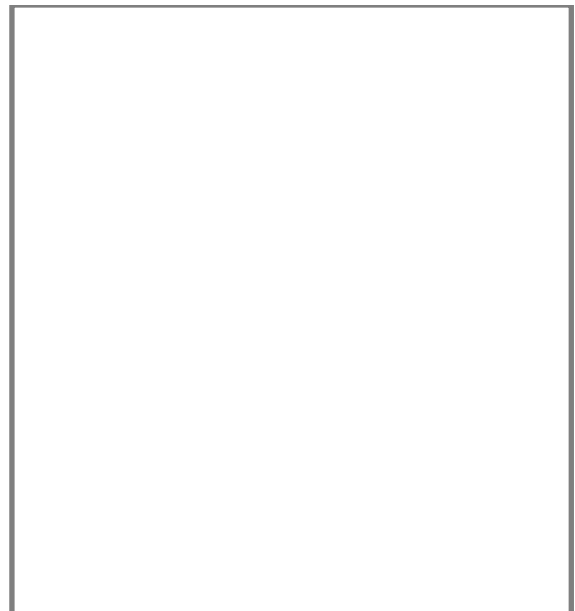
Draw a bartizan in the box – either copy a Fairburn one (makes sure you put the ball on top!) or design your own at the corner of a castle.

Fact:

The balls on top of Fairburn's bartizans are called **finials** (say *fin-y-al*). When we were restoring the tower, to make sure they were the right size and looked right, the builder brought in his kids' different sized footballs!



A bartizan

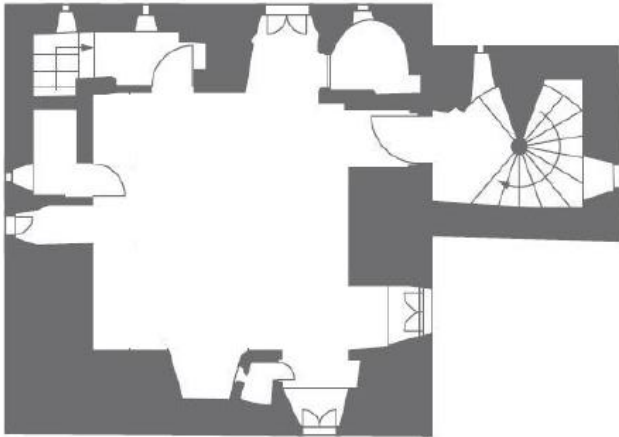




Living in Fairburn Tower

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. At Fairburn Tower, you live on four of its five floors (the first floor is the kitchen). The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around each floor. **Write on the plan what each room is used for.**

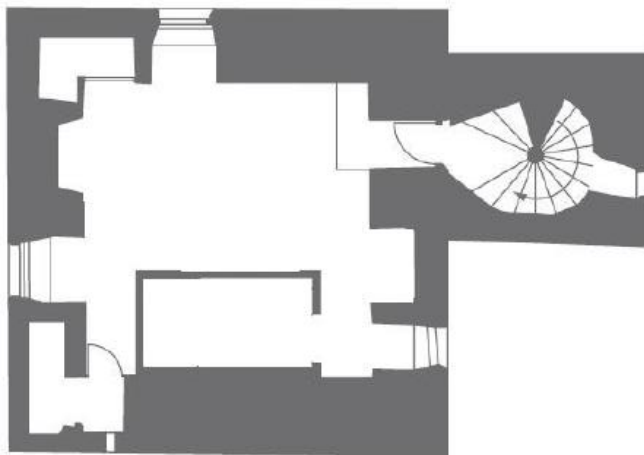
First Floor



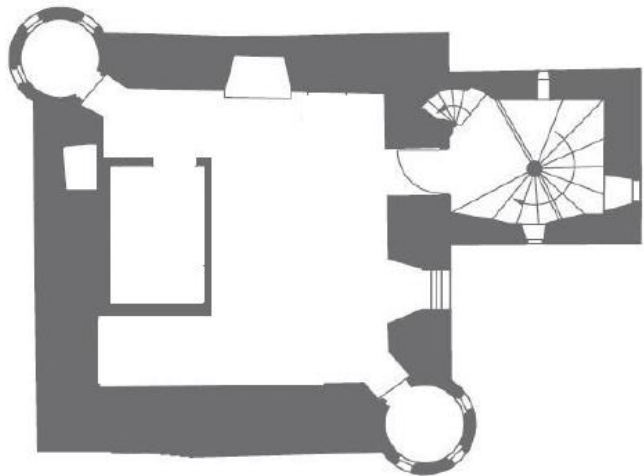
Second Floor



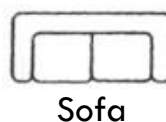
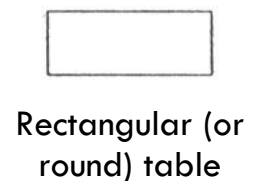
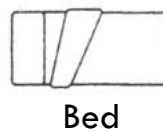
Third Floor



Fourth Floor



We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. **As you walk round, draw the symbols on to the floorplans to show where the furniture is at Fairburn Tower.**





Can you find an example of each of these things inside Fairburn Tower? **Describe, or draw the object when you find it.**

Your favourite chair

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

Draw 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?



Fairburn Tower Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building and what might have been here when Sandy Mackenzie lived here. The words to find are at the bottom of the page. Cross them out when you find them in the puzzle.

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

FLOORBOARD
CATTLE
FLAG
ATTIC

CROWN
FIREPLACE
CANNON
STAG

TOWER
MOON
STAIRCASE
BARTIZAN

BOOKS
STONE
SHUTTERS
CANDLESTICK

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

/
16



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What is the Capital of Scotland?

Glasgow

Inverness

Edinburgh

Fife

2. What is the name of the bit of clothing that men in Scotland sometimes wear instead of trousers?

Toga

Kilt

Plaid

Kimono

3. What does loch mean?

Hill

Lake

River

Mountain

4. What is the name of the highest mountain in Scotland?

Ben Nevis

Matt Tenant

Mount Scot

Arthur's Seat

5. What is haggis?

A hat

A county

A traditional
Scottish food

A musical instrument

6. What is the old spoken language of Scotland?

Gaelic

Celtic

Gallic

Latin

7. In 1603 when Queen Elizabeth I died, which Scottish King also became King of England?

King Arthur

King James VI

King Fergus II

King Duncan

8. What colours are in Scotland's flag?

Blue and white

Red and white

Blue and red

Blue and yellow

9. What do Scottish people traditionally have for breakfast?

Bacon and eggs

Waffles

Porridge

Fruit and yogurt

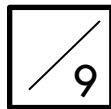
To find the answers turn over...



Answers:

1. Edinburgh
2. Kilt
3. Lake
4. Ben Nevis
5. A traditional Scottish food
6. Gaelic
7. King James VI of Scotland (he became James I of England too!)
8. Blue and white
9. Porridge

How many did you get right?



Fact:

A Scottish *kilt* is made of a thick woven cloth with a tartan (a check) pattern. Today, they're mostly only worn for special occasions. Originally a *kilt* was 5 meters long, wrapped round the waist with lots of pleats at the back. Any leftover material was pinned over the left shoulder, to keep out that Highland chill! And it's said the men didn't wear any pants underneath – ewugh!



Colour in the bag pipe player below.

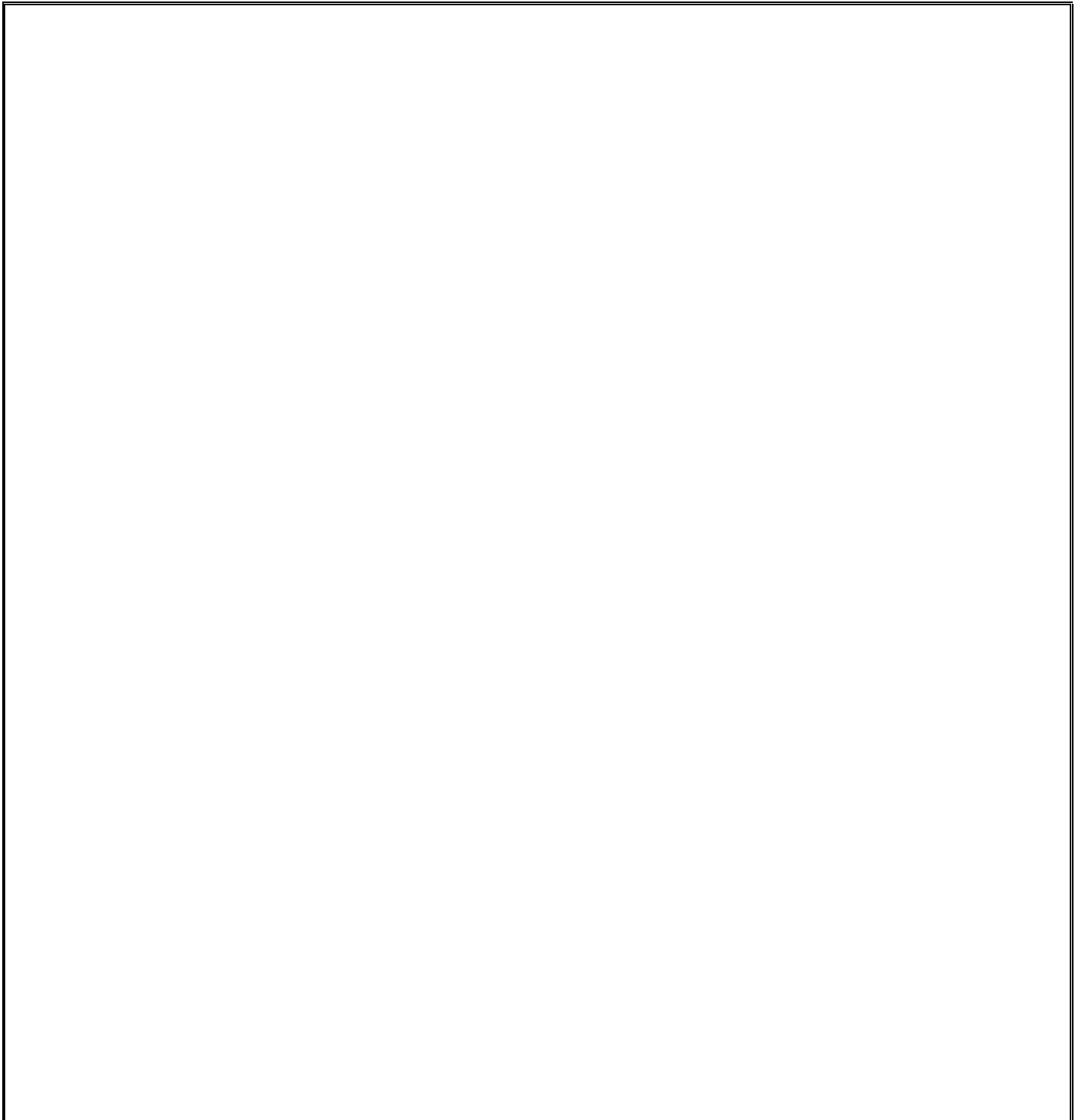
Fact:

A **Bagpipe** is a wind instrument. The bag is filled with air by the piper and the notes are made by the air coming out of pipes. The bag used to be made from the skin of a whole sheep, turned inside out. It was cleaned first – but yuk!



Design your own Scottish house

Imagine you are a Scottish Laird or Lady who wants to build a new home. What type of home would you have? A tower, a castle, a manor or a mansion? Draw your dream Scottish home below. Put some mountains and lakes in too!





Bake some shortbread

Shortbread is a traditional Scottish biscuit. At first, left over ingredients from bread was made into biscuits. Then butter and sugar were added to make the delicious shortbread we have today. Butter was expensive so shortbreads became a special treat for special occasions like Christmas. Lucky us to have them when we like today!

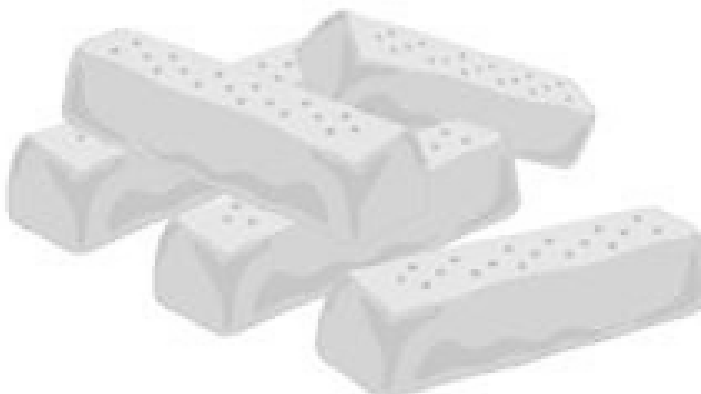
Here's a simple recipe for you to try. You might need the help of an adult.

200g plain flour
50g caster sugar plus extra for
sprinkling
75g fine semolina

Zest of ½ lemon
160g cold unsalted butter
Pinch of salt

Remember to pre-heat the oven: fan 150 °C or electric 170 °C: Gas 3.5

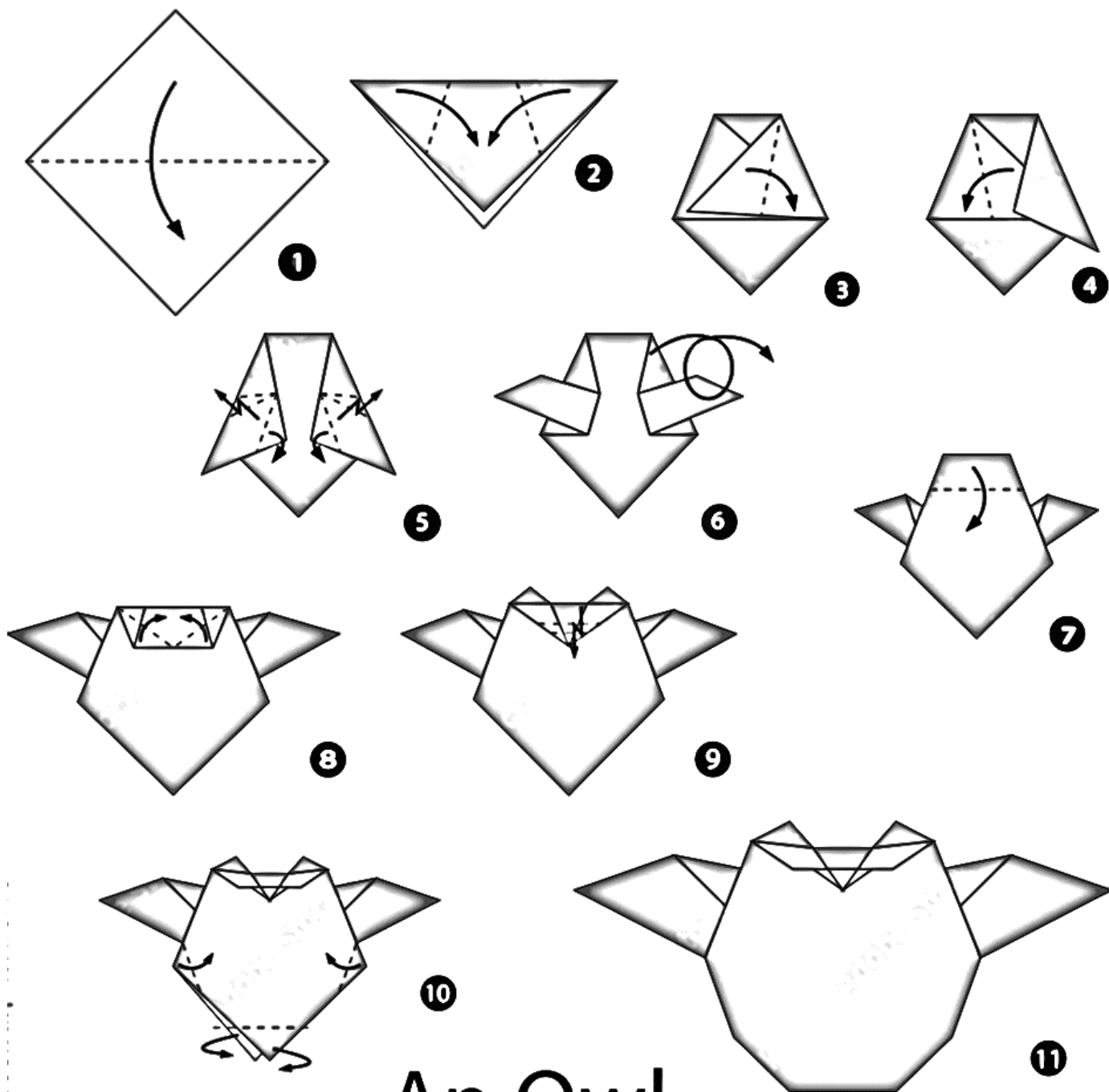
- Grease a shallow cake tin
- Mix the flour, caster sugar, semolina and a pinch of salt in a bowl
- Add the lemon zest and butter and rub them into the mixture until it feels like breadcrumbs
- Lightly press the mixture into the cake tin (don't press it in too much). Use a knife to draw the lines where you want it to break when it's cooked and prick it all over with a fork.
- Bake for 30-35 minutes until golden
- Leave to cool and then sprinkle some sugar on top
- Carefully cut into fingers or slices along your lines and then they're ready to eat!





Make an origami owl

Did you spot the owl in the painted ceiling at Fairburn Tower? Owls were living in the tower before it was restored and we had to be very careful not to disturb them! Now they have their own special owl boxes to nest in nearby. You can make your own owl. Start with a square piece of paper 15cm x 15cm and get folding!



An Owl



Cut out this square to make your origami owl.

