



## Find out about Gurney Manor's past...

Hello and welcome! My name is Clare. I'm the kitchen maid at Gurney Manor and I work in a brand new kitchen! The year is **1470** and I'm ten now. I live in the village with Mum and Dad and my little brothers George and John.

This is what I know about Gurney Manor - it got its name after the Gurney family. They owned lots of land around here. The Gurneys came from France with **William the Conqueror**.

The Gurneys were powerful **barons** in the west of England. They built a house right here 100 years ago and the name lives on even though not much of that house is left.



**William the Conqueror**

### Facts:

**William the Conqueror** came from Normandy (France), and defeated the Saxon king Harold at the Battle of Hastings. Yes, 1066 and all that! William became king and gave land to his friends and supporters, called **barons**.

In medieval times, there were about 300 Barons, who in turn, gave land to knights (3000 of them).

Jane was the last member of the Gurney family to **inherit** the Manor.

### Fact:

**Inherit** (say 'in-hair-it-') is when you are left something like money or a house by someone who has died. It is normally written down on a piece of paper called a **will**.

Jane married Roger Dodesham and they named their son William. This is where I come in. William is the Lord of the Manor who built the new kitchen where I work. He's the MP for Bridgwater but now he likes to improve Gurney Manor. He's also a lawyer so he can afford it!



Our new kitchen is a big room with a fireplace at each end. It's much grander than the old kitchen which was at one end of the big hall. Now that we're further away from the dining hall, the family must wait a bit longer for supper! I'm so glad we can stay dry by using the covered walkway. It's called a **pentice** (say pent-tiss) and it connects the kitchen to the hall. What luxury!



The Lord of the Manor sits with his wife and family at one end of the hall. They watch the servants bring the food in a procession from the kitchen. Imagine every meal being like a formal banquet! Would you like that lifestyle? We get to eat the leftovers much later back in the kitchen. My favourite was venison stew. What is your favourite meal?

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King Edward IV was on the throne when I was young. Why not colour in this picture of him.



When I was really old (nearly 80!), an awful thing happened at Gurney Manor. There was a double murder! It was horrible. In 1539, one dark winter night, a nasty man called Thomas Michel, who lived at Gurney Manor, killed his wife and her sister and then himself. We all knew he had a temper but the whole village was in shock. The wife's family was so alarmed they rushed over and took away all the furniture and farm animals too. Gurney wasn't the same after that.

Gurney Manor became a humble farmhouse in the 1600s and over

the centuries, other farmers lived and worked here. By the 1980s, the building was in a sad state with leaning walls and a chimney about to fall down.

The Landmark Trust bought Gurney Manor and after a lot of work, it was ready for guests in 1992. Since then, many families have enjoyed staying here in the Somerset countryside. I hope you will too!

# Unruly Rulers

## Who were the medieval (say 'med-ee-evil') kings?

**Medieval** means in the Middle Ages. This is roughly from when William the Conqueror and the Normans invaded England in 1066 until Henry VIII (that's the 8<sup>th</sup>) became king in 1509.



### King William II Rufus

He was killed hunting.  
People say that Henry I ordered it!



### King Stephen

Another king who stole the throne, it was meant to be his cousin Matilda's!



### King Richard I The Lion Heart

A brave king, he was always fighting a war.



### King Henry III

He was a good king who gave money to the poor and liked to pray.



### King Edward II

Another bad King, he only listened to his best friend Piers Gaveston and met a nasty death in a dungeon.



### King Richard II

He tried to rule without parliament, so the barons helped the next Henry become king.



### King Henry V

He wanted to be King of England and France. You guessed it, he started a war!

1066

### William the Conqueror

He wasn't even English he came from France.



1087

### King Henry I

He stole the throne from his older brother who was away on Crusade.



1135

### King Henry II

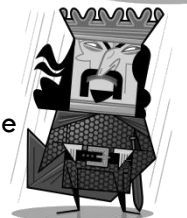
Some of his knights heard that he was angry at Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury. That was the end of poor Thomas, the knights killed him.



1189

### King John

Bad King John, he was a cruel and horrible man. He died eating too many peaches!



1216

### King Edward I

He invaded and conquered both Wales and Scotland ruling both of them!



1307

### King Edward III

He was a good king, even if he did start the 100 years' war.



1377

### King Henry IV

He stole the throne from Richard when he was fighting in Ireland. Hard luck Richie!



1413



### King Edward IV

He secretly married Elizabeth Woodville. Some say she was a witch!



### King Richard III

He was a bad king. People say he had his nephews murdered in the Tower of London so he could be king instead.

1422

### King Henry VI

He became king at 8 months old! He was weak and hated war. He never fought in any battles.



1461

### King Edward V

He was 10 when he became king for 86 days. Then uncle Richard put him and his brother in a tower.



1483

1483

### King Henry VII

He defeated bad King Richard and became the first Tudor king. Hooray!



1485



## Meet King Edward IV

– who ruled when Clare was a kitchen maid at Gurney Manor



**Hi Eddie!**

**So when did you become king?**

I became King on 4 March 1461 when I was 19.

**What are you most famous for?**

I won the Wars of the Roses, crushing the Lancaster army. I never lost a battle!

**What is your favourite thing to do?**

I loved collecting objects. I collected lots of fine clothes, jewellery, furnishings and history books to show off how powerful, rich and clever I was.

**What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?**

I secretly married Elizabeth Woodville. No one wanted me to marry her because she was common. But I married her anyway!

# Design



## What does Gurney 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.

What do you like most about Gurney Manor?

.....

Castle

Tall

Pretty

Thatched

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Tower

Gurney Manor was first built around 1400 - that's over 600 years ago! It was named after the first owners, the Gurneys. They built a **medieval hall** house. That means everyone lived and ate together in one big room, called the hall. There was an open fire in the middle of the floor and smoke went up and out through a hole in the ceiling. Imagine a blackened ceiling from all that smoke!

Later, private rooms called a solars were added above medieval halls. At Gurney, a whole new solar block was built instead.

When Clare worked at Gurney Manor in 1470, the new solar block and kitchen had just been built some years earlier. This made a courtyard in the middle.

Later, when the Tudor kings like Henry VIII were on the throne, the owners fancied fashionable new windows and doors so they were updated. New doors were added too.

## Fact:

**Solar** – is a private room for the master of the house and his family, away from the servants.

The word could come from the Latin word “solus” meaning “alone” – “I want to be alone!” Or, it could come from the Latin for “of the sun”, “solaris”. That’s because it was probably the brightest room.



Today, we can have **solar** panels on the roof of a house to make energy from the sun.



The windows at Gurney are called **mullioned** (say *mull-ee-yond*) windows. A mullion is the name for the vertical parts that divide the window. The surrounds are made of stone which was expensive.

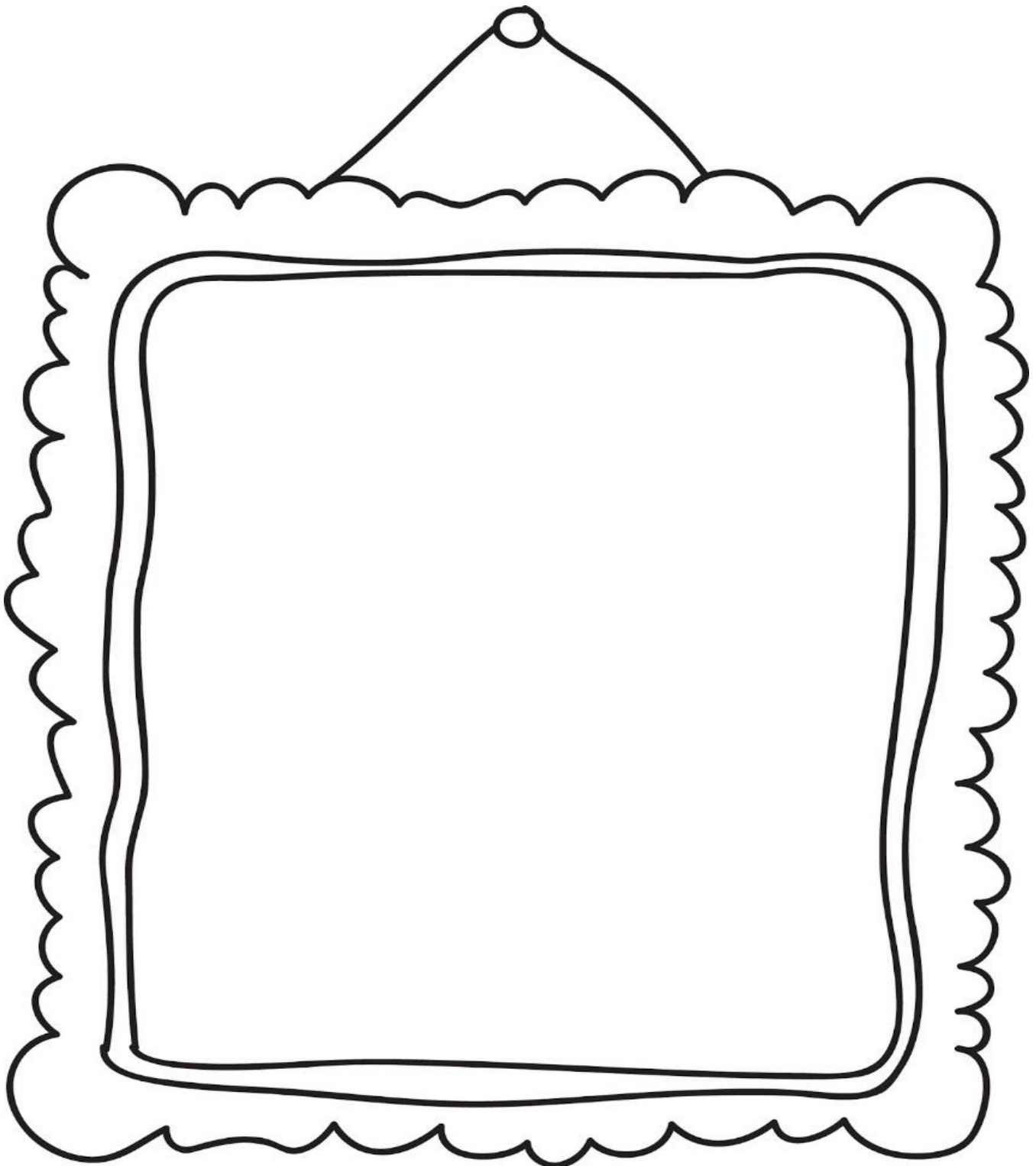


A Tudor door has a low arch at the top (not very pointy). The door surrounds can be quite fancy too, like the entrance at Gurney.



Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up from lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles. **Have a go at drawing any side of Gurney Manor.**

Please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry where you are!  
And don't worry if you make a mess of your drawing, just turn the page over.





## What is Gurney 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 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.



Gurney 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

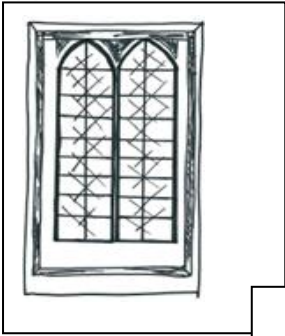


Chisels

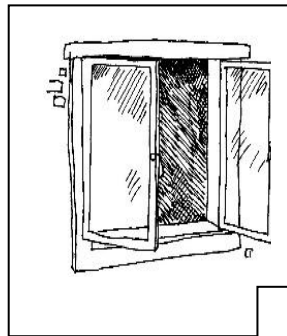




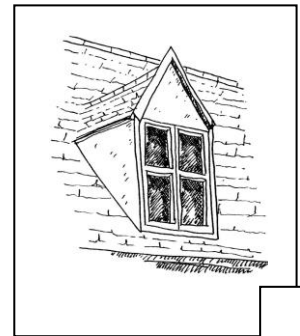
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Gurney Manor have?



Pointed or Gothic



Casement (it opens)

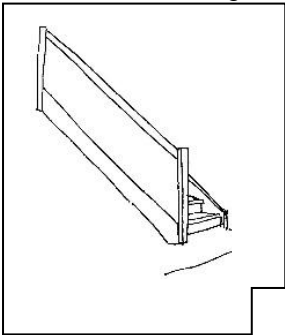


Dormer or attic (in the roof)

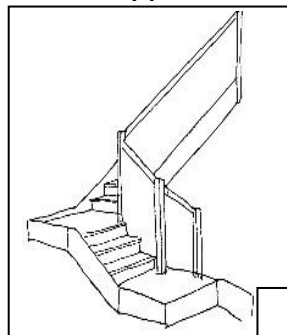
**Fact:**

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.

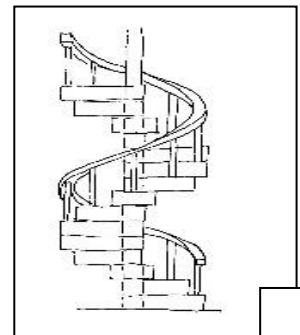
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Gurney Manor? You might find it has more than one type!



Straight

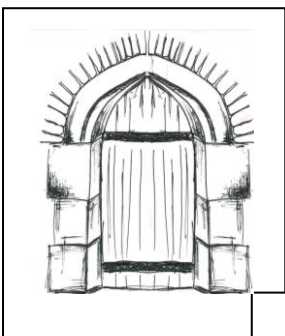


Quarter turn

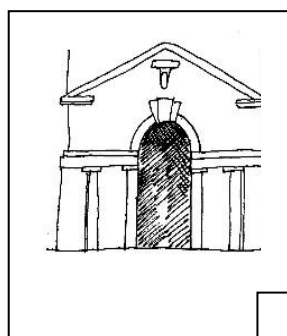


Spiral

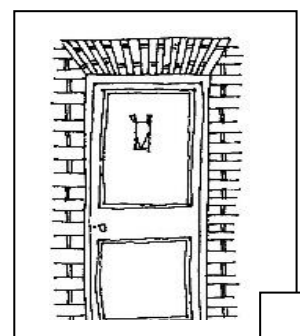
Entrances can be grand or simple. Which front door is most like the one at Gurney Manor?



Tudor arch



Porch



Doorframe



# Quest



## Discover more about Gurney Manor

Gurney Manor has been here for over 700 years. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Go outside the main front door and look at the front of the building.

Look at the barn with the ventilation slits. It's the oldest bit of Gurney Manor still standing! It's from around 1400. Grain was stored in the barn and the slits let air flow through to keep everything inside nice and dry.



Back inside Gurney Manor, where can you find this tiny window with the shutter?

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It's a part of the building that was built in the middle of the 15th century (that's from 1450). This room was a tiny chapel or **oratory**.



### Fact:

**Oratory** – is a small chapel or room where people prayed in private. Some medieval manor houses had one – a Lord of the Manor could show off a little if he had one.

Then along came Henry VIII who thought the Roman Catholic Church in England had too much money. He reformed the church and took away their money and treasures.

Over the years the oratory was used to store china and then it was a farm office. Workers came up to the big window to collect their wages from the manager.



Where does the door in this photo lead to?

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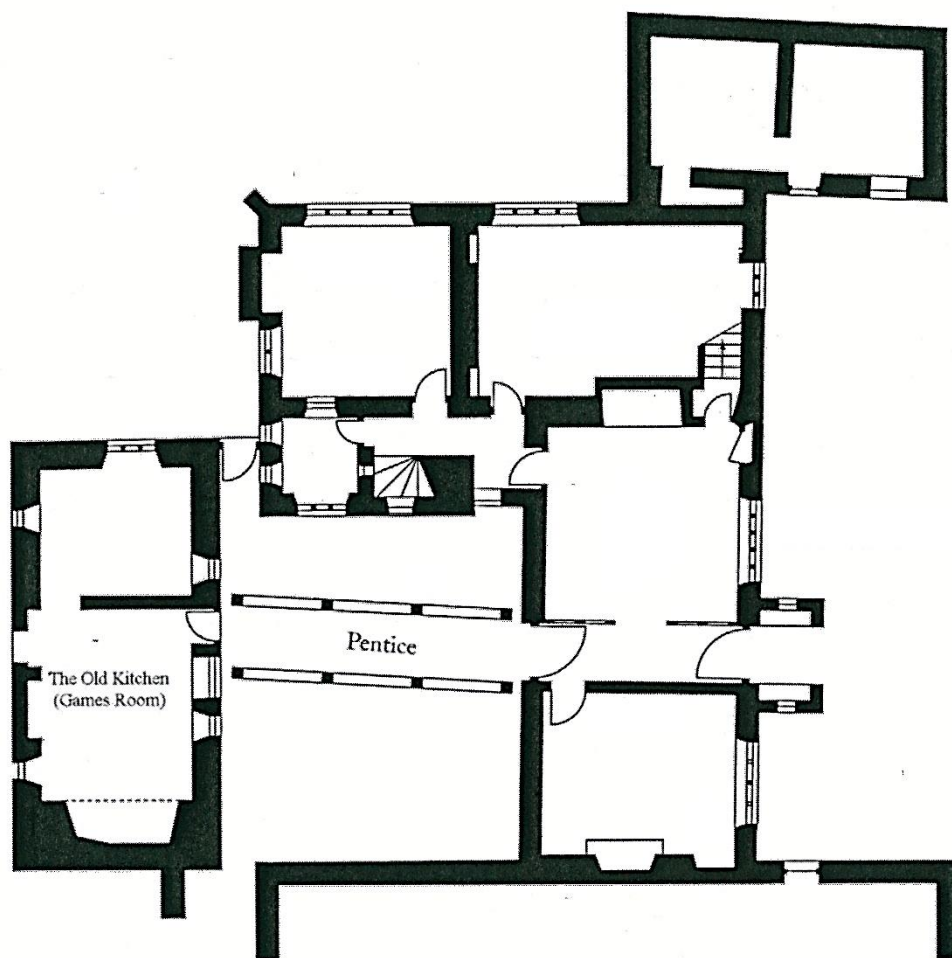
It's where Clare used to help make the meals. This passage way is the pentice, which she knew well as she passed through it many times a day to serve meals and then clear up.



## Living in Gurney Manor

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Gurney Manor has two floors. The plan below shows you the shape of the ground floor. Take a walk around and write on the plan what each room is used for.

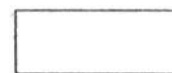
### Ground floor



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



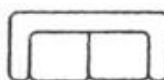
Rectangular (or a round) table



Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



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

Your favourite piece of furniture

Your favourite window

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

Why not draw a picture of the king's head that is on the wall in the corner of the big bedroom upstairs. Have you seen it? Landmark found it buried hidden in the downstairs fireplace! It's very old – from the 1300s! It's made of carved stone and came from another building in the area.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a picture of the king's head mentioned in the text.



## Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What is **Gurney Manor** made of?

Bricks

Wood

Stone

Straw

2. How old is **Gurney Manor**?

100 years

500 years

50 years

Over 600 years

3. What is a **stile**?

A fashion design

Ladder

A walking stick

Steps in a fence for  
walkers but not  
animals

4. What is a **pentice**?

special tent

Covered walkway

Top floor apartment

Dungeon

5. Who was on the throne when **Clare** was a kitchen maid at **Gurney Manor**?

George I

Edward II

Edward IV

George II

6. Which of the following would you not find at **Gurney Manor**?

Flagstones

Beams

Brick

Thatch

7. Where did **William the Conqueror** come from?

Holland

Scotland

Surrey

Normandy

8. What is a **solar**?

Conservatory

Private room in  
medieval times

Sunbed

Power-station

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

George

Baldrick

James

Charles

10. In which county is **Gurney Manor**?

Somerset

Shropshire

Suffolk

Surrey

To find the answers skip two pages...



## Colour in the pheasant below

You can look up the pheasant in the Bird Book in the Landmark bookcase to copy the colours if you wish.

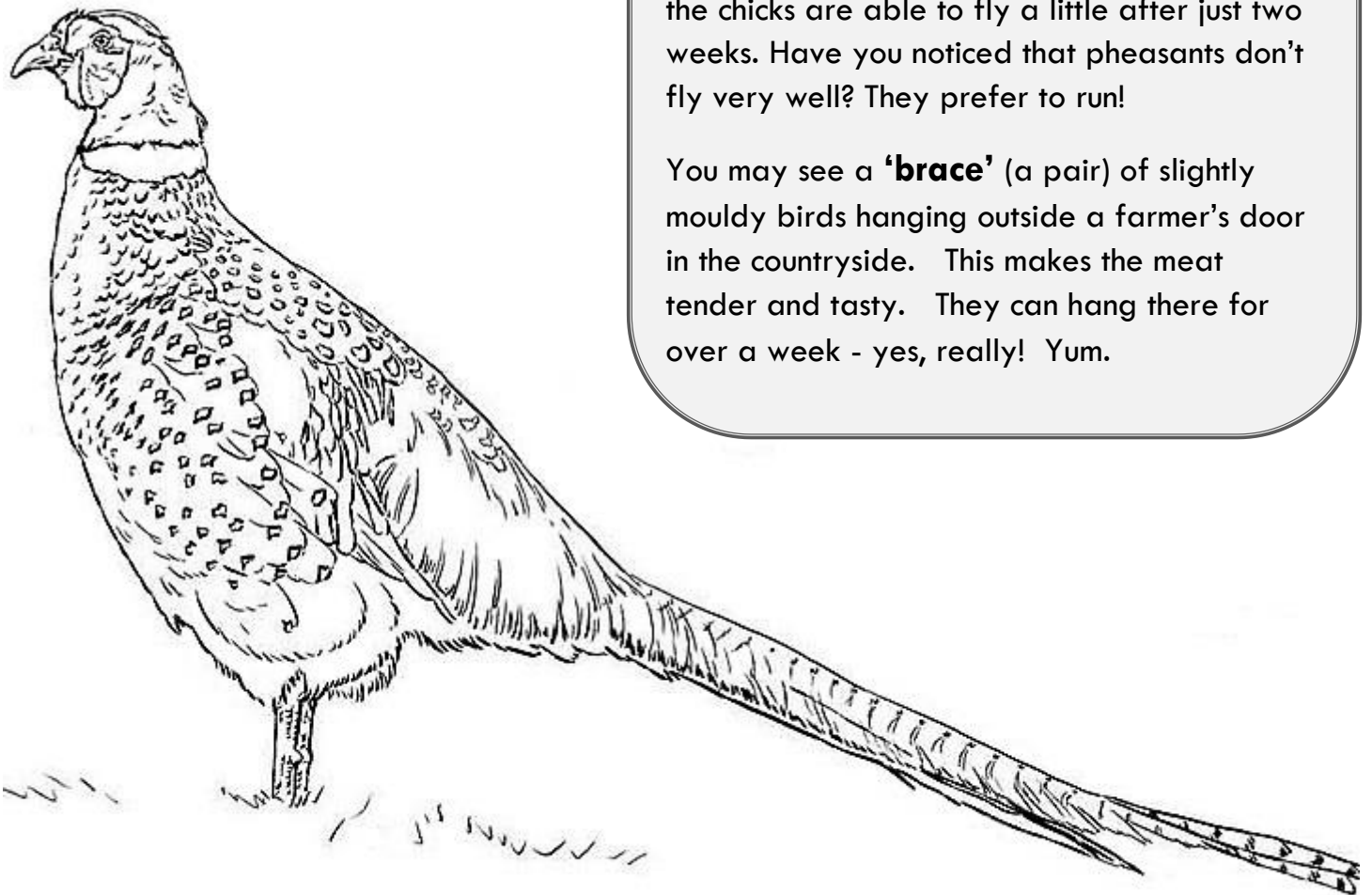
### Pheasant Facts:

Common pheasants are bred to be shot during the shooting season, October 1 to February 1. They were brought to Europe from Asia many centuries ago.

The male is the colourful character with a greenish black head and red cheeks. The female (hen) is a bit boring looking! She's a beige-brown colour with darker spots.

There are usually 10-12 eggs in a clutch and the chicks are able to fly a little after just two weeks. Have you noticed that pheasants don't fly very well? They prefer to run!

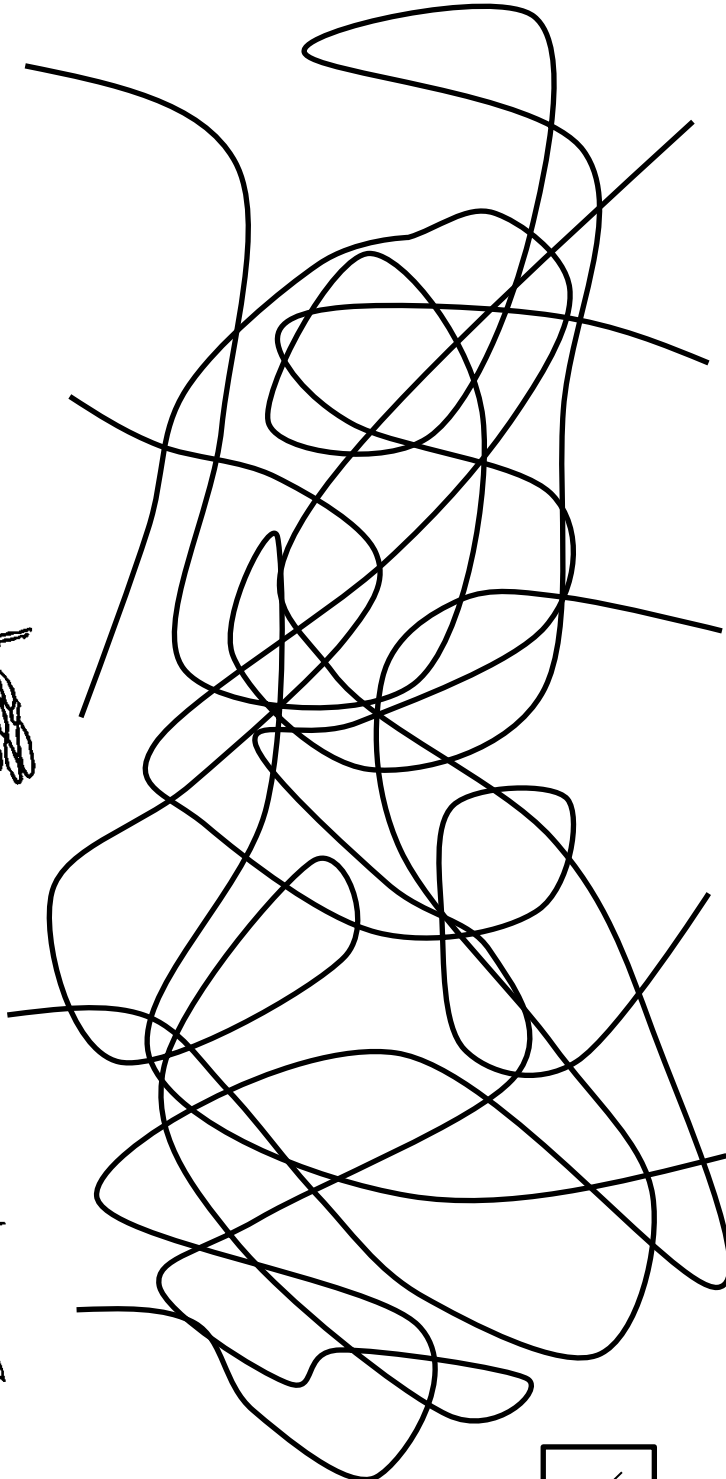
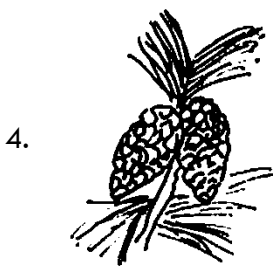
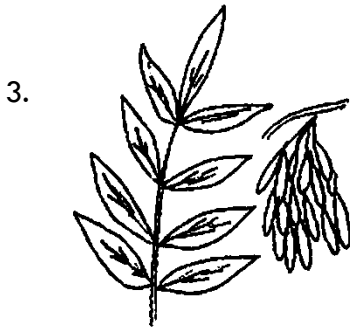
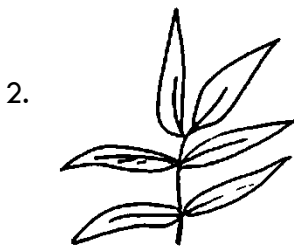
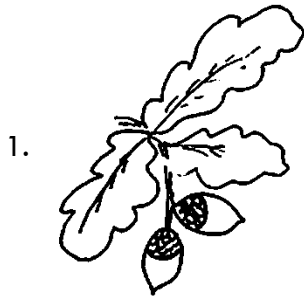
You may see a '**brace**' (a pair) of slightly mouldy birds hanging outside a farmer's door in the countryside. This makes the meat tender and tasty. They can hang there for over a week - yes, really! Yum.





## 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.

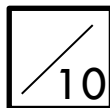


## Answer sheet:

### Quiz answers:

1. Stone
2. Over 600 years
3. Steps in a fence
4. Covered walkway
5. Edward IV
6. Thatch
7. Normandy
8. Private room
9. Baldrick
10. Somerset

How many did you get right?





## Gurney Manor Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building and landscape when filling in the word search. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

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

CHIMNEY

SHEEP

BEAM

CANDLESTICK

PASTURE

ORATORY

FIREPLACE

TILES

FLAGSTONE

WALL

TUDOR

HEARTH

ROOF

STILE

PENTICE

WINDOW

FIELD

FENCE

SOLAR

MULLION

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

/
20

















# Create

## Design your own coat of arms

In the Middle Ages when Gurney Manor was built, each knight had a coat of arms which they wore on their armour, on their shield or on a banner. The coat of arms belonged to their family and was used to identify the knight in a battle or when fighting in a tournament. With a helmet on, you couldn't see a person's face and a battle was very confusing. The designs were made by people called heralds. Each pattern and symbol had its own meaning and name.

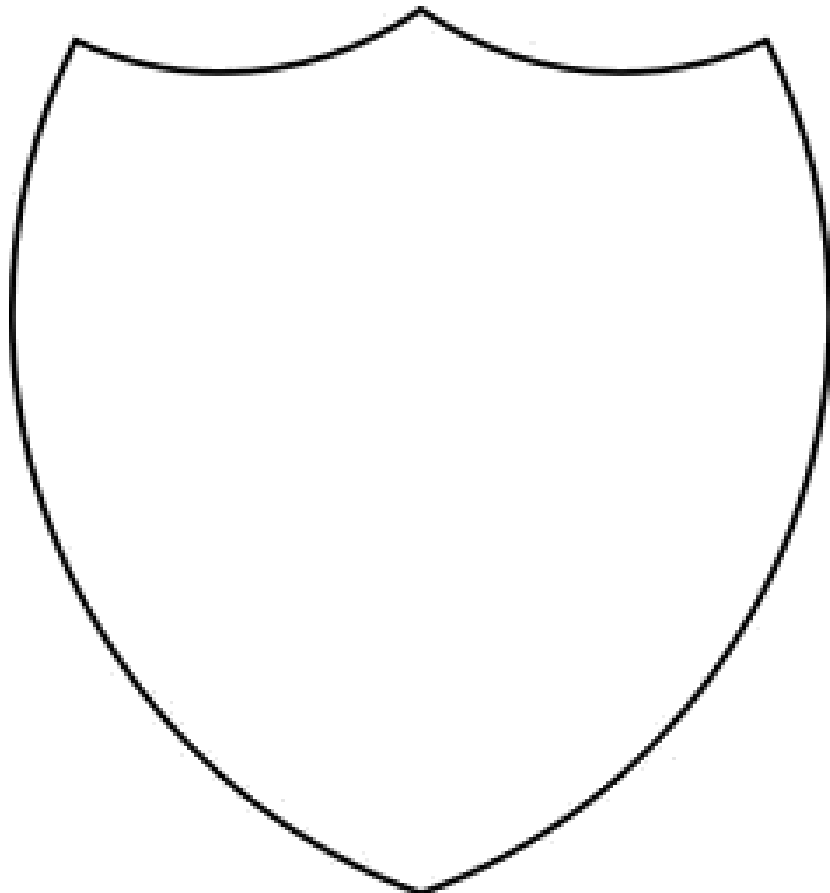
Each knight had a slightly different design based on whether they were the first (or second etc.) son in the family and who they married.

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!

				
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	

What colours will you use?

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





## Bake a honey cake

In medieval times cakes were very 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 these medieval outfits.**

