



Find out about Langley Gatehouse's past...

Hello, welcome to Langley Gatehouse! My name is Joe. I lived at Langley when I was 10 years old in 1612 – that's over 400 years ago! My dad was the steward for Sir Humphrey Lees' estate. This meant he basically ran Sir Humphrey's household and land. He was also in charge of hiring all of the staff for the estate, like the servants, cooks and **gamekeepers**. When Sir Humphrey went away, dad was left in charge.

Where you're staying was the gatehouse to Sir Humphrey's grand house. Sir Humphrey added the upper rooms in 1610, just before my family and I moved here. When dad got the job as steward, we were allowed to move into the gatehouse. It was much better than our last house – we had big fireplaces to keep us warm and I didn't have to share a bedroom with my annoying younger sister, Eve, anymore! Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Dad says that back in the 1300's, when the bottom half of this gatehouse was built, there was a lot of **unrest** in the country. As well as the gatehouse, there used to be a moat here to help defend the Hall from attack. I've heard that people used to put crocodiles in moats to eat anybody who tried to swim across them! Snap snap!

Facts:

A **gamekeeper** is somebody who looks after all of the animals on a country estate.

Unrest doesn't mean that you've not had a very good night's sleep! It means a time of war, when all the big families were fighting one another.



My dad, the steward of the Langley Hall estate.

By the time we came to live here though the gatehouse was just for show. Sir Humphrey had lots of rich guests and visitors and he wanted to show off by making the entrance to his estate very grand.

What's your favourite way to show off? I like to see how long I can hold a headstand – my record is 47 seconds!



Setting off on the deer hunt. (Picture from Livre de la Chasse)

Eve and I loved living here. We'd play hide and seek with Robert, the **farrier's** son. I'm the best at hiding so I'd always win – Eve is only little so she was always first to be found!

Robert often took us to see the horses in the stable block and sometimes we'd watch Sir Humphrey and his rich friends ride off for the deer hunt.

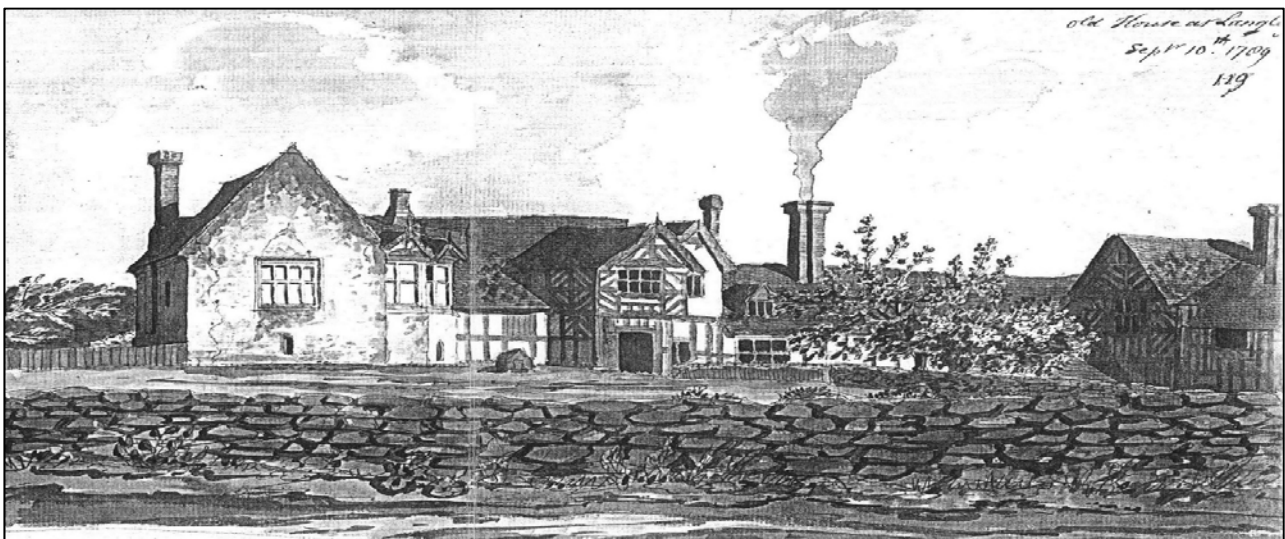
They rode out on horseback armed with bows and arrows with hunting dogs running alongside. It was so exciting to watch! After the hunt all the animals they caught were given to the kitchen to be cooked for a big feast in the evening. The smells that came from that kitchen were amazing!

As Sir Humphrey's Steward, dad was very close to him. Sometimes, we were allowed to come up the Hall with him, to play when they met to talk about estate business. Sardines was our favourite – not the actual fish silly, just a game a bit like hide and seek, but when you are found, that person then has to hide in the same spot as you until you are all squashed in like sardines! Perhaps you can try playing it in the gatehouse?!

Fact:

A **farrier** is a person who fits shoes onto horses and other similar animals to protect their hooves.

Before there were cars, this was a very important job!



A watercolour of Langley Hall in 1789, painted by Rev. Williams.

Unruly Rulers

Who were the Tudor and Stuart kings and queens?

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



King Edward VI

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

1509

King Henry VIII

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



1547

Lady Jane Grey

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



1553

Queen Mary I

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

1553

Queen Elizabeth I

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



1558

King James I & VI of Scotland

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

1603



King Charles I

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



1625

Oliver Cromwell

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

1649



King Charles II

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

1685



1660

King James II

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

1688

Queen Mary II & William III

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

1702-1714



Queen Anne

A sickly queen who loved to eat!





Meet James I

– who ruled when Joe lived here.



Hi James!

So when did you become king?

I was already King of Scotland but I became King of England on 24 March 1603.

What are you most famous for?

I was nearly killed by Guy Fawkes who tried to blow up parliament. Instead he was caught – phew!

What is your favourite thing to do?

I loved hunting witches. I wanted Scotland and England to be free of those meddling women.

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

When I first became King of England I was on my way to London when a pick pocket was caught in a town called Newark. I ordered for him to be hanged. After he died I was told I can't execute people without a trial. Whoops!



What does Langley Gatehouse 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 Langley Gatehouse look like other buildings in the area? What's different about it?

Castle

Tall

Pretty

Industrial

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Low

The lower half of Langley Gatehouse was built in the 1300s – that's over 700 years ago! Wow! The upper rooms where you stay, were added by Sir Humphrey Lees in 1610. We can tell which year they were added using a scientific process called **dendrochronology** (say *dend-row-cron-ologee*). You can read more about this on the next page.

Take a look at each side of the gatehouse. They are very different - one side is made of stone, and the other is timber-framed.

The stone side was the first glimpse visitors to Langley Hall would have seen. Stone was an expensive building material and people approaching the gatehouse would have been very impressed.

In medieval times, the **curtain wall**, which still runs on for a few feet north of the gatehouse, had **crenellations** for defending the Hall.

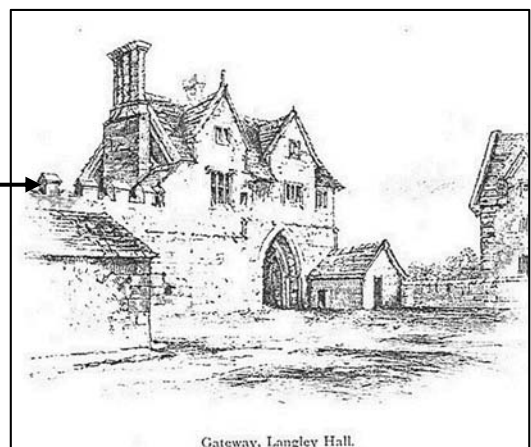
Facts:

A **curtain wall** isn't a wall made from curtain fabric – that'd be jolly useless! It's actually a defensive wall built to enclose a set of buildings and keep them safe from attack.

I bet you've never heard of **crenellations** before! They are the pattern along the top of a castle wall and buildings. They look like this:



The west front of the gatehouse, as visitors used to see it on approach.



Gateway, Langley Hall.

This drawing shows what the crenellated curtain wall would have looked like.

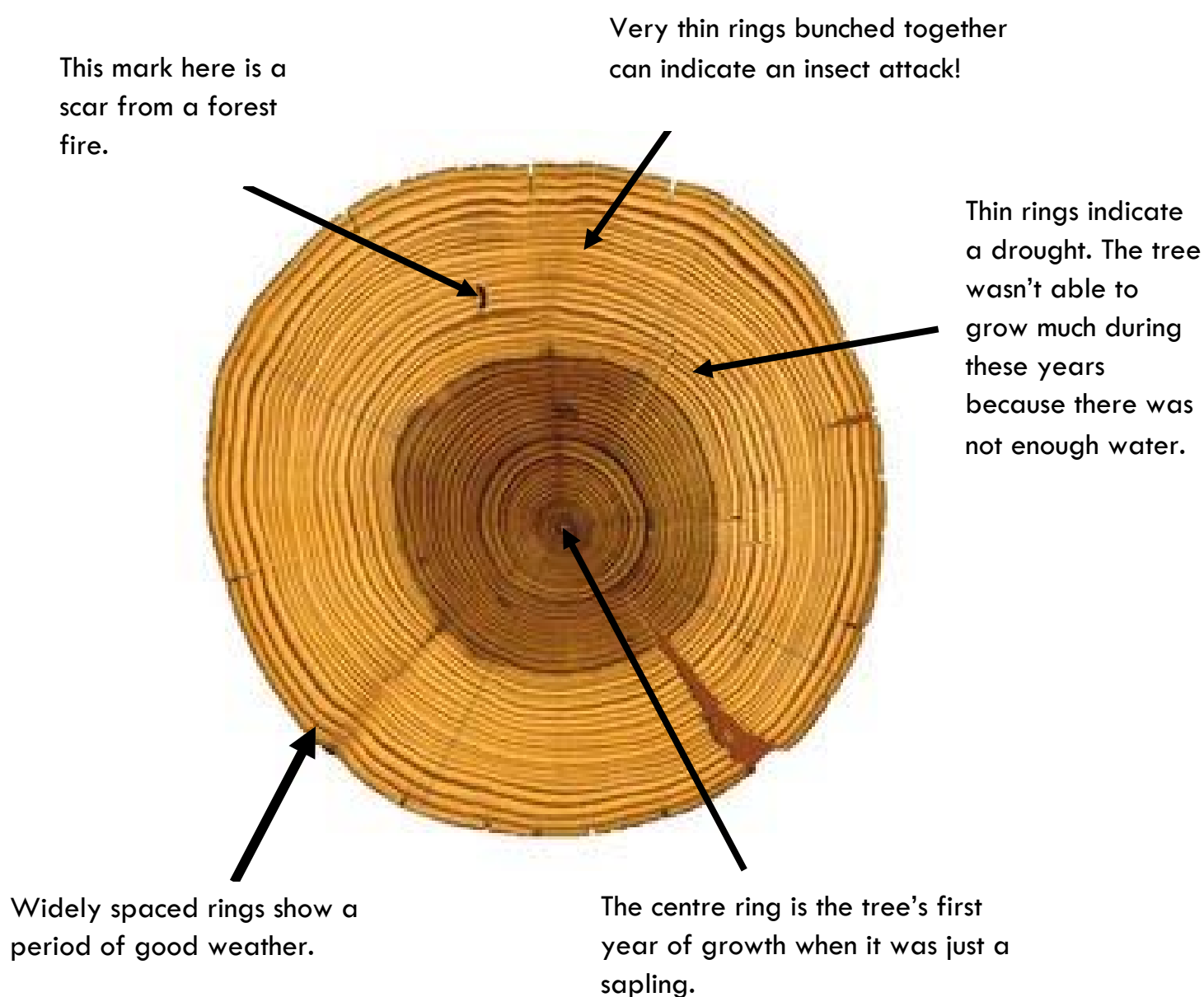


Dendrochronology: What is it and why is it important?

Dendrochronology is the science of dating something by the wood it's made of. Normally you count the growth rings in timber and tree trunks. Each ring is a year: in wet years the tree grows faster than in dry years.

Have you ever counted the rings on a branch or tree stump to see how old the tree was? It's the same technique!

Looking at a cross-section of a tree can teach us a lot about what was happening in the environment around it at certain times.



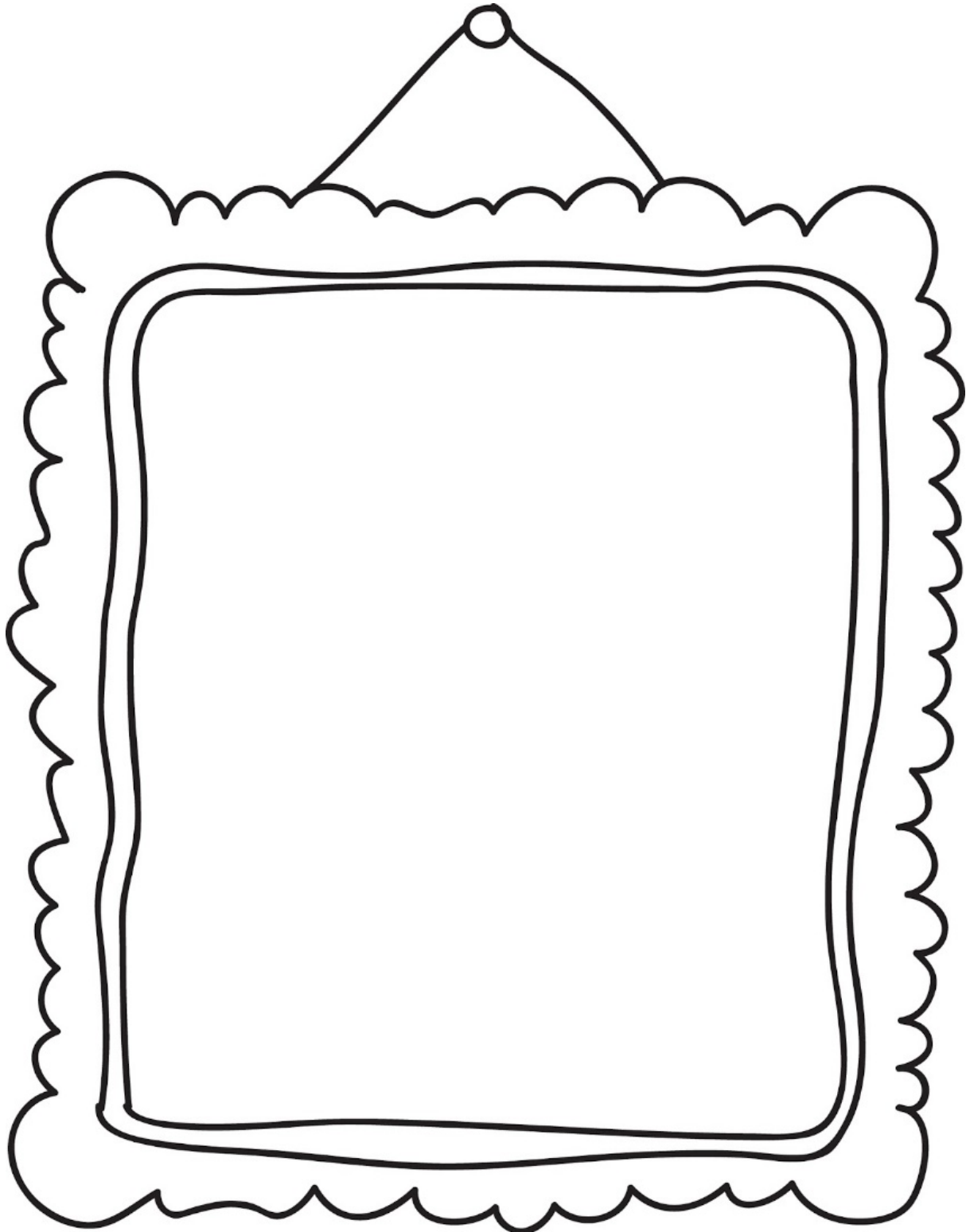
Why not go on a walk and find a fallen tree. Try counting its rings and write down below how old it is.



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 Langley Gatehouse. Which side will you choose?!

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





The many faces of Langley Gatehouse...

Langley Gatehouse is a patchwork of different building techniques from across the centuries.

Gable – a triangular upper part of a wall on a ridged roof.

Jacobean decorative brick chimneys added in 1610.

This window was a Landmark addition during the restoration in 1992.



Remains of the medieval stone curtain wall, built in the 1300's.

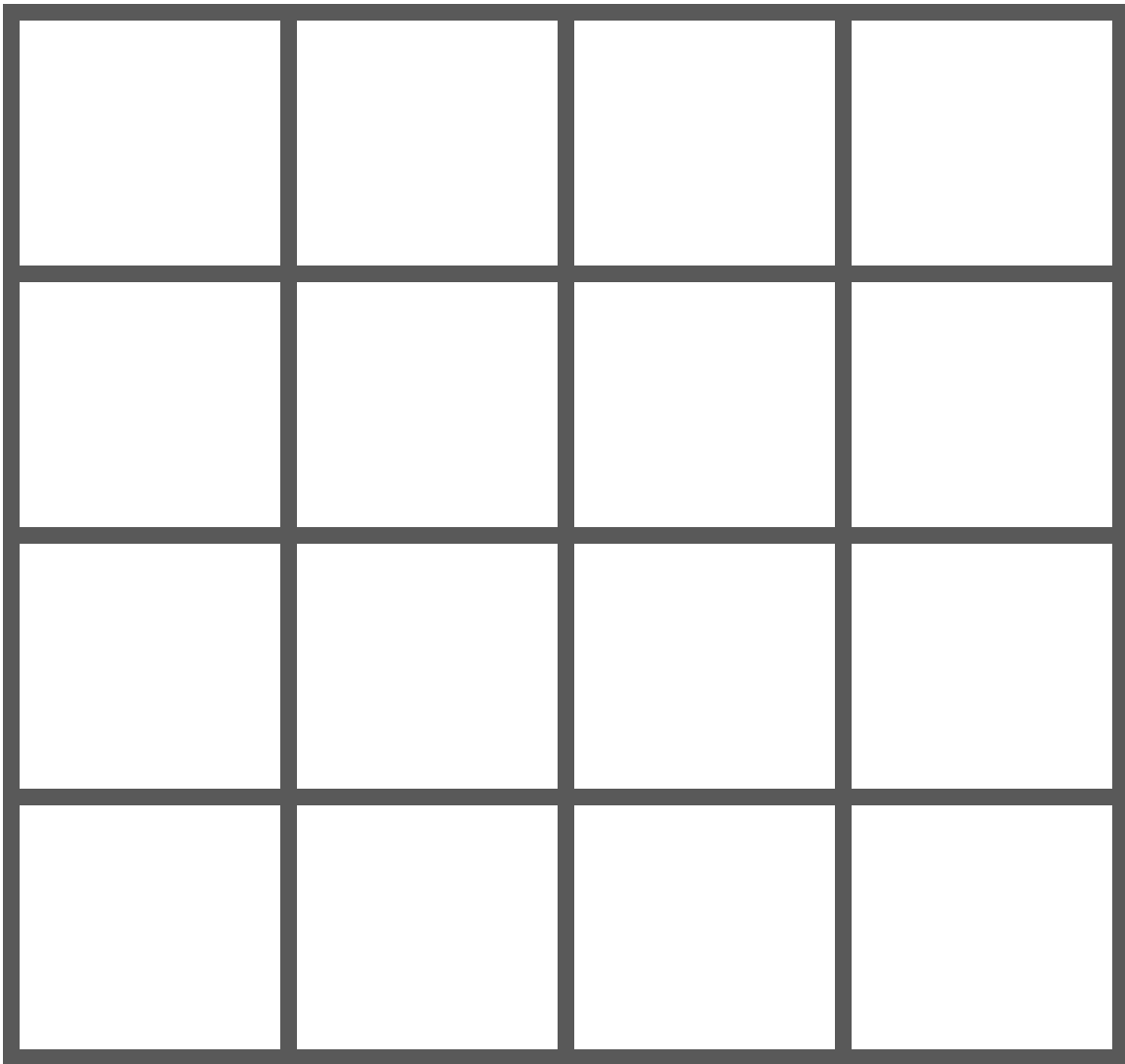
Timber-framing - Often the walls between the sections of timber frame were made of mud, with bits of straw and perhaps a bit of cow or pony poo! At Langley Gatehouse both lathe and plaster and brick infills have been used between the timber sections.

Approach the gatehouse from the side shown in the picture and enter the gateway arch. To your left there is a door in the wall with a small square door above it. In the 1620's, Langley Hall became a farm and the gatehouse was used by the farm for storage – these doors were added at that time, the small door was the entrance to a hayloft.



Can you design your own timber frame?

Imagine the grid below is your timber frame – design a pattern to make it more decorative. The carpenters were clever people and could make curves out of straight pieces of wood – so you can be as creative as you like! You can add windows and doors if you like.



What other building materials can you find outside and inside Langley Gatehouse?

Stone

Brick

Wood

Clay

Circle what you can see and note down where you found them.

Metal

Concrete

Flint

Ceramic

Glass

Plastic

Quest



Discover more about Langley Gatehouse

Langley Gatehouse was built in two phases. The lower half was built in the 1300's - that's over 700 years ago! In that time, many things have changed both inside and outside the building. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Look at the picture to the right. Can you find out where this is?

During repairs, tiles were used to strengthen the mortar if the space was large. Where do you think the tiles came from?



Go outside into the garden and look up at the chimneys.

What are they made from?

These chimneys were built in 1610 – about 400 years ago! They are **Jacobean**, which describes the time James I ruled England from 1603-1625.



Can you spot the wooden pegs used to join the timbers. Back in the 1600's, they didn't use nails like we do now, instead they used large wooden pegs to join the structures together. Clever eh?

How many pegs can you count in a single panel?

Now look at the west side of the gatehouse. Can you see the line of stone that stands out from the wall? This is called a **stringcourse**.

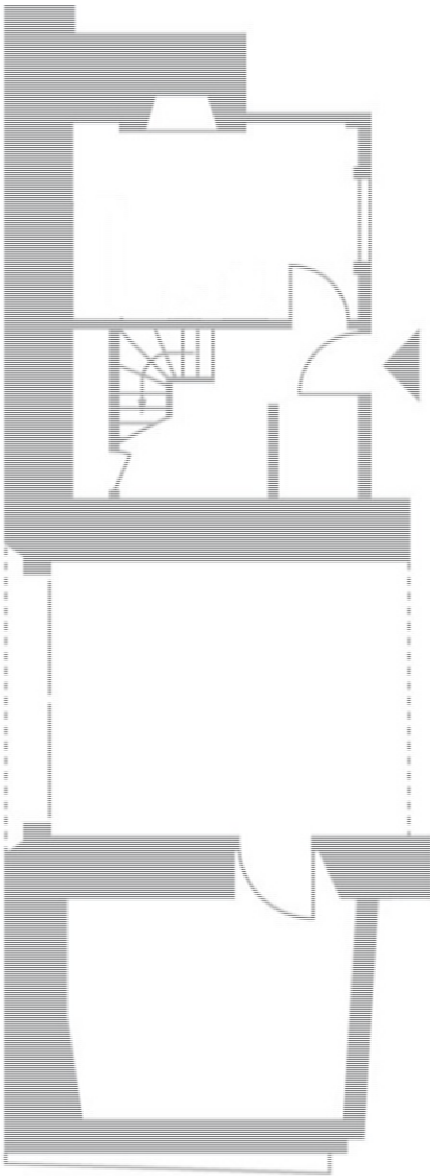
It throws rain water away from the wall which helps to keep the building dry. Nowadays we have gutters to do this job!



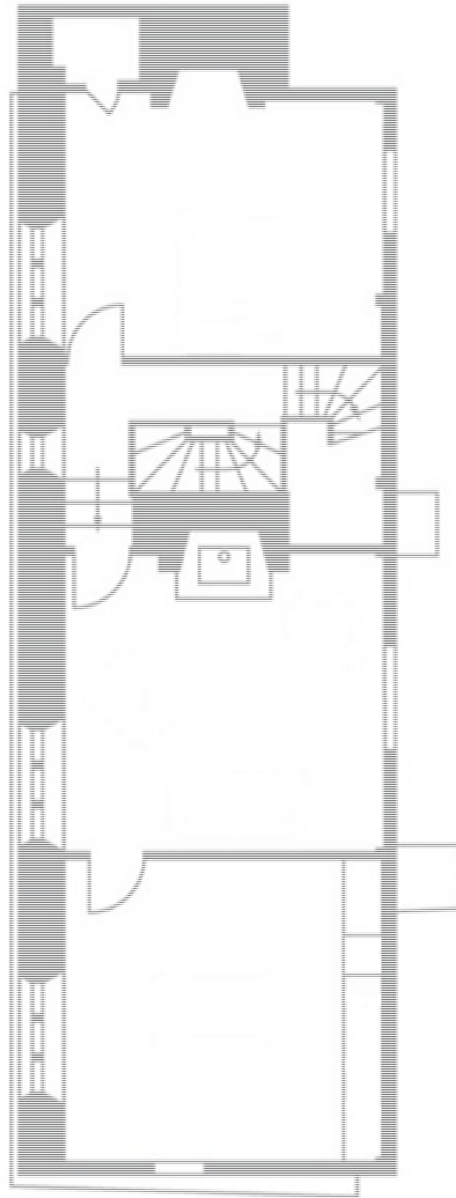


Living in Langley Gatehouse

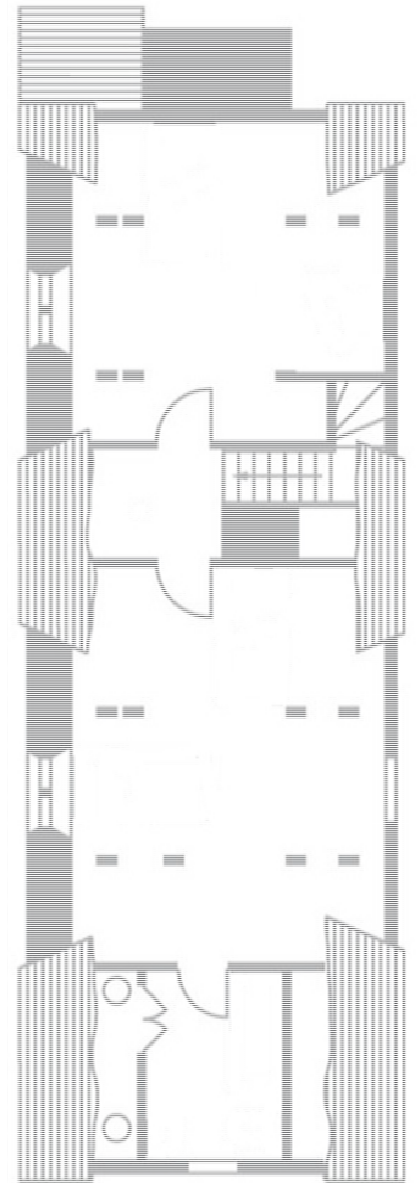
The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Langley Gatehouse has three floors. The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around and write on the plan what each room is used for. Mark your bed with a star! ★



Ground Floor



First Floor

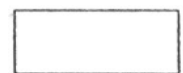


Second Floor

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



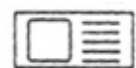
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



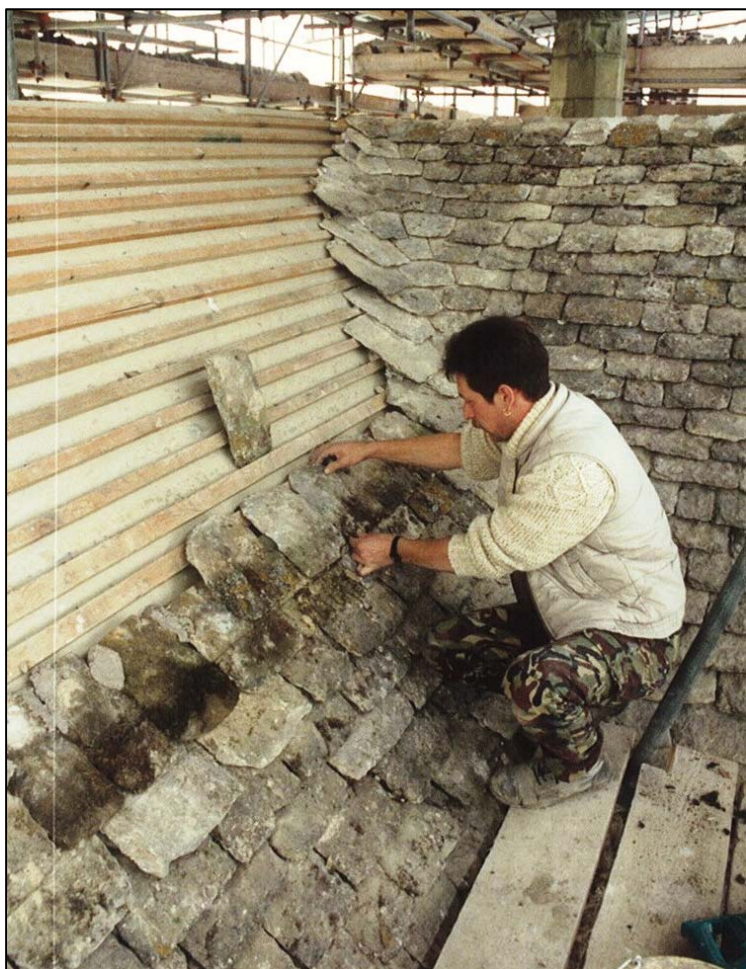
The roof at Langley Gatehouse...

Stand in the garden and look up at the roof.

Do you know what it is made from?

The slates are made from a local stone and come from Harnage, near Shrewsbury, which is very local to the gatehouse.

The slates are sandstone and contain a lot of fossils – when Landmark restored the building and got up close to the slates, whole shells could be seen. How do you think the shells got there?

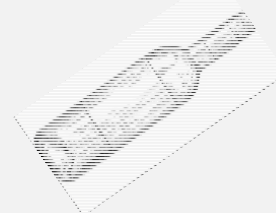


This photograph shows a roofer relaying the Harnage slates during the restoration.

Can you see how he starts off with the largest slates at the bottom and they gradually get smaller and smaller as he gets closer to the ridge of the roof.

Fact:

Did you know that during the restoration of Langley Gatehouse, an ancient wine bottle was found propping up the whole north-east corner of the building. That's certainly an unusual building technique!





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

Your favourite piece of furniture

A large empty rectangular box intended for drawing or describing a favourite piece of furniture.

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 the living room. 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 the living room, including details about the distance, animals, and trees.



Langley Gatehouse Word Search

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

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

LANGLEY
STONE
TIMBER FRAME
UNREST

FARRIER
PEGS
CHIMNEYS
STEWARD
TILES

CURTAIN WALL
STAIRCASE
FARM
HAYLOFT
MEDIÉVAL

STRINGCOURSE
CRENELLATIONS
HUMPHREY LEES
JACOBEAN

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

18



Can you answer these questions correctly?

You'll need to read all the sections first!

1. Who was on the throne when Joe lived here?

(Psst... check unruly rulers)

Elizabeth I

James I

Henry IV

Victoria

2. What is the roof at Langley Gatehouse made of?

Harnage stone

Limestone

Glass

Terracotta tiles

3. What is a stringcourse?

A stitch in knitting

An assault course

A stone strip to guide
water away from
walls

A card game

4. Which of these animals might Sir Humphrey have killed on a hunt?

Dolphins

Deer

Leopards

Polar bears

5. In what year were the upper rooms added to the gatehouse?

1503

1599

1610

1992

6. What is a curtain wall?

Wallpaper

A defensive wall

A tapestry

A dance

7. Who built the upper floors of the gatehouse?

Sir Humphrey Lees

James Bond

James I

Bob the Builder

8. What is James I most famous for?

Beheading his wives

Almost getting blown
up by Guy Fawkes

Eating the most
doughnuts in five
minutes

Giving up the throne

To find the answers skip a page...



Carpenter's marks and Roman Numerals

Timber framed buildings 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.

Have a look and see if you can find them on any of the beams or timbers in the gatehouse. Can you see what numbers they say? _____

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".

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 _____

VII	XI	XX	CC
IX	XV	XL	CD

Write what you think the numbers below are beside each:
Make up some sums of your own to test your parents!



Answer sheet:

Question & Answer:

1. James I
2. Harnage stone
3. A stone strip to guide water away from walls
4. Deer
5. 1610
6. A defensive wall
7. Sir Humphrey Lees
8. Almost getting blown up by Guy Fawkes

Fact:

Did you know that Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament with barrels of gunpowder on the 5th of November 1605?

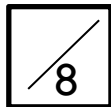
Luckily, the plot was foiled and he was hung in 1606.
Ouch!

We still celebrate his arrest to this day, by lighting bonfires and sending up fireworks.

*Remember, remember the 5th of November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot.*

*We see no reason
Why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!*

How many did you get right?



Imagine you lived here 400 years ago. Which year would that be? 16__ __. Write an acrostic poem describing life at Langley. Each line has to begin with the letter shown, so that the lines spell 'Langley'!

L

A

N

G

L

E

Y

Design your own gatehouse

Imagine you've just bought a big country house. You want to show off and make it look even more grand so you build a gatehouse. In the box below design your very own gatehouse – it can be as big and fancy as you like!



Farmhouse apple scones

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

50g cold butter, plus 1 tablespoon	25g caster sugar
1 large eating apple	125ml and 1 tbsp milk
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon	1 tbsp sugar for sprinkling
250g self-raising flour, plus some for dusting	

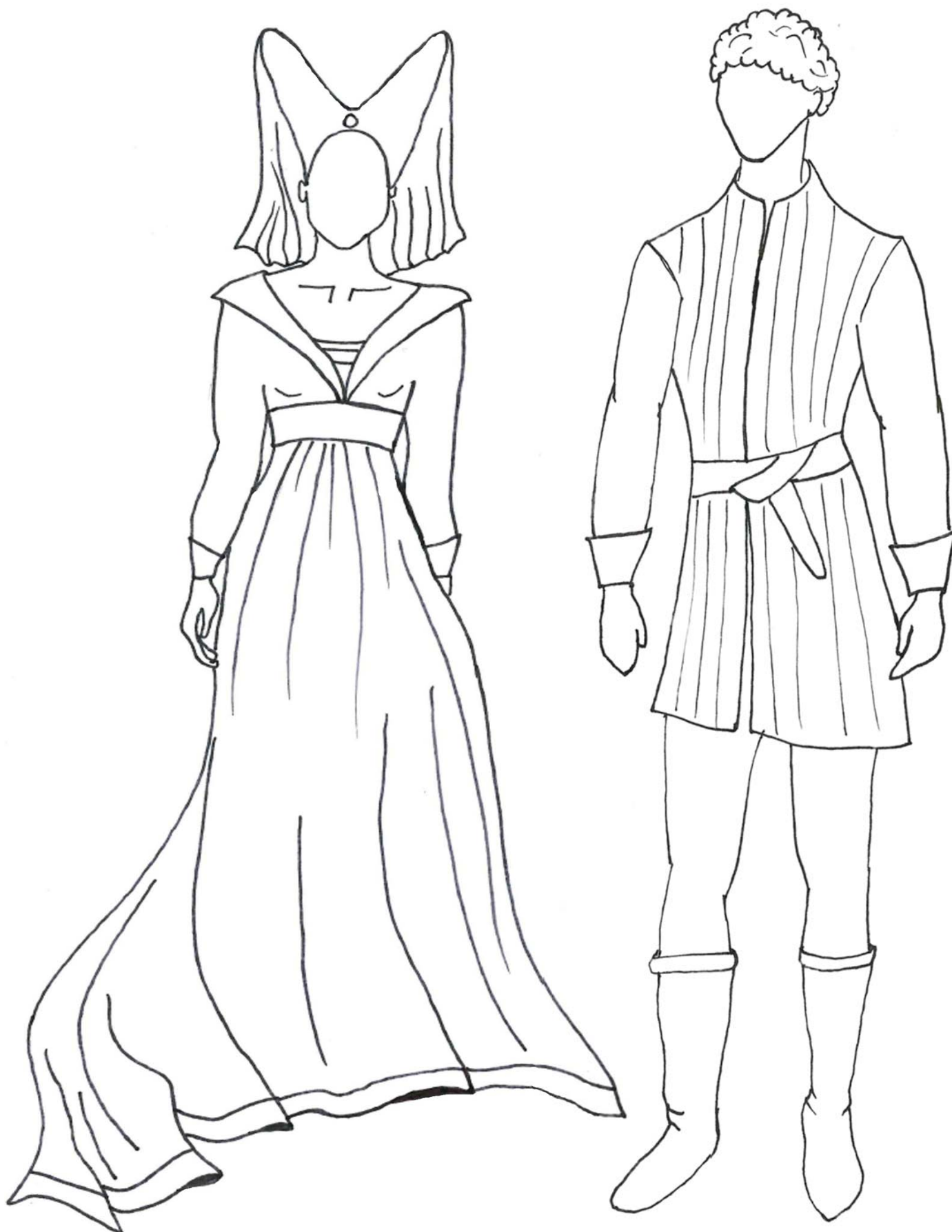
Preheat the oven to gas: 7, fan: 200°C

- Core the apple and cut into chunks. Cut the butter into chunks
- Melt 1 tbsp butter in a small frying pan
- Add the apple and cook for 5 minutes, stirring until the apple starts to soften
- Sprinkle in the cinnamon and cook for 2 minutes until lightly golden then set aside
- Mix the flour, sugar and pinch of salt together in a bowl
- Add the remaining butter and mix until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs
- Pour in the milk and mix it all together
- Dust the surface with flour and put the mixture onto it. Knead (say 'need') the apple mixture into the main mixture
- Using a floured rolling pin lightly roll out the dough to a circle about 15cm wide
- Put on a baking sheet. Use a knife to lightly mark the top into 8 wedges
- Brush with milk and sprinkle over the sugar
- Bake for 25-30 minutes until risen and lightly golden then put on the side to cool





Colour in these medieval outfits – they might have been worn when the gatehouse was first built.





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

