

History



Find out about Coop House's past...

Hello, welcome to Coop House! My name is Mary, the year is 1779 and I'm 9 years old. How old are you?

I live in the Coop House with my Dad who works as **water bailiff** (say *bay-liff*) for Reverend Graham who owns the Netherby estate. He lets us live here free as dad looks after all the salmon in the fishery.



A wild salmon

The name 'Coop House' comes from the wickerwork baskets or coops, that were used to catch fish. Here we don't just use baskets to catch the fish, there's also a system of pens just over the terrace which we use to catch and rear fish. Have you ever caught a fish before – maybe in a net?

Fact:

A **water bailiff** is somebody who is paid to look after stretches of water, such as a lake, river or coast. They make sure that nobody steals fish from the waters.

A **weir** is a low damn built across a river to regulate the flow of water from upstream. At Netherne, it was used as a way to drive the salmon towards the coops.



Coop House with Netherby Hall in the background

L. Rothwell 1851

When dad's working, he lets me go out to explore the estate. I've made friends with a boy named Joseph, he is the son of the local farmer. We have great fun sharing stories about life here. I told him about the time the **weir** (say *w-ear*) above the Coop House was destroyed by a big flood only a year after it was first built. Joseph says that the flood affected him too, the flood swept thick mud across all of the fields and destroyed the crops growing there – a years' worth of hard work ruined!



Did you know?

Salmon are born in fresh water, like rivers, they then swim to the sea to live and return to the river to lay their own eggs.

Atlantic salmon can grow to over one meter in length – wow!

Salmon are predators, feeding on invertebrates, smaller fish and even squid.

One of my favourite things to do during the salmon-breeding season is sit on the banks of the Esk and watch the big fish jump up and over the weir. Perhaps you've seen some do the same during your stay?

Rev. Graham lets dad take a few of the big salmon for our dinners. We build a small fire together on the terrace and roast the fish over it. We don't have a cooker or fireplace in the Coop House, so most of our food is cooked in this way.

Have you ever tried salmon? I think it's delicious – yum!

Reverend Graham built a school on the estate, which I and other children from around here attend. I only go twice a week though as its quite far from the Coop House and dad doesn't always have the time to get me there. I enjoy learning all of the letters and numbers and I'm getting really good at reading now, maybe even better than my dad! Do you go to school? What's your favourite subject?

One of my favourite lessons is history – my teacher Miss Thomas has been teaching the class about King George III. He became king of England in 1760 when he was 22 – I wonder what I'll be doing when I'm 22...

Why not have a go at colouring this picture of King George III?



Unruly Rulers



Who were the Georgians?

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



1714 **King George I**

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

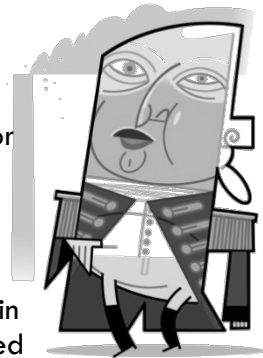


King George II 1727

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

1760 **King George III**

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



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



King George IV 1820

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

1830 **King William IV**

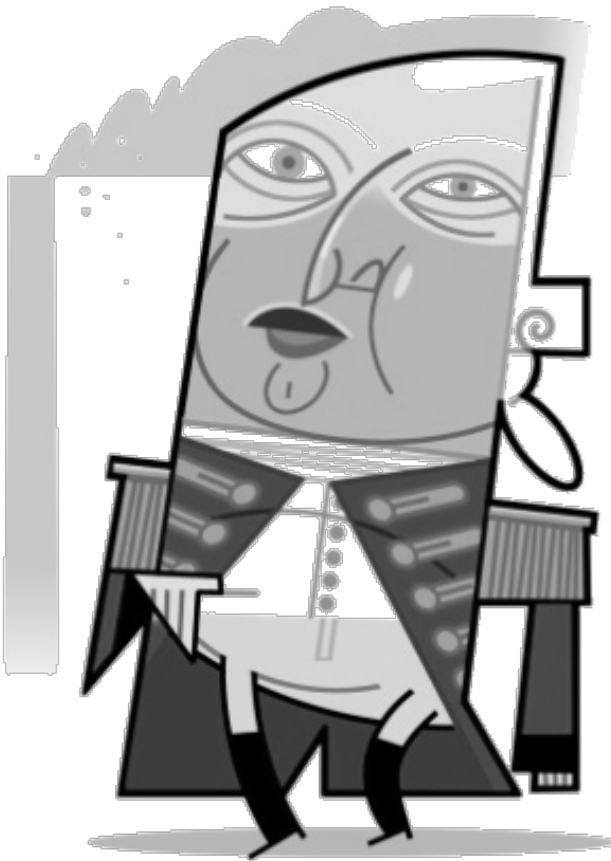
A simple king who wanted to be a sailor but was too stupid to command a ship. He would sometimes offer people a lift in his carriage!





Meet King George III

– who ruled when Mary lived at The Coop House.



Hi Georgie!

So when did you become king?

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

What are you most famous for?

I went mad, don't you know!

What is your favourite thing to do?

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

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

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

Design



What does the The Coop House look like?

Can you walk all the way around it?

Can you use any of these words to describe the building?
Draw a circle around the ones that do.

What do you like most about the Coop House?

.....

Castle

Tall

Pretty

Folly

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Elegant

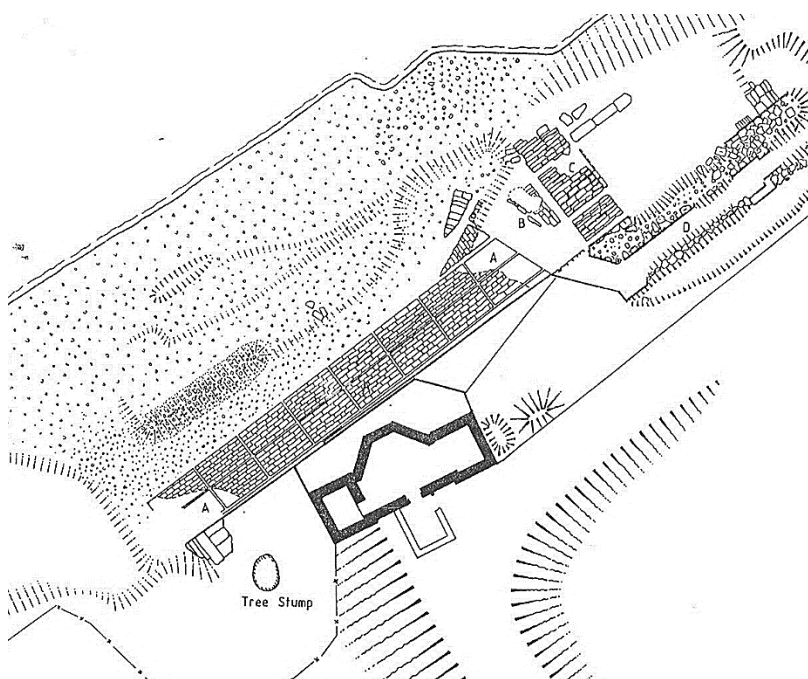
Friendly

Tower

Today a building like the Coop House is called a **folly**. Rev. Graham spent a lot of money improving his estate by adding schools, farmhouses and **ornamental** buildings like the Coop House. When it was first built it was used to house the water bailiff who looked after the salmon fishery. Later, it was used as a place to picnic and then it was turned into an estate cottage.

The Coop House is built in the **gothick** style – you can tell this by the shape of the pointed arch windows and the crenellations that have been copied from a medieval castle.

These are the square blocks (**merlons**) with gaps in between (**crenels**), on the top of wall from where you could fire at the enemy. Lookout! (But here, they're just for fun).



Facts:

Folly – is an expensive, fancy building without a real purpose. Landowners liked to build them on their estates to show off how rich they were. Follies can be temples, towers or mini castles.

Gothick- before architects really studied the old medieval Gothic cathedrals, they copied details that took their fancy. This made the buildings look quirky and charming. Later the style became **Gothic Revival**.

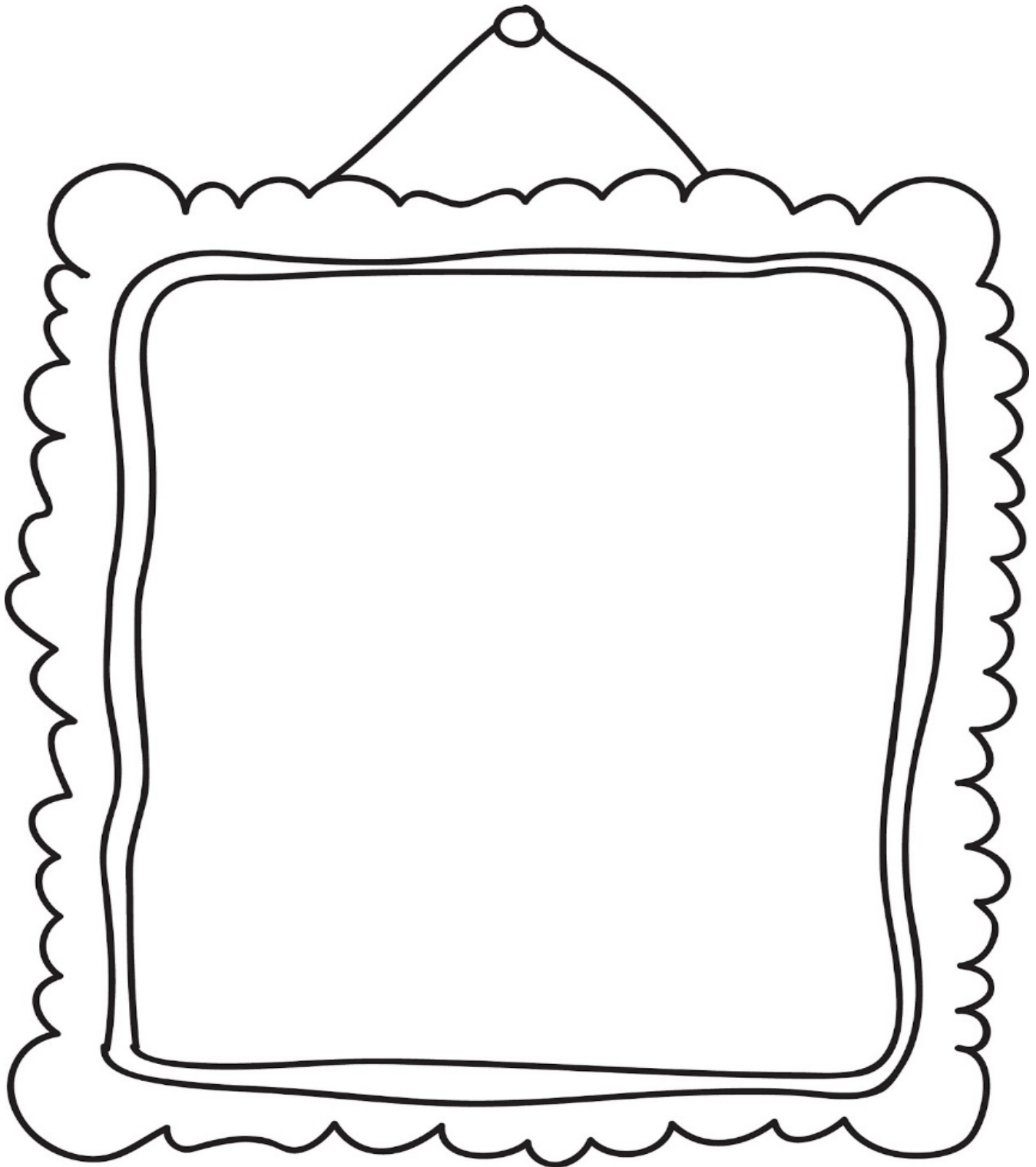
This plan shows the fish pens (or coops) in front of the building. The weir, which you can see at points C&D, acted a bit like a funnel, herding the fish into the pens.

Point B is the position of the old fish ladder – salmon swim upstream to find places to lay their eggs, these man made 'ladders' help them make their way against the current.



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 The Coop House.**

Please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry about where you are, and don't venture too close to the river!





What is the Coop House built from?

Fact:

Some buildings were built from stone that was dug out of the ground when farmers ploughed the fields, other buildings were made from stone that was quarried and cut into neat shapes and sizes. There are still many stone quarries around the country today, where people get stone out of the ground.

Stone houses were once cheaper to build than brick ones. Once we could transport bricks up and down the country on the canals and railways, brick buildings become cheaper and more popular.

Stone is the solid foundation of the earth. It exists as huge mountains, rocks, stones or small pebbles washed smooth by water. There are lots of different types of stone, with different colours and textures. Some are better to build with than others.



The Coop House was built when stone was still taken out of the ground by hand. For the restoration, St Bees stone was used as it was the closest match to the original. 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

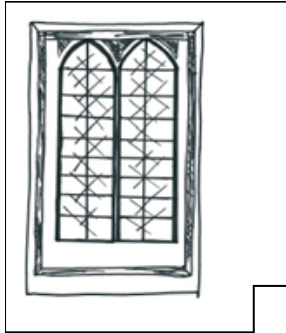


Chisels

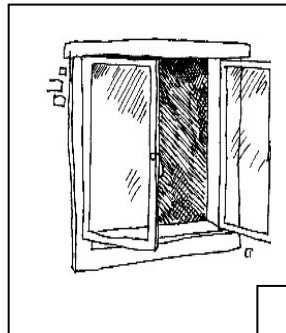




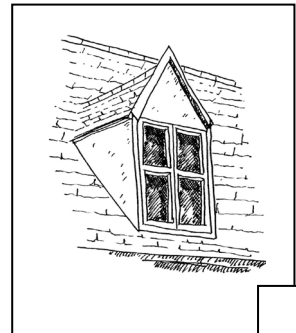
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does The Coop House have?



Pointed or Gothic



Casement (it opens)

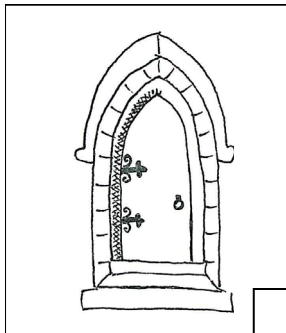


Dormer or attic (in the roof)

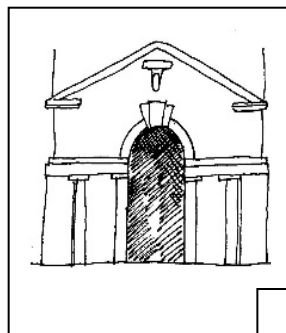
Fact:

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.

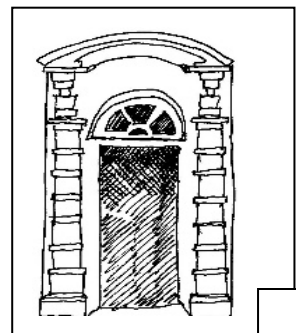
Entrances can be grand or simple. What is the front door of The Coop House like?



Gothic

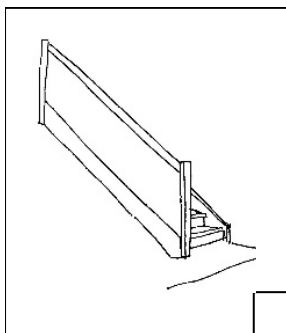


Porch

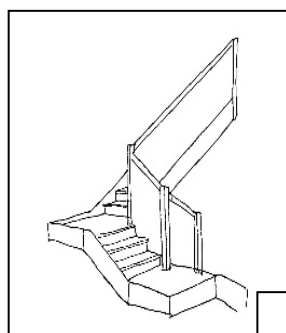


Canopy

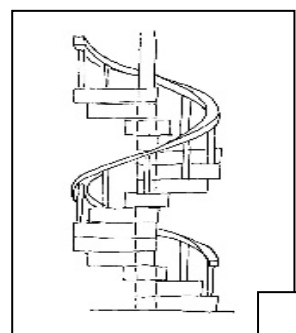
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at The Coop House?



Straight



Quarter turn



Spiral

Quest



Discover more about The Coop House

The Coop House has been here since 1770 – that's 250 years! Much has changed since it was built. Follow this quest to find out more about it...



Can you find the 'fishing rods'?

To tie in with the fishy theme, Landmark designed the balustrade to look like lots of fishing rods, hooks and nets. How many rods can you count?



Where might you find this fishy detail?

(Hint, you'll have to go outside with a view to coming back in...)



What shape is the living room at The Coop House?

Have a look at the floor plans on the next page and count the number of sides to help you decide.

You'll find the answer on the Puzzle section answer page.



Living in The Coop House

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. The Coop House has two floors. The plan below shows you the shape of each room. Can you identify the rooms and write on the plan how they are used today?



Mark the room you are staying in with a star!

We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Colour in the symbols on to the floorplans when you have found it in real life.



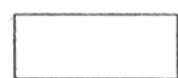
Bathroom



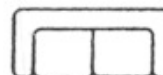
Cooker



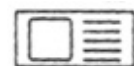
Bed



Rectangular/round table



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside The Coop House. Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

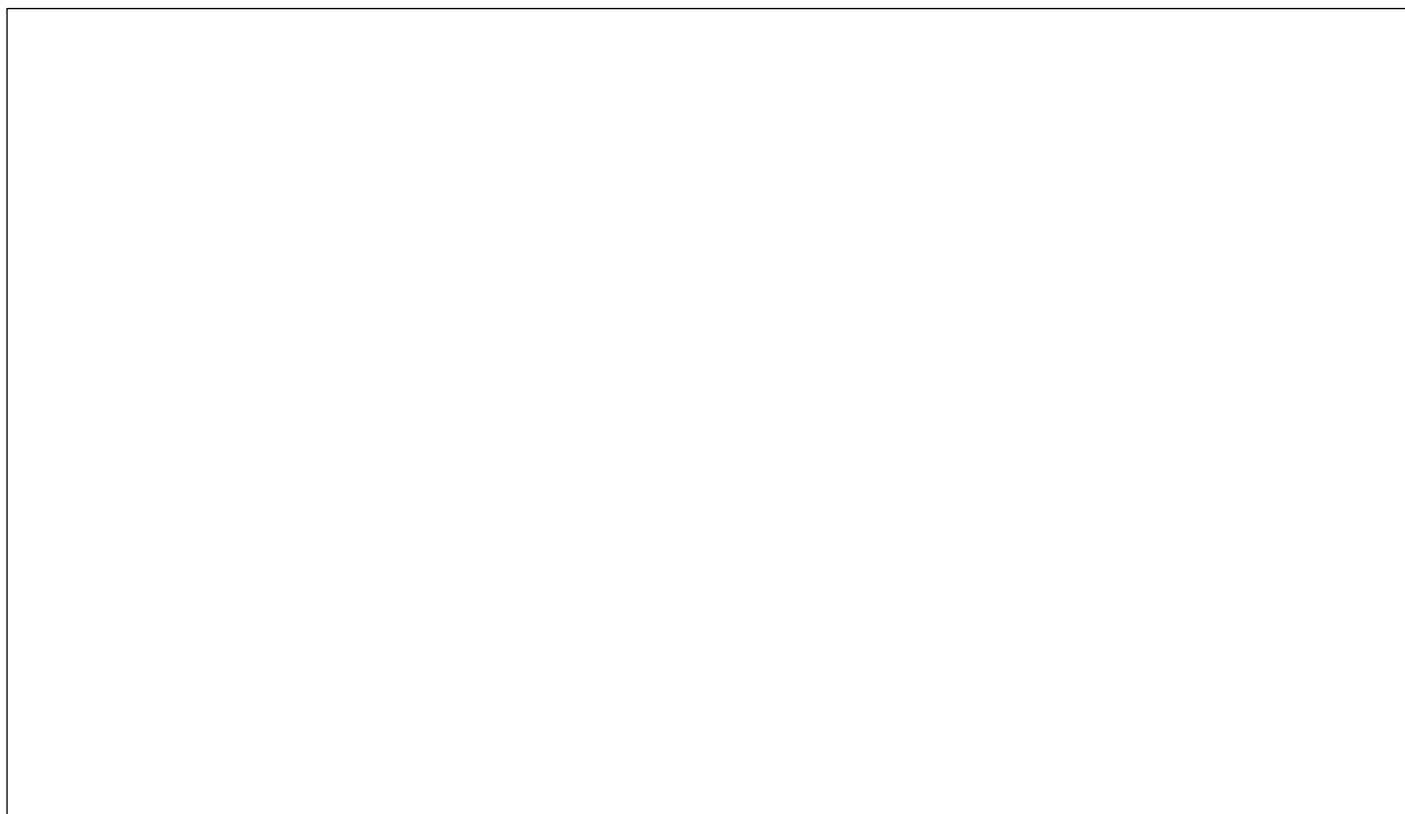
Your favourite piece of furniture

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

Fact:

The river Esk is approximately 15.5 miles long and its source (the place where it starts) is in a Cumbrian mountain range called Sca Fell.

In the box below, have a go at drawing the view from the terrace. Is the river flowing fast or slow? Think about how you can reflect this movement in the way you draw your picture. Lots of rapid strokes or lines can depict fast movement, and long wavy lines could show a lazy motion.





Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What is a coop?

A wicker basket for catching fish

A type of stone

A dance

An animal

2. Which of the following would you not find near to The Coop House?

Netherby Hall

Salmon

Sheep

Elephants

3. What is Mary's dad's job?

Farmer

Blacksmith

Water bailiff

Barber

4. What is the name of the river that runs past The Coop House?

Thames

Nile

Avon

Esk

5. Who built The Coop House?

Rev. Graham

Dr. Petersen

Col. Mustard

Lady Price

6. What was the name of the King when Mary was living at The Coop House in the 1779?

Charles

George

Henry

John

7. What is a folly?

A plant

An insect

A fancy building with no purpose

A maid

8. Which fish would you not find in the Esk?

Salmon

Trout

Minnow

Piranha

9. What stone was used in the restoration of The Coop House?

St. Flies

St. Bees

St. Ants

St. Beetles

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

George

Simon

James

Edward

To find the answers skip two pages...



The Coop House Word Search

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

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

FISHING ROD
SALMON
COUNTRYSIDE
CRENNELATIONS

GOTHICK
FISHING BASKET
TERRACE
OCTAGONAL

RIVER ESK
FARMER
NETHERBY
REV GRAHAM

FISH
PORCH
TREES
WEIR

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

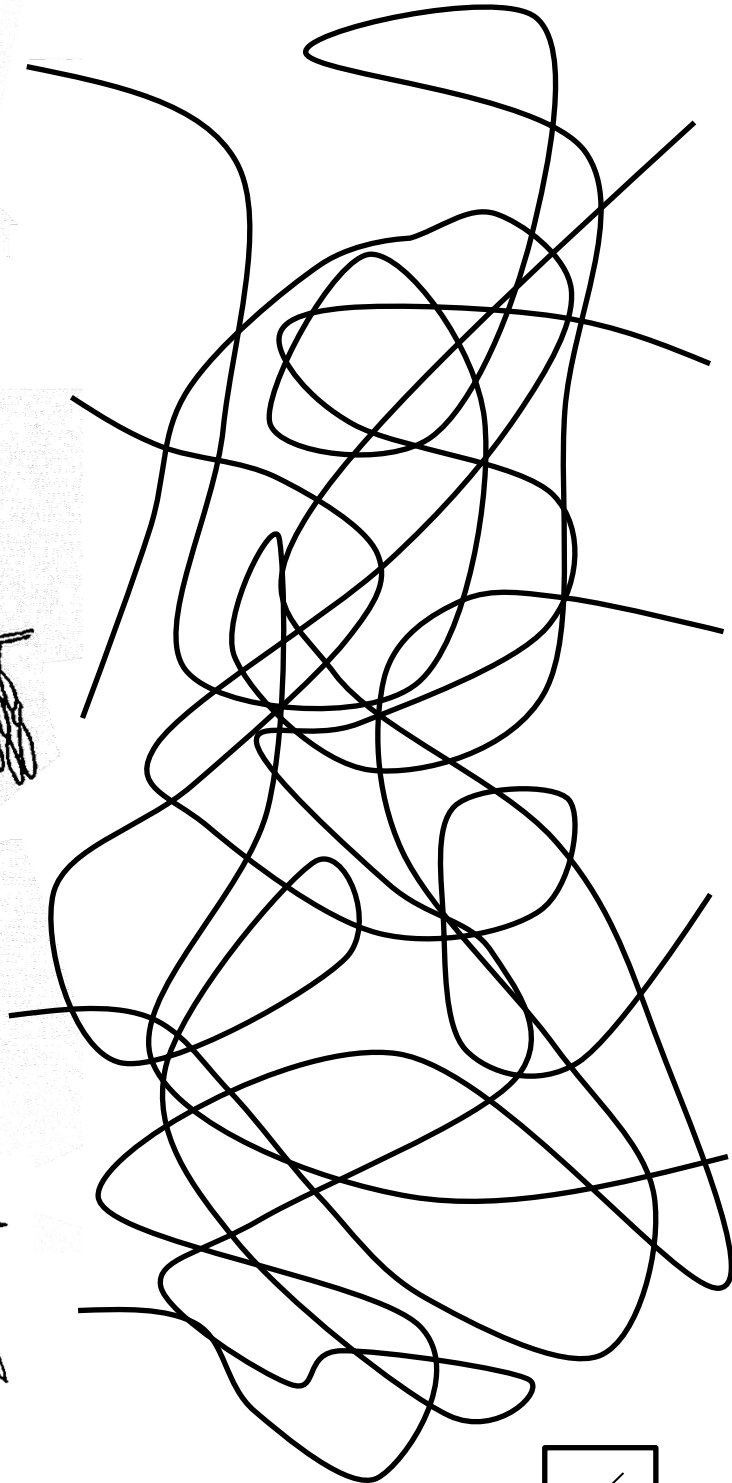
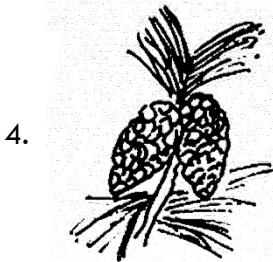
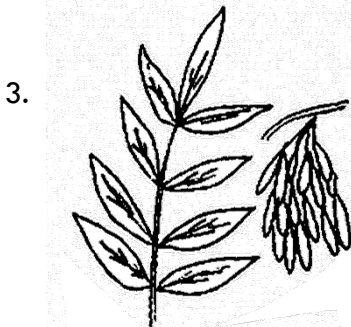
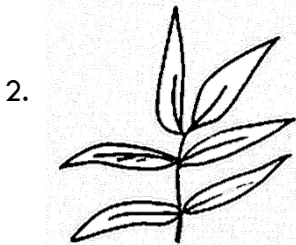
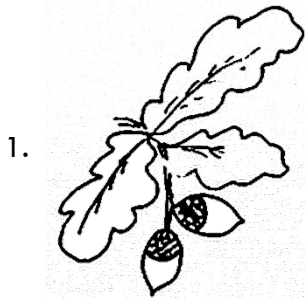
Turn to the answer sheet to find what the words mean.

/
16



Which leaf belongs to which tree?

Match the leaf to the correct tree. Have you found the special horse chestnuts trees outside at Clytha Castle? If you're here in autumn, have fun playing with the conkers.



Horse Chestnut

Willow

Pine

Ash

Oak

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



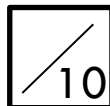
Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

1. A wicker basket for catching fish
2. Elephants
3. Water bailiff
4. Esk
5. Rev. Graham
6. George
7. A fancy building with no purpose
8. Piranha
9. St. Bees
10. Simon

The shape of the main room is octagonal – that means it has eight sides.

How many did you get right?



Write an acrostic poem about your stay using the letters that make up the building name:

C

O

O

P

H

O

U

S

E



Bake an old-fashioned Parkin

If you've never had a parkin you are missing out! It's a spicy gingerbread cake made with oatmeal and treacle. It's popular in the north of England, especially in Yorkshire, where oats were traditionally grown rather than wheat. Parkin is a warming cake usually eaten around Bonfire Night on 5 November. It softens and improves with keeping, unlike most cakes!

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

175 g black treacle	1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
150 g butter	275 g porridge oats
100 g dark muscovado sugar	1 large egg
175 g plain flour	150 ml milk
2 level tsp ground ginger	1 level tsp bicarbonate of soda.
1 level tsp ground cinnamon	

Pre-heat the oven to 180 °C, fan 160 °C, Gas 4.

- Grease a deep, square cake tin and line the base with baking parchment.
- Measure the treacle, butter and sugar into a medium pan and heat gently until the butter has melted and the sugar dissolved. Allow to cool slightly.
- Sift the flour and spices into a large bowl and add the porridge oats.
- Mix together the egg and milk in a jug and stir in the bicarbonate of soda. Add this mixture to the bowl of dry ingredients. Then add the melted treacle mix and stir well to mix.
- Pour into the cake tin.
- Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 1 hour or until firm to the touch. Mind the hot oven!
- Leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes before turning out on a wire rack. Ideally, leave a few days before cutting into squares!
- The parkin keeps well for a week in a cake tin.





Design your own folly

Imagine you have an empty corner of land in a big parkland on which to build. How would you design your own folly – remember it can be as fancy as you like! You could include turrets, crenelations, gothick style windows and doors or any other shapes you like.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to draw their design of a folly.



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

