

History



Find out about The Wardrobe's past...



Medieval tailor cutting cloth. Source: The Medieval Tailor's Assistant

Fact:

In medieval times, Bishops were important men and treated like earls. They had large households of staff – sometimes up to 100 people! That's a lot of people to make clothes for!

One of my jobs is to help the tailor measure people for their clothes. The measurements must be exact as the material, particularly silk, can be very expensive. It also takes a while to make the clothes as we don't have whizzy electric sewing machines! My bishop is called John Chandler. Once I got the measurement wrong for some of Bishop John's hose (that's a type of medieval underwear, a bit like a pair of thick tights in your day but made of cloth). When he found one leg longer than the other, he hit me with his shoe! How cruel is that!

My least favourite task is attaching the metal fastenings to the cloaks – it's so fiddly and I often end up with cuts to my fingers.

Hello and welcome to The Wardrobe! My name is William, the year is 1420 and I'm 10 years old. It must seem silly, me welcoming you to a wardrobe, but the word means something a bit different in my time.

Medieval households are made up of lots of different people – cooks, clerks, servants, squires and sometimes even knights. The lord of the manor must keep all his household and his staff clothed, and so part of the manor is used to store all of the cloth and large items like shields, helmets and armour. These rooms also act as a workshop for the household tailor.

This building is home to the Bishop's Wardrobe and his tailor uses these rooms to make and mend all the clothes for the household – as his apprentice it's my job to help him and learn the skills so one day I can take over!



Examples of some traditional medieval garments, including underwear for the men



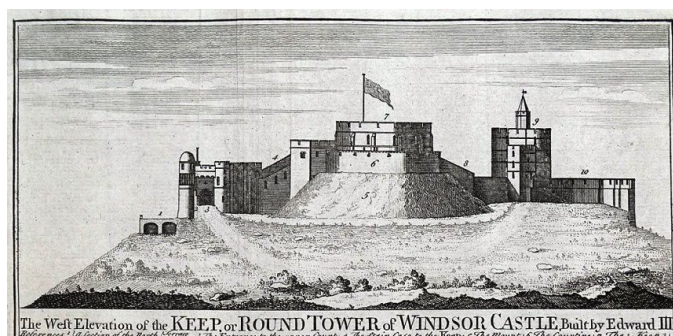
We don't actually spend much time here at The Wardrobe which is a real shame because I love looking out over the view of Salisbury Cathedral and all the comings and goings. The Bishop travels the country and his household usually go with him which means that the tailor and I must go too. We make sure that everyone looks their best for when they visit other manors. It's hard work packing up all of materials – have you ever tried to carry a stack of wool garments that weigh more than you? At least I'm building some strong arm muscles! I'm lucky that I'm too small to carry the long chests we use to transport helmets and swords – they look very heavy!



Sewing and cutting is a job that requires nimble fingers, we can't be getting frostbitten fingers in cold rooms so most of the Wardrobe rooms in the manors we visit are well heated with a fire. I guess that's my favourite part of this job - I'm rarely cold! My poor friend Rob is a groom (not somebody who is getting married silly, he looks after the household horses), he works outside most of the time or in the smelly stable block! Which would you prefer?

Travelling is very tiring – we don't have cars or fast trains; we use horses to get around and it can take days to get anywhere. It is exciting visiting new places though, last year we travelled to Windsor to visit King Henry V. Windsor has a great castle with a huge deer park for hunting, a favourite pastime for kings and wealthy people.

Perhaps you've been to Windsor Castle yourself? It was a lot smaller in my day. When he wasn't off fighting, the king lived in the Round Tower on top of a little hill, called a motte. It was very dark inside – see how small the windows are.



The Round Tower at Windsor Castle, then and now.



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 8th) became king in 1509.



King William II Rufus

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

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.



1100

King Stephen

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



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.



1154

King Richard I The Lion Heart

A brave king, he was always fighting a war.



1189

King John

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



1199

King Henry III

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



1216

King Edward I

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



1272

King Edward II

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



1307

King Edward III

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



1327

King Richard II

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



1377

King Henry IV

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



1399

King Henry V

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



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



Meet King Henry V

– who ruled when William lived at The Wardrobe.



Hi Henry!

So when did you become king?

I became King on 21 March 1413 when I was 27.

What's your nickname?

Some people call me 'Henry of Monmouth' because I was born at Monmouth Castle, but I prefer my other nickname 'The Warrior-Prince'!

What are you most famous for?

I upset the French and started a war – whoops!

Design



What does The Wardrobe 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 The Wardrobe look similar to other buildings in the area?

Castle	Tall
Pretty	Industrial
Stone	Brick
Symmetrical	Home
Square	Elegant
Friendly	Low

The Wardrobe was built late in the 14th century, meaning it is around 650 years old! It was built as a home for the canons (that's a type of priest, not the gun silly, that's cannon!) of Salisbury Cathedral.

These canons were allowed to live in their own houses, unlike monks who all lived together in a monastery or priory.

The Wardrobe was given to the Bishop and there are clues that tell us it was once part of a bigger **medieval hall house** with a large central hall where guests were entertained, and cross wings for living at each end of the hall.



This image shows The Wardrobe as it looked in the 1800s. See the cows grazing in the Cathedral Close – hope they looked out for cow pats!

Facts:

At first **wardrobes** were similar to our wardrobes now – a place for storing your clothes, shoes and other items like books etc. In the 13th century this changed, and the 'Wardrobe' became a whole department run by a household 'Keeper'. The Keeper was in charge of buying the cloth, metals, and leather to make clothes and shoes, as well as other household items (spices, candles, & armour). The Wardrobe was a collection of rooms used to store all of these bulky items, and a place for the Keeper to live.

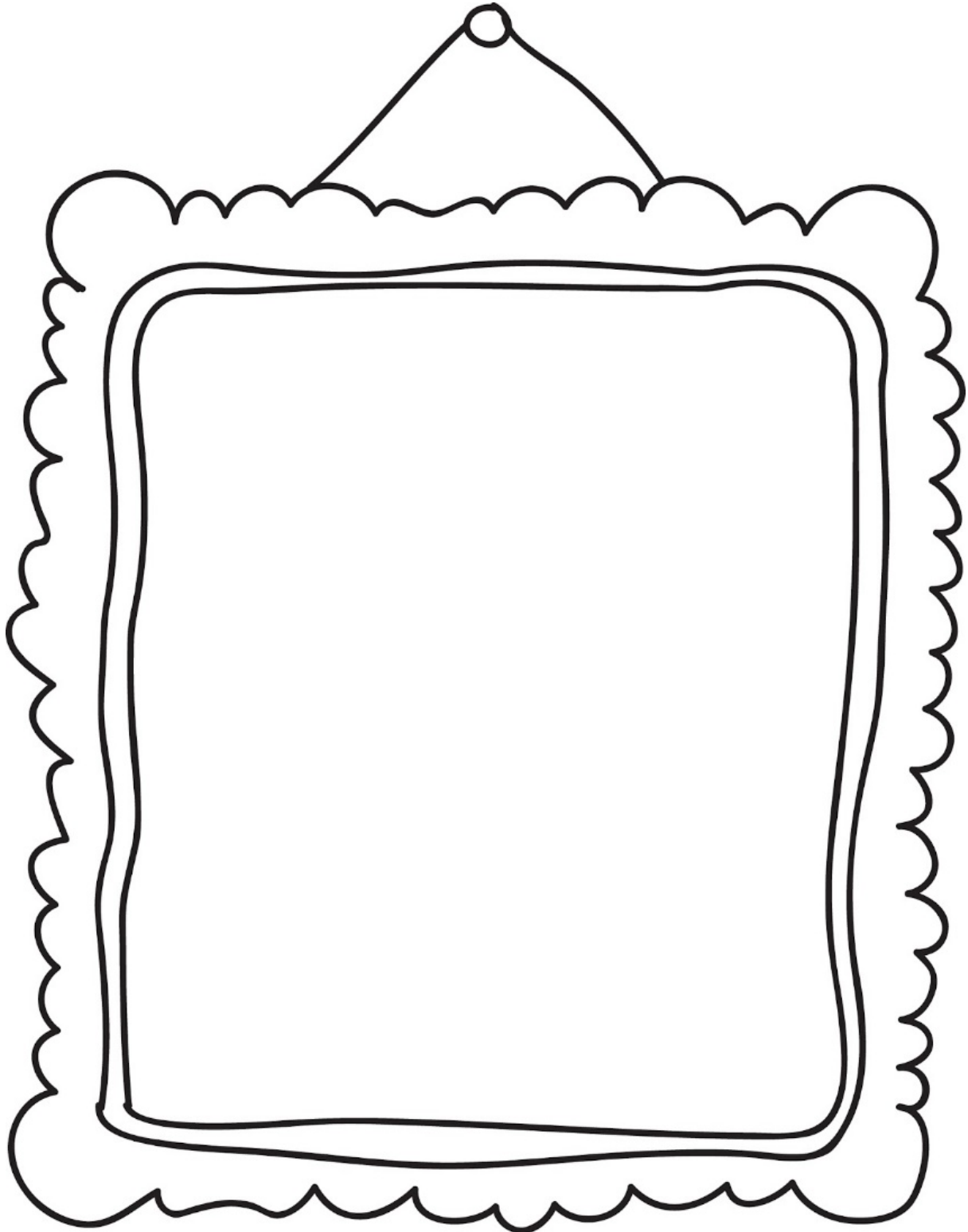
Medieval hall houses were vernacular (say *ver-nak-yoo-lah*) houses – this means they were built to be lived in and used traditional building techniques of the area. Hall houses had a large central hall with a roof open to the ceiling, where the family would eat and entertain. The living quarters were on either side of the hall – one side for the servants (low end) and one for the family (high end).





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 Wardrobe but please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry about where you are!





What is The Wardrobe built from?

The building is made up of a collection of different materials: brick, stone, and wood; this can show us how much the building has changed and where pieces have been added over the years.

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.

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 in a quarry 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 move bricks up and down the country on canals and railways, brick buildings become cheaper and more popular.



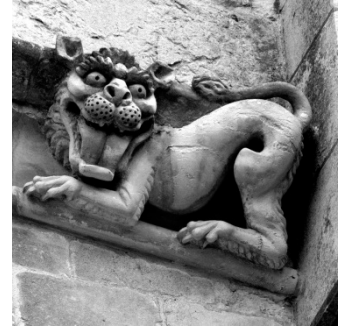
In medieval times stone was taken out of the ground by hand. Today, a quarry is a place where stone is blasted out of the ground with explosives! The one in the picture shows what quarries look like now.

People who work with stone are called stonemasons. They build walls, carve the stone into shapes or add patterns to its surface. If you can, visit Salisbury Cathedral and take a look at the stonework there. Imagine how hard it was to carve patterns into the stone so neatly! They use a big hammer called a mallet and special tools called chisels to shape the stone.



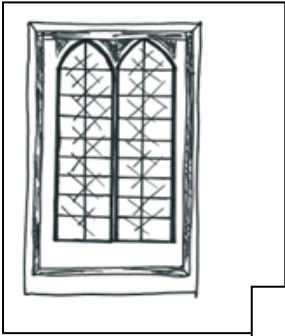


Sometimes stone masons carved faces and animals called gargoyles – they acted as a way to direct rainwater, but also to ward off evil spirits! You often find these in churches, up near the roof. Salisbury Cathedral has many gargoyles, if you've been able to visit, did you spot any? Here are some examples. Have a go at designing your own gargoyle. Make it as ugly as you like!

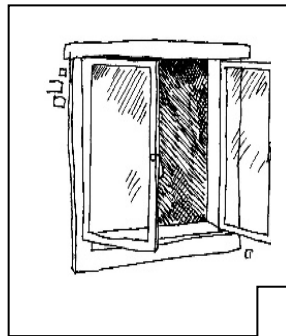




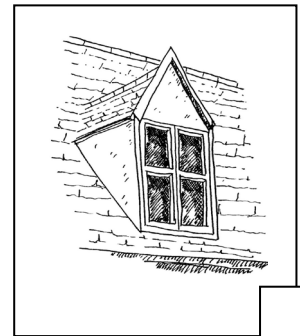
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows can you find at The Wardrobe?



Pointed or Gothic

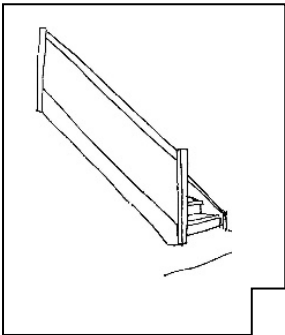


Casement (it opens)

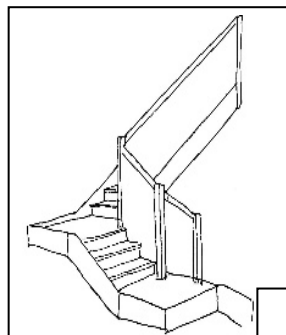


Dormer or attic (in the roof)

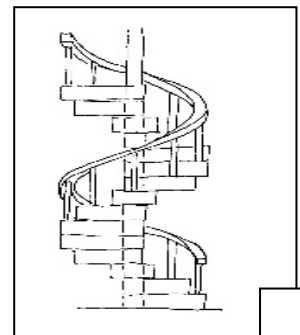
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at The Wardrobe?



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? Most people carry their sword in their right hand and if they were climbing the stairs to attack, they would be showing more of their body to the defender above them.

What other building materials can you find outside and inside The Wardrobe?

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

Stone

Glass

Wood

Plastic

Metal

Clay

Brick

Concrete

Quest



Discover more about The Wardrobe

The Wardrobe has seen many changes since it was first built in the late 14th century. That's around 650 years ago! During that time, many things have changed both inside and outside the building. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.



Have you spotted these pretty gable decorations, called bargeboards?

Look closely and see if you can find the **quatrefoil** (say *kwatra-foyl*) design, like a flower with four petals. Salisbury Cathedral was built in the 1200s and is one of the best examples of what's called Gothic architecture in the country. In the Victorian era people started to copy such buildings. It was called the 'Gothic Revival.' The bargeboards at The Wardrobe with their quatrefoils are typical of the Gothic Revival.

Did you know?

The part of the building that you are staying in used to be where the servants lived. Servants often started as young children, and the houses they worked in could be far away from their families. They were given the worst rooms to sleep in, usually in the attics or basements of the house. The rooms are much nicer for you now than they would have been then!

The many different windows at The Wardrobe

Talk a walk around the outside of the building – how many different styles of windows can you see? The very big window might once have lit the Bishop's in the great hall. These windows can tell us a lot about the changes that have been made to the building over different time periods.





Living in The Wardrobe

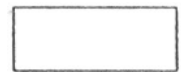
The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. The Wardrobe flat has just one floor. The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around and write on the plans what each room is used for. Can you mark the bedroom you are sleeping in with a star? ★ Find the window that has the best view of the cathedral and mark it on the plans.



We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Add the symbols on to the floorplans to show where the furniture is.



Bed



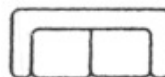
Rectangular (or a round) table



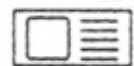
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside The Wardrobe. 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?)

The pattern of a rug on the floor

Fact:

The stairs and balustrades (say *bal-oo-strayds*) date back to the 17th century. The only change that's been made to them is to rub them smooth and polish them with wax. Imagine how many pairs of feet have walked up and down them!

In the space below, why not draw the view to the cathedral. Remember that buildings are made up of different shapes and make this your starting point.



Can you answer these questions correctly? To find the answers, skip two pages...

1. What does a tailor do?

Cares for animals

Makes clothes

Plays the piano

Makes wine

2. What county is The Wardrobe in?

Wiltshire

Devon

Somerset

Dorset

3. Which cathedral can you see from the windows of The Wardrobe?

Salisbury

Canterbury

York

St. Pauls

4. What was The Wardrobe used for?

Dancing

Storing cloth &
household items

Fighting

Parties

5. What architectural style is Salisbury Cathedral made in?

Rococco

Gothic

Modernist

Classical

6. Which one of these materials was NOT used to make clothes in the medieval period?

Wool

Nylon

Linen

Silk

7. Which king was on the throne when William lived at The Wardrobe?

Richard II

Henry V

George III

Charles I

8. What are hose?

Water pipes

Underwear

A dance

A type of wine

9. What is a canon?

A type of priest

A gun

A biscuit

A breed of pig

10. What is the job of a 'keeper'?

Protecting the
household gold

Buying cloth, metal,
and leather

Watching over the
household horses

Gathering vegetables
from market



The Wardrobe Word Search

Now have a go at this word search. The items to find all relate to The Wardrobe and Salisbury. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

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

Canon

Cloth

Windows

Servants

Tailor

Salisbury

Balustrade

Groom

Brick

Cathedral

Medieval

Hall House

Stone

Bishop

Gothic

Wiltshire

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

/
16



Who caught what?

Each object was an important part of a canon's life. Match the canon to the object.

1 2 3 4 5



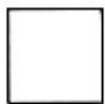
cup

candle

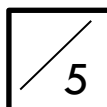
fish

bell

book



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



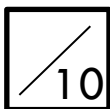


Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

1. Makes clothes
2. Wiltshire
3. Salisbury
4. Storing cloth & household items
5. Gothic
6. Nylon
7. Henry V
8. Underwear
9. A type of priest
10. Buying cloth, metal and leather

How many did you get right?



Fact:

Another famous wardrobe you may have heard of comes from the novel written by C.S Lewis in 1950: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Have you read it?

I don't think there are any lions or witches here though!

**In the space below make your own quiz about *The Wardrobe* and test the adults!
Remember to make it super hard!**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

Illuminate a letter

Most people in the medieval times couldn't read and write. The canons could do both, and they wrote in big beautiful books full of pictures and illuminated letters. Illuminated letters are when the first letter of a page or a paragraph is bigger and in colour while the rest of the text is black. Sometimes the monks made them crazy – like this person with bird's feet and a dragon's tail. Use the first letter of your name and create an illuminated letter. Remember, they loved to use colour in medieval times so make it as bright and bold as you like!





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...



Design your own medieval outfits

Here are some examples to inspire you.

