

History



Find out about Warden Abbey's past...



Hello! Welcome to Warden Abbey! My name is Simon and I was a monk at Warden Abbey nearly 900 years ago in 1135 when the abbey was built.

I was part of a group of monks called the **Cistercians** (say 'sis-ter-shans'). We lived a very simple life. We would get up at 2am for morning prayer in the church and go to bed at 7pm. I hated getting up at 2am it was so dark and spooky!

Fact:

Cistercians were monks and nuns who followed religious rules made in a monastery in France early in the 12th century.

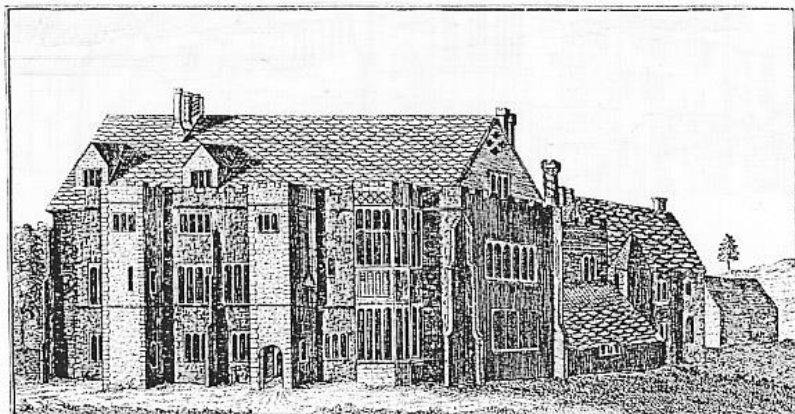
Praying all day was a bit boring! The best part of the day was when I got to check on the fruit I was growing. If I was tired I would sneak off to have a nap under a pear tree. I had to make sure the other monks didn't see or they'd throw the rotten pears at me! I loved it when there were ripe pears, brother John would make Warden Pie for pudding. It's a local speciality. Mmm! For many hundreds of years we lived here very happily.

Then, around 1530 silly King Henry VIII fell out with the **Pope**. Henry made himself the head of a new church called The Church of England. He made a law that there were to be no more monasteries and drove us out of Warden Abbey! Imagine how horrid it was, to have your home taken away at the King's command.



Fact:

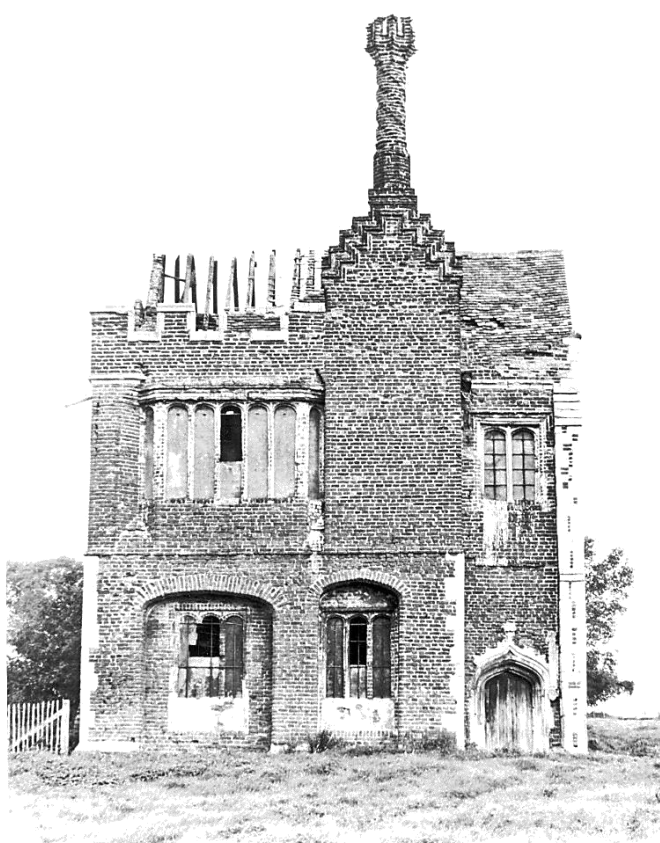
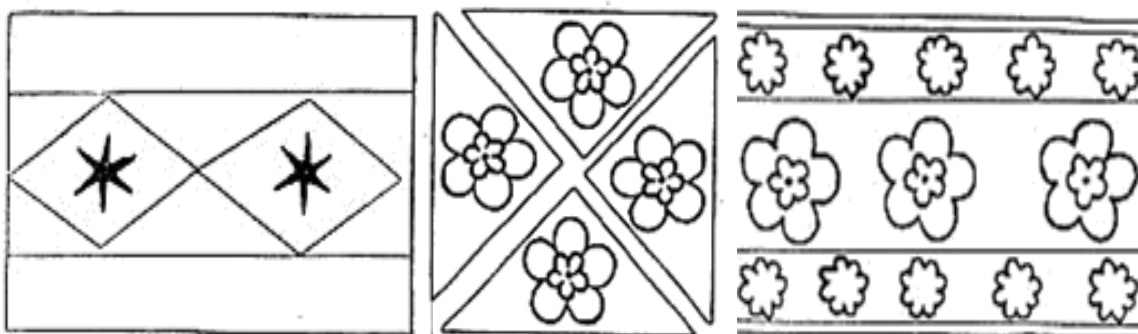
The **Pope** is the head of the Catholic Church.



This is what the mansion (say 'man-shun') would have looked like.

Warden Abbey was given to a man called Robert Gostwick. He decided that he didn't want to live in an old abbey, so he pulled most of it down and built a new mansion, out of very expensive red bricks.

Some of the remains of our abbey are still buried underground and I do believe that someone found our beautiful old tiled floor. We were always very proud of that floor and kept it spotlessly clean. I'm glad someone found it and cleaned off all the soil and mud! Colour in some of the tiles below.



In 1784 a man called Samuel Whitbread who was very good at brewing beer, bought the house. I bet his beer never tasted as good as ours!

I'm not sure why, but Mr Whitbread pulled most of the mansion down. He only left this little bit because it was part of the original abbey. What a shame. It makes me sad to think that two beautiful buildings were ruined.

This story has a happy ending though. It was saved and repaired by the Landmark Trust so that you can be here today, enjoying a holiday in a little bit of my abbey.

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.



Queen Mary I

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



King James I

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



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.



King James II

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



Queen Anne

A sickly queen who loved to eat!

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

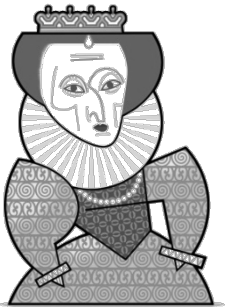
Only 16 when she became Queen for just 9 days before Mary Tudor took the throne. Off with her head!



1553

Queen Elizabeth I

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



1158

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

1649

King Charles II

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



1685

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.



1688

1702-1714



Meet King Henry VIII – who ruled when the remaining Tudor mansion was built.



Hi Henry!

So when did you become king?

I became King on 21 April 1509 when I was 18.

What are you most famous for?

I had six wives – there is even a rhyme about them: Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived!

What is your favourite thing to do?

I love hunting, jousting and tennis. Especially when there is a big feast afterwards.

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I made my own church because the Pope (he's the head of the Catholic church) wouldn't let me divorce my first wife. No one can tell me what to do!

Design



What does Warden Abbey 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 Warden Abbey look similar to other buildings in the area?

Castle

Tall

Pretty

Industrial

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Low

Warden Abbey was built in 1136. It was built as a home for Cistercian Monks, also known as White Monks because of the colour of their robes. Cistercian abbeys were always built in quiet areas of the countryside so that monks and nuns could live a simple life focused on God.

The name of the group of buildings where the monks lived is called a monastery (say 'mon-as-tree'). Monasteries sometimes had schools and hospitals, which were open to people outside.

Fact:

Do you know what a **buttress** is?

Nope it's not a special mattress for bums! It's actually a structure of stone built to strengthen a wall. You can even get **flying buttresses** (no, not bums with wings!). A flying buttress is a special arch that helps stop the weight of the building spreading outwards.



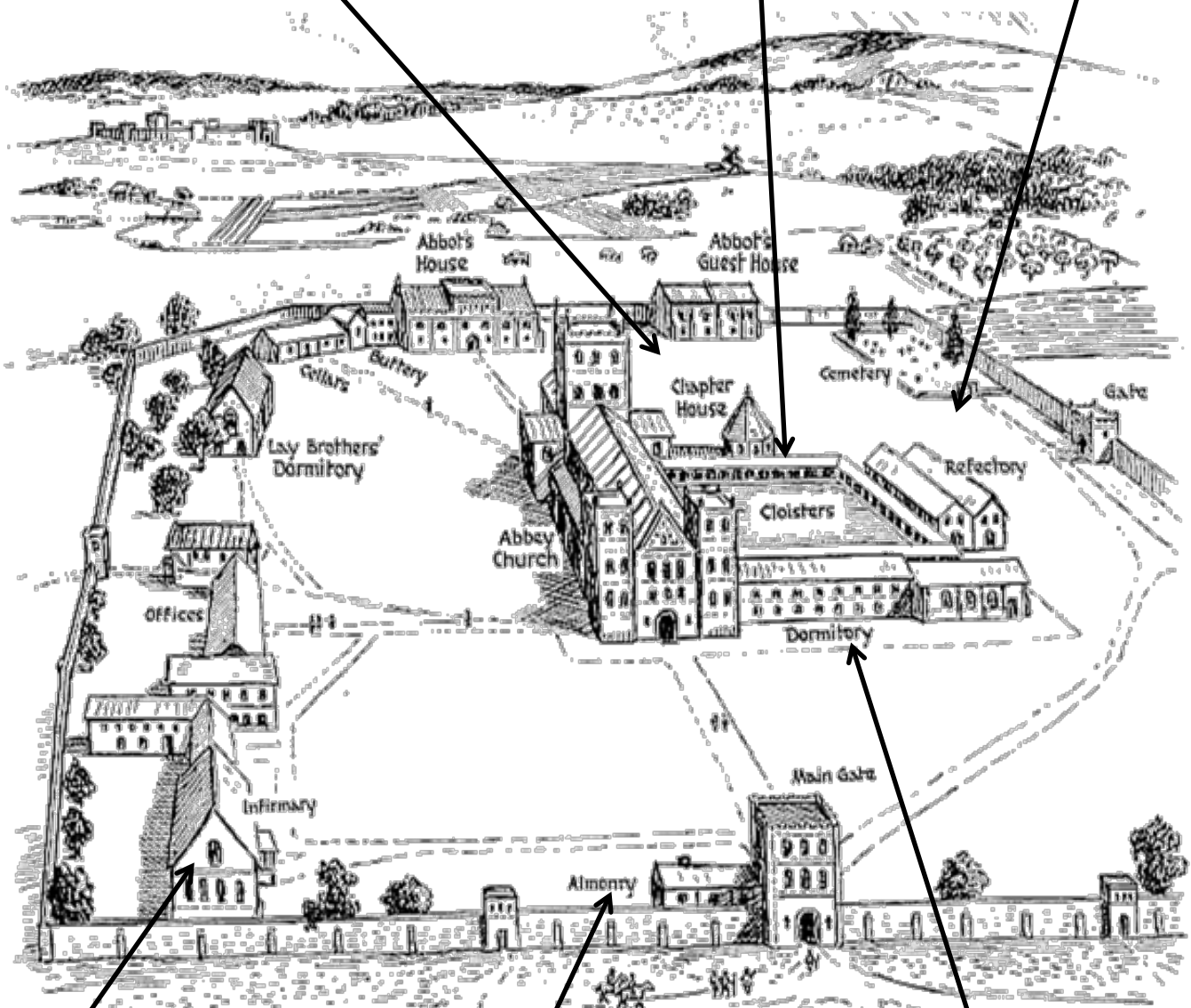


The picture shows how an abbey would have had other buildings around the church. They had everything they needed, almost like a small village.

The **Chapter House** was where the monks and abbot would meet to talk and decide things

A **cloister** (say 'cloy-ster') is a large open space with covered walkways where the monks could sit and read

The **refectory** was a hall where meals were served, like a school dining room



The **infirmary** was the hospital.

The **almonry** was where food and money was given to the poor.

The **dormitory** was where the monks slept.

Fact:

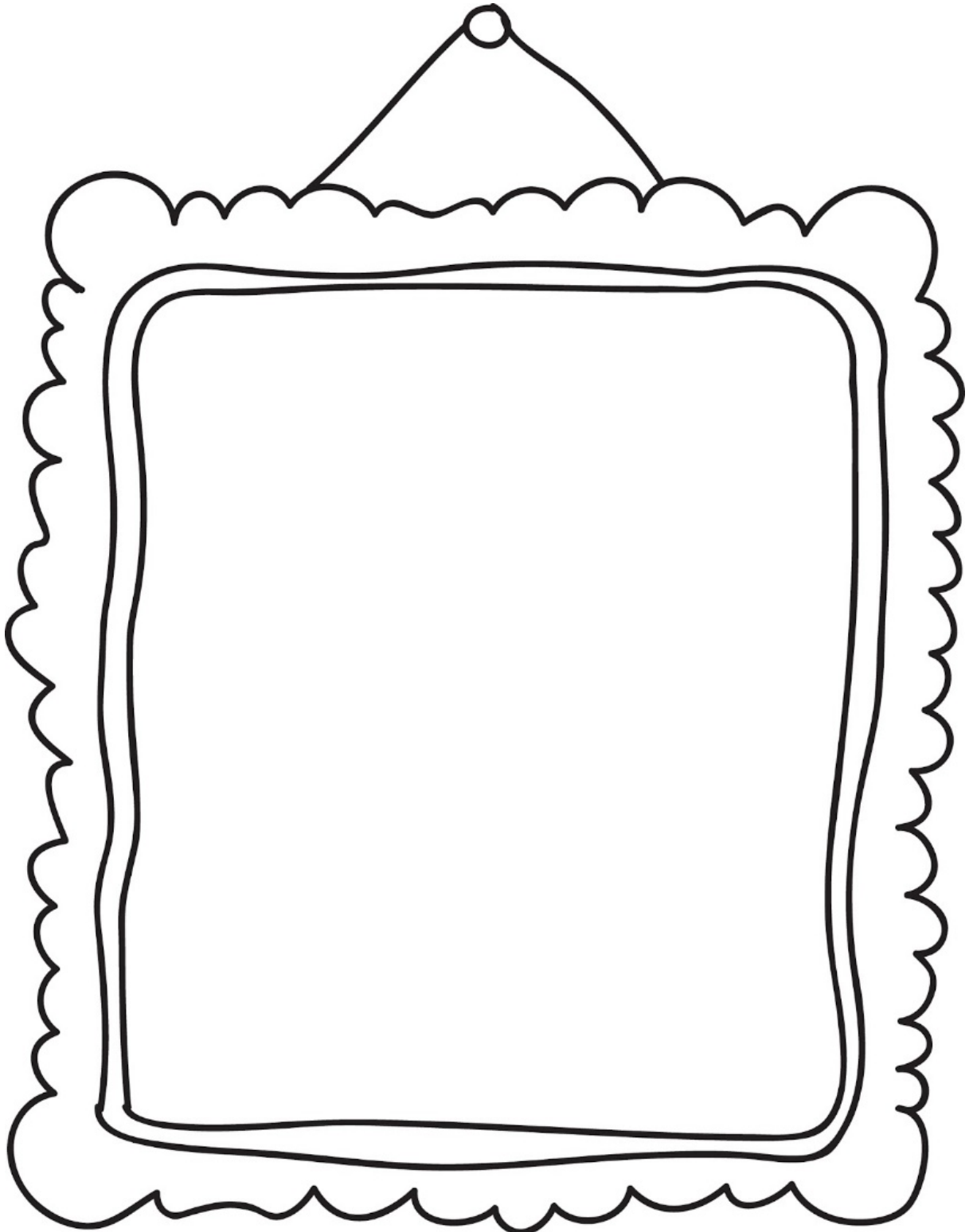
The toilet was called a **redorter** (say 're-re-dor-ter'). It would have a line of holes along the wall with no walls to separate them, the monks would all go together. Eww!



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 front of Warden Abbey.

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





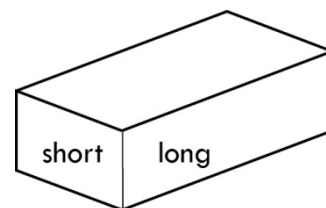
What is Warden Abbey built from?

Fact:

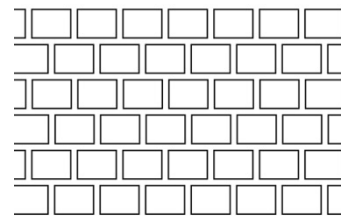
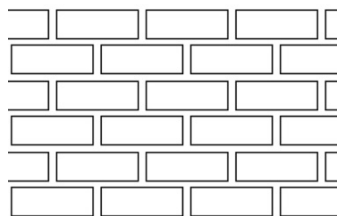
The earliest bricks date back to about 7,500BC and were made of mud. The mud was packed into wooden moulds. They were then turned out and left to dry in the sun until they were hard. The first fired bricks were made around 3,000BC. Fired bricks are harder and last longer in wetter climates.

Today we make bricks in factories by mixing together clay, sand and lime. This mixture is poured into a mould, dried and then fired in an oven at 1100 degrees.

Bricks have a long and a short face like this.



They are arranged in layers, or courses which have different patterns.

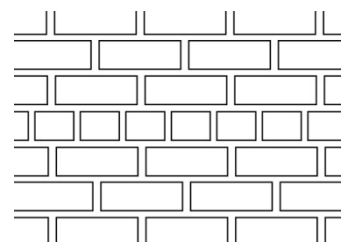
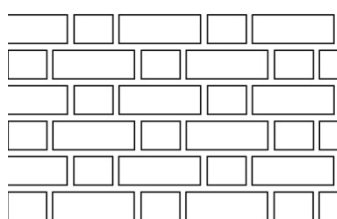


Stretcher bond

The simplest bond to lay – using the long face of the brick.

Header bond

The bricks are laid with the header facing outwards. The header is the end of the brick.

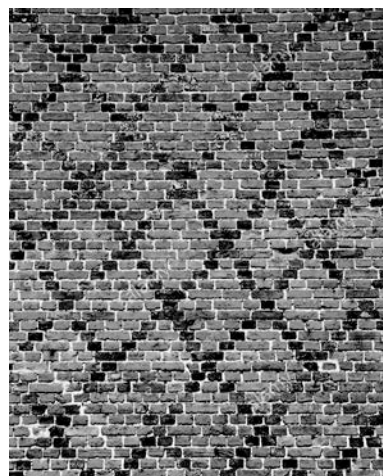


Flemish bond Bricks are laid with one header and one long face.

English bond Three rows of long face and one row, of headers.

Answer:

Some architects and builders were a bit more creative and designed very beautiful walls like these ones here. They used different coloured bricks to make these patterns.





Can you design your own patterned brick wall? The lines on the page will help to keep your design straight.

What other building materials can you find outside and inside Warden Abbey?

Stone

Glass

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

Wood

Plastic

Metal

Clay

Fabric

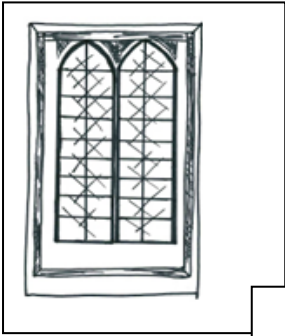
Concrete

Brick

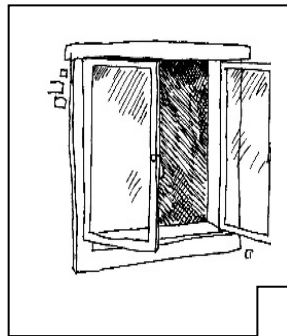
Ceramic



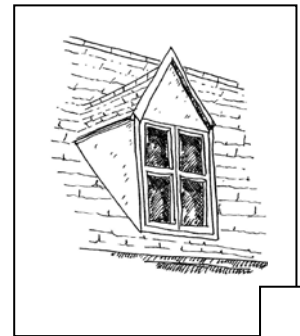
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Warden Abbey have?



Fixed Picture

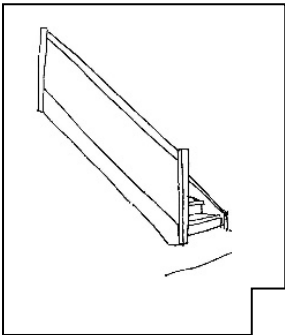


Casement

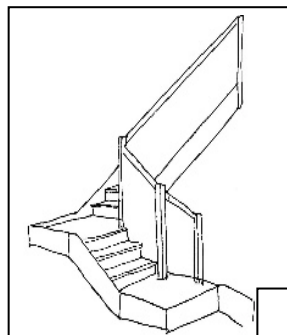


Dormer or attic

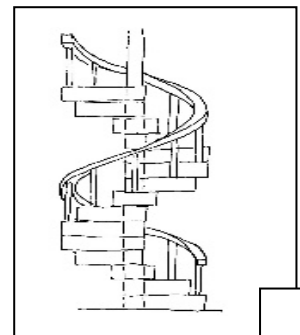
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Warden Abbey?



Straight



Quarter turn

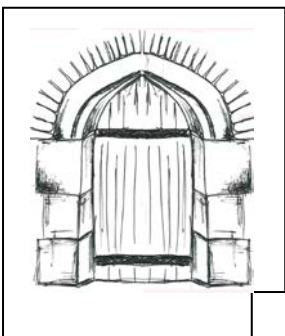


Spiral

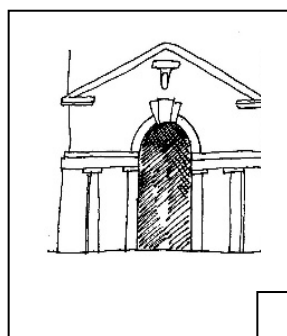
Fact:

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.

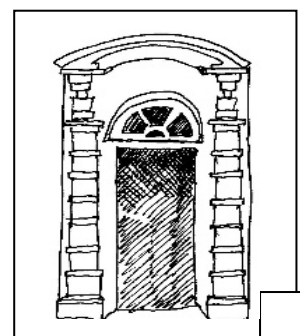
Entrances can be grand or simple. What is the front door of Warden Abbey like?



Tudor arch



Porch



Canopy

Quest



Discover more about Warden Abbey

Warden Abbey has seen many changes since it was first built in 1136. That's nearly 900 years ago! During that time, many things have changed both inside and outside the building. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Can you find this fireplace?

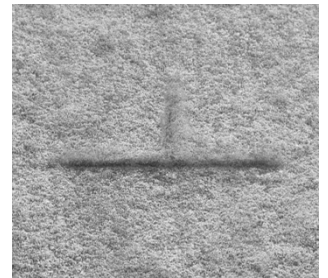
Above it is an arch running wall to wall. When this was part of the Abbey, it was possible to walk underneath the arch into another room. This arch is about 600 years old! This arch was bricked up when the Tudor house was built. It was an ideal place to put a fireplace in.



Can you find the mason's mark? It's on the west side about 1 metre from the ground. (You will have to go outside so tell an adult!)

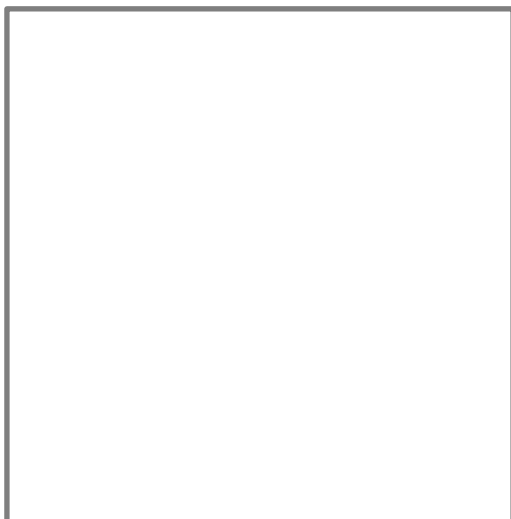
Fact:

A *mason's mark* was a mark used by masons to show who had made the stone so that they could be paid for their work.



Can you find this chimney? Can you see the way the brickwork looks like it spirals?

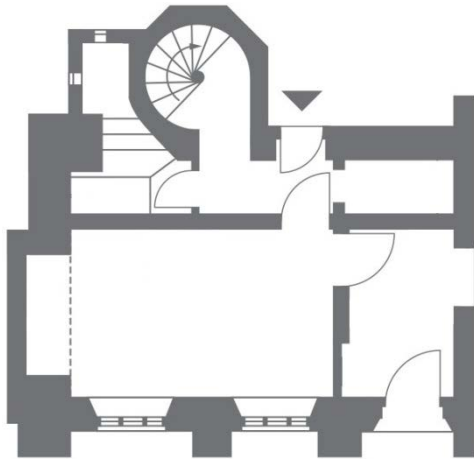
Tudor chimneys were decorated to show off that the owners could afford to add a chimney to their house. Most people couldn't afford to add a chimney so owners of them were very proud. See if you can draw the chimney and also design your own one.



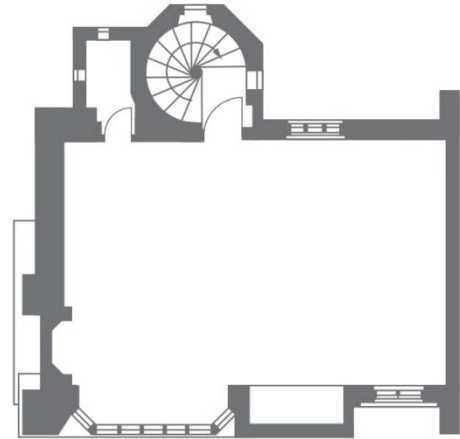


Living in Warden Abbey

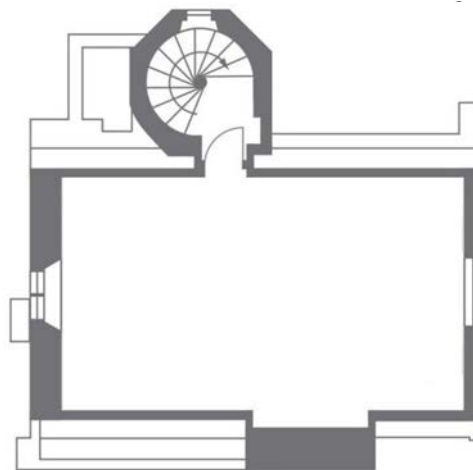
The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Warden Abbey has three floors. The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around each floor. Can you identify the rooms and write on the plan how they are used today?



Ground Floor



First Floor

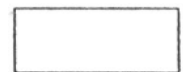


Second Floor

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



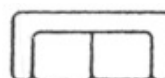
Rectangular (or a round) table



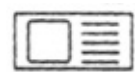
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Warden Abbey. 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:

In 1537 once King Henry VIII became head of the church, the Abbey was closed and destroyed. This was called the Dissolution of the Monasteries. It meant that all the monasteries in England and Wales had to be closed. The King grabbed all their land, buildings and treasure. Walk around the outside of the building and see if you can find any of the medieval remains of the abbey. (Hint: there is a medieval buttress on one wall!)

In the space 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?



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What is a monk or nun?

A musician Someone who devoted
their life to religion

A detective

A soldier

2. Where do you think the Cistercian come from? Think about how their name sounds.

Paris

London

Cîteaux

Rome

3. What was the person in charge of the abbey called?

Captain

Abbot

Chief Monk

Lector

4. What did monks do most of the day?

Dance

Pray

Sing

Play games

5. What was a monastery?

A medieval pub

A fabric shop

A place where monks
and nuns lived

A restaurant

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

Wool

Nylon

Linen

Silk

7. What colour robes did Cistercian monks wear?

Brown

Black

White

Red

8. Which of these is not a group of monks or nuns?

Cistercians

Benedictines

Goths

Franciscans

9. What fruit were the monks famous for growing at Warden Abbey?

Apples

Pears

Strawberries

Blackberries

10. What could monks not do?

Read

Write

Fight

Farm

To find the answers skip two pages...



Countryside Word Search

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

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

HOLLY
 HEDGEROW
 HENS
 STILE
 POND
 STREAM

OAK
 BARN
 APPLE
 DAISY
 COTTAGE

FIELD
 SHEEP
 TREE
 PHEASANT
 BUTTERCUP

TRACTOR
 COWS
 ROOK
 FOOTPATH
 BRAMBLE

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

21



Who caught what?

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

1 2 3 4 5



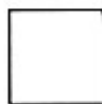
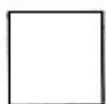
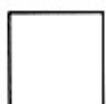
cup

candle

fish

bell

book



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

/
5

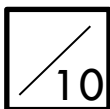


Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

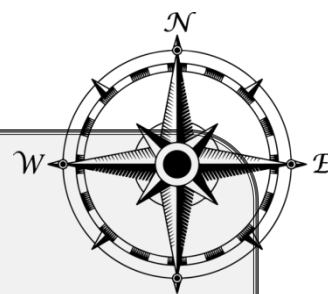
1. Someone who devoted their life to religion
2. Cîteaux
3. Abbot
4. Praying
5. A place where monks and nuns lived
6. Nylon
7. White
8. Goths
9. Pears
10. Fight

How many did you get right?



In the space below make your own Warden Abbey quiz and test the adults! Remember to make it super hard!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.



Fact:

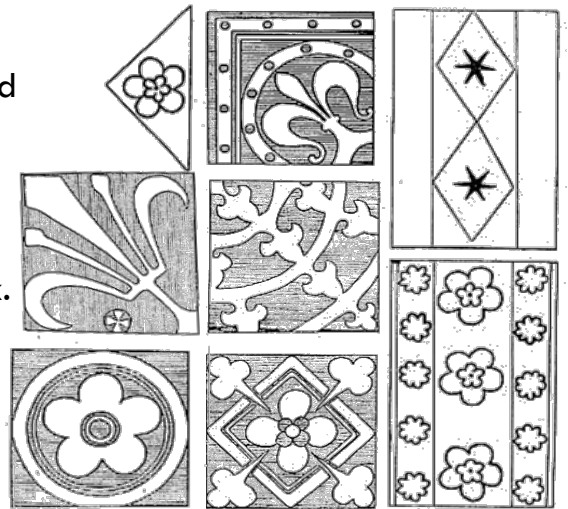
I bet you've never heard of **S Cîteaux** (say *cit-au*)! It is in the part of France near Switzerland (that's the east). The nearest city is called Dijon – yes, just like the mustard!

Create

Design your own tile floor

Beautiful clay tiles were discovered when the field around Warden Abbey was excavated by archaeologists (say 'ar-kee-ol-o-jist). Archaeologists study things found underground to help understand a place's history! These tiles were made in the 14th and 15th century. When new these tiles were light yellow-green and dark green-black. The tiles that were found can be seen in the Higgins Bedford Museum. It's worth a trip to go and see them!

Different designs of tiles were used to create an impressive patterned floor. Have a go at creating your own tiles and floor pattern below! Draw more boxes inside if you want your drawing to be more detailed.



If you want to see the tiles The Higgins Bedford Museum is open every Tuesday – Saturday 11am-5pm,
Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays 2-5pm.



Illuminate a letter

Most people in the medieval times couldn't read and write. The monks could, and they recorded history 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!





Create your own set of rules

Monks lived by a set of rules. The rules would tell them what they could and could not do. The monks at Warden Abbey followed the rules written by a man called St. Benedict around the year 500. The rules were in a big book and all the monks had to follow them. If they didn't they would be told off by the Abbot!



Here are some of the rules the monks had to follow – they weren't allowed to have any fun (how boring!) In the space next to them write your own set of fun rules for Warden Abbey.

1. No swearing	1.
2. No jokes	2.
3. No laughing	3.
4. No talking unless the Abbot talks to you	4.
5. You have to pray every 3 hours through the day and night	5.
6. You're not allowed to marry or have a girlfriend or boyfriend	6.
7. Not allowed to own anything (not even a book or pen!)	7.
8. Have to spend the day working at the monastery, reading and praying	8.
9. No playing with friends	9.
10. No naughty thoughts	10.



Bake some pears

Brother John tended the orchard and grew the pears that were used to make the famous Warden Pie and other recipes. Warden Pies were so famous that even Shakespeare wrote about them in his play *The Winter's Tale*. As a special treat at Christmas, a local lady who lived nearby would give the monks walnuts, raisins and spices to cook with their baked pears. These baked pears were once made with wine, but don't worry you can make it with white grape juice instead!

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

6 pears	1 tablespoon chopped raisins
225ml (8fl oz) white grape juice or wine	1 tablespoon chopped walnuts
Cinnamon	1 Lemon, juice only
1 tablespoon of honey	Ground cloves

Remember to pre-heat the oven to 180°C: 350°F: Gas 4!

- Peel the pears, roll each one in the lemon juice in a bowl
- Lie the pears in a baking dish which is big enough to hold the pears in a single layer
- Now mix all the other ingredients with the lemon juice that's left together in the bowl and pour over the pears
- Cover the dish put in the oven to bake, gently shaking the dish from time to time
- The pears are ready when soft, probably after 20 -30 minutes
- When they are cooked let them cool a bit, then stand them up in a bowl
- Boil the remaining liquid until it turns syrupy, with an extra tablespoon of honey. Pour over the pears
- Serve with cream – or even ice cream if you have some – and enjoy!