

History



Find out about Wolveton Gatehouse's past...



A serving girl bringing drinks to the master of the household in his solar (private rooms).

Fact:

In Tudor England, rich families had their own **seamstress** – these were ladies who made, altered and fixed clothes.

Before coming here, I'd never seen a house so grand! There's glass in every window and even fancy coloured glass – Annie tells me this is called stained glass, and it's a way of showing off how much money the family have to their guests!

What's your family home like? Do you have fancy stained glass windows and your very own stable block to keep your horses in?

Hello! Welcome to Wolveton Gatehouse, my name is Mary, the year is 1536 and I'm 12 years old.

I live in the attic rooms of the gatehouse and work as a serving girl for Sir Thomas Trenchard's household.

The rest of my family live in a village not too far away from here but as the eldest child, I've been sent off to work to earn a wage. I miss my family but at least I have more space here and only have to share the attic with Annie, the **seamstress** – at home my five brothers and sisters have to share one tiny room! Do you have to share a room?



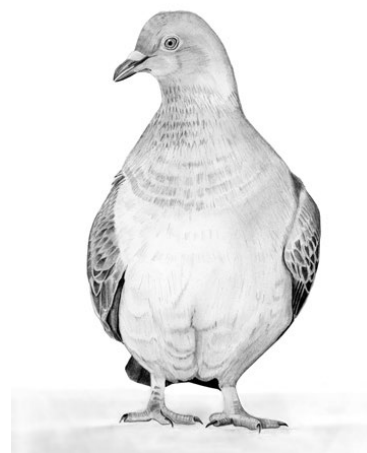


Have you ever heard of a dovecot? It's a home for pigeons and there is one in the roof of each tower at the gatehouse. There are 250 boxes for the pigeons in the south tower alone. It gets incredibly noisy in the evenings when they all come home to roost, and it makes my bedroom rather smelly too as it's just next door to where I sleep!

I suppose it is handy to have our very own supply of pigeons for the kitchen, they taste delicious when cooked!

Facts:

Pigeons were a very popular food in medieval times, particularly in times of siege. Families could rear their own supply to eat if they were trapped in their houses.



The cook has been telling me that the house will be very busy next week as Sir Thomas is hosting a banquet and a hunt for his rich friends. We servants will need to get the house looking ship-shape for their arrival, there's lots of cleaning to be done and beds to prepare.

I'm looking forward to seeing them arrive on horseback in their fine clothes, and setting off for the hunt with all of the dogs and horses.

Maybe if we're lucky, cook will share some of the leftover banquet with us, but shhh - don't tell the master!



Above: A Tudor banquet

Left: The spoils of a Tudor hunting party

Unruly Rulers

Who were the Tudor kings and queens?

This lot were a blood thirsty bunch, always chopping off heads. **Tudor** is the family name 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 Henry VII
1485
He defeated bad King Richard and became the first Tudor king. Hooray!



King Henry VIII
1509
6 wives, only 1 son. Angry at the Pope horrible Henry made himself Head of the Church destroying all the Catholics churches.



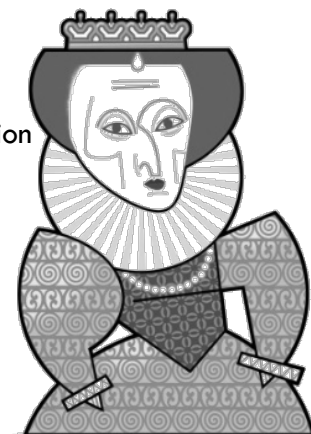
King Edward VI
1547
Henry VIII's only son, he had some big shoes (and clothes) to fill! King at nine and dead at 16. Poor Eddie.

Lady Jane Grey
1553
Only 16 when she became Queen for just 9 days before Mary Tudor took the throne. Off with her head!



Queen Mary I
1553
Back to Catholics again. Bloody Mary was her name, burning Protestants was her game.

Queen Elizabeth I
1558
Good Queen Bess knew leaving religion alone was best. (Unless the Catholics attacked!) Had lots of boyfriends but married none.





Meet King Henry VIII – who ruled when Mary lived at Wolveton.



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!



What does Wolveton 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 Wolveton Gatehouse look similar to nearby buildings?

Castle

Tall

Pretty

Industrial

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Low

You are staying in the gatehouse to Wolveton House, which was once a grand country manor. In the 18th century, the Trenchard family decided they preferred living in their other house in Lytchett Matravers. They even moved the stained glass windows from Wolveton to Lytchett but broke most of them on the way – whoops!

After the family left, Wolveton was divided up and split into lodgings. Most of the house was sadly torn down in 1807.

Did you know?

The name Wolveton means 'Wulf's settlement' and is Saxon in origin.

The Anglo-Saxon period in England lasted 600 years, from AD 410 to 1066.

The gatehouse towers are much older than the gatehouse building itself, although we can't be sure exactly how much older they are.

Can you see the **stringcourse** that runs all the way around the building? Go outside and take a closer look at it, you can see it doesn't quite match up when it reaches the towers. This is one of the reasons we know that the middle section was added in later.



Fact:

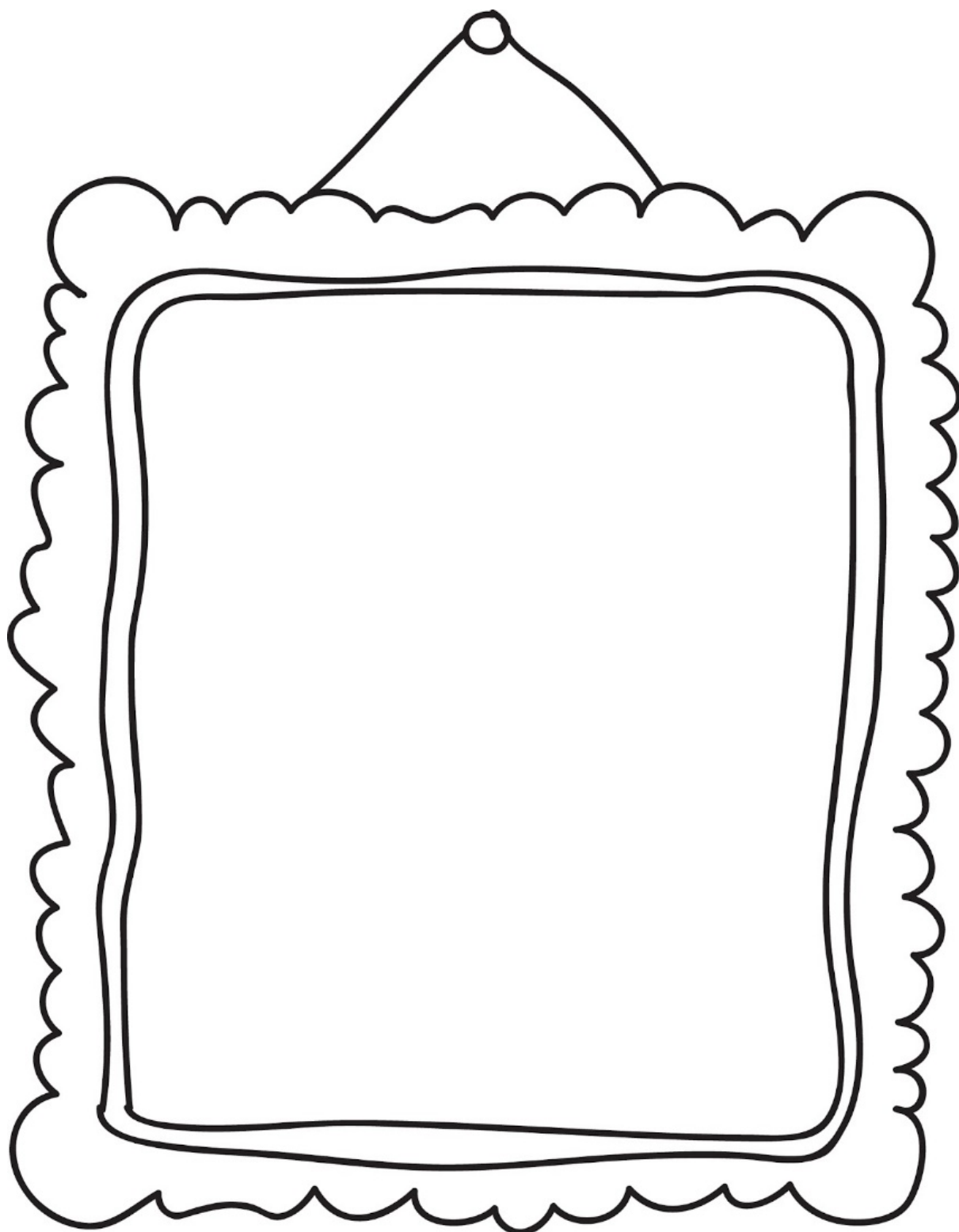
A **string course** is a decorative stone or brick feature on a building. It usually marks the different storeys of the building.



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 Wolveton Gatehouse.

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





What is Wolveton Gatehouse 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 dug out of **quarries** 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.

Take a closer look at the towers – how do you think they managed to build circular towers out of rectangular blocks? Stonemasons often had to cut their blocks on the circular to make round towers.

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.



In medieval and Tudor times, stone was taken out of the ground by hand. The stone used to build the gatehouse coursed limestone rubble a common stone in Dorset. 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. The stone window below has been carved into shapes called ogees. They use a mallet and special tools called chisels to shape the stone. It is very skilled work – imagine making these beautiful windows using just a mallet and chisel to chip away at a block of stone.



Mallet

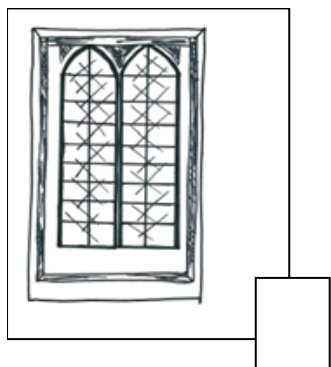


Chisels

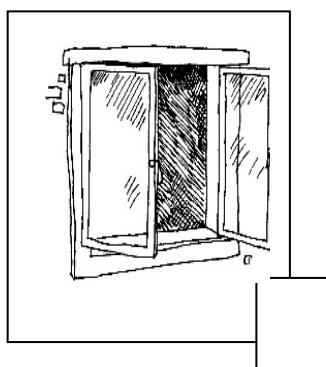




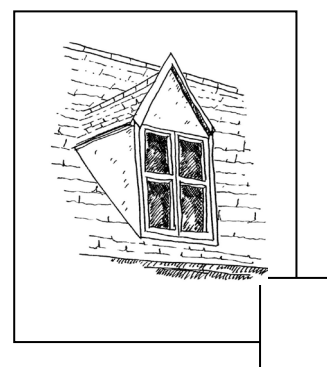
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Wolveton Gatehouse have?



Fixed Picture



Casement

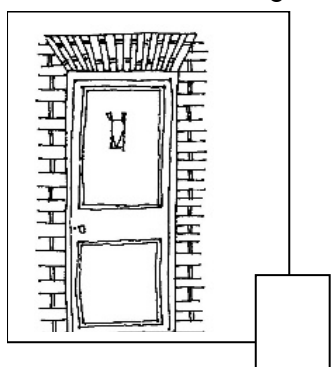


Dormer or attic

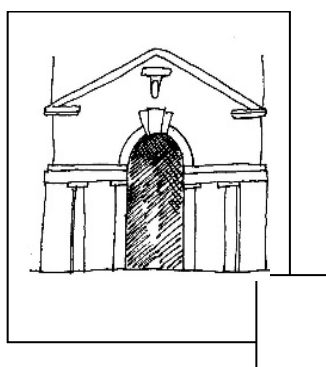
Fact:

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.

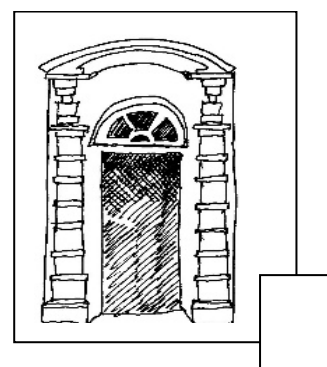
Entrances can be grand or simple. What is the front door of Wolveton Gatehouse like?



Doorframe

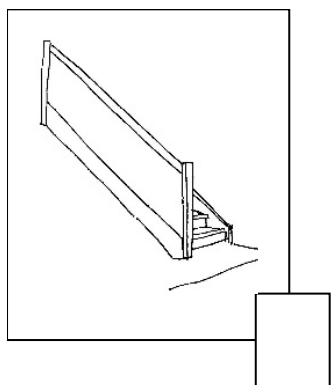


Porch

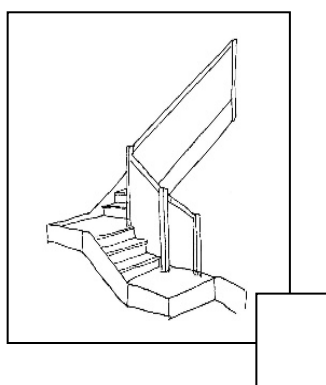


Canopy

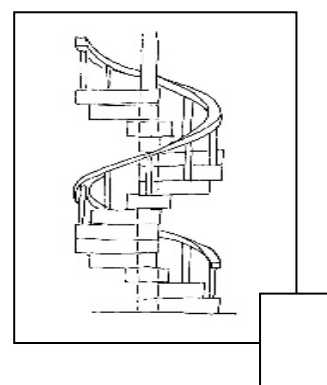
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Wolveton Gatehouse?



Straight



Quarter turn



Spiral

Quest



Discover more about Wolveton Gatehouse

Wolveton Gatehouse was built in 1534, that's almost 500 years ago! In that time, many things have changed both inside and outside the building. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Can you find the loop hole?

Hint: There is one on each tower. Why do you think they have been placed where they are?



Fact:

A **loop hole** is a small hole in the wall that a bow and arrow or gun can be fired through to protect the building from attackers.



A staircase of two halves...

The spiral staircase is unusual in that the first six steps are made of stone and the rest of made of solid oak blocks. Can you guess why this might be?

Perhaps it was so that enemies couldn't light a fire at the bottom of the stairs to trap people in the tower...

A gatehouse of many uses...

Can you believe that the gatehouse was once used as a schoolhouse and a bakery!

If you go into the twin bedroom on the ground floor and look into the fireplace, you may be able to see the remains of the old brick bread oven.



Coat of arms...

Go outside to the front of the gatehouse and look above the arch. Can you see the coat of arms? It's on what is called a '**cartouche**' (say *car-too-sh*) which is a carving or painting that looks like a scroll.

It contains the arms of the Trenchards, the Mohuns and the Jourdains.

Can you see the lion? Why not try drawing him in the box opposite?

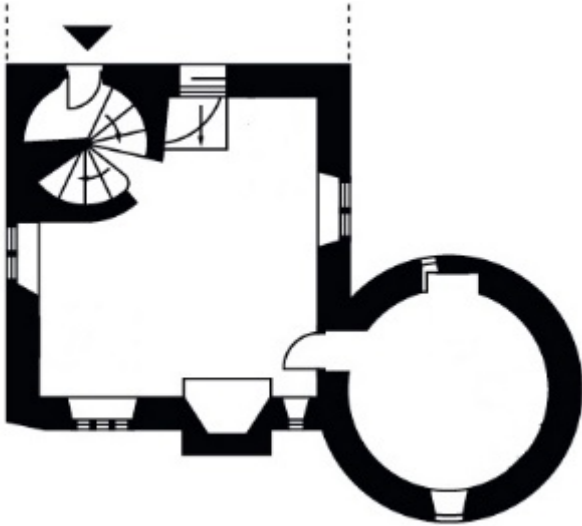




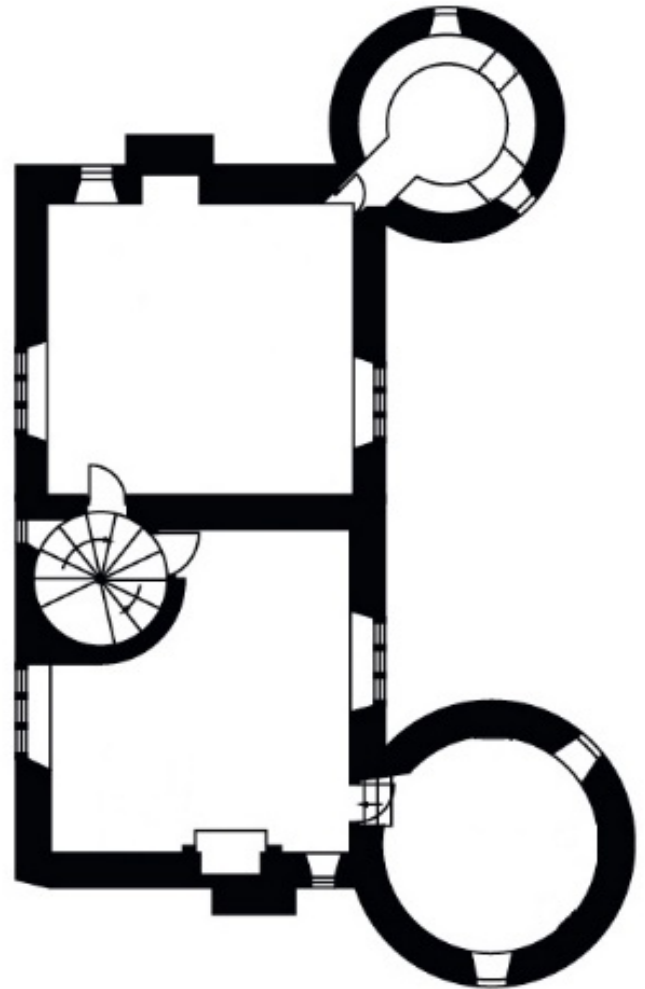
Living in Wolveton Gatehouse

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Wolveton Gatehouse has three floors. The plans below show you the shape of each room. Take a walk around each floor. Write on the plan what each room is used for.

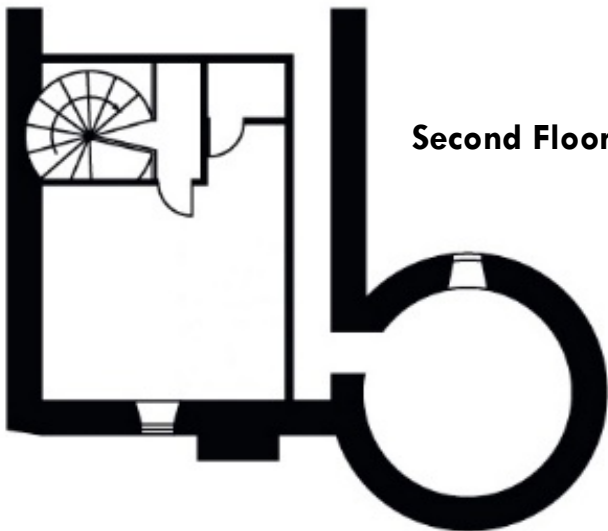
Ground Floor



First Floor



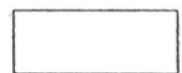
Second Floor



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



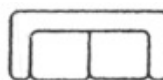
Rectangular (or a round) table



Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



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

Your favourite chair

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing or describing a favourite chair.

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

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing or describing a fireplace.

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing the pattern of a rug.

In the box below, draw the view from your bedroom window. What can you see in the distance? Does your window have a view of Wolveton House?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a view from a bedroom window.



Wolverton Gatehouse Word Search

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

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

LOOP HOLE
DOVECOT
CARTOUCHE
OAK

SEAMSTRESS
BREAD OVEN
TRENCHARD
STONE

SPIRAL
FEAST
COUNTRYSIDE
HUNTING

STRINGCOURSE
STAINED GLASS
LIMESTONE
TOWERS

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

/
16



Can you answer these questions correctly?

You'll need to read all the sections first!

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

(Psst... check unruly rulers)

Elizabeth I

George III

Henry VIII

Victoria

2. What does the word Wolveton mean?

Wild settlement

Wulf's settlement

Wishing well

West Dorset

3. What is a stringcourse?

A decorative building technique

A shoelace

A type of guttering

An item of clothing

4. Which bird lives in a dovecot?

Flamingo

Emu

Pigeon

Seagull

5. Who built Wolveton Gatehouse?

James Bond

Thomas Trenchard

Henry VIII

Mary's dad

6. Which of these activities was **NOT** around in Tudor times?

Tennis

Jousting

BMX-ing

Playing dice

7. Where was the Trenchards' other home?

Lytchett Matravers

London

Bournemouth

Liverpool

8. What animal would not have been hunted in England in Tudor times?

Wild boar

Deer

Rabbit

Hippo

9. In what year was most of the house demolished?

1540

1622

1730

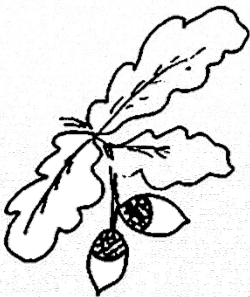
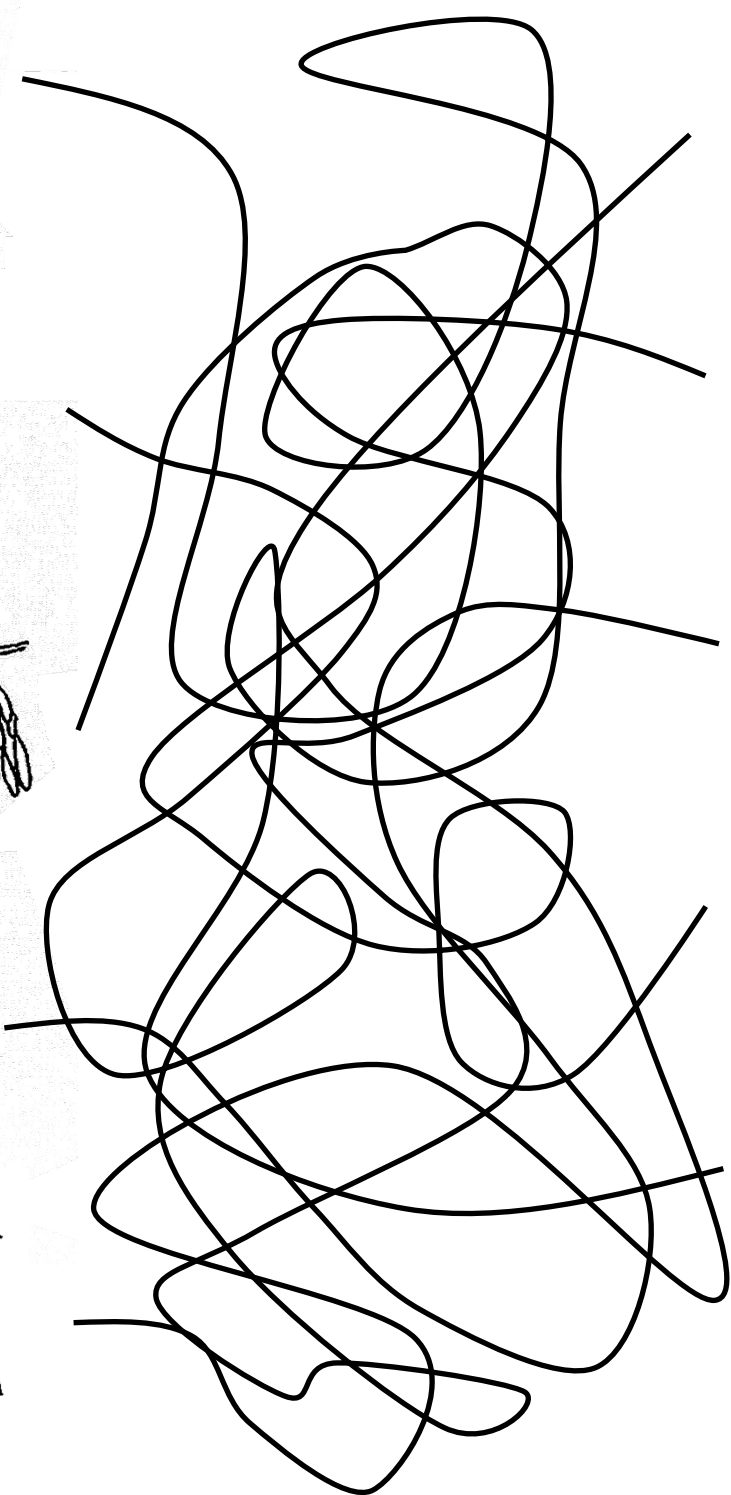
1807

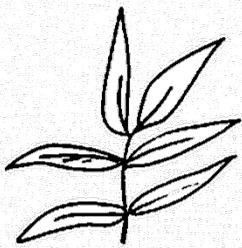
To find the answers skip a page...

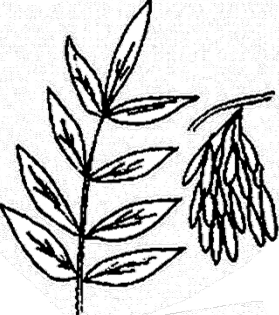


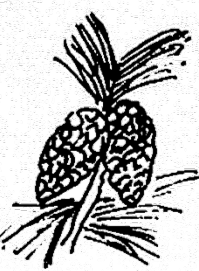
Which leaf belongs to which tree?


Match the leaf to the correct tree.

1.  

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

Horse Chestnut

Willow

Pine

Ash

Oak

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

Look out for these when you go for a walk!

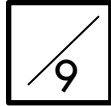


Answer sheet:

Question & Answer:

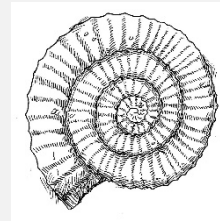
1. Henry VIII
2. Wulf's settlement
3. A decorative building technique
4. Pigeon
5. Thomas Trenchard
6. BMX-ing
7. Lytchett Matravers
8. Hippo
9. 1807

How many did you get right?



Did you know?

The Jurassic coast, which is in Dorset, was the first-ever natural site to make it onto the UNESCO World Heritage List. This is partly because of the perfectly preserved fossils that have been discovered there.



Imagine you lived here 500 years ago. Which year would that be? 15__ __. Write an acrostic poem describing life at Wolveton Gatehouse. Each line has to begin with the letter shown, so that the lines spell 'Wolveton'!

W

O

L

V

E

T

O

N

Design your own gatehouse

Imagine you own 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 – will yours include towers like Wolverton, or perhaps you'll include battlements to keep out your enemies? Let your imagination run wild!



Make a Dorset Apple Cake

Apple cake is a really popular cake which hails from Dorset. It's really delicious when served slightly warm with some custard or a big dollop of cream!

Ingredients:

225g self-raising flour	1 large egg, beaten
2 tsp ground cinnamon	6-8 tbsp milk
115g unsalted butter – cubed and chilled	225g peeled, cored and diced Bramley apples
115g light brown sugar	100g sultanas
2tbsp demerara sugar	

- Preheat the oven to 180C/ 350F/ Gas Mark 4. Grease and line a 20cm cake tin with baking parchment
- Place the flour & cinnamon in a large bowl and mix well. Taking a few cubes of butter at a time rub into the flour mixture. Keep rubbing until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the light brown sugar
- Beat in egg, followed by milk – you want to achieve a smooth, thick batter
- Add apples & sultanas to the mix and combine. Pour batter into tin and level out.
- Sprinkle over demerara sugar and bake for 30-40 mins or until golden.
- Allow to cool in tin for 15 minutes and then turn out onto a wire cooling rack. Enjoy when it's still a little warm – yum!





Colour in these Tudor outfits.

