

History



Find out about Sackville House's past...

Hello and welcome to Sackville House. My name is Rosy and I work here as a kitchen maid. The year is 1575 and I'm 11 years old.

Today the master, John is having lots of people over for lunch at 11 o'clock. I've been here since 6 o'clock! I'm trying to keep out of the way as everyone is rushing about and shouting. It's noisy outside as waggons clatter over the cobblestones delivering beer and wine.



The cook is in a bit of a panic as the mutton arrived late from the market (that was Joe's fault) and she's got to cook it very slowly until it falls off the bone. She's roasting it on a spit and gets cross when Tom, our spit boy, complains that his arms are tired. I've tried turning it too and it's hard work!

We're lucky because we have a big back garden where we grow vegetables like carrots, lettuce and turnips and have some apple, pear and plum trees. Lots of houses in East Grinstead sit on plots of land called **burgages**. But we've got the widest plot in town. That's because when Sackville House was first built in 1525, the owner bagged the best burgage near the church with the longest garden or **portland**. He must have been important in the town.

Facts:

Burgage – In medieval times it was a plot of land in a town with a house on it. The land behind the house was called a **portland**. If you had a burgage you could vote in elections for MPs to Parliament. You could also sell your fruit and veg in the weekly market.

Sackville House is very special because it still has its portland. Most others have now been built on or sold.

Master John loves mutton and really doesn't like vegetables much, even though he has a garden to grow them! (Many rich people thought vegetables were for the poor. What is your favourite vegetable?



Cakes and sweets are Master John's favourite! He loves them so much that his teeth have gone black. Cook loves baking sweet things and uses lots of sugar. The sugar is so expensive it's kept in a locked box.



Master John likes to entertain his guests in the hall, especially since he put in a fireplace last year. My dad is a carpenter. Can you find where he carved the year 1574 above a fireplace? He was so proud he left his mark. (*Hint - look in the bedrooms upstairs.*)

If we're lucky Cook might give Tom and me some leftovers. My favourite is pork roast – something Mum and Dad can't afford. If it's Wednesday, Friday or Saturday it will be leftover fish but fish could include veal, game or chicken! Confused? We had rules when Elizabeth I was on the throne. Eating fish helped keep our fishermen busy.



Here she is, Queen Elizabeth I, dripping in **pearls**.

Local facts:

Sackville House – wasn't called this until the 1800s. By this time, the Sackville family had bought up lots of burgages and were feeling rather important in town.

Grinstead gets its name from "green place". It became a town in the 13th century.

Fact:

A Pearl – comes from an oyster that lives in the sea. If a grain of sand gets inside the oyster shell, the oyster protects itself by making layers and layers of **nacre** (say *nay-ker*) around it. This makes the pearl! Pearls were expensive because nice ones were hard to find in nature. Elizabeth I liked how they glowed in candlelight.

Nowadays, people farm oysters to make pearls. They add a piece of grit to the oyster to make it form a pearl. Did you know that you can eat oysters? Usually raw too! Eeuw! Poor people ate them because they were cheap.



Just over 100 years ago, an artist called Geoffrey Webb bought Sackville House. It was in a terrible state, with trees growing up the side of the house. He restored it and made a studio on the top floor where he worked with stained glass. Years later, his daughter Ursula Webb left Sackville House to Landmark to care for after she died.

Sackville House became a Landmark in 1997 after two years of work getting it ready. Now you can stay here and enjoy this rambling house and huge garden.

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.



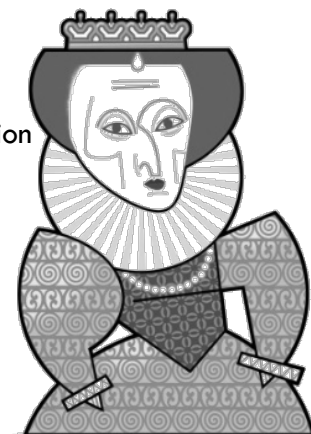
King Edward VI
1547
Henry VIII's only son, he had some big shoes (and clothes) to fill! King at nine and dead at 16. Poor Eddie.

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



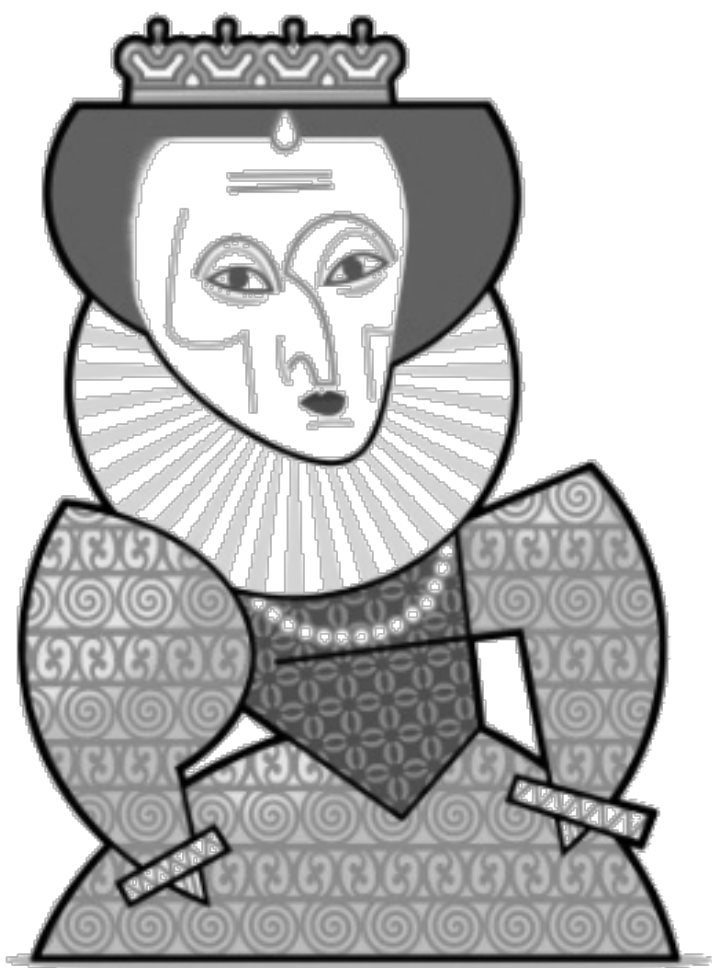
Queen Mary I
1553
Back to Catholics again. Bloody Mary was her name, burning Protestants was her game.

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 Queen Elizabeth I – who ruled when Rosy worked at Sackville House.



Hi Lizzie!

So when did you become queen?

I became Queen on 17 September 1558 when I was 25.

What are you most famous for?

I defeated the Spanish Armada that tried to invade England in 1588. How dare they?

What is your favourite thing to do?

I loved having a bath and being clean, I have 4 baths every year! I was the cleanest woman in England. And I LOVE sweets.

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I pretended to be a Catholic when my half-sister bloody Mary was queen; once she was dead I turned England Protestant again!

Design



What does Sackville 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.

Does Sackville House look similar to other buildings in the town? _____

Castle

Wide

Townhouse

Industrial

Stone

Brick

Beamed

Home

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Low

Sackville House is a **vernacular** (say 'ver-nak-yuh-ler') building. Changes were made over the centuries.

Sackville House was built in 1525 (that's around 500 years ago) with its own waggon way entrance. It started out as the house on the street, with a separate kitchen at the back (so that if it caught fire, the main house could be saved). About fifty years later, they joined up the two buildings. Rosy liked that because she didn't have to carry the food across in the rain.

Fact:

Vernacular means built in the local style using ordinary methods & local materials.



Have you seen how the upper floor sticks out over the ground floor along the front of Sackville House? This is called a **jetty**. The beams you see outside the building are the supporting beams for the floor upstairs. You can also see a jetty at the back of the house.

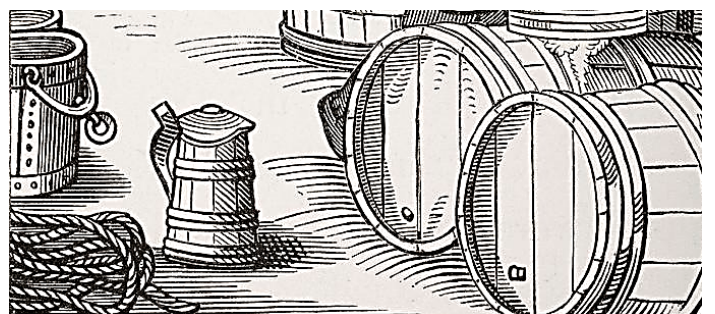
Jetty

When the house was built the **buttery** and **pantry** room were behind the hall (that was the main room, now the sitting room). It was very cold in winter because there was no fireplace! The brick chimney stack was added 50 years later in 1574. Other houses those days had a fire in the middle of the floor and smoke would disappear out of the roof. But Sackville House has floors above. How do you think they kept warm at Sackville House before they built the fireplace?

Fact:

A **buttery** is a room where butts or barrels of beer or wine were stored.

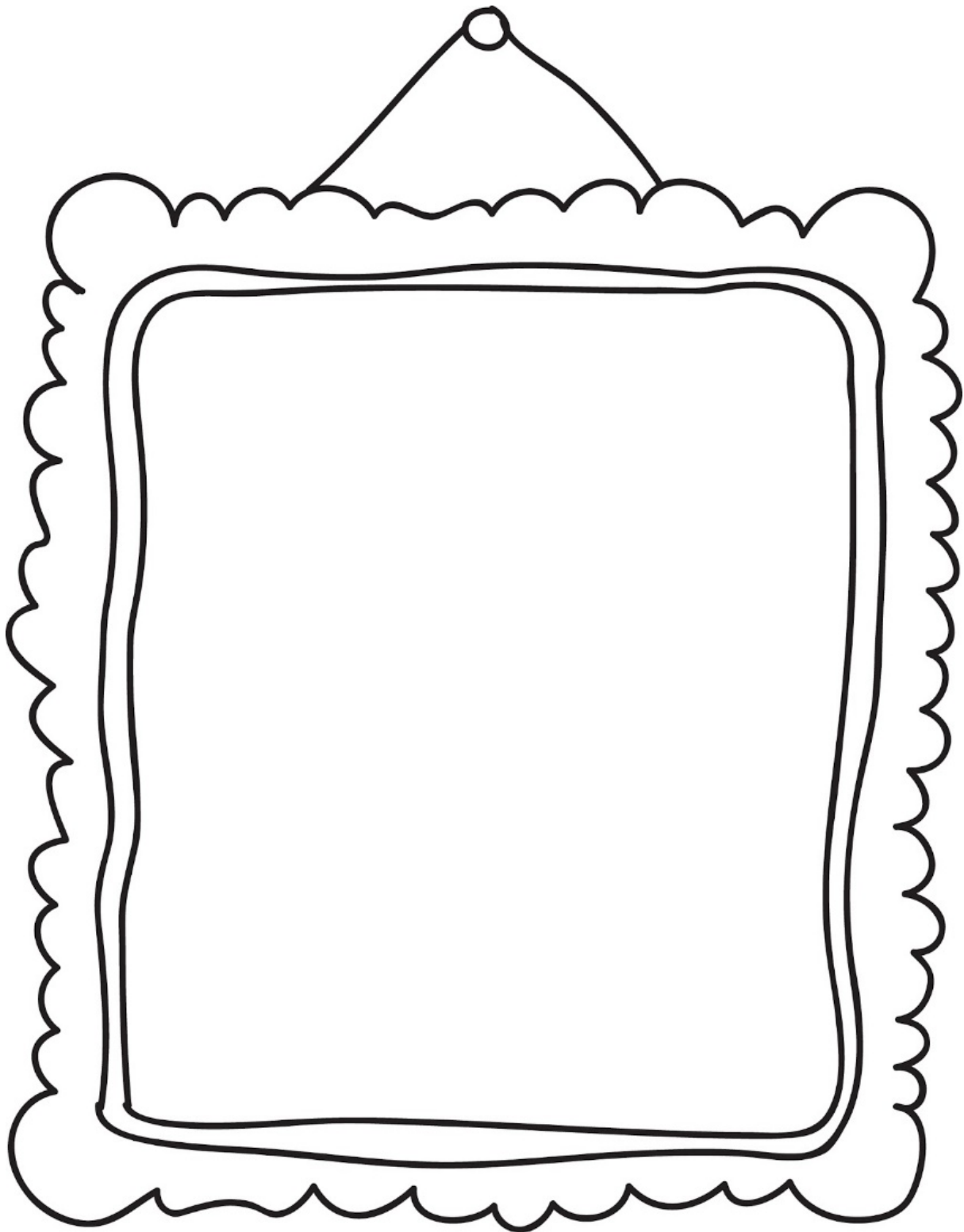
Dry goods, like flour were kept in the pantry.





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 the back view of Sackville House from the garden.**

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



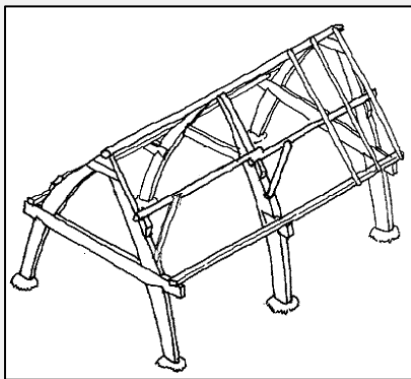


What is Sackville House built from?

Fact:

The simplest house frame was a **Cruck**. A curved tree was cut in two pieces along its length. You needed one cruck at each end of the building and one in the middle. This created your frame, which you then added to and filled in with mud walls and a straw thatched roof.

A Cruck frame was quick to build but it had not much room upstairs.



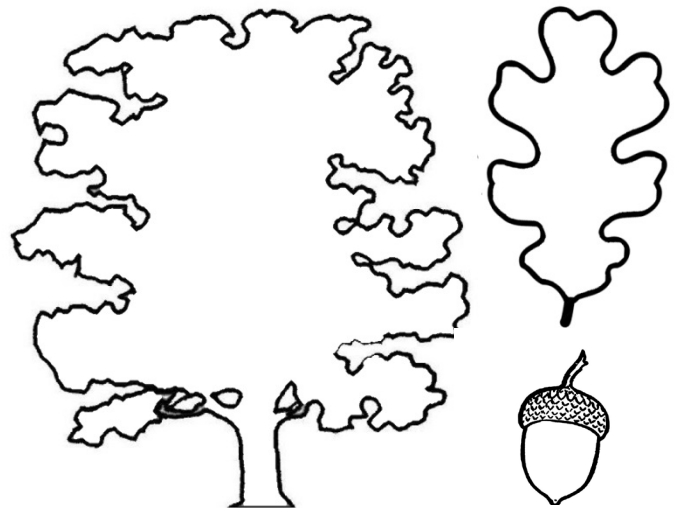
People who work with wood are called carpenters.

Over time, timber framed houses started to look more like boxes, with a triangle for the roof. People wanted to have proper rooms upstairs.

This is a picture of Langley Gatehouse, also owned by Landmark. The carpenter has made lovely patterns inside the basic box frame as decoration (say 'dec-or-ayshun').

Sackville House is built with a wooden frame like most older houses in East Grinstead. Timber houses were quick and cheap to build (timber is wood used for building). The thick roof tiles are made from local Horsham stone. Buildings with wooden frames are quite rare today. Most were pulled down to make way for more modern building. They caught fire easily too.

The timber from Oak trees was the best for building because it is very hard. Oak is a common tree in Britain, and it was grown specially to supply timber for building – not just houses but ships too. You can still see big oak trees in the countryside today. They look like this, and they have wiggly leaves and acorns in the autumn.



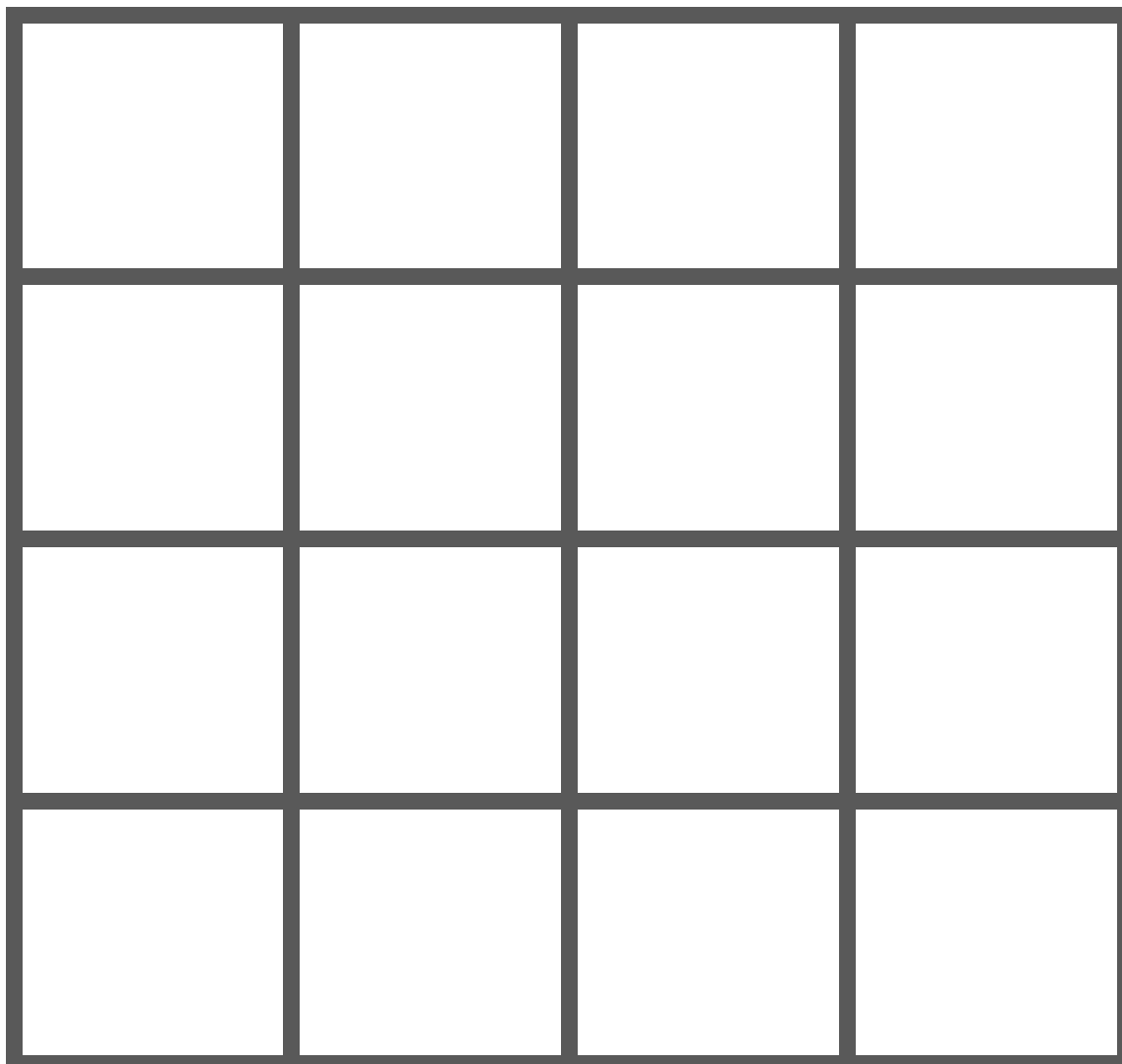
Next time you go for a walk, see if you can spot one.





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!

If 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 Sackville House?

Stone

Glass

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

Wood

Plastic

Metal

Clay

Flint

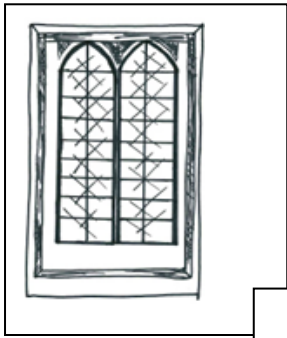
Concrete

Brick

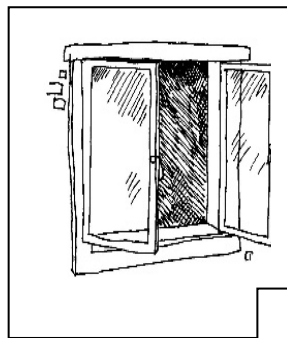
Ceramic



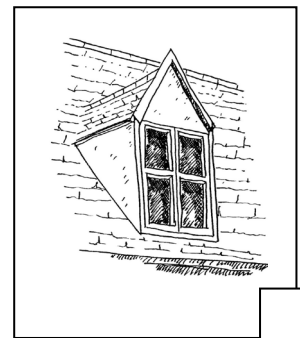
The size and shape of windows tells you a lot about the age and style of the building. What type of windows does Sackville House have?



Fixed Picture



Casement

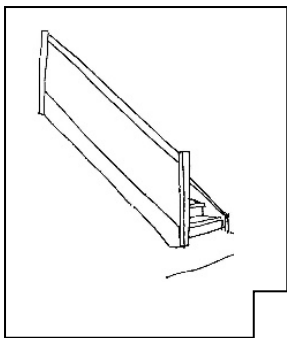


Dormer or attic

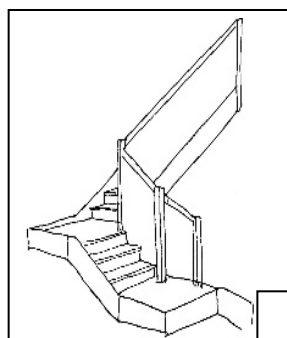
Fact:

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.

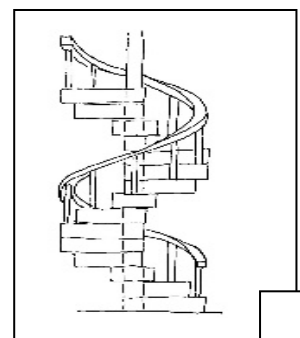
There are many different styles of staircases. Which style is closest to the staircase at Sackville House?



Straight

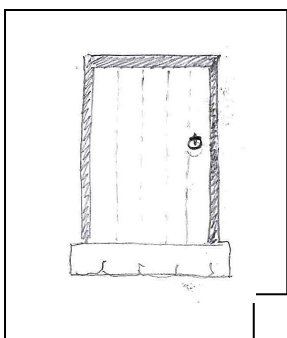


Quarter turn

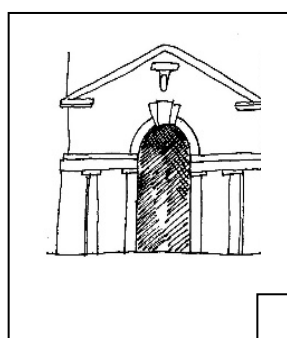


Spiral

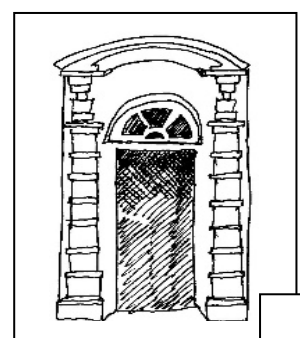
Entrances can be grand or simple. Which front door is most like the one at Sackville House?



Vernacular



Porch



Canopy

Quest

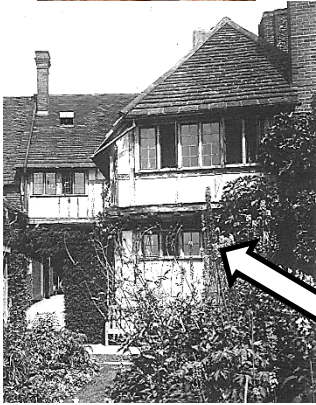


Discover more about Sackville House

Sackville House has been here for about 500 years. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.



Can you find this wall painting?
_____ Landmark found it hidden behind an upstairs bathroom wall! It probably covered the walls in the next bedroom too, proving that once an important person lived here. All the curtains in the house copy this very old wall painting.



Go into the kitchen. This was once the scullery (that's a smaller room, off a kitchen, where the washing up was done). The original old kitchen was in today's dining room, before it was joined on. Look out the window over the garden. You're lucky you can see out. The window was once much higher, so the servants couldn't look at the view and daydream! Do you think that was fair? _____

Here's the window as it was in the 1930s. You would have to be a giant to see out!

Sackville House rambles over many floors. How many staircases can you count in the house?

Can you find the new staircase that Landmark put in? (hint: it's near the kitchen.)

The room in the attic was used by the last owner's father, Geoffrey Webb. He was a **stained glass** artist.

You can see stained glass made by Geoffrey Webb in the chapel (it was in the corner of the sitting room, next to the fireplace. There are two round shaped pictures hanging in the window.

Geoffrey Webb often signed his work with his initials G.W. and this spidery design.



Fact:

Stained Glass - has been used in church windows for over a thousand years. Pieces of coloured glass are joined together by strips of lead to create multi-coloured pictures.

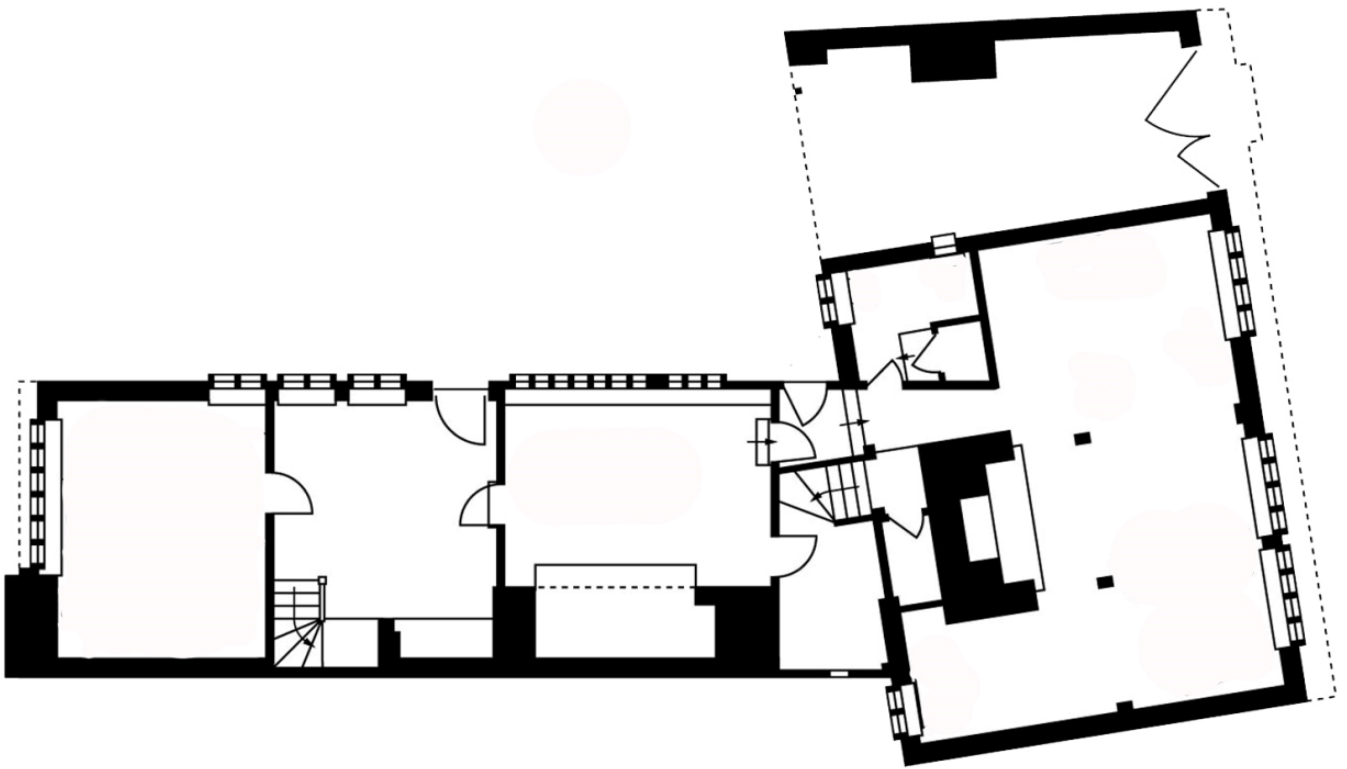
People first learned how to make coloured glass in ancient Egypt.



Living in Sackville House

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Sackville House has two floors. The plan below shows you the shape of one of them. Take a walk around and write on the plan what each room is used for.

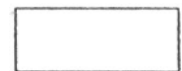
Ground floor



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



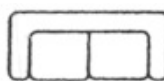
Rectangular (or a round) table



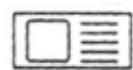
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



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

Your favourite piece of furniture

Your favourite window

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

Why not design your own stained glass picture in the space below. Try to use different shapes to make a picture of anything you like. It could be a flower or an animal or a building. Remember to outline each shape in a dark colour so that it looks like lead.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a stained glass picture.



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What is the roof at Sackville House made of?

Thatch

Cement

Horsham stone tiles

Straw

2. How old is Sackville House?

100 years

1000 years

About 500 years

200 years

3. What is a burgage?

A strip of land

Lots of baggage

A tool to measure the thickness of burgers

A type of timber

4. In which century did East Grinstead become a town?

18th

13th

15th

20th

5. Who was on the throne when Rosy worked at Sackville House?

Elizabeth I

Henry VIII

Edward II

Mary I

6.

Stained glass

Beams

Jetties

Moat

7. In the winter small white flowers come out. What are they called?

Snowdrops

Bluebells

Tulips

Daffodils

8. What is a jetty? (two answer are correct here!)

A type of drink

An overhanging floor

A place to tie up boats

A type leap-frog game

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

George

Russell

James

Charles

10. In which county is East Grinstead?

Suffolk

West Sussex

East Sussex

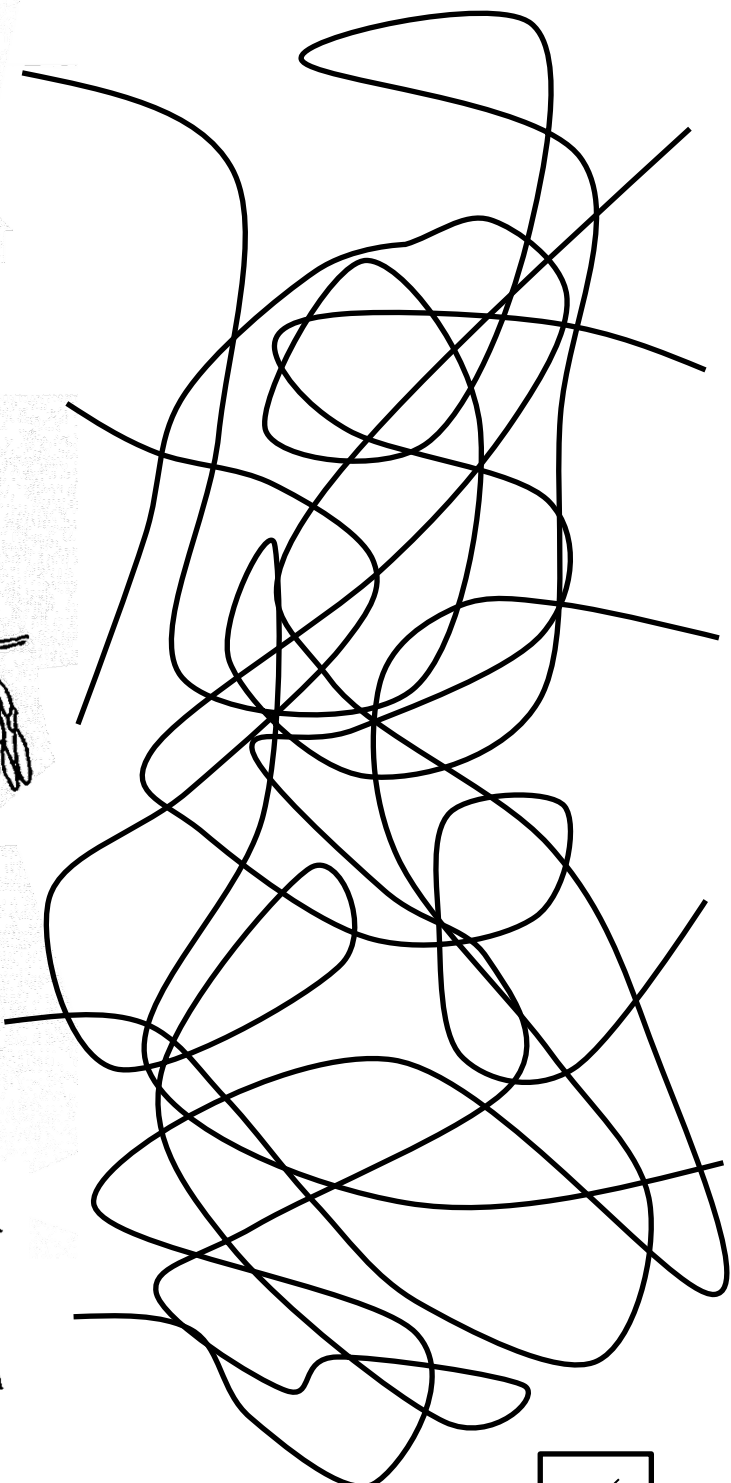
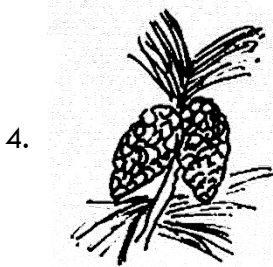
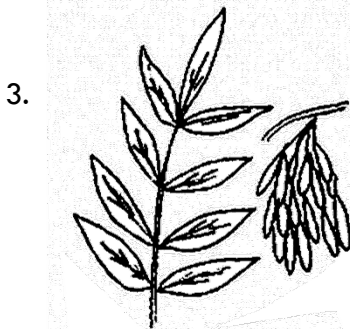
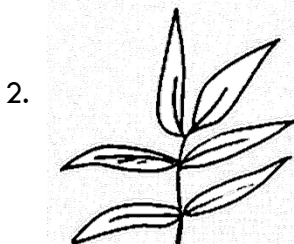
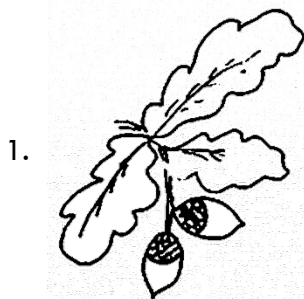
Surrey

To find the answers skip two pages...



Which leaf belongs to which tree?

Match the leaf to the correct tree.



Horse Chestnut

Willow

Pine

Ash

Oak

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



Sackville House Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building and landscape when filling in the word search. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

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

TIMBER FRAME

WINDOW

HALL

CANDLESTICK

BEAM

BUTTERY

FIREPLACE

BURGAGE

STAINED GLASS

PORTLAND

TILE

OAK

ROOF

PANTRY

JETTY

HORSHAM

CRUCK

STAIR

CHIMNEY

GARDEN

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

| |
|----|
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| 20 |

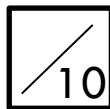


Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

1. Horsham stone tiles
2. About 500 years
3. A strip of land
4. 13th century
5. Elizabeth I
6. Moat
7. Snowdrops
8. A building method
9. Russell
10. West Sussex

How many did you get right?





Design a curtain:

Go and look at the curtains in the sitting room. They have been screen-printed- perhaps you've done some printing at school? The design of the curtains is based on the 16th century wall painting Landmark discovered upstairs.

In the little boxes at the bottom of the page, you could draw these curtains; in the big boxes, you could invent a pattern for your own curtain. Curtain designs have to be repeated next to each other, so your design needs to be repeated identically in each box. Think about how the pattern touches the next repeat!

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Bake a honey cake

In Elizabethan times cakes were often very simple. People either bought the ingredients in a market or grew their own. Honey was used to make food (especially cakes) taste sweeter. Sugar came all the way 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
225g unsalted butter

100g dark muscovado sugar
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, stirring while it does.
- 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. Eat and enjoy!



Colour in this picture of Queen Elizabeth I

Queen Elizabeth was a great follower of fashion. The Queen had dresses of all different colours, all covered in jewels. Which colour will you choose for her gown below?

